

The Story of the Origin of Jesus Christ, Son of David, and the Rest of the Names

Matthew's genealogy is extraordinarily comprehensive in his theology of the roots of Jesus' story in the Old Testament. But that is only one part of the story of Jesus Christ. The story has a sequence as well; and the continuing sequence is what makes the genealogy "good news" for Matthew's audience and for us.

Human being have been empowered to preserve, proclaim, and convey the salvation brought by Jesus Christ throughout history. The God who wrote the beginnings with crooked lines also writes the sequence with crooked lines, and some of those lines are our own lives and witness.

A God who did not hesitate to use the scheming as well as the noble, the impure as well as the pure, men to whom the world hearkened and women upon whom the world frowned – this God continues to work through the same melange. If it

was a challenge to recognize in the last part of Matthew's genealogy that totally unknown people were part of the story of Jesus Christ, it may be a greater challenge to recognize that the unknown characters of today are an essential part of the sequence. The proclamation of that genealogy in the Advent liturgy is designed to give us hope about our destiny and our importance.

By stressing the all-powerful grace of God, the genealogy presents its greatest challenge to those who will accept only an idealized Jesus Christ whose story they would write only with straight lines and whose portrait they would paint only in pastel colors. If we look at the whole story and the total picture, the Gospels teach us that Jesus' ministry was not thus; the history of the church teaches us that the sequence as not thus. God's grace can work even with people like us.

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD SUNDAY OF THE ANCESTORS



Icon of the Holy Ancestors

ST. HARALAMBOS SUNDAY BULLETIN

December 21, 2025

SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY

Orthros 9:00 a.m.: Divine Liturgy immediately following the Orthros.

DECEMBER		
SUN DEC 21	†Sunday Before Nativity Sunday School Christmas Coffee Hour Boys Basketball Practice	9:00 a.m.
WED DEC 24	†Christmas Eve Great Hours/ Vespersal Liturgy	5:00 p.m.
THU DEC 25	†Holy Nativity of Our Lord	9:00 a.m.
SAT DEC 27	†St. Stephan The First Martyr Philoptochos Christmas Party	9:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
SUN DEC 28	†Sunday After the Nativity of Our Lord	9:00 a.m.
JANUARY		
THU JAN 1	†St. Basil the Great	9:00 a.m.
SAT JAN 3	Epiphany Greek Night Celebration	7:30 p.m.
SUN JAN 4	†Sunday Before Theophany Vasilopita Sunday School Vasilopita Boys Basketball Practice	9:00 a.m.
MON JAN 5	†Eve of Theophany Royal Hours Vespersal Liturgy of St. Basil	9:00 a.m.
TUE JAN 6	†Theophany Divine Liturgy Great Blessing of the Waters Greek School	9:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m.

2026 STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES

For those parishioners using envelopes, the 2026 Stewardship Envelopes are now available for pickup in front of the Bookstore.

PLEASE NOTE: The envelopes are arranged in alphabetical order by LAST NAME, not by envelope number.

Please begin using your 2026 Stewardship envelopes on January 1, 2026.



ALTAR BOY SCHEDULE

December 21, 2025

TEAM B



ST. HARALAMBOS CHRISTMAS EVE TIME CHANGE

December 24, Christmas Eve
Great Hours/Vespersal Liturgy of
St. Basil the Great @ 5:00 p.m.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on the following days:

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve @ noon
Christmas and New Year's Day
Friday, December 26th & Friday, January 2nd



VASILOPITA SUNDAY January 4, 2026

Please join us for our traditional Vasilopita on Sunday, January 4th in the Krassas Event Center following church services.

Sponsored by their families
in loving memory of:

Sheriff George Papadopoulos - 45 years
Betty Papadopoulos - 18 years
Niove Fasoulas - 6 years
Rosalie Forinash - 18 years



SANTA IS COMING TO COFFEE HOUR TODAY!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

SPONSORED BY: SUNDAY SCHOOL

Fellowship ~ Music ~ Lunch
Entertainment

After Church in the Krassas Center

St. Haralambos Hellenic Dancers
present

Epiphany Greek Night Celebration

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2026

7:30PM TO MIDNIGHT

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
Cultural Center

251 25th Street, NW | Canton, OH 44709

Featuring

- DJ Vasilios
- Performances by St. Haralambos Hellenic Dancers
- Mezethes
- Desserts
- Cash Bar

TICKETS

\$20
Per person
over 12 years old

\$15
Per registered St. Haralambos Hellenic Dancer or under 12 years old

CONTACT
GEORGIA PAXOS
330-933-7596 OR
SHELLY LOUKAS
330-322-5646
TO PURCHASE



SAINT HARALAMBOS PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS PARTY/ LUNCHEON

Philoptochos and guests, please join us for a delicious luncheon and fellowship.

Tozzi's on 12th
4210 - 12th Street NW
Canton, OH 44708

Saturday, December 27, 2025 - 1:00 PM

Tickets - \$25.00 per person

Choice of entrée:
Chicken Parmesan or Vegetarian Option

Deadline: Sunday, December 21, 2025

Tickets will be sold on Sundays following church, or contact
Stephanie Machamer - 330-704-8558 or
Mary Trifelos - 330-492-9353



Are you a Stark County High School Senior, female, single and of Greek descent or an active member of the Maids of Athena or is your parent(s) an active member, in good standing of the Daughters of Penelope or the Order of AHEPA?

Join us for the
58th Annual Daughters of Penelope
Debutante's Ball
April 18, 2026

Please RSVP to Debutantes Ball Chairperson,
Marcia Bournelis at (330) 309-3428 or Protocol
Chairperson, Mary Griveas at (330) 268-9069
if interested.



Want to Sponsor a Coffee Hour?

Contact Stephanie Boka
@ 330-495-8798 or

sign up on the poster board
located in the lobby.

ORTHODOX BOOK STUDY GROUP

Join us for a spiritual book study and
fellowship starting in January 2026!

Every Tuesday ~ in the Tri-Room
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

If you would like to participate, please
contact the church office @ 330-454-7278.



**Are you wanting to make
Prosforo but don't have the
Prosforo seal?**

**Contact the church office at
330-454-7278, to make arrangements
to borrow the Prosforo seal.**



Order of AHEPA Canton 59

100th Anniversary Celebration

January 17, 2026

**Raintree Golf and Event Center
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Cocktails**

Music provided by Nikolai Rogich

Dinner, Program and Dancing to Follow

Music provided by TA FILARKIA

*Join us for this wonderful milestone
celebration of one of AHEPA's oldest
chapters. Bring your memories and
stories to share with all.*

Tickets are \$75.00 per person.

For tickets contact:

John Karipides 330 283-0113

John Regas 330 409-3668

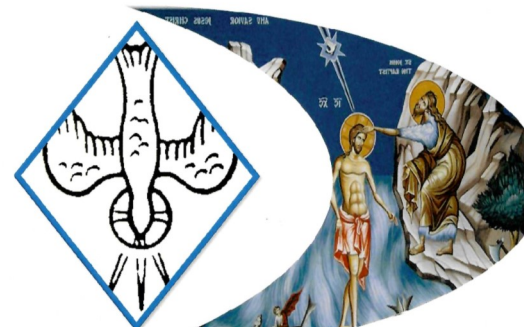
Paul Koskovich 330 327-4079

Bill Zantopulos 330 284-9586

Gus Athans 330 412-0708

Pan-Orthodox

Outdoor Blessing of the Waters



Nimishillen Creek

Tuesday, January 6 (Epiphany)

Noon

Stadium Park, Shelter # 5

Stadium Park Dr. NW



The Stark County Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood



PAN HELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

The 2025/2026 application is now open
and accepting applications!

Exceptional undergraduate students of
Hellenic descent from all fifty states
are encouraged to apply.

Applications should be submitted
electronically by January 31, 2026.

To be eligible to apply for a scholarship,
applicants must be US Citizens or US
permanent residents and of Hellenic descent.

Applicants must be full-time undergraduate
students at an accredited 4-year university this
Fall 2025 and have a minimum
3.6 cumulative GPA.

For inquiries please email:
scholarships@hellenicsf.org
or call (312) 357-6432.

<https://www.panhellenicsf.org>

Tithe.ly Online Stewardship Payment Options

SCAN ME



[Make a Donation \(tithe.ly\)](https://tithe.ly)

You can now scan the QR code to your left to log into Tithe or go directly
to their website (tithe.ly) to make Stewardship, Memorial or Candle
payments.

To scan QR code:

Apple iphone- use your camera app and click on the yellow link that
appears on the screen.

Android (non-apple) phone- use QR code scanner if already installed or
go to Google Play Store and download.

Either option will take you directly to our donation website for your
donation to St. Haralambos Church.



SAVE THE DATES!

2025-26 Canton Greek Fish Fry

January 30th - Drive Thru Only

February 20th -Dine In & Drive Thru

March 20th - Dine In & Drive Thru

Interested in volunteering?

Contact Peter Volas @ 216-312-4255

58th Annual - Daughters of Penelope Debutante's Ball

Saturday, April 18, 2026

Doors Open - 7:30 pm

Presentation - 8:30 pm

Alex D. Krassas Event Center
251 25th Street NW
Canton, OH 44709

Tickets: \$25 each

Please contact Frances Pantelides at (330) 284-3929
Ticket Chairperson or
debsball@gmail.com
to purchase your tickets.

December 21, 2025: FEAST: Pre-Nativity: The Genelogy; Proeortia (Preparation) of Nativity of Our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ; Juliane and the 630 Martyred with her (+309); Themistokles, Martyr (+251).

.....

Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον Ἦχος γ
Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον· πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο· ἐκ κοιλίας ἁδοῦ ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Προεόρτιον Ἦχος δ
Ἐτοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ· ἡνοικται πᾶσιν ἡ Ἐδέμ. Εὐτρεπίζου Ἐφραθᾶ, ὅτι τὸ ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς, ἐν τῷ Σπηλαίῳ ἐξήνηθησεν ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου. Παράδεισος καὶ γάρ, ἡ ἐκείνης γαστήρ, ἐδείχθη νοητός, ἐν ᾧ τὸ θεῖον φυτόν· ἐξ οὗ φαγόντες ζήσομεν, οὐχὶ δὲ ὡς ὁ Ἀδὰμ τεθνηζόμεθα. Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα

Τῶν Πατέρων Ἦχος β´
Μεγάλα τὰ τῆς πίστεως κατορθώματα! Ἐν τῇ πηγῇ τῆς φλογός, ὡς ἐπὶ ὕδατος ἀναπαύσεως, οἱ ἅγιοι τρεῖς Παῖδες ἠγάλλοντο· καὶ ὁ Προφήτης Δανιήλ, λεόντων ποιμήν, ὡς προβάτων ἐδείκνυτο. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν

Τοῦ Ναοῦ
Ὡς στῦλος ἀκλόνητος, τῆς Ἐκκλησίας Χριστοῦ, καὶ λύχνος αἰφώτος, τῆς οἰκουμένης σοφέ, ἐδείχθης Χαράλαμπες· ἔλαμψας ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, διὰ τοῦ μαρτυρίου. ἔλυσας καὶ εἰδώλων τὴν σκοτόμαιναν μάκαρ· διὸ ἐν παρρησίᾳ Χριστῷ. Πρέσβευε σωθῆναι ἡμᾶς.

Κοντάκιον Ἦχος γ´
Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε, ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον, μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

.....

Resurrectional Apolytikion Mode 3
Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth rejoice exceedingly. For the Lord has shown strength with his arm. He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead. Out of the belly of Hades, He has rescued us, and to the world He has granted the great mercy.

For the Forefeast Mode 4
O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. Christ is born, so that He might raise up the formerly fallen image.

For the Fathers Mode 2
Magnificent are the accomplishments of faith! The holy Three Servants greatly rejoiced, as they stood in the fountain of fire, as if beside the still waters; and the Prophet Daniel appeared to be a shepherd of lions, as if they were sheep. At their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls.

Hymn of the Church
As a pillar unshaken of Christ's holy Church, and lamp ever-burning to all the world you emerged, O wise Haralambos; in all the world you shined, with the martyrdom you suffered, you dispelled the dark night, of the idols, O blessed; whence, with courage do intercede, to Christ that we may be saved.

Kontakion Mode 3
On this day the Virgin Maid goes to the grotto to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds Him who willed that He appear as a newborn Child, the preeternal God.



Epistle

The reading is from Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews.

Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, illtreated — of whom the world was not worthy — wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.



Gospel

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Ammin’adab, and Ammin’adab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Bo’az by Rahab, and Bo’az the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uri’ah, and Solomon the father of Rehobo’am, and Rehobo’am the father of Abi’jah, and Abi’jah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehosh’aphat, and Jehosh ’aphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzzi’ah, and Uzzi’ah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezeki’ah, and Hezeki’ah the father of Manas’sseh, and Manas’sseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josi ’ah, and Josi’ah the father of Jechoni’ah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni’ah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerub’babel, and Zerub ’babel the father of Abi’ud, and Abi’ud the father of Eli’akim, and Eli’akim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eli’ud, and Eli’ud the father of Elea’zar, and Elea’zar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne her firstborn son; and he called his name Jesus.