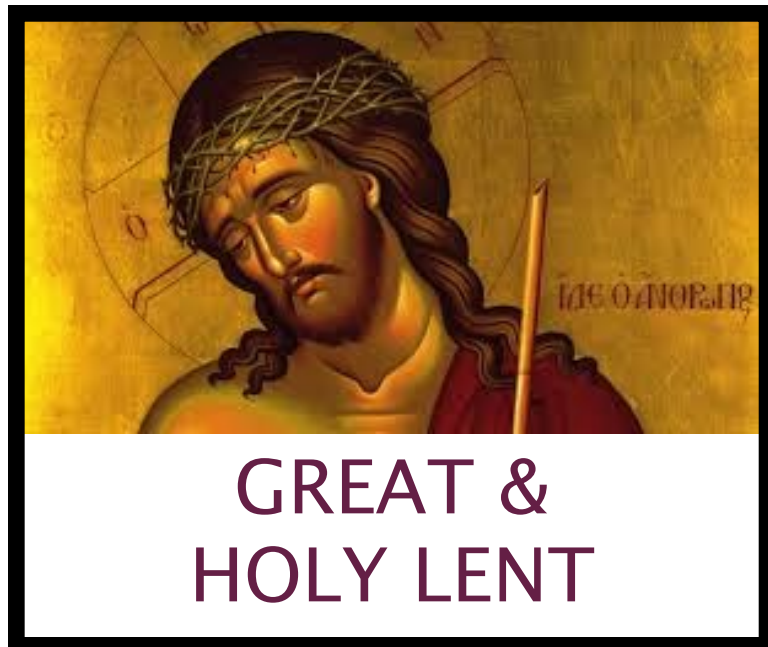




ST. HARALAMBOS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
CANTON, OHIO

KOINONIA



MARCH & APRIL 2026



METROPOLIS OF
PITTSBURGH

ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

REV. PROTOPRESBYTER NICHOLAS V. GAMVAS, D.MIN., PH.D., IERATIKOS PROISTAMENOS

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ST. HARALAMBOS CHURCH
MARCH LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MARCH 1	SUNDAY	SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY 9:00 a.m. - Orthros. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.
MARCH 2	MONDAY	GREAT COMPLINE SERVICE 6:00 p.m.
MARCH 4	WEDNESDAY	PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY at <u>ST. HARALAMBOS</u> 6:30 p.m. Combined service with area churches. A reception will follow. Everyone is invited.
MARCH 6	FRIDAY	SECOND SALUTATIONS TO THE THEOTOKOS 6:30 p.m.
MARCH 8	SUNDAY	ST. GREGORY OF PALAMAS 9:00 a.m. - Orthros. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.
MARCH 9	MONDAY	GREAT COMPLINE SERVICE 6:00 p.m.
MARCH 11	WEDNESDAY	PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY at <u>HOLY TRINITY</u> 6:30 p.m. Combined service with area churches. A reception will follow. Everyone is invited.
MARCH 13	FRIDAY	THIRD SALUTATIONS TO THE VIRGIN MARY 6:30 P.M.
MARCH 15	SUNDAY	VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS 9:00 a.m. - Orthros. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.
MARCH 16	MONDAY	GREAT COMPLINE SERVICE 6:00 p.m.
MARCH 18	WEDNESDAY	PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY at <u>ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN</u> 6:30 p.m. Combined service with area churches. A reception will follow. Everyone is invited.
MARCH 20	FRIDAY	FOURTH SALUTATIONS TO THE VIRGIN MARY 6:30 p.m.
MARCH 22	SUNDAY	ST. JOHN OF CLIMACUS 9:00 a.m. - Orthros. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.
MARCH 23	MONDAY	GREAT COMPLINE SERVICE 6:00 p.m.
MARCH 24	TUESDAY	GREAT VESPERS ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS 6:00 p.m.
MARCH 25	WEDNESDAY	ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS 9:00 am - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy
MARCH 27	FRIDAY	AKATHIST HYMN 6:30 p.m.
MARCH 29	SUNDAY	ST. MARY OF EGYPT 9:00 a.m. - Orthros. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.
MARCH 30	MONDAY	GREAT COMPLINE SERVICE 6:00 p.m.

ST. HARALAMBOS CHURCH

APRIL LITURGICAL CALENDAR



APRIL 1	WEDNESDAY	PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY at <u>ASSUMPTION OCA</u> 6:30 p.m. Combined service with area churches. A reception will follow. Everyone is invited.
APRIL 4	SATURDAY	SATURDAY OF LAZARUS 9:00 am - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy. After service, palm crosses will be made. Everyone is welcome to stay.
APRIL 5	SUNDAY	PALM SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. - Orthros. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.
	SUNDAY EVENING	BRIDEGROOM SERVICE 7:00 p.m.
APRIL 6	MONDAY	BRIDEGROOM SERVICE 7:00 p.m.
APRIL 7	TUESDAY	BRIDEGROOM SERVICE TROPARION OF ST. KASSIANE 7:00 p.m.
APRIL 8	WEDNESDAY	HOLY WEDNESDAY 9:00 a.m. - Presanctified Liturgy HOLY UNCTION SERVICE 6:00 p.m.
APRIL 9	THURSDAY	HOLY THURSDAY 9:00 a.m. - Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil. 7:00 p.m. - Reading of the 12 Gospels.
APRIL 10	FRIDAY	HOLY FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. - Reading of the Royal Hours. 3:00 p.m. - Apokathelosis Service 7:00 p.m. - Great Lamentations
APRIL 11	SATURDAY	HOLY SATURDAY RESURRECTION SERVICE 9:00 a.m. - Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil. 11:15 p.m. - Orthros.
APRIL 12	SUNDAY	RESURRECTION SERVICE PASCHA - HOLY EASTER - <i>CHRIST IS RISEN!</i> 12:00 a.m. - Holy Pascha Resurrection Service at midnight. 12:30 a.m. - Holy Paschal Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. 11:00 a.m. - Agape Vespers.
APRIL 17	FRIDAY	THEOTOKOS OF THE LIFE GIVING FOUNTAIN 9:00 a.m. - Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy.
APRIL 19	SUNDAY	SUNDAY OF SAINT THOMAS 9:00 a.m. - Orthros. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.
APRIL 22	WEDNESDAY	ST. GEORGE GREAT VESPERS at <u>ST. GEORGE CHURCH, MASSILLON</u> 6:30 p.m. - Great Vespers
APRIL 23	THURSDAY	ST. GEORGE FEASTDAY at <u>ST. GEORGE CHURCH, MASSILLON</u> 9:00 a.m. - Orthros. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.
APRIL 26	SUNDAY	HOLY SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH BEARERS 9:00 a.m. - Orthros. 10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 †9:00 a.m. Sunday of Orthodoxy Maids of Athena Pasta Luncheon 3:00 p.m. Deb's Ball Mtg.	2 †6:00 p.m. Compline	3 10:00 a.m. Silver Liners' Brd Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Philoptochos Brd Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Greek School 6:00 p.m. Philoptochos Mtg.	4 †6:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy at St. Haralambos *Philoptochos reception	5 12:00 Catering Event 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Mtg	6 †6:30 p.m. Second Salutations to the Theotokos	7
8 †9:00 a.m. St. Gregory Palamas JOY Easter Project Jr. GOYA Mtg.	9 †6:00 Compline	10 4:00 p.m. Orthodox Book Study 5:30 p.m. Greek School	11 †6:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy at Holy Trinity	12 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice	13 †6:30 p.m. Third Salutations to the Theotokos	14
15 †9:00 a.m. Sunday of the Holy Cross GOYA Meeting 1:00 p.m. Deb's Tea	16 †6:00 p.m. Compline	17 12:00 Silver Liners 3:30 p.m. Father Nick's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Greek School	18 5:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal †6:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy at St. George Antiochian 7:00 p.m. Greek Fest Comm. Mtg.	19 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice	20 4:00 p.m. Fish Fry †6:30 p.m. Fourth Salutations to the Theotokos	21
22 †9:00 a.m. St. John Climacus Greek School Program	23 †6:00 p.m. Compline	24 4:00 p.m. Orthodox Book Study 5:30 p.m. Greek School †6:00 p.m. Great Vespers Annunciation	25 †9:00 a.m. Annunciation of the Theotokos 5:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	26 †6:30 p.m. St. Andrew of Crete 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice 7:00 p.m. Dancers/Parent Mtg. 7:30 p.m. Alumni Dancers	27 †6:30 p.m. Akathist Hymn	28
29 †9:00 a.m. St. Mary of Egypt	30 †6:00 p.m. Compline	31 5:30 p.m. Philoptochos Brd Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Philoptochos Mtg. No Greek School				

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 5:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal †6:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy at Assumption OCA 7:00 p.m. Greek Fest Comm. Mtg.	2 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice 7:00 p.m. Parish Council Mtg.	3	4 †9:00 am. Saturday of Lazarus Sunday School Mini-Retreat - Palm Crosses
5 PALM SUNDAY †9:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Palm Sunday Dinner †7:00 p.m. Palm Sunday Eve. Bridegroom	6 HOLY MONDAY †7:00 p.m. Bridegroom No Greek School	7 HOLY TUESDAY 10:00 a.m. Silver Liners' Brd. Mtg. †7:00 p.m. Bridegroom St. Kassiane No Greek School	8 HOLY WEDNESDAY †9:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Holy Unction	9 HOLY THURSDAY †9:00 a.m. Vespers, Liturgy of St. Basil 12:00 Catering Event †7:00 p.m. Reading of the Twelve Gospels	10 HOLY FRIDAY †9:00 a.m. Reading of the Royal Hours †3:00 p.m. Apokathelosis †7:00 p.m. Lamentations	11 HOLY SATURDAY †9:00 a.m. Vespers, Liturgy of St. Basil †11:15 pm Orthros †12:00 a.m. Resurrection †12:30 am Paschal Vespers
12 HOLY PASCHA †11:00 a.m. Agape Service Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt	13	14 4:00 p.m. Orthodox Book Study 5:30 p.m. Catering Event in Krassas 5:30 p.m. Greek School	15	16 No Dance Practice Deb's Rehearsal	17 †9:00 a.m. Life Giving Fountain of the Theotokos	18 Deb's Ball
19 †9:00 a.m. St. Thomas GOYA Mtg.	20	21 12:00 Silver Liners 5:30 p.m. Greek School	22 6:30 p.m. St. George Great Vespers @ St. George-Massillon 7:00 p.m. Greek Fest Comm. Mtg.	23 †9:00 a.m. St. George Name Day at St. George, Massillon 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice	24	25 Catering Event - Tri-Rm & Yth Rm
26 †9:00 a.m. Myrrh Bearers Jr. GOYA Mtg.	27	28 4:00 p.m. Orthodox Book Study 5:30 p.m. Greek School	29	30 4:30 p.m. Dance Practice		



PASTORAL LETTER FOR HOLY AND GREAT LENT

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The season of Great Lent is upon us once more, a season which coincides with springtime and the rebirth of nature and new life which we see all around us. The Holy Church also desires that each of us grow spiritually and experience a reawakening of our relationship with God during the forty days of Lent, which culminate at Holy Pascha with the Lord's passion, death, and resurrection.

The purpose of Great Lent is not to make us feel disheartened or uncomfortable in the way we live out our faith, but it is a call to self-examination and for taking a fresh look at our attitude and behavior towards others. Often unknown to ourselves we can little by little become self-centered and lapse and indifference to others.

Our baptism into the Body of Christ does not allow us to pass by on the other side and so ignore the needs and sufferings of those around us. The traditional penitential nature of Great Lent is not intended to punish us, but to remind us of our need for God's grace and of our obligation to put others before ourselves. Awareness of the presence of God surrounding us and of the need to engage in practical acts of charity will ensure that we grow in God's grace and so become ever more Christ-like in this holy season.

The problems and tragedies of the world can at times appear to overwhelm us and leave us with a sense of helplessness, but we must never underestimate the effect our prayer has before God. The power of prayer has its essential place in our Lenten exercises.

Prayer unites us with all the saints in heaven, and so we are joined in one great surge of prayer which arises before God both day and night. To know the gift of prayer and its unfailing power is one of the great graces of Lent.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, as we embark on our Lenten journey, let us be cheerful and of good heart. Let us thank God for this time of grace and for the opportunity to grow spiritually ourselves, while being conscious of others who may need our help.

Let us keep our gaze firmly fixed on Christ this Great Lent, both as a Church and as individual baptized Orthodox Christians, for in His own marvelous words He is the way, the truth, and the life.

With an assurance of my prayers through this Great Lent.

In Christ's Love,
Fr. Nicholas V. Gamvas



March 25th

The Annunciation Of The Theotokos

By: Saint Theodore Studite

Brethren in the Lord, the Annunciation is here and it is the first of the Feasts of the Lord, and we should not simply celebrate as most do, but with understanding and with reverence for the mystery. What is the mystery? That the Son of God becomes son of man, using the holy Virgin as the means, dwelling in her and from her fashioning for Himself a temple and becoming perfect man. Why so? "That he might ransom those under the law," as it is written, "and that we might receive sonship" [Gal. 4:5]; that we may no longer be slaves, but free; no longer subject to the passions, but free of passions; no longer friends of the world, but friends of God; no longer walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit. "Those who walk according to the flesh, think the things of the flesh; those who walk according to the spirit, the things of the spirit; for the thought of the flesh is death; but the thought of the spirit, life and peace. And so the thought of the flesh is hostile to God, for it is not subject to the law of God. Indeed it cannot be. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God" [Rom. 8:5-8]. In brief this is the power of the mystery, and this is why we should celebrate spiritually and behave spiritually, with holiness and justice, with love, with gentleness, with peace, "with forbearance, with goodness, with the Holy Spirit" [2 Cor. 6:6], so that as far as we ourselves are concerned we do not render the dispensation of our Lord Jesus Christ empty and ineffectual.

Not only that, but we should both pray and grieve for the world. Why so? Because the Son of God came to save the world, and the world rejects Him. Tribes and languages reject Him; the barbarian nations reject Him, those who have had his holy name invoked upon them reject Him, some through abandoning the faith, others through their evil lives. What should He have done and did not do? Being God He became man, "He humbled Himself, becoming obedient unto death, the death of the cross" [Phil. 2,8.]; he gave us His body to eat and His blood to drink; He allowed us to call him Father, Brother, Head, Teacher, Bridegroom, Fellow-heir and all the other titles which there is no time to mention now. And still He is rejected, and still He bears it. "For," He says, I have not come to judge the world, but to save the world" [John 12:47].

What then is there to say, brethren? That the genuine disciples are grieved by the rejections of their fellow disciples, thus showing love both for the teacher and for the disciples. So too, genuine servants suffer in the same way from the desertions of their fellow-servants. This is why the great Apostle orders that "we should offer supplications, prayers, entreaties, thanksgivings on behalf of all mankind, for kings and for all in high positions" [1 Tim. 2:1-2]; and elsewhere he says this on the subject, "I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie, my conscience bears witness with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have a great grief and unceasing anguish in my heart; for I have prayed that I might be anathema to Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh" [Rom. 9:1-3]. You see the power of love? You see the height of friendship? Moses shows it too when he says to God, "If you will forgive them their sin, forgive; if not, wipe me out of the book which you have written" [Exodus 32:32]. So we too, as genuine and not counterfeit disciples, should not only look to what concerns ourselves, but we should grieve and pray for our brothers and for the whole world; for by so doing what is pleasing to the Lord we shall become inheritors of eternal life, in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom be the glory and the might with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

PASCHA IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Fr. Nicholas V. Gamvas

In the Orthodox Church, Pascha—known in the Western world as Easter—is the most important and transformative feast of the Christian liturgical year. It is a celebration not just of a historical event, but of the deepest theological truths of the Christian faith. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of Orthodox theology, and understanding its significance is crucial to grasping the core of Orthodox Christianity.

Pascha: The Victory Over Sin and Death

At its heart, Pascha is a proclamation of the victory of Christ over sin and death. Through His suffering, death, and glorious resurrection, Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and opened the gates of eternal life. Orthodox theology teaches that through the Fall of Adam and Eve, death entered the world, and all of humanity became subject to sin and its consequences. However, through His Resurrection, Christ restored humanity to its original purpose—eternal communion with God.

In the Orthodox Church, Pascha is the ultimate act of God's love and redemption. It is the fulfillment of the promise made in the Old Testament and the culmination of Christ's earthly ministry. Jesus' death on the cross is not the end of the story—His Resurrection on the third day is the pivotal moment in history. Pascha is the victory over the forces of evil, the triumph of life over death, and the defeat of Satan, sin, and corruption.

The Paschal Mystery: Christ's Death and Resurrection as One Event

In Orthodox theology, the death and resurrection of Christ are seen as two parts of the same divine mystery—the Paschal Mystery. The Church teaches that Christ's death was not simply a tragic event, but a necessary part of God's plan for humanity's salvation. His voluntary death on the cross was a supreme act of love, where He took upon Himself the consequences of sin and reconciled humanity with God.

However, Christ's death alone would not be enough. Without the Resurrection, His death would have been meaningless, leaving humanity in the despair of sin and death. The Resurrection is the proof that Christ's sacrifice was accepted by God, and it is through the Resurrection that the promise of eternal life is sealed. The two aspects of the Paschal Mystery—Christ's death and resurrection—are inseparable, and together they reveal God's plan for the ultimate restoration of all creation.

Theological Themes of Pascha

1. *The Defeat of Death* — One of the central themes of Pascha is the defeat of death. In the Paschal hymns, death is often personified and challenged by the power of Christ's Resurrection. Christ, by rising from the dead, "trampled down death by death," as the Church proclaims. In doing so, He made death powerless, transforming it from the finality of the human experience into a passage to eternal life.

2. *The Restoration of Creation* — Pascha is not only about humanity's salvation but the restoration of all creation. The Orthodox Church teaches that Christ's Resurrection brings about the renewal of the entire world. In Christ's victory over death, creation is set free from the corruption brought about by sin. The Paschal feast symbolizes the new creation, where the light of the Resurrection dispels the darkness of the old world.

PASCHA IN THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

Fr. Nicholas V. Gamvas

~Continued~

3. *The Inauguration of the Kingdom of God* — The Resurrection marks the beginning of the Kingdom of God on earth. Christ's rising from the dead is not just a historical event; it is a sign of the coming Kingdom that Christians are called to enter through faith and participation in the sacraments of the Church. The Church, in this sense, is a living witness to the resurrection, calling all people to share in the life of the Kingdom of God.

4. *The Triumph of Light Over Darkness* — Pascha is often called the Feast of Light. The contrast between light and darkness runs throughout the liturgical services of Pascha, symbolizing the victory of Christ over the darkness of sin and death. The Paschal Vigil begins in darkness, but as the light of the Paschal Candle spreads, it symbolizes the light of Christ overcoming the darkness of the world.

5. *The Promise of Eternal Life* — The Resurrection assures believers of the promise of eternal life. Through Pascha, Christians are reminded that the hope of immortality is not a vague aspiration but a concrete reality. The Resurrection is the first-fruits of the resurrection of the dead that will come at the end of time. This hope transforms the Christian understanding of death, as believers are now able to face death not with fear, but with the assurance that Christ has already conquered it.

Pascha and the Christian Life

For the Orthodox Christian, Pascha is not just a historical event to be remembered; it is a lived reality. It is a reminder of the transformative power of the Resurrection that is available to all who are in Christ. The Church teaches that through baptism, each Christian shares in the death and resurrection of Christ. Baptism, as the Apostle Paul writes, unites believers to Christ's Paschal Mystery, and they are called to live in the newness of life brought about by His Resurrection.

The Paschal season is a time of deep joy and spiritual renewal, as Christians are invited to live out the implications of the Resurrection. The joy of Pascha is not fleeting; it is a foretaste of the eternal joy that awaits all who are united with Christ. The hope that Pascha brings is not merely a hope for the afterlife, but a hope that shapes how Christians live in the present, striving to live according to the light and love of the Resurrection.

Conclusion

The theological significance of Pascha in the Orthodox Church is profound. It is the feast of feasts, the celebration of the ultimate victory over sin, death, and evil. Christ's Resurrection changes everything—it restores creation, defeats the powers of darkness, and opens the way to eternal life. It is the heart of Orthodox Christianity, shaping our faith, our hope, and our very way of life. As Orthodox Christians gather together to celebrate Pascha, they proclaim with joy and conviction, "Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!" and enter the transformative power of His Resurrection.



~ HOLY AND GREAT LENT ~

Fr. Nicholas V. Gamvas

We the faithful join together often in the divine services, such as the Pre-sanctified Divine Liturgy and the Salutations to the Theotokos, while simultaneously striving secretly in prayer, fasting, the study of scripture and almsgiving. It is difficult to truly experience the spiritual fruits of Holy Week, let alone the indescribable joy of Christ's life-giving resurrection, without actively partaking in Great Lent. Think for a moment about how much time and effort is required to win a professional sporting championship; players and coaches do not show up only in time to hoist the trophy. By the same token, we should avoid showing up only on Holy Saturday evening to receive the Paschal Light. Living Lent, in order to reap the Resurrection harvest, takes sacrifice. For Orthodox Christians, Lent is an "arena of virtues" and one reason why Greek Orthodox wish each other Kalo Agona (translated accurately but poorly to "good fight") on Clean Monday, the commencement of Lent.

The fight is concurrently corporate and private; the faithful join together often in distinctive divine services, such as the Pre-sanctified Divine Liturgy and the Salutations to the Theotokos, while simultaneously striving secretly in prayer, fasting, the study of scripture and almsgiving. The Gospel of Matthew (6:14-21) read on Forgiveness Sunday is particularly instructive for our internal fight to repent (change) using the spiritual tools provided to us by the Church: "And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." Concerning fasting, we should bear in mind the following aphorism: There is more to Great Lent than fasting, and there is more to fasting than food.

Fasting — or any other sacrifice we make during Lent — is not an abstract concept or legalistic arrangement and should not be approached as such. Living Orthodox Great and Holy Lent should be a personal experience — not a theoretical code or set of rules one needs to follow with absolute rigidity. What benefit, spiritual or otherwise, is to fast as prescribed by the Church, for example, but be easily irritable and/or miserable during the Lenten period. The practice of sacrifice during Great Lent is not a one-size-fits-all approach; we should undertake what we can, emulating the poor widow in the Gospel who gave two copper coins out of her poverty and, trusting in the Lord who nourishes those who with genuine love and authentic humility strive to serve Him. Christ became incarnate to save mankind; He became man (Theanthropos) so we, who are made in his image and likeness, can become "God by grace" as the Church Fathers teach. The arena of virtues, therefore, is a blessed opportunity for the faithful to inch closer, step by step, to the ultimate aim and destination in life: holiness and salvation in Christ — the only Redeemer and Savior of the world.

We will make progress towards this purpose if we repent during Great and Holy Lent; if we change our behavior; if we pay no heed to evil thoughts but instead nourish virtuous ones; if we become humble and forgiving; we will make progress towards eternal life if we love one another - including our enemies - and help our fellow man. If we contest in the arena of virtues to acquire peace, patience, kindness and self-control (cf. Galatians 5:22-23), we will be transformed during Holy Week and experience the Resurrection as a life-altering event. If we contest in the arena of virtues, we will not revert back to our old self but begin our life anew, closer to Christ.

~ΑΓΙΟΝ ΠΑΣΧΑ~

Αγαπητοι μου αδελφοι Εν Χριστω:

Δύο λέξεις «Χριστός Ανέστη» δεν είναι απλά ένας χαιρετισμός, μια συμπεριφορά καθωσπρεπισμού, αλλά αποτελούν τελικά έκφραση ελπίδας και βεβαιότητας και χαράς, γιατί η Ανάσταση του Χριστού είναι η απαρχή μιας νέας βιωτής για τον άνθρωπο, η οποία δεν τελειώνει με τον θάνατο, αλλά ξεκινά με τον ύμνο «θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας» και αυτήν «πολιτεύεται», τονίζει, μεταξύ άλλων, στο πασχαλινό μήνιμα μου.

«Είναι το μήνυμα αυτό που φέρει η Εκκλησία στον σύγχρονο άνθρωπο, τον τραυματισμένο και εξουθενωμένο. Χρειάζεται δηλαδή για τη σωτηρία του. Να βεβαιώσει την εμπιστοσύνη του και την ελπίδα του στον Αναστημένο Χριστό και στην Εκκλησία Του» προσθέτει.

Ολοκληρώθηκε και φέτος μια πορεία, αυτή της Μεγάλης Εβδομάδας, στην οποίαν συγκεφαλαιώθησαν όλα τα γεγονότα της σωτηρίας του ανθρώπου. Βιώσαμε λειτουργικά «το μέτρο ζωής», με το οποίο ο άνθρωπος σώζεται, ήτοι τον κανόνα «του Σταυρού και της Αναστάσεως».

Η λαμπροφόρος νύχτα της Αναστάσεως είναι πραγματικά η εναργέστατη αποτύπωση αυτού του μυστηρίου της σωτηρίας μας, γι' αυτό και είναι νύχτα χαράς αλλά και κρίσεως. Είναι η νύχτα της δοκιμασίας της πίστης μας και της ελπίδας μας αφού εξαρτάται πλέον από εμάς τους ίδιους εάν είμαστε διατεθειμένοι να ανταποκριθούμε θετικά στην κλήση του Αναστημένου Χριστού με την σταυρική μας ανταπόκριση.

Οι δύο λέξεις «Χριστός Ανέστη» δεν είναι απλά ένας χαιρετισμός, μια συμπεριφορά καθωσπρεπισμού, αλλά αποτελούν τελικά έκφραση ελπίδας και βεβαιότητας και χαράς, γιατί η Ανάσταση του Χριστού είναι η απαρχή μίας νέας βιωτής για τον άνθρωπο, η οποία δεν τελειώνει με τον θάνατο, αλλά ξεκινά με τον ύμνο «θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας» και αυτήν «πολιτεύεται».

Αυτο είναι το μήνυμα αυτό που φέρει η Εκκλησία στον σύγχρονο άνθρωπο, τον τραυματισμένο και εξουθενωμένο. Χρειάζεται δηλαδή για την σωτηρία του, να βεβαιώσει την εμπιστοσύνη του και την ελπίδα του στον Αναστημένο Χριστό και στην Εκκλησία Του.

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ !

Εν Χριστω Αγαπη,

+ Ο Αιδ. Νικολαος Β. Γαμβας

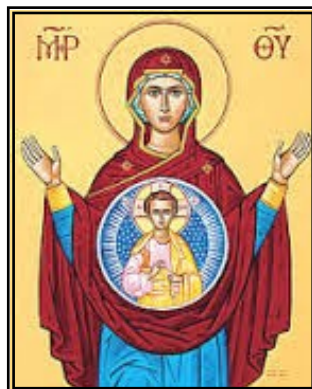
THE AKATHIST HYMN

The Akathist Hymn is a profound, devotional poem, which sings the praises of the Holy Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary. It is one of the most beloved services in the Orthodox Church. It was composed in the imperial city of Constantinople, "the city of the Virgin," by St. Romanos the Melodist, who reposed in the year 556. The Akathist Hymn has proven so popular in the liturgical life of the Church that many other hymns have been written following its format. These include Akathists to Our Lord Jesus Christ, to the Cross, and to many Saints.

The Akathist hymn consists of praises directed to the Theotokos, beginning with the salutation of the Archangel Gabriel: "Rejoice." As the hymn is chanted all of the events related to our Lord's Incarnation pass before us for our contemplation. The Archangel Gabriel marvels at the Divine self-emptying and the renewal of creation which will occur when Christ comes to dwell in the Virgin's womb. The unborn John the Baptist prophetically rejoices. The shepherds recognize Christ as a blameless Lamb, and rejoice that in the Virgin "the things of earth join chorus with the heavens." The pagan Magi following the light of the star, praise Her for revealing the light of the world.

The word "akathistos" means "not sitting," i.e., standing; normally all participants stand while it is being prayed. The hymn is comprised of 24 stanzas, arranged in an acrostic following the Greek alphabet. The stanzas alternate between long and short. Each short stanza is written in prose and ends with the singing of "Alleluia." Each longer stanza ends with the refrain: "Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded."

The first part of the hymn is about the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary by the Angel. It describes Mary's surprise at the news, her visit to her mother and Joseph's doubts as to her innocence. The second part is about the birth of Christ, the worship of the Shepherds and Magi, the flight to Egypt and the visit to Saint Simeon in the Temple. In the third part the hymn directs our attention to the renewal of the world by Christ's coming, and the amazement of the Angels and the wise men at the sight of the Incarnation of God's Son. The fourth and the last part is once more a lyric and rhetorical appraisal of Virgin Mary, whom the poet adorns with the most beautiful of adjectives asking her to accept his poetical offering and to intercede for the salvation of human race from the earthly sin.





Greek Independence Day

A Greek holiday and A Religious Feastday ~ March 25

Greek Independence Day, national holiday celebrated annually in Greece on March 25, commemorating the start of the War of Greek Independence in 1821. It coincides with the Greek Orthodox Church's celebration of the Annunciation to the Theotokos, when the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that she would bear the son of God. Greece had been part of the Ottoman Empire since 1453. The Greek revolt was precipitated on March 25, 1821, when Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the flag of revolution over the Monastery of Agia Lavra in the Peloponnese. The cry "Freedom or death" became the motto of the revolution. The Greeks experienced early successes on the battlefield, including the capture of Athens in June 1822, but infighting ensued. By 1827 Athens and most of the Greek isles had been recaptured by the Turks.

Just as the revolution appeared to be on the verge of failure, Great Britain, France, and Russia intervened in the conflict. The Greek struggle had elicited strong sympathy in Europe, and many leading intellectuals had promoted the Greek cause, including the English poet Lord Byron. At the naval Battle of Navarino, the combined British, French, and Russian forces destroyed an Ottoman-Egyptian fleet. The revolution ended in 1829 when the Treaty of Edirne established an independent Greek state.

The Celebration of the Greek Revolution of 1821 (Greek: Εορτασμός της Ελληνικής Επανάστασης του 1821, Eortasmós tis Ellinikís Epanástasis tou 1821), also known as Independence Day is a national holiday in Greece, Cyprus as well as in the Greek diaspora celebrated on March 25. It commemorates the start of the Greek War of Independence against the Ottoman Empire, and the formation of an independent Greek state which coincides with the Greek Orthodox Feast of the Annunciation.

Greek Independence Day is celebrated in many cities outside of Greece with large Greek diaspora communities. In the United States annual parades are held in cities like: Boston, Chicago, and New York. An annual reception at the White House hosted by the President of the United States attended by many prominent Greek Americans has also been held since the tradition was first started by President Ronald Reagan in 1987, A Presidential proclamation is also issued celebrating the day.

Every year on March 25, the country of Greece celebrates Greek Independence Day. Like elsewhere around the world, the day is marked with national pride, happiness, and is a special holiday to the people of Hellas. Hence, the saying on this special day: ΖΗΤΩ Η ΕΛΛΑΣ! (Long live Greece!)



Annunciation, The Day Mary said 'Yes'

By the grace of God, we have reached another Great Lent Period. A time to recalibrate our spirituality and become closer to Jesus Christ on our journey towards theosis. Within the period of Great Lent, we will celebrate one of the most important Feast Days in the Orthodox Church as well as in all of God's creation (even though most people might not be familiar with it) The Annunciation. On the 25th of March, the world will wake up, do their daily routine, go to work, school etc. and never realize that this is the anniversary of one of the greatest events that ever happened in all of recorded history! It celebrates the day that the key slid into the locked gates of heaven after the fall of Adam & Eve. For this was the momentous day that the Archangel Gabriel announced to Mary *"Rejoice highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"* that She was to become the Mother of God. When Mary asked how this would be, because she knew no man, the Archangel replied, *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, the Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."* Mary replied *"Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be according to your word."* Mary's faithful response makes her the highest model of obedience to God. The Incarnation of the Son of God is not only the work of the Trinity, but also the work of the will and the faith of the Virgin. Therefore, the Virgin Mary is honored not only because God chose her, or because she bore the Son of God in the flesh, but also because she herself chose to believe and obey God firmly. God always honors and respects our free will.

There have been all sorts of messages delivered between men from the beginning of time right up to the present in the form of e-mails and certified letters. But there was never a message like the one delivered to Mary approximately 2000 years ago. This was the message that leaped the immeasurable arc from eternity to time, the message that traversed the infinite distance between God and man, the message that began at the throne of the Almighty God and ended at the home of and obscure young Jewish girl. At least 10 million times a day if not more, the words of that message are still repeated in the Orthodox services and in the Catholic rosaries. ***"Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with thee... Blessed art thou among women."***

When Mary agreed to be the servant of the Lord and for His will to be done it was at that moment the message came true. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us; among us because under her heart God has begun to be Man. Once our Lord had been conceived, Christmas and all the rest followed as a matter of course. It was the day of the Annunciation, March 25th, that started everything. Can any other day be more important than that?

Are we tempted to think, "Is this all to God's coming on earth?" Most of us might have looked for something more spectacular to have appeared for this announcement from the archangel, maybe a heavenly choir singing out or trumpets blaring. But God knew that He did not have to impress Mary. So, all we have here is a kneeling girl, prayerful and respectful; an Archangel Gabriel who is named and famous; and the invisible but intense presence of the Holy Spirit, hovering, overshadowing, giving life. How quietly Mary's home became the central point of all the world!

And then on that March morning, while the world was all hurry and bustle and busy about so many "important" things, the finger of God pointed to a tiny home in the green hills of Nazareth. Of all the wealthy, elegant ladies in the world, He chose none. The high and mighty queens in their monumental castles He did not even notice. But He sent his chief messenger Gabriel to tap at the door of Mary's humble little house where dwelled the sweetest and the purest, the humblest and the holiest woman that ever lived. A woman about whom the world knew nothing at all about. Not even that she existed!



Annunciation, The Day Mary said 'Yes'

~Continued~

But God knew. And in a way this is the comforting message that the feast of the Annunciation sends to each of us: God knows us, every one of us, as the separate and individual and special people that we are, "I knew you before you were formed in the womb." God's intellect is wide enough to know and hold each and everyone and everything that He created. Since He is able to create us, He is able to know everything about us. In the "honeycomb" of His divine memory, each of us has his own "separate cell." God knows us, every single different individual one!

According to St. Nicholas Cabasilas the great 14th century theologian, "if the Panagia (all holy), in her obedience, had not offered her free will to God-had she not said "yes" to God-God would not have been able to become incarnate. Having given free will to man, God could not violate His gift, so He not have been able to become incarnate if there not been such a pure, all-holy, immaculate soul as the Theotokos (Mother of God), who would offer her freedom, her will, all of herself totally to God so as to draw Him towards herself and towards us."

That is why she is praised by our Church as "more honorable than the Cherubim and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim."

We are able to ask the Theotokos sincerely and she will come to us powerfully. Not because of her own power, as though she were God, but because of her influence with her Son Jesus Christ (our Lord and Savior). Her power is prayer, the prayer of a mother, a mother full of grace and love, a mother who still has the Lord with her, a mother who is as close to His throne in heaven as she was to His ear at the wedding in Cana "they have no wine." When her prayer sweetly prodded Him to perform an "unscheduled" miracle in the changing of water into wine thus blessing and sanctifying the sacrament of marriage between man and woman.

In closing I would like to reiterate the importance of this most Holy Feast and know that we have the Theotokos (Mother of God) always interceding to her son Jesus on our behalf and providing for us prayers that lead us to eternal salvation through her Son.

My Diakonisa Melissa and I, along with our children, Kerissa, Costandinos and Xenia wish everyone a spiritually uplifting Great Lenten Season, a blessed Feast of the Annunciation, and a glorious, joyful Paschal Season.





ASK FATHER NICK...

Q: Where did Mary the Theotokos, Enoch, and Elijah go exactly? Billy Poulos

A: The difference has to do with who Mary and Jesus are and how they got to heaven. Jesus Christ is the Son of God made man, with both divine and human natures. When He went to heaven, body and soul, at the end of his earthly life, He did so on his own power. Jesus himself was the active agent. Thus, He ascended (active) into heaven.

The Virgin Mary, on the other hand, is dependent entirely on the gratuitous grace of God. She could not and did not go to heaven on her own power, but instead was taken there. Thus, she was assumed – (Greek) -metastasis – Transferred (passive) into heaven.

Enoch - Enoch is something of an enigma. He's mentioned in only 6 verses of the Old Testament book of Genesis, but what is said about him is fascinating:

“When Jared had lived 162 years, he became the father of Enoch. [...] When Enoch had lived 65 years, he became the father of Methuselah. After he became the father of Methuselah, Enoch walked faithfully with God 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Altogether, Enoch lived a total of 365 years. Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.” (Genesis 5.18, 20-24) Enoch was faithful, and then was taken away by God.

How was Enoch faithful? Why did God choose to take him away? Unfortunately, Scripture doesn't say.

Elijah – (Prophet Elias) Elijah was one of the most important prophets of the Old Testament. One day he was with his protégé Elisha, when “suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind.” (2 Kings 2.11) Elisha was dumbstruck, to say the least: “Elisha saw this,” Scripture says, “and cried out, ‘My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!’ And Elisha saw him no more.” (2 Kings 2.12)

While The Virgin Mary the Theotokos definitely went to heaven, there is some debate about where exactly Enoch and Elijah went after being taken up by God. Did they go to heaven? Enoch and Elijah both were taken up by God, body and soul, into some other realm, unlike most saints whose bodies remain on earth until the resurrection at the end of the world.

Q: Is Holy Sepulcher Really The Tomb Of Jesus? Sunday School High School Class

A: According to tradition, the site of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre occupies the site where Jesus was crucified (called Calvary or Golgotha) and the site of Jesus's empty tomb. First Built: 326 by Constantine The Great.

ST. HARALAMBOS CHURCH

CONFESSIONS

Confession is a cleansing of the soul of troubling emotions, feelings, guilt, and sin. The sacrament of confession leads to forgiveness and a re-establishment of one's relationship with God.

Father Nicholas is now welcoming appointments for Confessions.

To schedule your appointment, please call Father Nick at 330-454-7278.
Thank you!

GOOD FRIDAY - LAMENTATIONS

Please submit this form to the church office. Thank you.

Requested by:

COMMEMORATION

(First names only, Baptismal if known, please print.)

[illegible]



St. Haralambos Church Altar Boy Schedule

Thank you to all of our Altar Boys
for your dedication to our Lord!

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Please be ready to start at 9:45 a.m.

TEAM A: March 1
March 29
April 26

TEAM B: March 8
April 5

TEAM C: March 15
April 12

TEAM D: March 22
April 19

TEAM A
Yianni Sotiropoulos
Aristides Kapalko
George Tzouloufis

TEAM B
Anthony Petrides
Zachary Volas
Stamatios Paxos

TEAM C
Yanni Loukas
Andrew Rocco
Leonidas Paxos

TEAM D
Luke Morgan
Yianni Fakelis
Ianni Colón
Dino Shiepis

GREAT LENTEN PAN ORTHODOX CALENDAR 2026

Sunday, March 1st ~ Sunday of Orthodoxy Pan
Orthodox Vespers – St. George Serbian @ 5:00 p.m.

March 4th ~ St. Haralambos, Canton @ 6:30 p.m.
PreSanctified Liturgy

March 11th ~ Holy Trinity, Canton @ 6:30 p.m.
PreSanctified Liturgy

March 18th ~ St. George Antiochian @ 6:30 p.m.
PreSanctified Liturgy

March 25th ~ Annunciation @ each parish
in the morning.

April 1st ~ Assumption OCA, Canton @ 6:30 p.m.
PreSanctified Liturgy

BIBLE STUDY WITH FATHER NICK

Tuesday, March 17th
3:30 to 4:30 pm



ORTHODOX BOOK STUDY GROUP

Join us for a spiritual book study
and fellowship.

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday
in the Tri-Room
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



MISSED PARISHIONERS

THE CANTON REGENCY
4515 22nd Street NW,
Canton, Ohio 44708
PAULA MACRIS

ST. JOSEPH SENIOR LIVING
2308 Reno Dive
Louisville, Ohio 44641
330-875-5562
ANASTASIA ROSEMARY MYERS

THE WINDSOR
1454 East Maple St. NW
North Canton, Ohio 44720
330-499-8300
JACK USNER
BETTY TSANGEOS

ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
Canton, Ohio



Official Notice of a
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2026

Immediately after church services

AGENDA

- A. Opening Prayer
- B. Election of Chairman
- C. Previous General Assembly Minutes Approval
- D. Priest's Report
- E. President's Report
- F. Stewardship Committee Report
- G. Finance Committee Report
- H. Endowment Committee Report
- I. Maintenance Committee Report
- J. Fundraising Committee Report
 - a. Catering & Event Center Report
 - b. Canton Greek Fest Report
 - c. Fish Fry Report
- K. Organization Reports
 - a. Silver Liners
 - b. Philoptochos
 - c. Choir
 - d. Hellenic Dancers
 - e. Sunday School
 - f. Greek School
 - g. GOYA
 - h. JR. GOYA
 - i. JOY
 - j. YAL
- L. Report of Auditing Committee
- M. Election of Board of Elections
- N. Old Business
- O. New Business
- P. Good of the Church
- Q. Closing Prayer

†Rev. Dr. Nicholas V. Gamvas
Protopresbyter

Chris Gaitanos
Parish Council President



COMMUNITY NEWS



*Congratulations to all of these families!
May God bestow many blessings of good health,
much happiness, and many years to all of you!*



*Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers
are with all of these families
for the loss of their loved ones.
May their loving memories be eternal!*

BIRTHS

LEAH ELEN LOWMAN, daughter of Mitch & Kristina Lowman and granddaughter of Guy & Tina Bolon, was born on January 21, 2026.

BAPTISMS

GEORGIA SUZANNE QUINN was baptized on January 10, 2026. She is the daughter of Dr. John and Natalie Quinn. Her Godparents are Nicolette Bourlas & David Blate.

NILOS NEKTARIOS KAKOULES was baptized on February 8, 2026. He is the son of Nicholas and Alexis Kakoules. His Godparents are John and Dena Bahas.

DEATHS

Lisa (Cotopolis) Ferencz
December 18, 2025

Diane Foradas
January 9, 2026

George Demis
January 15, 2026

Eugene Volas
January 31, 2026

George P. Papacostas
February 4, 2026

UPCOMING MEMORIALS:

40-Day Memorial: Eugene Volas
March 8, 2026

40-Day Memorial: George Papacostas
March 8, 2026

40-Day Memorial: Diane Foradas
March 29, 2026

3yr Memorial: Christos Politis
May 3, 2026

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY!



MARY STAVRAKIS



CATHERINE STAMATAKIS



Mrs. Katherine Mandis followed through with her late brother's wishes Michael Mandalanakis and donated a set of Greek Encyclopedias. They are currently stored in the priest's office and if you would like to borrow one please let us know. May Michael's Memory be Eternal.



2026 Canton Greek Fest Meeting Dates

Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Wednesday, April 1, 2026
Wednesday, April 22, 2026
Wednesday, May 6, 2026
Wednesday, May 20, 2026
Wednesday, June 3, 2026

*All Meetings begin at 7pm in the Youth Room

Call Mike Fakelis (330-327-5317)
or Mike Paxos (330-327-9180)

Saint Haralambos Church **SCHOLARSHIPS**



Scholarship applications are available in the church office
or in the organizer located outside of the church office.

The Michael and Dolly Sousaris Memorial Scholarship



The Michael and Dolly Sousaris Memorial Scholarship committee
announces the availability of scholarship application for 2026.

Two \$1000 scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school students
OR students presently enrolled in a higher education program.

Applications for these scholarships are available in the church office and must
be completed and returned to the church office by May 31, 2026.

The two scholarships will be awarded by July 31, 2026 directly to the students.

2026 AHEPA Scholarships

Apply Now Online!

Instructions and Applications are available for:

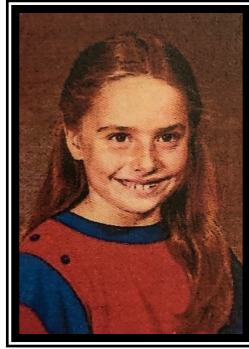
Canton Chapter 59 at: ahepa59.org (April 30, Deadline)

Buckeye District 11 at: buckeyedistrict11.org (March 31, Deadline)

AHEPA National at: ahepa.org (March 31, Deadline)

Contact: John Karipides (330) 283-0113
Paul Koskovich (330) 327-4079

*Saint Haralambos Sunday School
Laura Anne Dieringer Memorial Scholarship 2026*



Laura Anne Dieringer was one of our littlest angels, attending Sunday School until October 1984 when God took her home to join His family of angels in Heaven. Laura is still remembered for her joyful enthusiasm and eagerness for knowledge of our Orthodox faith through Sunday School attendance, so it is fitting that this scholarship be given in her memory and honor.

The \$500 scholarship is being made available through the joint collaboration of Sunday School and Mr. John Tsangeos, Laura's grandfather, of blessed memory, who graciously continues to co-sponsor this scholarship annually in loving memory of his precious granddaughter.

The scholarship is available to all graduating seniors of Sunday School who meet the following requirements/criteria/qualifications:

- Applicant must be a registered student of the Sunday School program from the beginning of the school year and complete the program through his/her senior year of high school to graduation.
- Applicant must be in good standing with regular Sunday School class attendance.
- Applicant must be enrolled in a college or technical program.
- Applicant must write and submit an essay of 200 words or less how he/she has grown in his/her Orthodox Faith through regular Sunday School attendance and what has been the most meaningful and spiritually rewarding personal experience through class participation.
- Essay deadline is Sunday, May 3, 2026.

Please submit your essay by the May 3rd deadline to:

Saint Haralambos Sunday School
251 - 25th Street NW
Canton, Ohio 44709

Recipients will be announced Sunday, May 17, 2026, Sunday School Recognition Sunday.

Thank you and God bless.

Harry A. Thomas Memorial Scholarship – 2026

Harry A. Thomas, born and raised in Canton, Ohio, from a young age, loved his church of St. Haralambos. He developed a strict work ethic from delivering papers as a young news boy and became a man of great wealth both spiritually and literally. He became a very successful businessman, entrepreneur, friend, and a very generous philanthropist. Years ago, he gave back to his Church by developing an Endowment Fund to St. Haralambos with the focus to perpetuate the faith and to have monies available to its youth for educational purposes. On March 13, 2011, Mr. Thomas fell asleep in the Lord, and left behind a Memorial Scholarship to be given to qualified seniors graduating high school and entering universities and colleges. Such was the nature of this humble man. We owe him much gratitude. May his memory be eternal.

Eligibility Requirements

To receive a scholarship, an applicant must fulfill all of the requirements:

Be a high school graduate.

Be a full-time undergraduate in an accredited university, college or technical school.

The applicant's family must be a member in good standing at St. Haralambos at the time of requesting the application (specifically, fulfillment of its 2025 stewardship pledge and submittal of its 2026 stewardship pledge card).

Prior scholarship winners at either level are not eligible.

Selection Criteria

Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of the following (in alphabetical order only):

Character

Demonstration of determination to complete her or his education

Financial need

Scholastic achievement

School, community and church activities

Application

A complete application consists of four parts (any omission will result in disqualification).

Application form. Please note that there are separate application forms for Graduating High School Seniors (pages 3 & 4 of the attached application) and for Continuing College Students (pages 5 & 6 of the attached application).

Confidential Statement of Parent or Guardian (page 7 of the attached application).

Official transcript of grades from your educational institution (with an official seal or signed by an authorized school official).

Three (3) letters of recommendation. Letters from relatives of the applicant are NOT acceptable. One of your letters must be from an educator (pages 8 & 9 of the attached application). Applicants may use letters of recommendation from prior years.

Deadline

Completed applications must be received by Friday, June 26, 2026, or mailed with a postmark by Thursday, June 25, 2026. Late or incomplete applications will NOT be considered. Mail applications to:

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
c/o Harry A. Thomas Memorial Scholarship
251 25th Street, N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44709

Awards will be announced by Sunday, July 26, 2026. Applicants will be notified by phone or mail of the results of the competition. Formal presentation of the awards will be made after notification. The applicant and/or family representative(s) is strongly encouraged to attend the presentation.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact John Kellamis at (330) 351-1339.

ST. HARALAMBOS MEN'S CLUB XEN GRIVEAS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD APPLICATION

The Men's Club of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church offers two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) in scholarships each year for the benefit of high school graduates entering college. The amount will be divided among two qualified applicants.

Applicants for the scholarships must meet the following requirements:

- 1) The applicant's family must be an active member of St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church and in good standing.*
- 2) The applicant must be a high school graduate of a Stark or Summit County High School and prepared to meet the entrance requirements in a regular college course of a recognized educational institution of higher learning.*
- 3) The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of scholastic ability, community involvement, extra curricular activities and financial need.*
- 4) Every applicant must complete the application of the Men's Club, provide a transcript of high school grades, and send a letter summarizing an applicant's accomplishments and reasons why the applicant feels he or she should receive the scholarship.*

The application must be sent to the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee of the Men's Club, who, in turn will forward the application to the scholarship screening committee of the Men's Club. All applications should be received no later than May 3.

St. Haralambos Men's Club Scholarship Regulations

- 1) The Men's Club Scholarship offers two - one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) in scholarships for two applicants entering college.*
- 2) Applicant's must be graduate seniors of a Stark or Summit County high school, and members of St. Haralambos Church.*
- 3) The Scholarship will be awarded based on academic standing, community involvement, and extra curricular activities.*
- 4) Application must be sent to the chairman of the scholarship committee who, in turn, will forward it to the scholarship screening committee. The application should be received no later than the May 3.*

**SCHOLARSHIP DUE DATE:
Sunday, May 3, 2026 by Noon**

**ST. HARALAMBOS MEN'S CLUB
XEN GRIVEAS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD APPLICATION**

PERSONAL DATA:

Name in Full _____
(last) (first) (middle)

Permanent Address _____
(street)

(city) (zip)

Phone _____ Date of Birth _____

HIGH SCHOOL DATA

School Attended _____

Grade Point Ave. _____ No. of Semesters _____

Class Rank _____ In a Class of _____

SAT Score: V _____ M _____

ACT COMP _____

Colleges / Universities that you have applied to:

1) _____ 2) _____

3) _____ 4) _____

Colleges / Universities that have accepted you:

1) _____ 2) _____

3) _____ 4) _____

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS RECEIVED

<u>Year</u>	<u>Scholarship Description</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____



Schedule of Events

JUNE 4, 5 & 6, 2026

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026

Drive-Thru Open	11am-7pm	Indoor Dining	11am-9pm
Bookstore	11am-9pm	Silent Auction Bidding	11am-9pm
Church Tours	11am, 1pm 3pm, 5pm & 7pm	Wine Tasting	4pm-11pm
Outside Dining	4pm-11pm	Kids Playground	4pm-9pm
Hellenic Dancers	5:30pm, 7pm	DJ Vasilios	4pm-11pm
Performances	& 8:30pm	Greek Cooking	7pm
		Demonstration	
	Outdoor Dance Party with DJ Vasilios	9pm	

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026

Drive-Thru Open	11am-7pm	Indoor Dining	11am-9pm
Bookstore	11am-9pm	Silent Auction Bidding	11am-9pm
Church Tours	11am, 1pm 3pm, 5pm & 7pm	Wine Tasting	4pm-11pm
Outside Dining	4pm-11pm	Kids Playground	4pm-9pm
Hellenic Dancers	5pm, 7pm & 8:30pm	Musicians of Olympus	4pm-11pm
Performances		Greek Cooking	5:30pm & 7:30pm
		Demonstrations	
	Greek Night with Musicians of Olympus	9:15pm	

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026

Drive-Thru Open	11am-7pm	Indoor Dining	11am-9pm
Bookstore	11am-9pm	Silent Auction Bidding	11am-9pm
Church Tours	11am, 1pm 3pm, 5pm & 7pm	Wine Tasting	11am-9pm
Outside Dining	11am-11pm	Kids Playground	4pm-9pm
Live Greek Band	3pm-11pm	DJ Billy Manos	11am - 3pm
Greek Cooking	5:30pm & 7:30pm	Hellenic Dancers	3:30pm, 5pm, 7pm &
Demonstrations		Performances	8:30pm
		Fireworks	After Dark

Schedule Subject to Change



St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church | 251 25th Street, NW | Canton, Ohio 44709 | (330) 454-7278
info@cantongreekfest.com

June 4, 5 & 6, 2026 2026 Event Sponsorship Contract

Parthenon \$15,000

- Overall presenting sponsor
- Your name or company logo featured on banner on the 40 ft x 100 ft outdoor tent
- Your name or company logo featured on Greek Fest website and all event signage
- Your name or company logo featured in all print and radio advertising
- Vendor table for your company at the festival
- Placemats with your name or company logo

Dionysus \$10,000

- Only two sponsors in this category
- Your name or company logo featured on a banner behind the entertainment stage
- Your name or company logo featured on Canton Greek Fest website (www.cantongreekfest.com) and all event signage
- Your name or company logo featured in all print and radio advertising
- One six-foot table for your company at the festival
- Placemats with your name or company logo

Acropolis \$5,000

- Presenting sponsor of any area (indoor dining, outdoor dining, kids play area, dessert dining, wine tasting room, cooking demonstration room)
- Your name or company logo featured on Greek Fest website and all event signage
- Your name or company logo featured in all print
- Vendor table for your company at the festival
- Placemats with your name or company logo

Aegean Sea \$2,500

- Your name or company logo featured on Greek Fest website and all event signage
- Your name or company logo featured in all print
- Placemats with your name or company logo

Athens \$1,000

- Your name or company logo featured on Greek Fest website and all event signage
- Placemats with your name or company logo

Philhellene \$500

- Your name or company logo featured on all event signage
- Placemats with your name or company logo

Your Contact Information

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please list the name that you would like listed for the sponsorship: _____

Email hi-resolution logo to info@cantongreekfest.com

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church or call 330-454-7278 to charge by phone

Mail Payment and Completed Form to: St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
c/o 2026 Canton Greek Fest

251 25th Street, NW | Canton, Ohio 44709

~donation receipt upon request~



2026 Placemat Sponsorship Form Business & Individual

Purchaser First and Last Name: _____

Purchaser Address: _____

Purchaser Phone Number: _____ Purchaser Email: _____

Please use the following information for my ad: Please type or print. – See reverse for examples – to submit logo, email logo to info@CantonGreekFest.com

Actual Full Placemat size is 14" W x 11" H -- Please select your square size:

Square Information	Width	Height	Price per Square		Qty		Total
A. Full Placemat	13 1/2"	10 1/2"	\$ 1,000	X		=	\$
B. Half Placemat	6"	5"	\$ 500	X		=	\$
C. 6 squares, center	6"	6"	\$ 300	X		=	\$
D. 5 squares, column	2-1/2"	9-3/4"	\$ 250	X		=	\$
E. 4 squares, center	6"	4"	\$ 200	X		=	\$
F. 3 squares, column	2-1/2"	6"	\$ 150	X		=	\$
G. 2 squared, column	2-1/2"	4"	\$ 100	X		=	\$
H. 2 squares side-by-side	6"	2"	\$ 100	X		=	\$
I. 1 square	2-1/2"	2"	\$ 50	X		=	\$
J. 1/2 square	2-1/2"	1"	\$ 25	X		=	\$
GRAND TOTAL							\$

PLACEMAT FORMS DUE: MAY 21, 2026

Please make checks payable to: **St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church**
c/o 2026 Canton Greek Fest Placemat Ad
251 25th Street, NW
Canton, Ohio 44709

Credit Cards Accepted:



Call our church office at (330) 454-7278 to pay by credit card.

Questions about Placemat Ads?

Contact Stephanie Fakelis (330) 327-0250 or sfakelis@gmail.com



SILENT AUCTION 2026

We are again asking for donations and or items for this year's baskets for the 2026 Canton Greek Fest.

If you or someone you know has any services or items to donate to make a basket, please let us know! Items must be in new condition please.

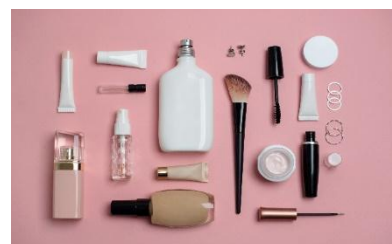
Get together with friends and families to go in on your basket donation!

Deadline to donate auction items is May 26, 2026

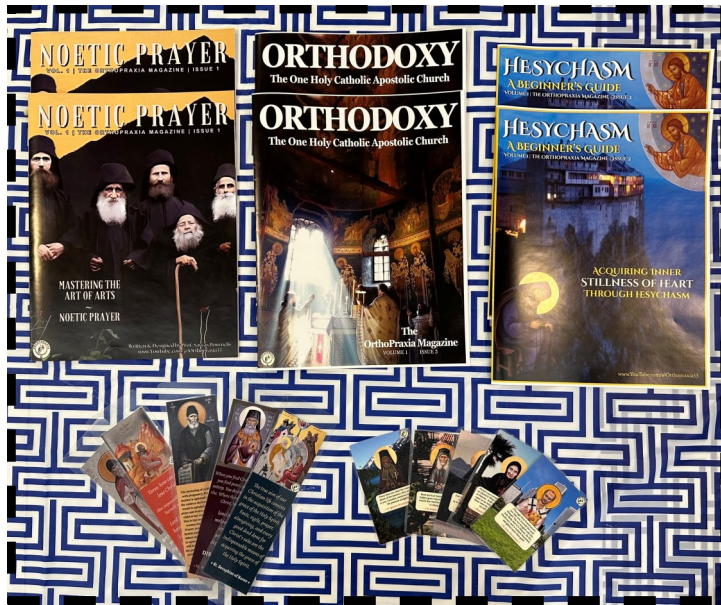
- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| • Lottery Ticket Tree | • Specialty Coffee & Tea Items | • Gardening Basket |
| • Golf Packages and Items | • Movie Theatre Basket | • Exercise Items |
| • Salon & Spa Packages and Items | • Barbecue & Grill Items | • Sports Themes Items & Apparel |
| • Jewelry Items | • Children's Board Games | • Scarves, Pins, & other accessories |
| • Makeup Items | • Movie DVD's Basket | • Specialty Pasta & Sauce Items |
| • Kitchen Items | • Specialty Food Items | • Pet Items |
| • Gluten-Free Basket | • Children's Books | • Outdoor Lawn Games |
| • Specialty Coffee and Tea Items | • Wine & Bar Items | • Photo Frames |
| • Lotions, Soaps, Perfumes, Colognes | • Beer & Bar Items | • Camping Items |
| • Coloring pencils, crayons, books, etc. | • Olive Oil & Vinegars | • Picnic Items |
| • Computer Accessories | • Chocolate Basket | • Specialty Candles |
| • Nuts & Snacks Basket | • Popcorn Basket | • Gift Cards too! |
| | • Baby Basket | • <i>Any idea, it is limitless</i> |
| | • Baking Items Basket | |
| | • Phone Accessories | |

Questions? Please contact Auction Basket Chairperson:
Marcia Bournelis | mbourn60@gmail.com | 330-309-3428

In person bidding is available at the Canton Greek Fest Thursday, June 4, Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6 11am to 9pm in the Krassas Center Lobby



St. Haralambos Icon, Gift & Bookstore



Since summer 2024, Savva Bournelis incarnated some of his Orthodox YouTube content into magazines, booklets, icon cards and bookmarks. Savva's latest published magazine is "Journey to Pascha". You can check out these unique and beautiful products in our bookstore.

For more info, go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/@orthopraxia33>

or email Savva directly:
orthopraxia33@gmail.com

THE TRADITIONAL PHILOPTOCHOS VISITS



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

TINA WEY, PRESIDENT

March/April 2026 EDITION



I would like to thank those who have so generously volunteered to host coffee hour including JOY and Sunday School as church organizations and to those families who sponsor memorial coffee hours. We still need folks for some March, April and May dates. It's great to hang out as a church family after liturgy. There is a sign up poster in the lobby and you can also contact the church office or contact Stephanie Boka at 330-495-8798.



Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart

SAVE THE DATES

Wednesday, March 4th -
Presanctified Liturgy at St.
Haralambos with a
reception following

Saturday, April 4th
Join us on Lazarus
Saturday after liturgy to
make palms and anyone
interested in visiting the
shut-ins that day, please
contact Mary Trifelos

Monday, May 4th –
Mothers Day Dinner



PRETTY IN PINK

Wear your favorite pink
outfit, shoes, jewelry and
whatever pink strikes your
fancy.

Details in enclosed flyer

Meetings and Dues

Please join our meetings the first Monday of the month. Board Meetings begin at 5:30 and general meeting at 6:00 unless noted otherwise. Dues are \$28 for 2025/2026 are now being collected and can be given to Helen Apostalides or Fran Armatas. Enter through the Agape Courtyard.

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Board Meeting 5:30
General 6:00 - date
change/lent

Tuesday March 31, 2026

This is the April meeting
Board Meeting 5:30
General 6:00 - date change/lent

Monday, May 4, 2026

– Mother's Day Dinner



JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL PHILOPTOCHOS

MOTHER'S DAY DINNER

"Pretty in Pink"

MONDAY
MAY

4

wear something pink

members \$5
guests \$10

for tickets contact

Mary Trifelos 330-492-9353

Stephanie Machamer
330-704-8558

Krassas Event Center
6:00 o'clock



SILVER LINERS

MARCH AND APRIL 2026

This Year's Officers:

President:	Carol Capocci
Vice President:	Helen Apostolides
Secretary:	Mary Trifelos
Treasurer:	Bill Skendelas
Advisor:	Kathy Deiringer

Committees:

Calling:	Mary Feltz
Hospitality:	Anna Paxos
Meals:	Helen Apostolides
Set & Strike:	Leftothea Bourlas
Trips/Programs:	Kathy Dieringer
Christmas Card:	Mary Griveas

There is now a book club that meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 4:00-5:00 at the church. We are studying the book *Thirty Steps To Heaven* based on the writings of St. John Climacus and The Ladder of Divine Ascent. A perfect study for Lent!

Grateful to Kathy Dieringer who is working on some day trips and programs that I think will appeal to you.

Keep in mind that if you commit to a road trip, she needs you to pay for that trip right away so she can confirm all those marvelous details.

I'm hoping March comes in like a lamb and not like a lion but only time will tell. Pascha is April 12th this year so I pray that everyone's Lenten journey is a blessed one. I know I speak for your Board and Committee Heads when I say — You were really missed this winter and I can't wait till we are together again. Carol Capocci

Mark Your Calendar:

*March 17th doors open at 11:30 am for lunch at Noon. We meet at Krassas for a fun time celebrating St. Patrick's Day so wear something green. Our first program will be our very own Peter Michalos.

*April 21st doors open at 11:30 am for lunch at Noon. We meet at Krassas with a lively musical program by Robin Roseberry.

* May 12th we will hopefully meet at HOLY TRINITY with the seniors of YOUNG AT HEART. Your "caller" will give you details.

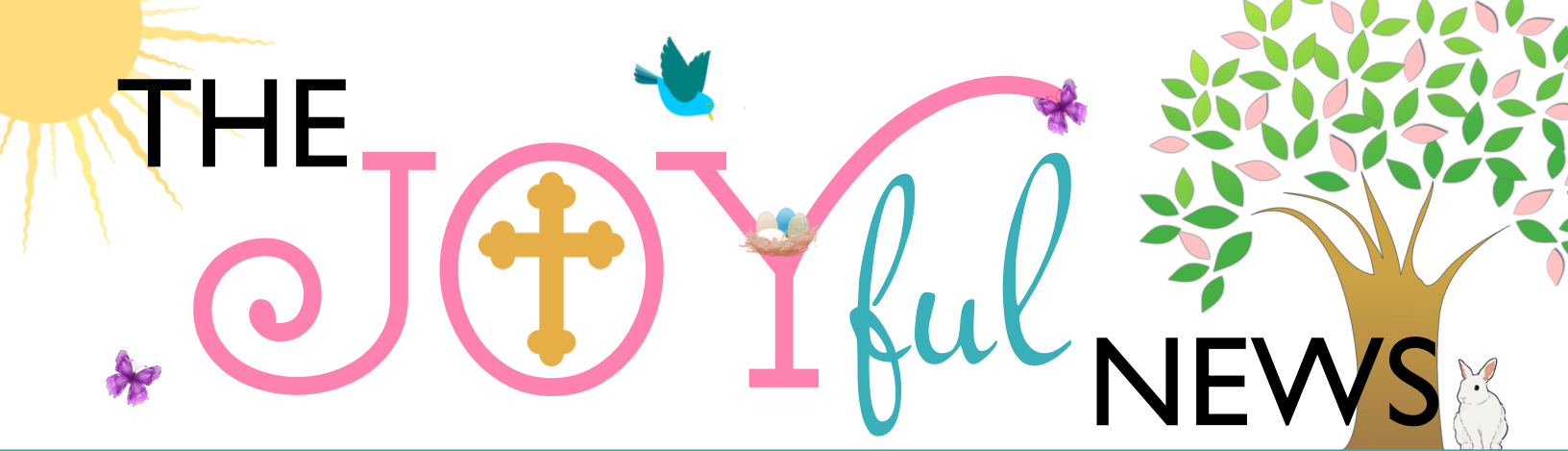
According to Webster:

Senior—	one who is older or an elder
Citizen—	one who is entitled to their privileges
Club —	an association of people with common interests
Organization—	a group of people organized for a common purpose

We are technically all of those things so let your Silver Liners Board know how we can make it a better group (aka a collection of people gathered together) as we move forward into 2026.

Officially, Carol Capocci

Silver Liners has 150 members and 22 social members and we will always have room for more. If you are 55 years of age, you are not too young to join our club for only \$10 a year! The \$6 lunch begins promptly at NOON, followed by a most entertaining program, and a quick meeting. It will be the best investment you can make this whole year!



March & April 2026

A HUGE thank you to Father Nick and Deacon Keric for taking the time to answer all of our questions from our JOY & Jr. GOYA kids at the **Orthodox Kids With Questions** meeting in January. The kids had very thoughtful questions about our faith. Thank you to everyone who submitted questions and attended the event. We all learned so much!

Also, thank you to everyone who attended our JOY Coffee Hour in February! Our kids had so much fun hosting, serving and cleaning! Thank you to Philoptochos for giving us a hand, and to all of the families who brought a dish to share.

Lastly, we were able to deliver these requested items to three AMAZING charities in 2026 from our gingerbread house contest in December:

Team Grinch Green: The Diaper Bank, 390 diapers

Team God's House: The Refuge of Hope,
144 toothbrushes and 55 pairs of underwear

Team Sparkle: Jackson Bear Hugs, 194 school snacks



SAVE THE DATES

March 8

JOY Easter Project

We'll be making Easter gifts for our missed parishioners for the Philoptochos Easter visits. Please meet in the Youth Room after church.

April 26

JUMP FOR JOY!

JOY kids and immediate family are welcome at our private bounce event at **Pump It Up!** RSVP to Stephanie by April 4. See flyer for full details.

May 17

Youth Celebration Sunday

in the Tri-Room after church.
Details coming in May.

Please contact Stephanie Sakel with any questions or to RSVP: 330.949.8085

JOY had a great time hosting Coffee Hour in February!

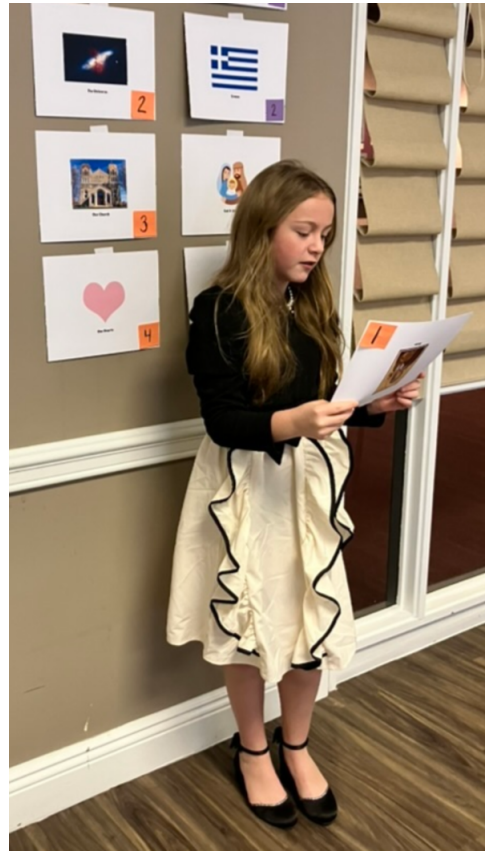
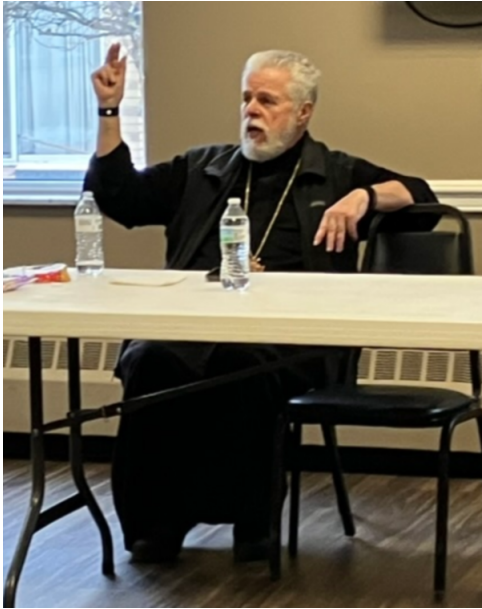
Thank you to everyone who came! We enjoyed serving food and drinks, as well as cleaning up! Special thanks to Philoptochos for helping us, and to all of the families who brought a dish to share!

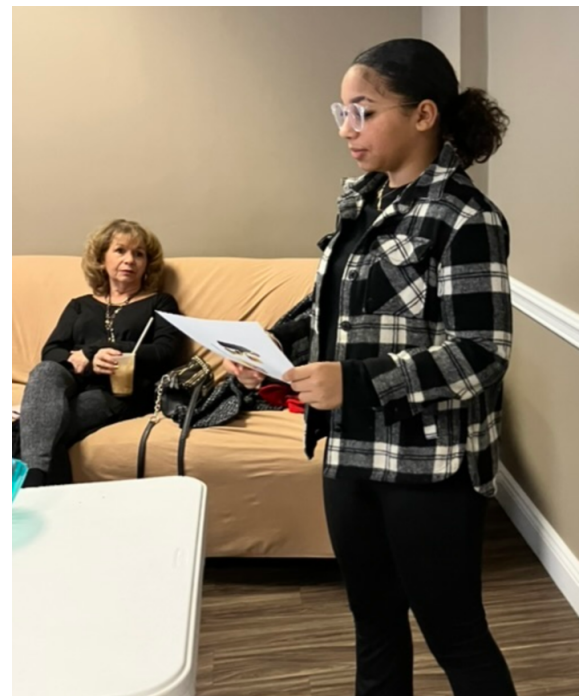
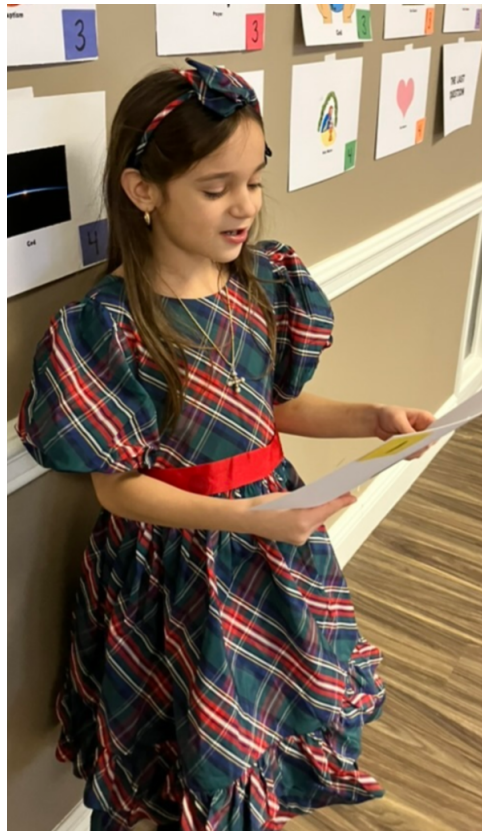


Orthodox Kids With Questions!



Our JOY & Jr. GOYA kids had their religious questions answered by Father Nick and Deacon Keric at our *Orthodox Kids with Questions* meeting! A HUGE thank you to them, and to all of our kids who submitted and read questions! We learned so much!





JUMP FOR JOY!

Come & Bounce At Our Private Event!
Only for JOY kids & immediate family members!
Pizza will be served in the party room after our bounce time.

Sunday, April 26
from 1:45–3:45pm at

PUMPiTUP

1135 W. Maple St., Hartville, OH 44632

Reservations are required. There's no cost for JOY children. Registered adults are always free at PumpItUp!

Please contact Stephanie by April 4, to RSVP at 330.949.8085
You will receive the required registration/waiver instructions when you RSVP.

PLEASE BE SURE TO WEAR SOCKS! WATER BOTTLES ARE WELCOME!

Good Friday 2026
GOYA Luminary Project



GOYA is sponsoring a Luminary project, for the benefit of our youth program. Our luminary display will be Friday evening, during the Good Friday evening service. The luminaries will adorn the path of the procession with the Epitaphio. Individual luminaries can be purchased in memory of, or for the health of your loved ones, for a donation of \$5.00 each. Complete this form and return with your \$5.00 donation to:

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
Attention: GOYA
251 25th St. NW
Canton, OH 44709
Checks payable to: St. Haralambos GOYA

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT THROUGH THE YEARS!

Your Name:	
Telephone Number:	
In Memory of:	
In Memory of:	
In Memory of:	
For The Health of:	
For The Health of:	
Total Quantity of Luminaries:	
Donation per Luminary:	_____ x \$5.00
Total Amount Enclosed:	

Please Note: The last day to order luminaries is Wednesday, April 8, 2026

For any questions, please contact:

Debbie Paxos-Morgan (330.704.5930) or dpaxos@hotmail.com ,
Phaidra Sotiropoulos (614.668.7303) or phaidrat78@yahoo.com

JUNIOR GOYA

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church

SEPTEMBER: Kick Off - Campfire



Antonia Fakelis, Makayla Apostalides, Jordyn Apostalides and Lexi Bournelis enjoyed a warm summer evening making up plays roasting marshmallows and just being their usual silly selves!

OCTOBER: Trunk Or Treat



Jordyn Apostalides, Lexi Bournelis and Antonia Fakelis taking a little break from all that "Trunk or Treating"!!



NOVEMBER: Blanket making & Pizza



DECEMBER

Junior GOYANS, Antonia Fakelis and Lexi Bournelis attended the home dedication and presented their blanket as housewarming gift to Habitat Home



DECEMBER: Junior GOYA Lock-In



Junior GOYANS put together basic needs bags for the homeless. Included in each bag was a personalized card of well wishes. They made of OVER 75 cards! Each was so unique and will surely warm the heart of its recipient.



A friendly Nativity Escape Room Activity turned out to be quite the competition! Special thanks to GOYANS Alex Foradis and Sophia Bournelis for taking the lead in this activity!



SNOWMEN CANDLE CRAFT....SO ADORABLE!

-it was a busy night....and now we sleep!



Thanks to Savvas Bournelis for doing a lesson (up in church) on why we have icons and how our Liturgy is Heaven on Earth. Followed by a scavenger hunt to count the number of crosses found in our church icons -over 200!!

Lock-In Schedule

December 28, 2025

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:30 PM - 8 PM	ARRIVAL
8:00 PM - 9:00 PM	SAVVA
9:00 PM - 10:00 PM	ESCAPE ROOM
10:00 PM - 11:00 PM	SERVICE PROJECT/CARDS
11:00 PM - 12:00 AM	CRAFT
12:00 AM - 1:00 AM	PIZZA
1:00 AM - 2:00 AM	BOARD GAMES
2:00 AM - 4:00 AM	MOVIE:



SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTS

RISEN

H E I S . . .

A MINI LENTEN RETREAT

4 APRIL | AFTER LITURGY

ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND
AFTER LAZARUS SATURDAY SERVICE
LIGHT LUNCH & PALM CROSS MAKING

Sunday School presents



EASTER EGG HUNT

and a visit from the
Easter Bunny

After the Agape Service on
the front lawn weather
permitting.

Otherwise in the gym

Sunday, April 12, 2026





St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church Choir

~ Rehearsal Schedule: 6:00 PM

~Sunday Liturgy: 9:45 a.m.

March:

1st, Sunday
18th, Wednesday
25th, Wednesday

Orthodox Sunday
Rehearsal for Holy Week - 5:45 p.m.
Rehearsal for Holy Week - 5:45 p.m.

April:

1st, Wednesday
5th, Sunday
7th, Tuesday
10th, Friday
11th, Saturday/Sunday

Rehearsal for Holy Week - 5:45 p.m.
Palm Sunday
Holy Tuesday (Kassiane) - 6:00 p.m.
Holy Good Friday - 6:40 p.m.
Pascha Resurrection - 11:00 p.m.

May:

17th, Sunday
24th, Sunday

Final Choir Sunday
Pentecost at Holy Trinity TBA

A Thank You from the St. Haralambos Choir...

We would like to once again sincerely thank Mrs. Joanna Sirgo for her generous monetary donation to our church choir. For many years, her monetary donations along with her late husband David, may his blessed memory be eternal, have provided our choir with numerous items that have enriched our music ministry. May the Lord continue to Bless Joanna and her family.



We would like to thank Mrs. Elbus Kellamis for donating forty beautiful new royal blue choir robes. These robes selected by the members of our choir will serve as a lasting tribute for the many years she faithfully served in the St. Haralambos Choir. In the coming weeks we will take an updated choir picture with Elbus as well as all of our choir members. May the Lord continue to Bless Elbus as well as her loving husband Chris!

A very special thanks to Christine Kellamis for all her hard work and time in orchestrating the decision and selection of our new choir robes. Christine has spent numerous hours preparing charts and researching companies. We also thank her for taking the time to press out each robe, and label and organize them so they would be instantly ready to wear on our church name day.



“JOIN THE CHOIR”

**OUR AMAZING CHOIR HAS BEEN GROWING...WE are
ALWAYS**

welcoming new members young and old to join our church choir.

**If you have a love for music and song, we encourage you to attend
one of our scheduled rehearsals or just show up on any given Sunday!**

Psalm 96:1-3. “Singing draws us nearer to God”

ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH CHOIR

A NOTE FROM OUR MUSIC DIRECTOR.....

The National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians highlights the importance of engaging our children/youth in music worship programs. I am happy to say that our church has had an active junior/youth choir program for well over 40 years. Currently, 20% of our senior choir members participated in our youth music program and some are also well-established cantors.

Through our weekly Sunday School program, we now offer all the children in our church community the opportunity to learn our liturgical hymns in both Greek and English as well as participating in worship services. Music is a vital part of our church worship service and we encourage all children to attend Sunday School.

As indicated in this recent national survey, our St. Haralambos youth music program is part of the top 10% of all our parishes nationally that has an active program where children actually participate in singing the Divine Liturgy. Please take advantage of this program by having your children attend Sunday School and youth choir lessons.

Dr. Alex M. Christ



Forum@50

February's Theme: The Sound of the Future

The Case for Church Music for Youth

The National Forum has long championed one clear conviction: **the future of Orthodox worship is already in our pews.** Yet when it comes to church music, too many of our young people remain on the sidelines. This month's Brief invites you to look more closely at *why* youth engagement in church music matters, *where* we are falling short, and *what* parishes can do to strengthen participation. We highlight **three foundational insights** for renewing youth engagement in hymnody.

Hymns Are the Foundation for Youth Involvement

Hymns are not simply "music." They are a **rich, formative resource** at the heart of Orthodox life. For youth especially, hymns serve three essential purposes:

- **Prayer** – teaching young people how the Church prays
- **Formation** – conveying theology, the lives of the saints, and our sacred history
- **Participation** – inviting children and teens into active worship

When youth sing, they are not performing – they are *praying and they are engaged*.

There Is a Critical Gap in Youth Participation

While many parishes have seen renewed energy in youth ministries, participation in church music tells a different story. Earlier data has revealed sobering realities:

- Only **25%** of our parishes had youth choirs
- Fewer than **20%** offered formal hymnology programs
- Roughly **10%** involved youth singing during the Divine Liturgy

But despite increased awareness, these numbers have not significantly improved. The gap remains.

A Needed Mindset Shift

Renewing youth engagement requires more than adding rehearsals. It calls for a **shift in how hymnology is understood** – not as an extracurricular activity, but as **the study of our faith**. This vision depends on **collaboration** among clergy, Church School teachers, and church musicians, intentionally integrating hymnology into parish life. The goal is not simply better singers or bigger choirs, but **active, engaged Orthodox Christians** who know how to pray, worship, and participate.

Explore More, Share with Your Parish:



Listen to a 5-minute podcast:

<https://tinyurl.com/Youth-5MinPodcast>



Go deeper for an extended discussion:

<https://tinyurl.com/Youth-LongPodcast>



Scroll through a slideshow with teachers:

<https://tinyurl.com/Youth-Slides>



View a poster or 2 to spark your parish:

<https://tinyurl.com/Youth-PosterMod>
<https://tinyurl.com/Youth-PosterGold>

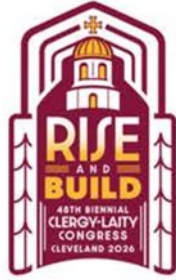


ST. HARALAMBOS GREEK SCHOOL
PRESENTS
GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY
CELEBRATION



SUNDAY
MARCH **22**

KRASSAS
EVENT CENTER
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
CHURCH SERVICES



2026 Clergy-Laity Congress Hotels

June 30 - July 2, 2026

Cleveland, Ohio

Beloved co-workers in the Lord's vineyard,

Please see information from Bishop Nektarios about Clergy-Laity Congress hotels. As a reminder, the Congress will take place June 30 - July 2. Every parish is entitled to:

- **4 voting Clergy-Laity delegates: Priest, Parish Council President (or another Council member in their place), and 2 elected lay delegates**
- **3 voting Philoptochos delegates: Chapter President (or another board member in her place) and 2 elected chapter delegates**
- **Presvyteres and Diakonisses for the NSP sessions**
- **As many observers as you'd like to have in the Clergy-Laity or Philoptochos sessions**
- **As many youth workers, religious educators, choir members, cantors, and ministry workers who wish to participate in this year's Ministry Tracks (a new feature of the Clergy-Laity Congresses)**

A note on hotels:

- **Most Clergy-Laity events are taking place at the Convention center. The Marriott and Westin are closest to the Convention Center.**
- **Most Philoptochos events (other than the common events with the Clergy-Laity) are taking place at Hotel Cleveland (the third official hotel)**

Your servant in His vineyard,

**+ Fr. George S. Callos
Chancellor**



Your Grace and Reverend Fathers,

The Clergy-Laity Congress Organizing Committee is pleased to share with you all today the information regarding hotel reservations for the upcoming Clergy-Laity Congress this summer. Please share this information with your clergy, Parish Council Presidents, parishes and ministries.

Hotel Registration Now Open for Clergy-Laity Congress 2026 Hotel registration for delegates and participants for the 2026 Clergy-Laity Congress in Cleveland is now open online at <https://www.clergylaity.org/hotels>

All main sessions and worship services of the Clergy-Laity Congress will take place at the Huntington Convention Center , which is conveniently located near all three official Congress hotels. Each hotel offers different price points and amenities, and participants are encouraged to review the options and select the hotel that best meets their needs. All hotels and the convention center are within easy walking distance of one another.

Registration for the Clergy-Laity Congress will open in early March .

Parishes are encouraged to begin selecting their delegates as soon as possible and to explore the many opportunities for participation beyond delegation. These include specialized sessions and ministry tracks for chanters, choir members, Sunday School teachers, and ministry leaders and workers across parish life.

More information and updates will continue to be shared at www.clergylaity.org.

Conveying to you the paternal blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, I remain,

Prayerfully yours,

† Nektarios of Diokleia

National Chancellor

You Are Invited To
THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE
CHLORIS CHAPTER# 40



TESTIMONIAL DINNER

In Honor Of

Flora Anderson, Ann Kalagides, &

Joanne Nicholas

For over 60 years of service

Saturday
April 25, 2026
6:00PM

St Haralambos
251 25th St NW
Canton, Ohio 44709

Tickets \$40

For Reservations: please call or text:

Marcia Bournelis (330)309-3428

Stephanie Likouris (330)327-0237

~All friends and family are especially invited to attend~

Checks Payable: Daughters of Penelope, Chloris # 40

R.S.V.P. by: Friday, April 17

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.



THE GREEK ORTHODOX
METROPOLIS OF PITTSBURGH
FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE
PRESENTS:

LENTEN RETREAT

"Living in Community"

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

10 AM - 2PM

ST. NICHOLAS GOC

220 N WALNUT ST.

YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44503

COFFEE, SWEETS & LUNCH PROVIDED

The retreat will offer points to consider regarding:

- **The importance of engaging with others.**
- **Ultimately, Christians can only be saved in community.**
- **We learn from the example of the early church who "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42).**

Our speaker, Presvytera Eleni Christakos is the wife of a Greek Orthodox priest who serves in central Massachusetts and a homeschool mother of three children. She holds a degree in pharmacy and is currently working for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Marriage and Family, coordinating clergy wife peer groups. Presvytera Eleni also is very active in her church community directing and teaching in the religious education program and managing the book store and lending library. Drawing from her passion for teaching people of all ages, she is on a committee to start a classical Orthodox School. Living with a focus on health and wellness - physical, emotional and spiritual - is core to her being. She enjoys spending time outdoors hiking and kayaking. A true bibliophile, if she is not actively with her family she can be found reading or coordinating book discussion groups.



Presvytera Eleni Christakos

To Register, Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/yww3sr7p>



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

ST. HARALAMBOS CHURCH

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



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1
Susan Fogel
Lukas Worthington

3
Dimitri Bahas
Roula Volas

4
Nick Agelopoulou

5
Louis Calandros
Christian Kellamis
Deborah Trikilas

6
Eleni Volas

7
Giovanni Foradis

8
Demetrios Cotopolis

9
Jeffrey Pope
Angela Vagotis

10
Flora Anderson
Nicholas Carona
Kathy Hardesty
Sophia Kazes
George Trikkas

11
Athan Maurice

12
Peter Kreareas

13
Tasso Lambos
Kate Prendes
Todd Worthington

14
Marcia Bournelis
Margaret Dolph
Lydia Sakel

15
Nicholas Loukas
Lina Niro
Patricia Orlando
Tula Pirovolos
Eva Stavrianou Winn

16
George Yelichek

17
Diane Foster

18
Jenna Machamer
Olga Mammone

19
Stephanie Boka
Rena Kalogeras
Alexandros Spyrou
Stefanos Spyrou

20
Jennifer Kosmides

21
Melinda Kapalko
Angela Karavas
Kostas Paxos
Michael Politis

22
Kay Colón
Anne Papacostas

23
Michael Arrigo

24
Vincent Arrigo
Guy Bolon
Peter Glasser
Brooke Kosmides
George Nikolaou

26
Georgia Trikkas
Maria Walch

28
Judy Bargides

29
Sharon Regas

30
Nick Pirovolos

31
Kit Cotopolis
Alexander DiDonato
Olivia Rocco

1
Nicholas Ramphos

2
Susan Foradas

4
Jen Geniatakis
Lucas Rispinto

5
Kathy Dieringer
Christine Kellamis

6
Katelyn Michalos
Anthony Wey

7
Elena Yelichek

8
Mihail Paxos
Kathy Viola

9
Dena Apostolou
Nicholas Ballas
Michael Foradas

10
William M. Manos
Tonya Stavrianou

11
John Kosmides
Krissa Olson
Reccardo Semedo

12
Mia Foradis
John Koutras
Zara Meyer

15
Lisa Hallaman

16
Carol Trifelos

17
George Brown
Frantzesca Spyrou
Thomas VanDusen
Foti Vonortas

18
Valerie Stavrianou-Winn

19
Natalia Kellamis
Christopher Olson

20
Charlene Langos
Kenna Loukas

21
Gary Fogel
Georgia Matthews

22
Emily Anderson
Paul Koskovich
Gretchen Rutter

23
Nicholas Kakoules
John Pope
Christopher Vallos

24
Marcello Frustaci
George Kalantzis

25
Stephanie Arrigo
Gregory Kalikas
George Yelichek

26
David Karpinski
Eilianna Koumoutzis
Stephanie Orphan

27
Erin Dolph

28
Rita Trikkas

29
Fran Armatas
Alysse Giallourakis

30
Alexandra Rossetti

St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox Church
251 - 25th Street N.W.
Canton, OH 44709

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Welcome!



PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 5, 2026

TROPARIA OF THE FEAST

**O Christ God,
when we were buried with
Thee in baptism,
we became deserving of
Thy Resurrection
to immortal life.**

**Wherefore,
we praise Thee, crying,
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is He
that cometh in the
Name of the Lord!**