



Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

### *This Morning's Readings*

#### *St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:22-27*

Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

#### *The Gospel according to Luke 13:10-17*

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

## *This Morning's Hymns*

Let all things above in heaven rejoice and let all things below on earth be glad with all the might and strength of His arm an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet he has tramples down death by death, and first born of the dead has he become. From the depths of Hades has He delivered us and to all the world has granted his great redeeming mercy.

Most blessed are You, O Christ our God, Who by sending down the Holy Spirit upon them, made the fishermen wise and through them, illumined the world; and to You the universe was ever drawn, all glory to You, Oh Lord!

On this day the whole wide world is celebrating that Saint Anne conceived a child, which was a miracle of God. And she gave birth to the one who bore the divine Logos, in ways passing speech and thought.

Today the Virgin cometh unto the cave to give birth to the Word who was born before all ages; begotten in a manner that defies description. Rejoice, therefore, O universe if thou should hear and glorify with the angels and the shepherds. Glorify Him who by his own will shall become a newborn babe and who is our God before all ages.

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 ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ  
παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Εὐλογητός εἶ Χριστέ ὁ Θεός ἡμῶν ὁ  
πανσόφους τοὺς ἀλιεῖς ἀναδείξας  
καταπέμψας αὐτοῖς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον  
καὶ δι' αὐτῶν τὴν οἰκουμένην ἀγνηεύσας  
φιλόανθρωπε, δόξα Σοι.

Εορτάζει σήμερον, ἡ οἰκουμένη, τὴν τῆς  
Ἄννης σύλληψιν, γεγεννημένην ἐν Θεῷ,  
καὶ γὰρ αὐτὴ ἀπεκύησε, τὴν ὑπὲρ  
λόγον, τὸν Λόγον κυήσασαν.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν Προαιώνιον  
Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν  
ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη  
ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων  
καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουλευθέντα  
ἐποφθῆναι, παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ  
αἰώνων Θεόν.

### **Welcome Visitors!**

If you are visiting Holy Trinity Cathedral this morning we welcome you in the Name of the Lord! Orthodox Christian worship may be unlike other forms of worship you have encountered but you can follow along in the service book in the pews. (If you need assistance, simply ask the nearest parishioner.) And though Holy Communion is offered only to the Orthodox faithful who are prepared to receive the Holy Gifts, the blessed bread is offered to everyone after the service. Please sign our Guest Book in the narthex and join us for coffee and refreshments in the community center so we can get to know you. May your time with us be blessed!

## *Announcements*

*Please join us in congratulating the newly-elected members of the Parish Council: Dina Anagnopoulos, Paul Katsenes, and Sandy Meris*

### **DECEMBER EPISTLE READERS**

**12/9 –Gus Pyle, 12/16 - Joshua Pardhe, 12/23 - Andrew DeLord, 12/30 - Matt Dye.**

### **PHILOTOCHOS HOLIDAY BAKLAVA & BAKE SALE TODAY**

Come pick up your pre-ordered Baklava during the bake sale today after Divine Liturgy. We will also have Tsourekia, Koulourakia, Greek pastries and many, many more goodies.

**The St. Mary's Food Bank drive has been extended until Sunday, December 16th.** Thank you to everyone who has already donated, we are very close to reaching our goal! We are truly grateful for your generosity! If you have any questions call Connie Venetis at 602-702-3365 or email her at [bird is the word@msn.com](mailto:birdistheword@msn.com). k. Collection boxes are in the Narthex, Community Center, and in the Church office.

### **ADULT FELLOWSHIP 30-49**

*New to our community? Already a member, but looking to meet more people?* Holy Trinity is starting a NEW social ministry for single Orthodox adults 30-49. The first gathering will be dinner at George's Kitchen on **Thursday, December 13, 2018 at 6:30pm**. George's Kitchen is located at 6102 N 16th St Ste 1, Phoenix, AZ 85016 [www.georgeskitchenphx.com](http://www.georgeskitchenphx.com) *Interested?* Respond to Nick Papas through Text: 313-657-0176 or Email: [npapas@yahoo.com](mailto:npapas@yahoo.com).

### **OPA**

Jr & Sr GOYA Christmas Potluck Party on Friday, Dec. 14, 6-9pm at Scaccia's residence: 1104 W. El Camino Drive, Phoenix 85021. There will be an Ugly Sweater contest and please bring a gift (\$10 valued) for White Elephant exchange. For more information please email Diana Scaccia at [discaccia@gmail.com](mailto:discaccia@gmail.com).

### **DESERT DIAMONDS**

Please mark your calendars for Thursday, December 27th, 2018 for a Post-Christmas party & Gift exchange. We will be enjoying a delicious luncheon at the Talking Stick Casino Resort's "Wandering Horse Buffet". If you have not dined here before, you are in for a special treat! This is a lovely Dining Room with quality dining at affordable pricing. The casino offers valet parking curbside at the casino entrance, a short walk to the Buffet entrance. I will ask to have a large table reserved for us. We can make arrangements for those who wish to carpool from the church. It is an easy drive from the church; East on Lincoln to left on Scottsdale Rd., to Right on E Indian Bend to the resort. Wishing all a very Merry Christmas, looking forward to seeing more of you for our gathering. Please remember, bring a friend, all are welcome. Please call or text, Julie Karoutas at 623.313.8720 or email: [juliekaroutas@gmail.com](mailto:juliekaroutas@gmail.com) or call Judith Lamond at 703.819.9957 to make your reservation ASAP.

## *This Week at Holy Trinity Cathedral*

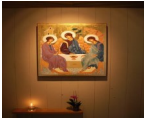
Today 12/9 <b>10<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE</b> <b>NATIVITY FAST</b>	<b>8:00am - Matins</b> <b>9:30am - Liturgy</b> Stewardship Sunday & Gratitude Luncheon Philoptochos Bake Sale	11:30 am - Sunday School Christmas Pageant Practice 11:45am - Youth Choir Rehearsal (Ed. Bldg.) 12:15pm - Dance Practice (CC) <b>1:00pm - Laurel Coil Baptism</b>
Monday 12/10 <b>NATIVITY FAST</b>		3:30pm - Junior Assembly (LH)
Wednesday 12/12 <b>SPYRIDON THE</b> <b>WONDERWORKER</b> <b>NATIVITY FAST</b>	8:00am - HTA Fieldtrip 9:00am - BNI (LH)	5:00pm - Greek School (Ed. Bldg.) 7:00pm - Dance Practice (CC) 7:00pm - Choir Practice
Thursday 12/13 <b>NATIVITY FAST</b>		6:00pm - AHEPA Meeting (SH) 6:30pm - Adult Fellowship Social (George's Kitchen, 6102 N 16th St, Phoenix, AZ 85016, USA)
Saturday 12/15 <b>NATIVITY FAST</b>	9:00am - Dance Workshop	
Sunday 12/16 <b>11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LUKE</b> <b>NATIVITY FAST</b>	<b>8:00am - Matins</b> <b>9:30am - Liturgy</b>	11:30 am - Sunday School Christmas Pageant 12:15pm - Dance Practice (CC)

### **MEMORIALS TODAY**

**Tasia Holder - 40 Days** - Offered by her loving family.

**Panagiotis Kotselis - 2 Years** - Offered by his loving family. Koliva prepared by his daughter, Theodora Kotselis.

**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral**  
**1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix AZ 85016 Office: 602.264. 7863**  
**Holy Trinity website: [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)**  
**Email: [htfrontoffice@holytrinityphx.org](mailto:htfrontoffice@holytrinityphx.org)**  
**Rev. Economos Apostolos Hill, Proistamenos: [htpriest@holytrinityphx.org](mailto:htpriest@holytrinityphx.org)**



# Ορεκτικό

An appetizer before the main course

## The Magic Hat

December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Homilies have very short shelf-lives. Whatever a priest may have to say during the Sunday homily carries very little weight and is quickly forgotten in the rush of events that overwhelm us once the new workweek begins. There is, however, one notable exception; *the annual Stewardship Sunday homily!*

This is the week when the faithful may listen more intently, wondering to themselves "Can he do it?" "Can he pull the rabbit out of the hat?" In other words, can the priest weave together a tapestry of syllables, words, and phrases sufficient to inspire increased revenues to the local parish? Sorry to disappoint, but there will be no rabbits pulled out of the magic hat this morning!

And not for lack of effort, I can assure you! Over the years, I have utilized various methods and fund-raising tools from national stewardship ministries, developed themes, created logos, written articles, published newsletters, delivered stirring homilies, (at least I liked them!) held giving-themed Bible studies, mailed letters, elicited testimonies, sponsored lunches... you name it!

Such methods and tools are modestly effective, certainly. But among the just under 1500 verses in the Bible pertaining to tithes and offerings we find these words of Jesus; "According to your faith, be it done unto you." And it is upon the fulcrum of our personal faith in Jesus Christ that the issue rests. Our own Synod of Orthodox bishops commissioned a survey on the faithful's views of stewardship and, unsurprisingly, discovered the truth of this statement.

Those parishes which taught that giving is an essential component of the faithful's spiritual lives, as essential as prayer, fasting, and Bible reading, enjoyed robust revenues. Conversely, those parishes still mired in passé notions of "dues" (*Which way to the Country Club?*) and "fair share" struggled. If the aim of stewardship is to pay the light bill... we will probably raise enough to pay the light bill.

Robust giving in the parish only emerges as we begin to understand the irreducible role that the parish plays in our spiritual lives. As we come to view the local parish (correctly) as the Ark of our Salvation revenues will emerge. In a healthy parish filled with committed souls stewardship becomes virtually invisible and crass appeals for emergency funds are unnecessary. Gone are baskets, fund-raisers, and minimal budgets, replaced with vision, purpose, and growth.

Not to worry! You will still hear (dare I say?) an inspiring homily about stewardship this morning! With nearly 1500 Bible verses about stewardship it is possible even to *accidentally* preach about giving! And I certainly pray that we will be moved to respond with more meaningful tithing commitments to our Cathedral home. But the issue, ultimately, rests on our faith in Jesus Christ. Once we commit to *that*, the revenues will follow!

In Christ,

*Fr. Apostolos*

## **THE BEATITUDES**

**In Thy kingdom remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.**

**O blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**O blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.**

**O blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.**

**O blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be satisfied.**

**O blessed are the merciful for they shall receive mercy.**

**O blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.**

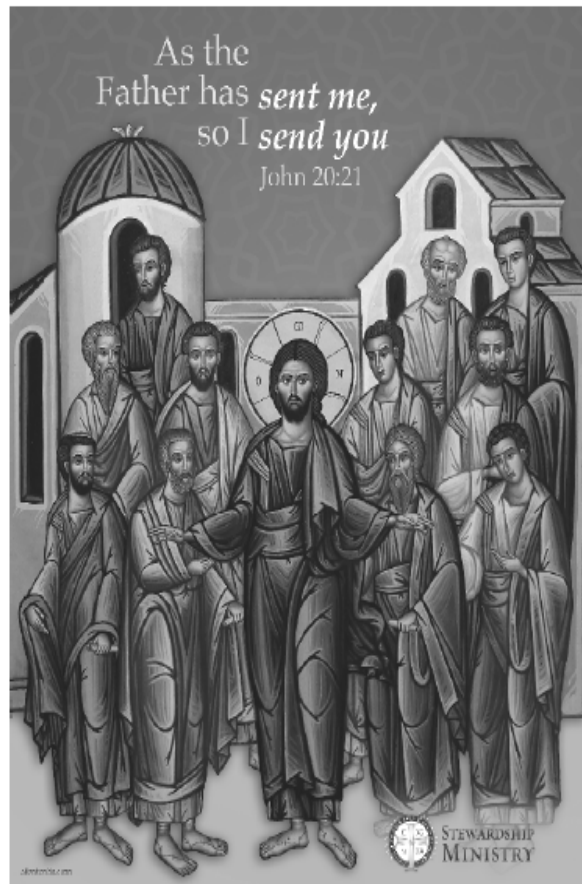
**O blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.**

**O blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the kingdom of God.**

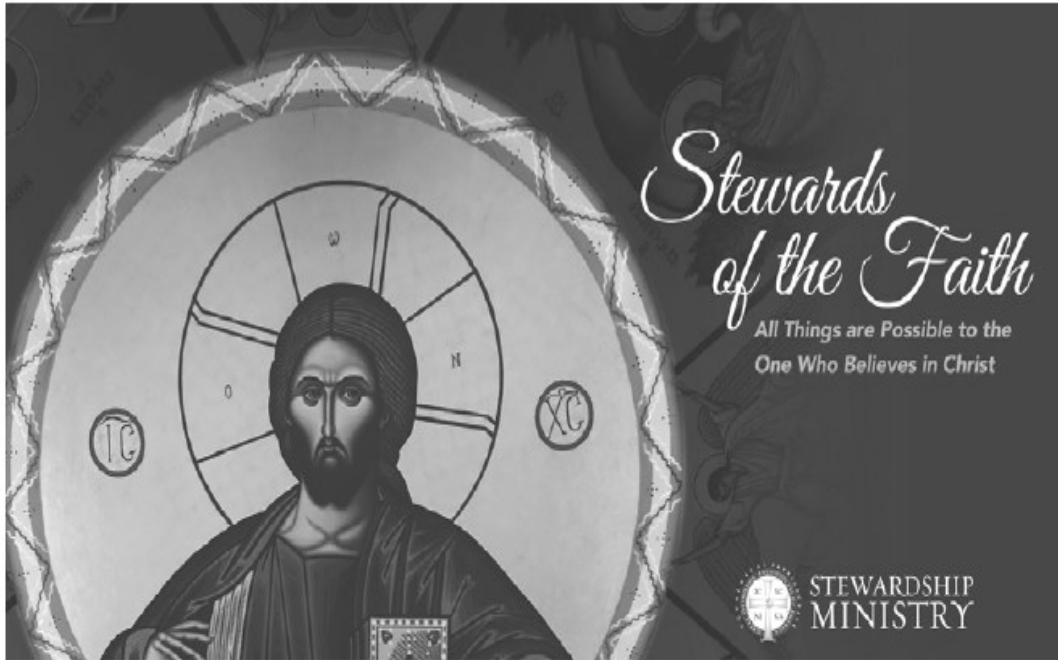
**O blessed when men shall revile you and persecute you and say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake.**

**Rejoice and be exceedingly glad for great is your reward in heaven.**

## You are the Voice of Christ in a Changing World



The base from which we serve as the *Voice of Christ in a Changing World* is the parish. A strong parish provides opportunities for sharing the Good News of Christ, for welcoming those that are searching for a spiritual home, and a base from which we are sent out into the world. The parish also provides a place for worship, community and education in the faith. To be stewards of the Gospel, we need to be stewards of our parish. This requires the vision and inspiration to see the parish, not as it is, but as it could be. We are called to offer ourselves and our treasure to make our local church all that it can be.



*When we believe, stewardship follows.  
Stewardship is faith in action;  
action motivated by humble gratitude to God  
for his blessings in our life.*







Let us come together as a Cathedral family and help those in need this Christmas by participating in *The Giving Tree!* You will find the tree located in the Narthex of the Cathedral. Simply bring in a gift card or cash and attach it to one of the clips on the tree. All of the gift cards and cash collected will be donated to UMOM so they can share the Christmas spirit with the homeless families they serve.

#### About UMOM

Founded in 1964, UMOM is located in Phoenix, Arizona and is an innovative provider of shelter, housing and services for people experiencing homelessness.



- Every night they provide safe shelter and supportive services for over 170 homeless families.
- They offer nearly 300 units of affordable housing across the Valley, each with special Program Centers for residents.
- They helped 269 parents find jobs through our employment services.
- They provide healthcare services, childcare, job training and services for veterans.

Holy Trinity Cathedral has been supporting UMOM for several years. We even have a group that goes to UMOM New Day Centers monthly to feed the homeless.

*During this season of giving, let's give thanks for the blessings we have, and let's share from our abundance with those in need!*

## POINSETTIA REMEMBRANCE DONATION

Please join us in remembering our beloved family and friends while decorating the Cathedral this Christmas.

**Donations of \$20 per remembered individual or married couple are appreciated.**

Complete this form and return with your donation to the Church office or enclose in an offering envelope, to place in a collection tray.

**Please provide your order no later than Monday, December 17, 2018.**

Donor name: \_\_\_\_\_ Donor phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Total donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Please call the Cathedral office: 602-264-7863 | 1973 E. Maryland, Phoenix, AZ 85016

