

Desert Springs

November 2016
Volume I Issue 8



Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
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Photo by Alex Rentzis—SpartaPhoto.com

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Rev. Deacon John Thrasher

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Sunday Worship
Cathedral
8:00am Orthros
9:30am Divine Liturgy

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Desert Diamonds (50+) — Doree Drakos, Diana Harris, Nikolette Tavlarides
Feed the Homeless — Christine Stamatis
Greek Festival — Nick Kretsedemas, Angelo Pestrivas, Kristen Vasilarakos
Greek School — Irene Mackos
Holy Trinity Academy Parochial School — TeAnn Philippis, Juli Pritsos
HOPE & JOY — Karla DeLord, Alexia Haugen
Jr. GOYA — Sandy Annos, Donna Manelis
Little Lambs — Jennifer Kourouglos
Maids of Athena — Gabriella Papatzimas
Museum — Bessie Hotis
Myrrhbearers — Diakonissa Mary Thrasher
OPA — Sandy Meris
One Spirit+One Vision — Charlie DeMoss
Parish Council — Pete Choukalas
Philoptochos — Alex Anagnopoulos
Sons of Pericles — Dean Bilitsis
Sr. GOYA — Evan Tsagaris, Chris Fredericksen, Paulina Watson
Sunday School — Kalli Schneider, Kay Ehrick
Wedding Coordinator — Georgia Kanelos
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button within an article to link to an album in Google Photos to see more pictures of the events profiled on the page.

Email links, website links, Facebook links, and document links will work too, directly from this publication.

Check them out!

Message from Father Apostolos



Thanksgiving & Perspective

One glorious morning while running along the shoreline of St. Pete's Beach I realized I was an idiot! As an avid runner, I was out for my morning miles, dutifully pounding along the packed sand while gulls soared overhead and the waves gently lapped the beach, when I suddenly stopped to ask myself, "What am I doing?"

There I was in so idyllic a place with the blue-green waters, the tropical breezes, the sights and sounds of an aquatic paradise and I was missing it! So I did what any normal person would have done; I kicked off my running shoes and waded in the surf back to our vacation condo, finally living in the moment, finally aware of my surroundings.

In the daily race through the events of our lives it is easy to lose perspective, to become blind to the outpouring of God's love for us, unable to see His face or to hear His voice in the world around us. Racing to conform to the demands of our schedules our focus becomes narrow and skewed toward surmounting the crisis of the moment; getting the kids out the door for school or daycare, sitting in rush-hour traffic on the way to the office, hoping to grab a spare moment to relax after a hurried dinner.

Stressed-out and frustrated, feeling less and less in control of our time, mentally drained and physically spent, gratitude can be hard to come by! But as we prepare for the annual feast of Thanksgiving we would be wise to collect ourselves and to reconnect with our uniquely *Eucharistic* view of life as Orthodox Christians and to ask ourselves how we might preserve an atmosphere of gratitude.

On several occasions in my life I have felt hard-pressed and overwhelmed by the demands of a new job or new assignment, by a relational struggle or simply by feeling entirely overmatched in the face of a crisis. And in these instances, God, through prayer, gently reminded me of all the times in my life that I desperately needed His guidance, strength, and wisdom and how He alone sustained me in each of those pressing moments.

I've learned from these heaven-sent reminders that my confidence rests in Him and not in my own abilities. And the renewed perspective I gained from these gratitude-building encounters allowed me to see my life through fresh eyes; my bride as the girl I fell in love with and gave my heart to; my children as the unspeakable blessings they are to me; my relationships as a constant source of encouragement; my health as a priceless treasure; my parish home as the place I most experience the love of Jesus Christ.

To be certain, the challenges are still there; kids still resist homework and bedtime, floors still need to be vacuumed, rush-hour traffic seems unrelenting, and the rat-race never seems to slow down. As I pounded along the beach in my haste to complete my daily miles I nearly missed the beauty of my surroundings. And though I didn't run as far as I set out to run that morning I still covered the distance and did so in a way that nourished my psyche as much as my body. And the only thing that changed was my perspective!

How can such an atmosphere of gratitude be engendered where it is lacking? There exists tremendous creative power in the words we speak with one another. As we sit down with our

Continued on page 4

families and loved ones this Thanksgiving, why not simply articulate to each of them how grateful we are for their presence in our lives? Why not speak love and peace to them, invoking the presence of Christ at our holiday table?

The perspective we stand to gain by walking with an attitude of gratitude will shrink our challenges down to size, will imbue us with fresh courage and energy, and remind us that we as Children of the Kingdom never work alone but always in synergy with God! May our festal gatherings be graced by His presence as we recount our many blessings.

And may our *Eυχαριστια*, our sacrifice of Thanksgiving, find its perfect fulfillment in the Eucharistic Banquet of the Lord's Table as we come together as the People of God to celebrate the mystery of His love for us!

Fr. Apostolos Niel

Narthex Ministry

First Impressions

The age-old adage "You never get a second chance to make a first impression" applies equally to parish as to social situations. We are blessed at Holy Trinity to welcome many visitors to our services every week and the impression we make as they enter the narthex can spell the difference between a one-time guest and a future parishioner.



You may have noticed the extra attention we are paying to this opportunity in the narthex with the creation of our Outreach & Narthex Ministry teams. Beyond the simple tasks of opening doors, helping those who require assistance, providing directions and personally distributing bulletins, team members provide a friendly welcome and a smile to our parish family and to our guests!

The three Ministry Teams functioning currently will grow to four or five in the weeks ahead, spelling our Parish Council members from weekly service and improving the quality of first impressions we make on the souls God leads into our midst. If you'd like to join this exciting ministry, please speak with one of the team members or with Fr. Apostolos!

Cover Photo

Photographer Alex Rentzis of SpartaPhoto.com climbed up to the roof over the Speros Center patio to capture the photo used on this issue's cover. Look for more of his photos on page 15.



Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

Educate - Participate - Elevate

As the Father has sent me, so I send you.

-John 20:21

It is with great excitement and anticipation that we invite you to attend the Parish Assembly meeting on **November 6th**. At this meeting, your new Stewardship Committee will be unveiling the 2017 Stewardship Program.

We have been hard at work, carefully and thoughtfully creating a comprehensive Stewardship Program that will greatly benefit our beloved Cathedral as well as each of our parishioners.

We have identified three very simple goals, which we will outline at the meeting. We will meet these goals using the slogan, ***Educate, Participate, Elevate.***

Educate – Many of us have an understanding of Holy Trinity's expenses, the importance of stewardship and the Cathedral's budget. However, there are many young and new families who do not. It is imperative that we educate, and in some cases, re-educate our parishioners so everyone is aware of our current financial picture and where we are headed in the future.

Participate – Every family has a different financial situation. But if every single family gave the most that they are truly able to give, our Cathedral's financial picture would be much different. In addition, we encourage participation in more than just financial giving. We want our parishioners to be involved in the life of the Cathedral by participating in the various ministries. This gives a more fulfilling connection to Holy Trinity.

Elevate – When parishioners participate fully in the Cathedral both spiritually and financially, giving their time, talent and treasure, it elevates not only our Cathedral, but also the lives of our parishioners. We find that we receive much more than we give.

So, if you've never attended a Parish Assembly meeting or if it's been a while since you attended one, please consider attending this one. We hope to see you on **Sunday, November 6th**.

Bible Study

Our midweek Bible Study continues as we take up the life of Moses the Prophet (a daunting task, indeed!) Having completed the book of Genesis with the life of



Joseph, we turn to Exodus and the vigorous Hebrew population in Egypt from which Moses came. Join us as we travel back over three millennia to consider how one halting young man would encounter God in the desert and bring an empire to its knees! Join us Wednesday mornings at 10:00am in the Education Building Cafe for an hour of fellowship and study! Coffee and treats provided by the group.

One Spirit + One Vision

By Charles DeMoss

OS+OV—The Foundation of Our Ongoing Building Fund Program

We are very thankful for those 248 individuals and families in our community who have come forward to build our beautiful Educational and Cultural Center. These generous donors have pledged \$3,295,819 of which \$2,991,711 (about 90%) has been paid to date. The monies contributed to OS+OV are used to pay down our mortgage loan. Reducing the mortgage helps eliminate the amount of annual interest we pay and reduces the burden we will pass on to future generations.

If you are in a position to give above and beyond your Stewardship commitment, please consider initiating or increasing your pledge to this program. In addition to the typical monetary gifts, we have also received gifts in the form of stocks and real property. By donating assets held more than a year and worth more than their original cost, you can avoid paying capital gain taxes. This is a tax efficient way to help the Cathedral. For those over the age of 70½, a portion of your IRA mandatory distribution may be given directly to a charitable institution, such as Holy Trinity, to avoid income tax on that distribution.

In addition to OS+OV, we also have the Holy Trinity Endowment program. Seventeen forward-thinking families have in years past donated \$460,000 to Holy Trinity's Endowment program. These accounts have grown to \$710,000. The growth and earnings (over \$250,000) from these Endowment accounts have been used by the Cathedral to fund ministries, pay operating expenses, and reduce the mortgage loan debt from \$995,000 to \$740,000.

Holy Trinity parishioners have for years expressed their love for God through his Church by, among other things, their financial sacrifices. Please join with those who have put their legacy in Holy Trinity Cathedral's past accomplishments and witness the Joy of giving. Help us reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the mortgage loan by giving to OS+OV. Also, please help provide a steady stream of future earnings to the Cathedral by participating in the Holy Trinity Endowment program with your donation of cash, stocks, or real estate.

If you can give above and beyond your annual Stewardship pledge, please call: Charlie DeMoss at 480-419-2007 for more information about the OS+OV or Holy Trinity Endowment programs.

+REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL+

Orthodox Outreach & Evangelism Retreat

hosted by Holy Trinity Cathedral

Friday, November 4th – Saturday, November 5th

Retreat Master: Fr. Demetrius Nicoloudakis pastors St. Matthew Parish (GOA) in Blandon (near Reading), PA. Married to his wife Despina (25 years), they have 5 children aged 23–7. Originally set to study law, Fr. Demetrius shifted to graduate studies in Scripture and Church History (Fordham University, Aristoteli School of Theology, Butler University) with an eye towards teaching. A graduate of St Vladimir's, he was ordained in 1995. Father Demetrius, having worked as a substance abuse counselor and having a great interest in family systems theory, and Presvytera Despina are both involved in St. Matthew's ministries to the Prison and homeless in Reading.



Retreat Theme: The Local Parish as the Embassy of the Kingdom to the World!

What is the “Good News” and how is Israel re-born and invading the world in Christ by the Spirit lived out within and as the Church? Orthodox Christians see the local Eucharistic Community being the environment where the whole (catholic) of the risen Jesus, known and proclaimed by the Apostles and their Communities through the Spirit, inhabits and is lived by the people who deliberately/intentionally claim to “sacrificially offer/surrender ourselves, one another and our whole life to Christ, our God.”

“The local Eucharistic Community, where the risen Jesus lives and rules, is the embassy and base from which we, in partnership with Him, continue the process of redeeming the world, integrating them into the life of the Kingdom. The Parish is more than a place where religious services and activities take place. It is to be a relational environment that, first of all, includes the Lord and all (not just a “pocket” of those) whose major priority is to synergize with the Gospel and share its healing grace wherever that community is located.”

Key Elements: *Why You Should Make Plans to Attend!*

What is the Gospel message & to whom is it given?

Is the Orthodox Church inwardly or outwardly focused?

How do we begin to manifest the presence of Christ by reaching outside of our walls to bring others into the Kingdom of God?

How do we create an environment for repentance and healing?

Retreat Format:

Friday evening: Paraklesis service will begin at 6:30pm and will be followed by social time and opening remarks.

Saturday morning: Matins will begin at 9:30am followed by Brunch and workshops; we will enjoy a working lunch and wrap-up by 3:00pm.

Sunday morning: Fr. Demetrius will also serve with Fr. Apostolos on Sunday and will deliver the homily.

A suggested donation of \$10.00 is kindly requested to help defray expenses.

Sowing Seeds and Growing Our Hearts

I love Fall! Even though we don't get to experience the beautiful Fall colors like other areas, there are still many things that call to mind the season – school begins, the Greek Festival takes place, my favorite apples are available, and there are, on occasion, those cool evenings and crisp mornings – and let's not forget the delicious Pumpkin Spice Lattes that are available at our favorite coffee places!



Fall is also my favorite season to teach. So many fruits and vegetables are available this time of year: varieties of squash, apples, pears, cauliflower, beets, broccoli, brussel sprouts, and my absolute favorite, Hatch green chili! Colors magnificent, flavors so tasty, and so easy to grow with the right conditions!



On October 24, the Littles went on a field trip to Tolmachoff Farms and learned firsthand from Farmer Scrappy how corn grows and how many kinds of corn there are. Did you know that there are over 18,000 kinds of corn, and that there is one piece of silk for every kernel? The children also learned about growing conditions and what every plant needs to thrive and grow. It was a great field trip filled with memorable moments and fond school memories for the parents and their children, and of course for us teachers.

In conjunction with our visit to the farm, I would be remiss to not take the opportunity to teach our Littles, "The Parable of the Sower", the amazing tale about a farmer who scatters seed, which falls on four different types of ground. 1) The hard ground prevented the seed from sprouting at all, and the seed became nothing more than bird food. 2) The rocky ground provided enough soil for the seeds to germinate and begin to grow, but because it was not deep enough the plants did not take root and soon withered in the sun. 3) The thorny ground allowed the seed to grow, but the competing thorns, like weeds, choked the life out of the beneficial plants. 4) Finally, the good, rich soil received the seed and it produced much fruit.



Jesus' explanation of the Parable of the Sower highlights four different responses to the Gospel. Of course, we know as Orthodox Christians that the seed is His Word – laid out for us loud and clear! 1) The hard ground represents someone who is hardened by sin; he hears but does not listen, keeping his heart black and preventing God's message from getting in. 2) The stony ground is the man who is outwardly excited about God's Word. However, he too, has a heart that is not ready to have the words seep in. He is our fair-weather friend and when things don't go his way he is nowhere to be found, just like his faith. 3) The thorny ground is someone who wants to listen and follow, but he is too caught up on extravagance and a gluttonous lifestyle. His material things are more important to him, leaving no time for a relationship with God. 4) The good, rich soil portrays the man who hears, understands, and receives God's grace fully and then allows His grace to guide him to accomplish what is truly important. He is the one who celebrates the fruits of his labor because his direction is steadfast and his heart is pure. (Matthew 3:7-8; 7:15-20).



What I learned through our visit to the farm and the sower, and hope to have taught our young friends, is that farming food and farming our hearts are not very different. Finding out that one kernel of corn can grow a full stalk, that there are over 800 kernels on one ear, and that one ear of corn can potentially grow 800 stalks just shows us how amazing God is and how much He loves us by giving us everything we need as long as we take care of what He gives us. We all need the right conditions to grow – the right amount of water (Baptism), fresh air (the Holy Spirit), rich soil (God's Word), and sunlight (His love)! Now that is one good crop!



Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

By Alex Anagnopoulos

What is Philoptochos?

The translation is Philo = Friend and Ptochos = Poor.

It is literally "Friend of the Poor."

"In a full heart there is room for everything, and in an empty heart there is room for nothing." - Antonio Porchia



We would like to THANK all our Parishioners for a very successful 2016 Festival. We all worked together and presented to our city a great experience. The crowds left the Festival with smiles on their faces. We should be very proud of what we offer to the Greater Phoenix area. Our chairpersons Nick Kretsedemas, Angelo Pestrivas, and Kristen Vasilarakos did a wonderful job, working hard and guiding us to again another successful event. The work done by the ladies under the direction of Maria Maniatis and Joanna Mackos was incredible. Our pastries were incredible. The cooks, too many to mention, provided our guests with mouthwatering Greek culinary experiences. The set-up crews again worked day and night getting the booth structures ready and all the setup needed. WE ARE VERY PROUD OF EACH AND EVERYONE INVOLVED.

Philoptochos again thanks everyone for all of your support for our endeavors. Please remember to SAVE THE DATE for the following:

Sunday, November 20, 2016 – Philoptochos Group Picture

Sunday, December 11, 2016 – Annual Christmas Bake Sale

Sunday, January 8, 2017 – Annual Vasilopita Cutting and Auction

Saturday, January 28, 2017 – Annual Agape Ball, Supporting the Kids 'n Cancer Summer Camp

Sunday, February 12, 2017 – Annual Champagne St. Valentine's Brunch

The Philoptochos directory is almost ready for the PRESS. Ladies, if you have not taken care of your Philoptochos Stewardship this year, please do so by November 29 to be included in the Directory. We want *everyone* included in the inaugural Philoptochos Photo Directory. Please do not miss out.

Have a WONDERFUL AND BLESSED THANKSGIVING.

Interested in joining Philoptochos? Call Mary Louise at 602-943-5080 for more info.



Group Photo!

November 20, 2016
in the Cathedral following Divine Liturgy

All current members are invited to be a part of this photo.

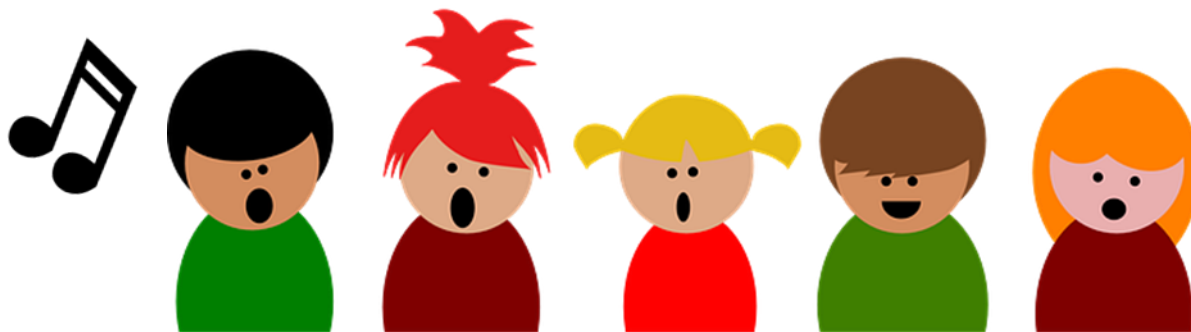
Not sure if you are current?

Contact Patty at wd14742pd@msn.com



Thank you to October hostesses Zoe Pestrivas, Alex Anagnopoulos, and Lyda Rabbitt.

Music Ministry



Youth Music Ministry

If your child, seven years and older, missed the tryouts for the youth choir, it's not too late to participate! At present, the youth choir is practicing from **NOON to 12:45pm** in the **Speros Center** in the "piano corner." The children have begun working on a communion hymn and responses to be sung during Divine Liturgy, as well as Christmas carols. Contact Terri Alexon, Choir Director, by telephone or text at 480-233-2416 or by email, htphxmusicdirector@gmail.com.

Planned performance dates (subject to change):

December 4th (in loft)

December 18th (Christmas Pageant)

Hellenic Historical Museum

Ready for Phase 2!

Located in the northeast section of the James A. Speros Community Center, the Museum displays vintage photographs and other historic artifacts related to pioneer Greek families in Phoenix from the early 1900s, the founding in 1930 of the first Hellenic Orthodox Church in Arizona, and up to the relocation in 1973 at the present site of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

Now, the Museum is looking for photos taken after 1973. That covers a lot, we know. So to start, we are looking for **organization group photos**, such as committee, membership, and board pictures.



Do you have any that you would like to share? The photos could be the originals—or we can accept scanned photos. Contact Bessie Hotis at bhotis@cox.net for more information.

The Museum is open the first Sunday of each month after Divine Liturgy.

Sunday School

Sunday School has been in session for a little over a month now and we so enjoy seeing all our students smiling faces every Sunday! We have had full classrooms and it has been AWESOME! Our Youth Forum (high school) has a record-breaking 30 kids registered! If you haven't registered your child/children yet, please do! It helps the teachers to learn their names and Saint's days, not to mention if they have any restrictions or allergies. There are blank registration forms in the front hallway in the Education Building on the bulletin board for your use.



Sunday School Directors:
Kalli Schneider at 602.568.3139
or at kpsgeeks@yahoo.com or
Kay Ehrick at 602.628.8962
or at kehrick@yahoo.com

We have a few changes this year that we are excited about. For all you parents with small children under the age of 4, we have re-opened the 3-year-old class. Ms. Zoe Ehrick is holding class in the preschool HTA classroom. It is the last classroom on the right in the HTA wing. She has books filled with our wonderful Bible stories to read to the children and will have a small snack. Not only does it allow the children to get to know their young peers, it allows them to have their own classroom and to join Sunday School at an earlier age. Ms. Ehrick has been a preschool teacher this past year and loves to be involved with the little ones. Please bring your 3-year-olds on Sunday mornings after Communion! We are excited to have Zoe join our staff!



Our 5th & 6th grade class is now being taught by Mr. John Schneider and Mr. Elias Staikos. Elias has been an assistant in the classroom for the past 2 years and we are happy that he is also assisting John this year. John is currently attending ASU working towards his accounting degree and is a Teacher's Assistant for the Accounting department at ASU. He started his "career" at Holy Trinity as an assistant for Mrs. Kay Ehrick for the past two years, and also was a camp counselor at both All Saint's Camp and St. Nicholas Ranch. We were sorry to lose Mrs. Paulina Watson, but luckily for us, she has agreed to help out with Sunday School on an "as needed" basis. She is truly missed, but we are excited to have our young adults take leadership in our Sunday School ministry!

Once again, another one of our awesome young adults at Holy Trinity has joined our Sunday School ministry! Ms. Kathryn Dye is now an assistant to Mrs. Cindy Kyprianou for our 1st & 2nd graders. We are excited for Kathryn to start. What a blessing for Cindy, for the children, and for Sunday School!

Our annual Godparent Sunday luncheon is right around the corner on November 6th. Once again, your Sunday School teachers are going to be serving you lunch and this year it is a "Picnic on the Patio"!



We will not be having Sunday School on November 6th as we will be busy preparing a beautiful lunch down on the Speros Center patio. This allows your children to enjoy Divine Liturgy with your family, including their Nounas and Nounos that live in the Valley. Please come down to the Speros Center immediately following Divine Liturgy and have lunch while enjoying our beautiful Fall weather. Godparents are an essential member of a family and a child's life. They are looked upon as an overseer to a child's spiritual well being. We celebrate this important part of our Orthodox faith!

God Bless! *Kalli and Kay*

Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners 50+



Upcoming Activity:

Seniors & Guests

We welcome all Pan-Orthodox Churches to a "Pot Luck Picnic" on Thursday, November 10th 11:00am
McCormick Railroad Park, 7301 E. Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale



What to Bring Suggestions: Entrée of any kind, vegetables or potato salads, bread or dinner rolls, desserts, bottles of water, soft drinks, ground coffee with cream & sugar, or large 30-cup coffeemaker.

We'd love to see a variety of items brought, so please R.S.V.P. by calling Diana, Doree, or Nikolette and letting them know your selection.

Mark Your Calendars!

DECEMBER 15th, 11:00am

Christmas Party Pot Luck & Gift Exchange
James A. Speros Community Center

JANUARY 10th, 2017, 10:00am

Desert Botanical Gardens, 1201 N. Galvin Parkway

FEBRUARY 14th, 2017, 11:00am

Valentine's Lunch

Matt's Big Breakfast, 32nd Street & Camelback Road

MARCH 16th, 2017, 11:00am

Pan Orthodox Church Picnic

Chaparral Park, 5401 N. Hayden Road

APRIL 27th, 2017, 10:30am

Trolley Ride and Lunch, Scottsdale Mall

For more information on attending Desert Diamonds upcoming events, contact:

Diana Harris at 602-996-0113,

Doree Drakos at 602-993-0659 or

Nikolette Tavlarides at 602-725-8653

Lost & Found

Please check the Lost & Found in the Church Office for items that might be yours.



St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

By Patsy Harris

One look at November's calendar and we see the many days marked as special holy days, and on November 15th we begin the Nativity fast in preparation for the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and God. Also, November 24th is Thanksgiving Day, a day for family and friends to get together and thank God for all His many blessings.

St. Nectarios Books and Beyond is very thankful to God for our many friends and parish family! A very special "thank you" to Diakonissa Mary and Deacon John Thrasher for the two large bookcases they donated for the storage of our inventory. The staff would also like to thank God for Father Apostolos and his Presbytera Denise. Our parish is truly blessed to have such a dedicated priest and such a supportive presbytera!

This month the bookstore is highlighting our Children's Books selections. We encourage children (of all ages!) to come with their parents and browse through our collection of books, coloring books, and other items. The special parish sale of small icons will continue until November 13th. We will feature Christmas items beginning Sunday, November 27th. Finally, our Patron Saint Nectarios is celebrated this month, so please visit us particularly on Sunday, November 13 to celebrate his special day!

November 1st – SS. Cosmas & Damianos

November 8th – Synaxis of the Archangels

November 9th – St. Nectarios the Wonderworker: come visit us and learn about the life of our Patron Saint!

November 13th – St. John Chrysostom: his extraordinary abilities at preaching earned him the name "Golden Mouth" or Chrysostomos.

November 14th – Philip the Apostle; Gregory Palamas of Thessaloniki

November 16th – Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist

November 21st – Entrance of the Theotokos: this marks the day SS. Joachim and Anna gave the Theotokos to the Temple, so she could be dedicated to serving God. We have a children's book about this feast – come read it!

November 25th – Katherine the Great Martyr: a teen when she was Baptized into Christ, she was seized during a persecution and at her trial converted 50 philosophers, the empress, and 200 of her guards. St. Katherine was tortured on a spiked wheel before she was beheaded. Come and see her Icon!

November 30th – Andrew the First-called Apostle

Have a blessed month and please visit us soon! If St. Nectarios Books and Beyond can assist in any way, please contact us at:

www.stnectariosbooksandbeyond.org or patsy@stnectariosphx.org

Patsy Harris – 480-239-5270

Our Church Family

40-Day Blessing

One thing I ask of the Lord,
this is what I seek; that I may
dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life, to gaze
upon the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.
Psalm 27:4



10/9/2016

Penelope, daughter of Nicole and Stellios
Samaradellis

God's Blessings be upon her.

Funeral

"Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of
my life; and I shall dwell in the
House of the Lord forever."
Psalm 23:6



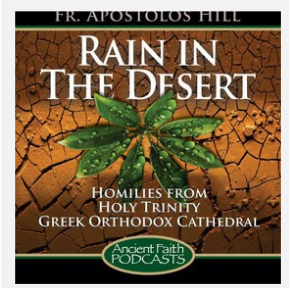
10/16/2016

Steven Aldi

May his memory be eternal.

Rain In The Desert

Recordings of Father's
homilies from Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox Cathedral



From the link:

"Fr. Apostolos Hill, Dean
of Holy Trinity Greek
Orthodox Cathedral in
Phoenix, AZ, delivers a

timely message in a humorous and
straightforward preaching style as he draws from
his various life adventures to underscore the
power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to save and
to heal broken humanity. Sprinkled liberally
throughout with passages from Holy Scripture, Fr.
Apostolos' homilies challenge the spiritual ethos
of postmodernity that seeks to limit the
transforming impact of the life in Christ and
convince us that "being a good person" is good
enough."

Link to recordings of Father's sermons:

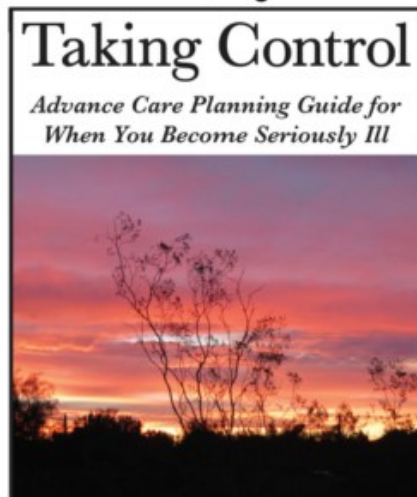
<http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/rain>

Sermons can also be found on the Cathedral
website at www.holytrinityphx.org.

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING INFORMATION SESSION



Authors Dr. Linda Stehling & Dr. Douglas Lakin



Saturday, November 12, 2016
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
8202 E. Cactus Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85260

The Original Phoenix Greek Festival 2016



Festival Memories

Back in 1984, the Lamb Booth was in the same place it is today—32 years later. During this year's Festival, **George and Dimitri Zannis** recreated photos originated by **Danny Speros** and **Tony Hotis** (in the top left photo.) Do you recognize the man in the right photo wearing the fisherman's cap, dark shirt, and white apron? If you do, let us know!

Enjoy the Then and Now memories:



New Sidewalk



A new sidewalk was laid between the upper slab and lower slab in time for this year's Festival.

Greek School

By Irene Dartoozos-Mackos
eirinie@gmail.com



Greek School is filled with **Learning, Exploring, and Fun!**

It is the mission of the Greek School to engage our student's minds in the understanding of the Greek heritage, through the teaching of the Greek Language and culture.

We offer the following classes:

Preschool/Kindergarten

Level 1

Level 2

Greek Certification

Cultural Education

You can *still* register for the 2016-2017 session. Contact Irene to ask how!



Welcome Καλώς ήλθατε

We welcome these NEW SMILING FACES to our 2016-2017 school year:

Adriana Chronis

Bella Dent

Amara Dent

Eleni Economopoulos

Petro Economopoulos

Leonithas Mackos

Leonitdas Stamos

Elektra Stamos



We enriched this year's curriculum with a kid's cooking class, **Cooking with Yiayia**. Our kids will get exposed to the Greek culture while cooking with their Yiayia's recipes.

Coming up on November 17th: Koulourakia

Greek School
Wednesday nights
5-7pm
Holy Trinity Educational Building

Cultural Program
Every 3rd Wednesday



OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

By Sandy Meris, President



Where every adult is a parent to our youth.

35 YEARS OF OPA!

The year was 1981, Ronald Reagan was president, IBM unveiled the first personal computer, and MTV debuted on television introducing America to 24-hour music videos. And right here at Holy Trinity a group of parents created the Orthodox Parents Association.

A lot has changed since then. We have our first African-American president, computers are in almost every home, and 24-hour television programming is the norm. But one thing remains the same – the Orthodox Parents Association is still going strong and is better than ever!

It's hard to believe that it's been 35 years since OPA was established as a ministry right here at Holy Trinity. And over those 35 years, so many dedicated parents, priests, and youth advisors have contributed to its ongoing success. We feel its time to celebrate and acknowledge everyone who has been a part of OPA's success. We will do so with a 35th Anniversary Celebration. All parishioners and families are invited to help us celebrate. You won't want to miss out on this momentous occasion. So please, mark your calendars, dust off your dancing shoes (ladies – pack a pair of flip flops for some serious dancing) and get ready for a great party!

OPA 35TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday, November 12, 2016

James A. Speros Community Center

Cocktail Reception – Dinner – Special Presentations – Dancing

Youth Calendar

November 19th – Youth Groups (Hope & Joy, Jr. GOYA, Sr. GOYA)

December 4th – Day of Christmas Cheer (Little Lambs, Hope & Joy)

December 4th – GOYA Christmas Party (Jr. & Sr. GOYA)

Thank You!!!

Special thank you to our moms who hosted Coffee Hour on behalf of OPA in September:

Sandy Annos, Karla Delord, Denise Dye, Caroline Economopoulos, Donna Manelis, and Paulina Watson.

OPA Game Night

Jr. & Sr. GOYAns had a lot of laughs at their Game Night in October. Fr. Apostolos started off the night with a brief discussion with the kids over pizza, followed by some high energy interactive games that had everyone engaged. It was a relaxing, enjoyable night!



OPA

HOPE & JOY Bowling

In October, the Hope & Joy group (kids in grade Kindergarten through 5th grade) spent a fun afternoon together. Father Apostolos, Presbyteria Denise, Evan Tsagaris, and Isaiah Pavlatos joined the group and helped make it a wonderful outing.



The Hope & Joy group will now be collecting health and hygiene items to assemble at their November "campfire" outing on November 19th. The assembled care packages will be sent to the IOCC to be distributed to those in need.

Little Lambs and HTA Drive-In Event

HTA and Little Lambs teamed up for a super fun evening on October 28th.

They created box-cars with their families and went to the drive-in in the courtyard to watch the movie *Cars*. Our GOYAnS watched the kiddos and ran the FREE concession stand, so the parents had a chance to get to know one another! Hot dogs, popcorn, Capri Suns, and water were available, along with early registration for the 2017-2018 school year.



[View more photos on the HTA Facebook page.](#)





Anniversary 35 Celebration

Dinner ~ *Special Presentation* ~ *Glendi*

Saturday, November 12th

James A. Speros Community Center

6:00 p.m. Cocktails & Appetizers

7:00 p.m. Dinner & Program

Followed by Greek and American Dancing



Ticket Prices:

Adults \$40

Teens (ages 13-19) \$20

Children (ages 4-12) \$10

Children ages 3 and younger are free

Table reservations available for groups of 10

Deadline to purchase tickets is November 9th

Contact:

sannos@cox.net

Or

sandymeris@yahoo.com

Maids of Athena

The Maids of Athena is an international philanthropic and fraternal organization. Founded in 1930, the sisterhood quickly grew among young Greek women and today claims chapters across the US, Canada and Greece. The Maids strive to achieve the ideals of Athena, as well as promote the Principles of our Order: Sisterhood, Service, Citizenship, Hellenism, Family and Arete.

So far this year, Aphrodite Irene #158 has participated in the Annual UMOM Walk For Homeless Families as well as the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk which raised over \$500.00 for the American Cancer Society.

From now until December 15th, the Maids of Athena will have boxes set up in the Cathedral and Speros Center for new and gently used books which will be donated for their book drive. Please take this opportunity to clean out bookshelves and donate. All donations will be going to a children's orphanage up North.

Chapter Project: This year, the Maids of Athena have chosen the Alzheimer's Association as their chapter project. We strongly believe in this project and plan on participating in many different events this year as well as volunteering with the association. To start off their volunteering with the organization, the Maids of Athena will be participating in the Phoenix Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, November 12, 2016. The end of Alzheimer's starts with the Maids of Athena, but it will take all of our community to end it. Please consider supporting our efforts with a donation. To donate, please donate here http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2016/AZ-DesertSouthwest?team_id=378924&pg=team&fr_id=8824.

Presidents Project: This year, the Maids of Athena are raising funds and awareness for the Ronald McDonald Charities. The Ronald McDonald House New York's Greek Division provides support services for families from Greece and Cyprus, as well as for Greek-Americans staying in New York City while battling cancer. In existence for more than 30 years, the Greek Division has helped to provide a support system for families from Greece and Cyprus seeking treatment for pediatric cancer while in New York City. The support of the local Greek community within the tri-state area has been an integral part of the Division's ability to provide the financial resources, as well as awareness of the devastating effects of cancer. Please help us in reaching our own personal chapter goal of raising \$500.00 towards this amazing organization <http://www.gofundme.com/RMHGreekgreekDivision>

Congratulations our newly elected officers for the 2016-2017 Executive Council for the Maids Of Athena "Aphrodite Irene" Chapter:

President: Mia Karandreas
Vice President: Athanasia Furlis
Secretary: Thea Cartier
Treasurer: Staci Vaughn
Phyla: Alexa Wood
Delphis: Serina Roohi

We also welcome our newly elected committee chairs for the 2016-2017 Maids Of Athena "Aphrodite Irene" Chapter:

Social Media Chair / Philanthropy Chair: Gabriella Papatzimas
Sisterhood Chair: Anna Furlis
Social Chair: Athena Krestedemas

If you are between the ages of 14-29 and are interested in Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy and Friendship, check out the many opportunities the Maids of Athena has in store for you. Please contact Gabriella Papatzimas 602-810-9522 or moagrandgovernor@gmail.com for more information. You can even checkout our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MOAAphroditeIrene>

Thank you for helping Aphrodite Irene raise \$530.00 towards [Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Phoenix](#)! We are to grateful to have such a supporting community! Special thank you to the Daughters Of Penelope for walking with us and helping us raise funds!



Continued on page 22



Sisterhood Event at the Pumpkin Patch

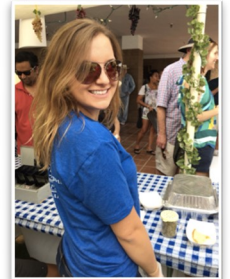
UMOM Walk For Homeless Families with the Daughters of Penelope

EXECUTIVE BOARD SISTERHOOD SPOTLIGHTS



Mia Karandreas is the newly elected President of Maids of Athena for the Phoenix chapter. She has been involved with Maids of Athena since she was a junior in high school and has been a secretary for both the Chandler and Phoenix chapter. She has just started her Sophomore year at Arizona State University in the W. P. Carey School of Business for Corporate Event Planning, Go Devils! She is excited to begin so many sisterhood events as well as giving back to the community. Her aspirations for this year's chapter is to grow our sisterhood, and to truly connect with other Maids within this prosperous organization. "We all forget how we motivate one another, and this year as a whole, Maids of Athena will not only inspire each other, but the entire community."

Athanasia Furlis is the current Vice President in Phoenix's Aphrodite Irene chapter. She is a senior at Chaparral High School who participates in Senior GOYA and Greek dance. "I have met many different members of my community through Maids of Athena and have been able to get closer to those I already knew. I love giving back and being apart of an organization that is nationwide - allowing me to socialize with young women of my same faith and background. Maids has provided me with many different community service opportunities and has given me a way to connect with my church even more."



Thea Cartier is the newly elected Secretary of Maids of Athena for the Phoenix chapter. She's been a member of the Phoenix chapter since she was a freshman at Xavier College Prep. As she proceeds with her junior year, she swims at a varsity level for her high school and represents Team USA at a national level. Her goals for this year are to get recruited to a university for swimming, grow closer with her faith, and to travel with her sisters of the Phoenix chapter to serve the community as a whole. "Our faith can move mountains" - Matthew 17:20

Staci Vaughn is a senior at Pinnacle High School who takes part in Greek dance, Senior GOYA, and is the 2016-2017 Treasurer for Aphrodite Irene. "I love being a part of such an incredible organization that not only gives back to the community, but places all over. To end my final years in high school, I want to soak in every opportunity to connect with those of my faith. I feel blessed to have met my friends who have turned into family through Church and I'm so excited to spread the agape through MOA."



AHEPA 219



CHRISTMAS GALA GLENDI
Saturday, December 10, 2016
Holy Trinity Cathedral 6:00pm
Ticket Sales After Liturgy

Purchase Your Tickets Today!



Purchase Your Tickets Today!
Mike Salzetti – 480.213.4192
Pete Marudas - 602.284.1638

**Scholarship
Deadline
Nov. 9th**

Next Meeting – November 17th – Holy Trinity Cathedral – 6:30pm

College Students at UofA

Any college students that are attending U of A or Pima College are invited to join Tucson OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship). We are excited to continue this archdiocese ministry to keep Orthodox college kids that are away from home connected to each other through OCF activities. Please contact Jackie Goodson at OCF@StDemTucson.org or 520-247-1053. We're also on [facebook.com/OCFTucson](https://www.facebook.com/OCFTucson).

Do you get OPA emails?

OPA communicates primarily through email via our e-newsletter. To stay informed of all of the youth, parent, and family happenings at Holy Trinity, make sure you are receiving these emailed newsletters. It's easy, just email your information to sandymmeris@yahoo.com and we'll get you added to the list.

Altar Service

Interested in learning more about serving on the altar? Contact Chris Francis battersbox7@yahoo.com, David Haag davidmhaag@yahoo.com or Deacon John Thrasher thrasheraz@cox.net

Tell us something good...

We have sooo many of our parishioners to give a big shout out to!

Often we do not know of the huge efforts of a few. We have three who many are not aware of their efforts. They are **Ted Furlis**, **John Annos**, and **Nicholas Pestrivas**. These three were building booths, setting up the facility for our Festival, and much, much more until **1:00am, 2:00am, and 4:00am** the week before! Without efforts like these by many we would not have the successful Festival that we have year after year. A BIG THANK YOU!

-Lovingly, Alex Anagnopoulos and Georgia Furlis

The St. Katherine Chapter of Philoptochos at Holy Trinity Cathedral wishes to acknowledge

Kathy Karros Clarke

for her above-and-beyond efforts in securing a perfect venue for Philoptochos' Annual Membership Tea and for ensuring the event went smoothly. Thank you!



*Congratulations, Cal Raup,
on your recent Baptism!
Love, your wife Angela and your new
Godfamily, Dan, Vicki, and Tiffani*



The St. Katherine Chapter of Philoptochos at Holy Trinity Cathedral wishes to acknowledge

Maria Maniatis and Joanna Mackos

and their executive team of Athena Davis and Lois Sakkas for leading the Pastries to another successful year! Many Philoptochos members are part of the Baking Crew that comes together over many months to make from scratch the many delicious pastries and dolmathes sold at the Festival. Thank you all!

The St. Katherine Chapter of Philoptochos at Holy Trinity Cathedral wishes to acknowledge

Nick Kretsedemas, Angelo Pestrivas, & Kristen Vasilarakos



as the triad Chairs of the 56th Annual Original Phoenix Greek Festival.

Thank you!

Selfie taken by Nick on Sunday night at the Grand Finale.

Congratulations to Office Manager Diana Camacho and her husband John on the birth of their son Johnny!

October 14th, 2:13am
7 lbs, 15 oz, 20¾"

He joins big sister Bianca.

Na sas zisei!



Happy Re-retirement, Lynn!

Although you are no longer working regularly in the Church Office, it's great to know that you are just a phone call or email away. Your knowledge is vast and your helpful advice still needed.

You are appreciated!



Congratulatory and Happy Ads!

In each issue, Desert Springs will offer the opportunity for our community to share good news with others! Ads will be a standard 1/8" of a page (horizontal).



This is the place to recognize your family, friends and fellow parishioners for anniversaries, birthdays, graduations, get wells, awards, special accomplishments, good deeds, above-and-beyond volunteering—anything that is positive, endearing and thoughtful.

Cost is \$20 per ad for one issue. Photos are acceptable.

Sample Size

Fill out the form and include an optional photo and full payment (cash or check) and drop in the boxes in the Narthex and Church Office or mail to Kristen Vasilarakos c/o Holy Trinity Cathedral, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, 85016. Checks payable to Holy Trinity Cathedral. Or contact Kristen at kvasilarakos@cox.net for more information.

Ads will be designed by the Desert Springs staff. Submitter will be contacted prior to publishing if editing of the content of the wording is needed.



Congratulatory and Happy Ads for the *Desert Springs* monthly publication:

Wording: _____

I understand the staff will design the ad at their discretion and will contact me if content changes are needed. ____ (initial)

I need the included photo returned to me. Yes No ____ (initial)

I am including \$20 by cash or check (checks payable to Holy Trinity Cathedral). ____ (initial)

I wish to remain anonymous. Yes No ____ (initial)

Submitter's Name: _____

Submitter's Contact Phone: _____ Contact Email: _____

~ November 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Coffee Hour – Dance	1 COSMAS & DAMIANOS 8am – Matins 9am – Liturgy	2 10am – Bible Study (Ed Bldg. Café) 5pm-7pm Greek School (Ed Bldg) 6PM – Paraklesis 7pm –8:30pm – Choir practice 8pm – OCF (ASU)	3 7pm – Philoptochos meeting (Lounge)	4 6:30pm – Paraklesis & Outreach Retreat (Cathedral)	5 9:30am – Outreach Retreat (Cathedral)
6 8:00am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy Godparent Sunday Luncheon General Assembly Meeting Youth Choir Rehearsal – Following SS 12:15pm-3pm – Dance practice	7 6pm – Vespersal Liturgy	8 SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGELS	9 NEKTARIOS THE WONDERWORKER 8am – Matins 9am – Liturgy 10am – Bible Study (Ed Bldg. Café) 5pm-7pm Greek School (Ed Bldg) 6pm – Paraklesis 7pm – HTA Board Meeting 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice 8pm – OCF (ASU)	10 11am – Desert Diamonds Picnic (McCormick Park) 6pm –PC meeting (Conference Room)	11 No HTA	12 OPA 35 th Anniversary Ball (CC)
13 JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 8:00am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy Youth Choir Rehearsal – Following SS 12:15pm –Dance fundraiser luncheon 12:45pm-3pm – Dance practice	14 GREGORY PALAMAS 8am – Matins 9am – Liturgy	15 NATIVITY FAST 7pm – Vespersal Liturgy	16 MATTHEW THE APOSTLE & EVANGELIST 10am – Bible Study (Ed Bldg. Café) 3pm-8pm Greek School (Kitchen) 6pm – Paraklesis 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice 8pm – OCF (ASU)	17 NATIVITY FAST 6pm – AHEPA (Small Hall)	18 NATIVITY FAST	19 NATIVITY FAST 7pm – 9pm Hope & Joy Campfire night (Ed Bldg)
20 8:00am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy George Christakos-18 yr Memorial Following Divine Liturgy – Philoptochos Photo 12:15pm-3pm – Dance practice	21 ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS 8am – Matins 9am – Liturgy	22 NATIVITY FAST	23 NATIVITY FAST HTA Thanksgiving Pot Luck	24 NATIVITY FAST	25 KATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR	26 NATIVITY FAST
27 8:00am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy	28	29 7pm Vespersal Liturgy	30 ANDREW THE FIRST-CALLED APOSTLE 10am – Bible Study (Ed Bldg. Café) 6pm – Paraklesis 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	Calendar is subject to change.		