



Desert Springs

December 2016
Volume I Issue 9



Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85016

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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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The 25th of each month

Sunday Bulletin Deadline
Wednesdays, 12 noon

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Dina Anagnopoulos—Treasurer
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Dance — Niko Panagiotakopoulos
Daughters of Penelope — Connie Panagiotakopoulos
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
YAL — Stephanie Venetis

If you are reading this publication electronically (on your computer or on your phone), click on the

[More Photos](#)

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

God Is With Us!

What a year 2016 has turned out to be! As with every year, it has been filled with ups and downs, triumphs and tragedies, successes and failures. The usual litany of newsworthy items, the passing of famous and infamous persons soon will be cataloged, while the changing of the guard in the halls of power will usher in a new set of promises quickly to be dashed.

But the Christmas Season affords us an opportunity to recollect the blessings of God in our lives, revealed much more clearly to us in our struggles than in our achievements. And in this recollection of the mercies of the Lord we are reminded of the essential message of Christmas; that God is with us whether we perceive His presence or not.

The transcendent and haunting Christmas Carol "O Come, O Come, Emanuel" with its plaintive cry for deliverance and a yearning for divine assistance seems to ring out more meaningfully for me with every passing year. The name "Emanuel" means "God is with us," as the Evangelist Matthew, quoting the Prophet Isaiah, reminds us; *"Behold, the Virgin shall be with child and shall give birth to a Son and they will call Him 'Emanuel' which means 'God is with us.'"* (Matt. 1:23)

And this defiant battle cry is taken up with great verve in the Prokeimenon of the Christmas Matins service; *"God is with us, understand O ye nations and submit yourselves, for God is with us!"* It is a pleasant sentiment but not one the truth of which we always feel in our day-to-day challenges. More often than not, we can more easily identify with the hard-pressed Children of Israel in first-century Palestine who "mourn in lonely exile here" as the line from the carol states.

In the gaiety and celebratory mood of the Holiday Season we might momentarily gain some distance on that cloying sense of exile and loneliness, surrounded as we may be by family and friends. But soon enough the decorations will be put back in storage, the Christmas tree will come down, and we will be left to wonder to ourselves "Is God really with us?"

The great mystery of God's love that we celebrate in each Christmas Season is beautifully depicted in St. Paul's letter to his Hebrew brethren; *"Since then the children share in flesh in blood, He Himself likewise took part of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives."* (Heb. 2:14,15)

Unwilling to watch the very apex of His good creation continue to languish in sin and death, God entered into the gritty street-level reality of our mortal existence, Himself becoming in His condescension like us so that we, by His grace, could become like He is. Jesus robed Himself in our broken and fractured humanity so that we could be robed in the dazzling glory of His divinity!

God is with us *intrinsically*, ever uniting all those who worship Him "in Spirit and in truth" with the Triune Life of the Godhead, ever reaching out to those far-off and forgotten, the lonely exiles no one bothers even to notice, by-passing the opulent palaces of the self-sufficient to appear to shepherd boys and the dispossessed in the mangers of the world.

And we can, through the Ark of Salvation provided to us by our Emanuel, that is, Christ's Holy Church, cultivate in the year ahead a deeper and richer awareness of His presence in our lives! May this Holyday Season bring to us and to our loved ones this inestimable gift of the unshakable realization that God is with us!

Merry Christmas!



Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

Educate - Participate - Elevate

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

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Sunday, December 4th

Please join us for a complimentary lunch in the Speros Community Center following Divine Liturgy.

We are happy to offer this free luncheon as a “Thank You” to all of our parishioners for your ongoing generosity and support.

As we wrap up our Stewardship 2016 campaign, we simultaneously kick off Stewardship 2017. We are already off to an exciting start. Much has changed in the way of Holy Trinity’s Stewardship, while other aspects remain the same.

What’s new?

We have a hard working, dedicated Stewardship **committee**, rather than just one person working alone. This has enabled us to gather different ideas and come together to implement what will work best for **all** our parishioners.

On-line giving is now available. Simply go to the Church’s website at: www.holytrinityphx.org, click on the Stewardship 2017 button on the right, and fill out your Stewardship Pledge Card. Then, if you so choose, you can automate your payments by selecting Parish Pay. In one easy step you can become a Steward and keep current on your contributions.

We humbly ask that every parishioner increase his or her 2017 pledge. Our hope is that you are able to make an increase of \$1.25 per day over your 2016 commitment.

What will stay the same?

For those who prefer to fill out the physical Pledge Card and receive envelopes, that tried-and-true method will continue. Simply fill out the Pledge Card you received in the mail and bring it to church on Stewardship Sunday.

The Stewardship Committee (with the blessing and guidance of Father Apostolos and the Parish Council) has worked hard to put these new changes into place to make becoming a Steward easier.

And now it’s your turn, for you the parishioner to answer the call to help. Can you increase your Stewardship Pledge by \$1.25 per day? If every parishioner does this, it will increase our Stewardship by about \$150,000 for 2017. That will about equal the net profit the Festival brings in. Imagine what kind of an impact that could have on our Church. Will you answer the call? With your help we **will** reach this goal.

+REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL+

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



December Greetings to our fellow Parishioners:

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We are eternally thankful to our GOD for all His blessings. We are very blessed to have our FAITH, COMMUNITY and EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP.

WE HAVE A FEW DATES FOR YOU TO SAVE:

December 11, 2016 – Philoptochos Annual Christmas Bake Sale

Do not have time to bake? Come to our annual Bake Sale for your Tsourekia and Koulourakia with many, many other delicious baked goods made by our own Philoptochos Ladies.

January 8, 2017 – Philoptochos Annual Vasilopita Cutting and Auction

Come join us in our Annual Vasilopita Cutting. There will be an abundance of Vasilopita to share with our Community. We will then have a Silent Auction to see who are the lucky winners of our beautiful and tasty Vasilopitas baked by the culinary experts of the Philoptochos Ladies. Do not miss out on taking one home to share with your family.

January 28, 2017 – Annual Agape Ball Kids 'n Cancer Camp Fundraiser

Come and most importantly support this very worthy cause. The Agape Ball is the primary fundraiser to send children suffering from cancer to a fun-filled camp with their families. The children are not the only ones who suffer, but their families as well. This is the opportunity for the less fortunate to get away from the grueling treatments and enjoy themselves. This is also a way to enjoy a fun-filled evening.

February 12, 2017 - Annual Philoptochos St. Valentines Champagne Brunch

Bring your family and friends to an early St. Valentine's Day Celebration following Divine Liturgy. What a better way to celebrate and remember our family and express our love for one another. This is Philoptochos' annual fundraiser to support their many Philanthropic causes. You are not only supporting Philoptochos, you are also supporting those in need.

These functions are all held at our own Speros Community Center. You do not have to drive any further than that to have fun, enjoy, and help a worthy cause. **HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!**

May we remember the Christmas season for the true reason. We need to keep the Spirit of Christmas in our hearts all year long.

May it be blessed for you and your families!

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

Thank you to November hostesses Christina Tzavellas, Judith Lamond, Margie Porter and (not pictured) Cathy Keyser.



Outreach & Evangelism Retreat

November 4 & 5, 2016



The Local Parish as the Embassy of the Kingdom to the World with Father Demetrius Nicoloudakis.

[More Photos](#)

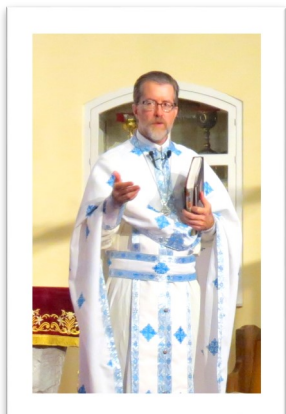
Philoptochos-Sponsored Artoklasia

November 20, 2016

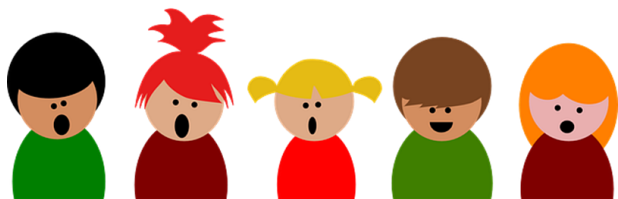


Altar Lesson

Father Apostolos paused the service to explain what was happening next.



Music Ministry



Music Ministry “Notes”



Jesus is the reason for the season, and the Music Ministry is gearing up to sing the beautiful hymns of His nativity. Adding to the festive sounds this year is the newly-organized Youth Choir who has been diligently rehearsing "Praise the Lord," a beautiful communion hymn composed by Steve Cardiasmenos. The children will be singing this hymn during Divine Liturgy on **December 4th**.

Both the junior and senior choirs are joining the entire Sunday School to present the annual Christmas pageant at the conclusion of Divine Liturgy on **December 18th**. If you missed it last year, you won't want to miss it this time! Two young musicians will be featured—**Demetrios Pickett** on the piano for the procession and **Christina Gardner** with a solo of a well-known Christmas carol.

Some of the Christmas carols included in the pageant are listed below. **Can you name them?** Answers will be provided in the January edition of *Desert Springs* or if you can't wait, send an inquiry to htphxmusicdirector@gmail.com.

1. Loyal Followers Advance
2. Far Off in a Feeder
3. Righteous Darkness
4. Jehovah Deactivate Blithe Chevaliers
5. Proceed and Enlighten on the Pinnacle
6. Query Regarding Identity of Descendent
7. Delight on this Planet
8. Give Attention to the Melodious Celestial Beings
9. Monarchical Triad
10. Small Municipality of the Birthplace of Jesus



Demetrios Pickett



Christina Gardner



Choir-sponsored Coffee Social with (l to r) Marianna Kaneris, Tina Zannis, Choir Director Terri Alexon, and Roula Kaneris

Have a blessed Christmas!

Sunday School



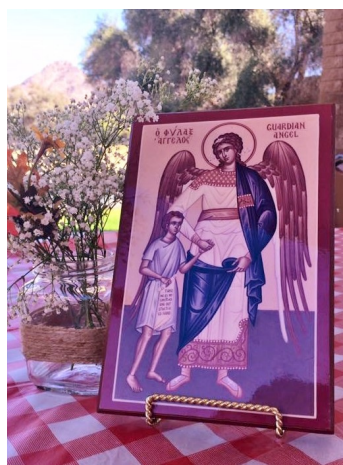
Godparent Sunday Picnic on the Patio
 Hosted by Sunday School
 November 6, 2016



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



(l to r) Paulina Watson, Evan Alexon, Kalli Schneider, Kay Ehrick, Cindy Kyprianou, Diakonissa Mary Thrasher, John Schneider, Pamela Maydanis, Evan Tsagaris



God Bless! *Kalli and Kay*

Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners 50+



December's Activity:

Desert Diamonds Seniors & Guests Christmas Pot Luck & Gift Exchange Party
Thursday, December 15th, 2016
Holy Trinity's Speros Community Center
11:00am



Please R.S.V.P. your food selection and number of guests to:
Diana Harris, 602-996-0113, Doree Drakos, 602-993-0659, or Nickolette Tavlarides, 602-725-8653

Gift Exchange for all who want to pick and participate from \$5.00 to \$10.00.

Mark Your Calendars!

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

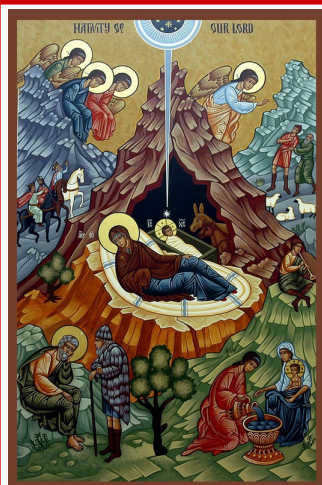
Trolley Ride and Lunch, Scottsdale Mall

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

Diana Harris at 602-996-0113,

Doree Drakos at 602-993-0659 or

Nickolette Tavlarides at 602-725-8653



Christmas Services:

Friday, December 23th, the services of The Great Hours at 9:00am

Saturday, December 24th, the service of Orthros and the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom beginning at 8:00am

Sunday, December 25th, the service of Orthros and the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great at the usual time of 8:00am

St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

By Patsy Harris

Christ is born! Let us glorify Him!

We all know December as the ending of another year, yet, with the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, let us not forget that it is also a beginning for the Orthodox. Christ so humbled Himself as to come to us as a newborn Babe. We must honor that Gift by renewing our spiritual strength, by deliberately cultivating within ourselves the unconditional faith of a child.

St. Nectarios Books and Beyond wishes to thank all of you who came to help us celebrate our Patron St. Nectarios on November 13! Congratulations to **Teresa and John Thomas**, who are the winners of the drawing for an icon of St. Nectarios!

Please do visit our Christmas Boutique, which we will feature this month! Yes, we do have many books, icons, and other gift items for your family and friends, but we also want to share the special joy of being together with our Orthodox family. We look forward to exchanging our individual holiday traditions and learning more about our Orthodoxy as we review sermons, books, and icon meanings with each other, and have the opportunity to personally wish each of you a very Blessed “Merry Christmas!”

One ‘business’ note: St. Nectarios Books and Beyond is always open after the Divine Liturgy. As there are a few special events on the calendar for some of December’s Sundays, please know that we will open AFTER those events. For example, we will be open AFTER the Christmas Pageant. Please also know that you may call me at the number below to schedule a weekday time for you to come and visit. I will do my best to accommodate all of you as much as possible! One other item of note is that this year we have only a limited variety of icon ornaments available. We hope that next year we will have more of a selection, and thank you for your understanding this year!

December 6: St. Nicholas – His name means “victory” and this Bishop of Myra was known for his philanthropic ‘victories’ for Christ. The English corruption of the Dutch “Sinterklaas” (St. Nicholas) is what has given us our modern day “Santa Claus.” Come and learn about the life of the *real* Santa!

December 12: Spyridon the Wonderworker – This Bishop Saint is also known as the “Shepherd Bishop” because he was a shepherd in Cyprus who couldn’t read so he memorized the Bible by listening to it in Church! His great faith led him to becoming a priest, then bishop, and he was even invited to the first Ecumenical Council at Nicaea! He suffered torture, but his well-preserved body is on the island of Corfu.

December 25: The Nativity of Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior – On Sunday this year, the usual Liturgical calling for us to “Come let us worship” has the special calling of us to “Oh, come let us adore Him!”

December 27: St. Stephen, Protomartyr – His name means “a crown of garland” and he was appointed by the Church at Jerusalem to assist the Apostles by ministering to the poor. (Acts 6: 1-6) Accused of blasphemy, he was stoned to death and thus became the first Martyr for Christ. (Acts 7:57) The crowns of garland still used during the Wedding Sacrament today are called “Stephana.”

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

Epistle Readers Wanted!



Our Church Family

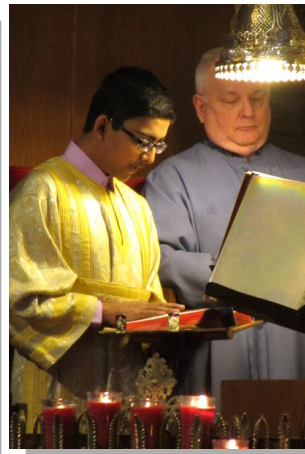
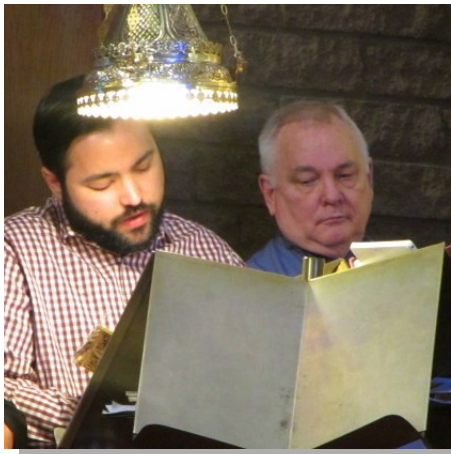
Baptism

“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Galatians 3:27



11/19/2016

Thomas Giorgos Daniolos, son of Katy and George Daniolos, Godfather is Brent Abdelnour
God's Blessings be upon him.



Father Apostolos is looking for young readers.

Interested?

Contact Father A!

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 Sunday, December 9, 2016.

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



Tell us something good...

Congratulations to
Jean & Bill Miller
on their
60th
Anniversary!



May
God
Bless



Holy Trinity Cathedral Youth Choir
as their precious voices sing praises
for His glory!

Your Desert Springs Subscription—Time to Renew!

Desert Springs Subscription

Enjoy color copies of Holy Trinity Cathedral's *Desert Springs* delivered to you!

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There are 11 issues for 2017 (June and July is one combined issue)

_____ \$33 for 11 issues

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

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Contact Phone: _____

Return this form to the Church Office or contact Kristen at 602-332-8809 or kvasilarakos@cox.net for more information.

Office use: Payment received on (date) ___ / ___ / ___

AHEPA 219

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

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

Next Meeting – December 15th – Holy Trinity Cathedral – 6:30pm



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.

Reflection and Gratitude

As we approach the end of 2016, I have had time to reflect. I am reminded how much we have to be thankful for. With each passing year, I am grateful that I gain a little bit more knowledge to pass along to my Littles and their parents that hopefully help them to raise kind, responsible, and loving individuals. I work with incredible educators that are truly passionate about what they do and grateful that we all share the same personal philosophy – to develop a love of learning now to last a lifetime. Lastly, I am thankful for the amazing opportunity to meet new people as they become part of our HTA family and their equally amazing children that teach me so much and that I am in awe of each and every day!



It seems that each year I say that HTA has the most amazing families. Each year I am so grateful that parents find our school and then make HTA their school of choice. They are so supportive and it truly warms my heart to hear them talk about HTA as a wonderful gem they have discovered. And why not? Their experience is nothing short of perfection that they will share with you given the chance! Their child is receiving a fabulous early education, developing their emotional, social, and cognitive skills along with a fine art foundation. Not to mention Orthodoxy on a daily basis and they are exposed to the Greek language and culture! No other school in this entire state offers what we do and those parents who find us know it beyond a shadow of a doubt! Some keep referring HTA long after their child ages out. That's loyalty. While HTA may not have hundreds of parents to pool from, we do have 100% of parents that give 150% all of the time to whatever we need! Like I said, "loyalty". It is rare to have a parent that does not participate in the volunteer opportunities we have to offer: from signing up for daily snacks for the kiddos to helping to raise thousands of dollars for a new playground!

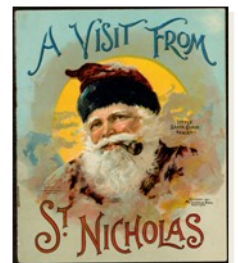
Yes, we are finally putting in a new playground! Not only will it beautify the area, but will allow our preschoolers and kindergarteners to have a functional space to conduct a class or to have a picnic outside instead of in the lunchroom. For years we have wanted to upgrade our already state-licensed playground and I am deeply grateful to not only our Holy Trinity Academy family, but to our Holy Trinity Cathedral community and friends for helping us raise the needed funds at our 10th annual **A Toast to the Future** last spring. Play It Safe Playground and Equipment® has been contracted to do the work and they just broke ground with a completion date of Friday, December 9. A ribbon-cutting and blessing ceremony will take place during a TBD open house where everyone is welcome and I will be eternally grateful!

Other upcoming events:

Saturday, December 3 – DAY OF CHRISTMAS CHEER! 9:30am to 12:30pm. Join us for this fun "activity" fair hosted by OPA, HTA, Sunday School, and Greek School. A day filled with crafts, food, a visit from St. Nicholas, and 6-tons of SNOW!



Please bring an unwrapped toy for any aged child to benefit Toys for Tots. HTA will receive toys through Wednesday, December 14. You can drop off your toy at the HTA Toy Drive table in the Speros Community Center over the weekend or bring it to the HTA school office Monday-Friday from 7:30am to 5:30pm.



Friday, December 9 – HTA Family Movie Night featuring, "The Polar Express". Our Littles will create Christmas train cars, cozy up in blankets and pajamas, and settle in with some delicious movie treats with their parents! The fun begins at 5pm and concludes at 7:30pm.

Thursday, December 15 – HTA CHRISTMAS PROGRAM! Everyone is welcome to enjoy an evening with The Littles as they perform a number of carols and poems to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour! 6:00pm to 7:30pm.



Greek School

By Irene Dartoozos-Mackos eirinie@gmail.com



Holy Trinity Greek & Heritage School of Phoenix

Meet our new member and the new logo of Holy Trinity Greek and Heritage School:

Σοφία η Κουκουβάγια.

Sophia the Owl's name represents the personification of wisdom. Wisdom cannot be gained without learning. Learning a second language, such as Greek,

- exercises your brain
- makes learning other languages easier
- makes communication easier when traveling and when talking to friends and relatives from other countries.

English contains many words of Greek origin!

Some examples: **academy**, **air**, **airplane**, **anatomy**, **angel**, **architect**, **aroma**, **astronaut**, **athlete**, **atmosphere**, **atom**, **base**, **bible**, **biology**, **box**, **center**, **chair**, **chaos**, **character**, **chorus**, **church**, **cinema**, **climate**, **clinic**, **comedy**, **cosmos**, **cube**, **cycle**,... and those are just “a”, “b”, and “c” words!



Happy Name Day to the following students:

December 6—St. Nicholas

Nikoleta Mackos

Nicole Philippis

5-7pm

Holy Trinity Educational Building

Cultural Program

Every 3rd Wednesday

Greek School article continued from page 15

Koulourakia

Cooking with Yiayia on November 16th was a **SUCCESS** with over 1,000 cookies made and sold! The children enjoyed measuring, listening, writing ingredients, making, and tasting their koulourakia.



**SPECIAL
THANKS**

Thank you to the yiayias and kids who made over 1,000 koulourakia for the Greek and Heritage School Bake sale and to the Greek and Heritage School kids who pre-sold and delivered all 1,000 koulourakia.

Thank you to Yiayias Joanna, Joann, Lea, Fannie, Argyro and to "Thia" Athena!

[More Photos](#)

Next up for Cooking with Yiayia:

December 21, 2016
5-7pm
Vasilopita and learning about Greek Christmas traditions



Thank you to the family who wishes to remain anonymous who donated a 46" TV, laptop, and printer to the Greek and Heritage School.

Let the learning begin!!



Day of Christmas Cheer

Saturday, December 3, 2016

9:30am Prayer Service led by Father A

10:00am Activities begin in the Speros Center Large Hall

Sponsored by OPA, Sunday School, Greek School and HTA –
Day of Christmas Cheer is an activity “fair” throughout the hall where kids can enjoy a day filled with crafts, food and fun for the whole family. And the highlight of the event... **PLAYING IN 6 TONS of SNOW!!!!**

The hall will be filled with several various craft tables in addition to:

- * Decorating Cookies
- * Hot Chocolate Bar
- * A visit and storytelling with St. Nick

We ask that you please contribute the following:

- * **A Lenten dish** to share for our Pot Luck Lunch. Please bring a dish large enough for at least 15-20 people (according to last name below)
- * **One-dozen un-frosted sugar cookies** for our cookie decorating
- * **An unwrapped toy** for our toy drive to benefit Toys for Tots

A-H: Hot Dish, Pasta or Salad (suggestions: mac & cheese, lasagna, spaghetti)

I-P: Side Dish (suggestions: beans, pb&j or cheese sandwiches)

Q-Z: Fruit, Dessert or Snacks

For more information contact:

Nikki Forman (OPA) at nttheo426@hotmail.com

or Kalli Schneider (Sunday School) at kalliopeschneider@gmail.com

Irene Mackos (Greek School) at eirinie@gmail.com

Juli Pritsos (HTA) at julipritsos@gmail.com

Don't forget your gloves, jackets, snow boots and any other snow gear. And consider bringing a change of warm, dry clothes for the ride home.

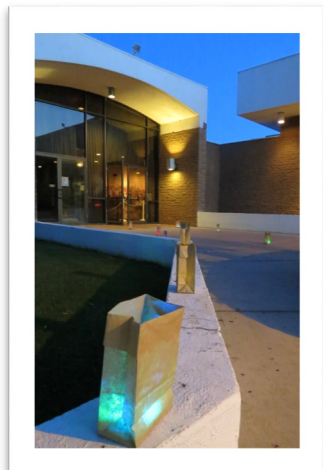
OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

By Sandy Meris, President



Where every adult is a parent to our youth.

OPA CELEBRATES 35 YEARS!



Thanks to all who attended OPA's 35th Anniversary Celebration. A fun evening of dancing, dining and reminiscing marked the positive influence this ministry has had on Holy Trinity. OPA looks forward to a new generation of parents and youth advisers guiding our children and families. May God grant OPA *another* 35 years and to continue to guide this ministry.



[More Photos](#)



Youth Calendar

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

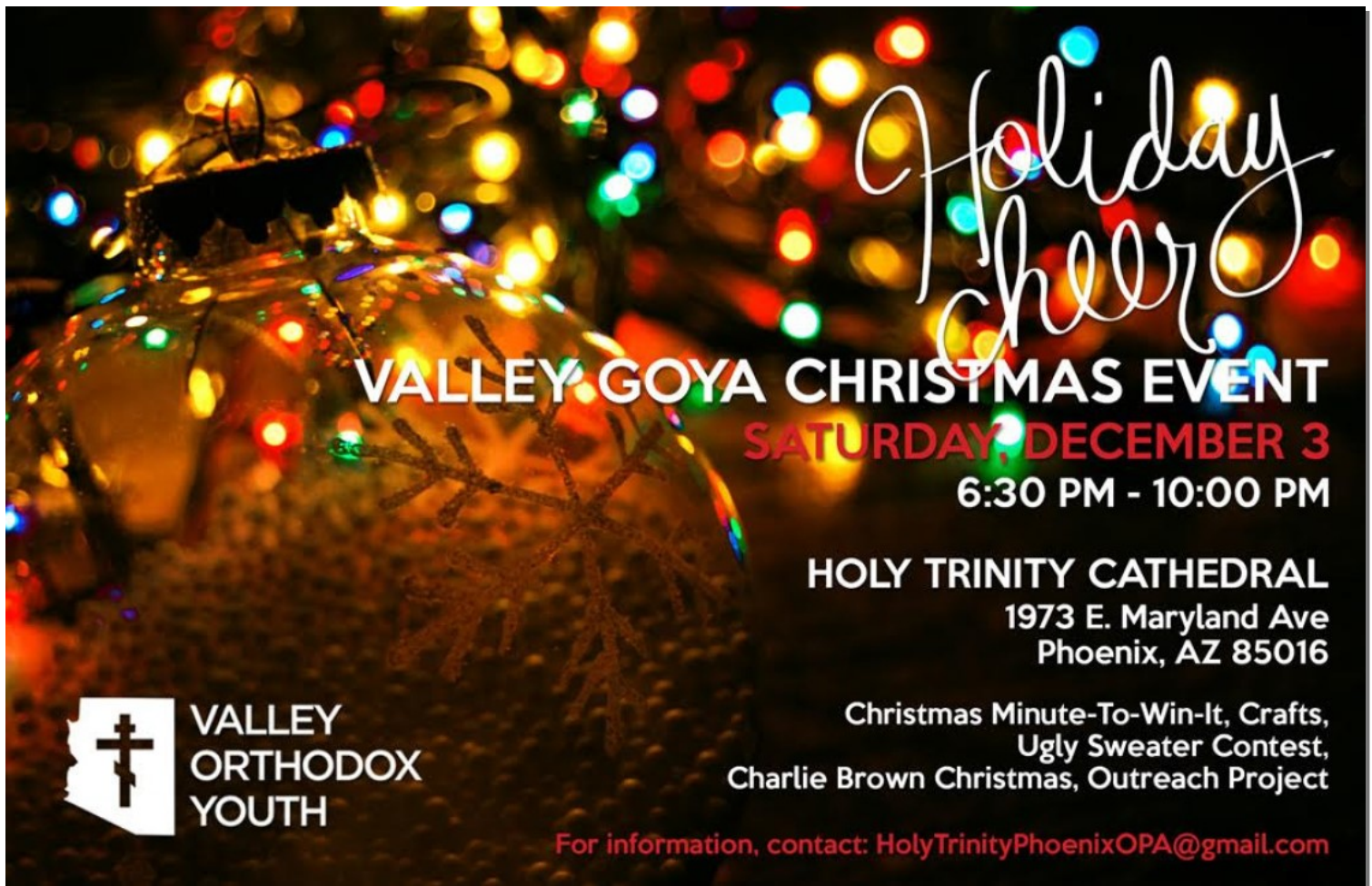
December 4th – GOYA Christmas Party (Jr. & Sr. GOYA)

New OPA Board

OPA is looking for new board members!

Elections will be held soon, and we need new fresh faces who are ready to get involved. The board consists of president, vice president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and treasurer.

If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact:
Sandy Meris at sandymeris@yahoo.com



Holiday Cheer

VALLEY GOYA CHRISTMAS EVENT
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3
6:30 PM - 10:00 PM

HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL
1973 E. Maryland Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Christmas Minute-To-Win-It, Crafts,
Ugly Sweater Contest,
Charlie Brown Christmas, Outreach Project

VALLEY ORTHODOX YOUTH

For information, contact: HolyTrinityPhoenixOPA@gmail.com

Seminarian Outreach Fundraiser

Our Valley-wide GOYA is having their Christmas event on Saturday, December 4th and will be doing a special outreach project. They will be collecting funds, honoring and showing support for the families of seminarians from our Metropolis. Often times, while these families receive financial aid to cover tuition, they struggle to cover other living costs, e.g. food, diapers, etc. Please consider offering a small donation to help support the future clergy of our Metropolis. We will be collecting funds through December 10th. Please consider donating to this outreach project so close to our hearts. Make checks to Holy Trinity OPA, and notate "GOYA Project." For more information, contact Evan Tsagaris at 650-333-4057.

GOYA November Project with Phoenix Rescue Mission

November 20, 2016

Our Jr. & Sr. GOYA kids spent a recent Saturday morning delivering Thanksgiving meals to some local families who otherwise would not have had a bountiful meal on their tables. Volunteering through the Phoenix Rescue Mission, about 25 of our junior high and high school kids delivered a box of food along with a frozen turkey to needy families. We are proud of them for coming together to give up their Saturday morning for a service project to help others.



HOPE & JOY

By the Hope & Joy Team

Hope & Joy had a wonderful campfire outing on November 19th! A big thank you to everyone who attended and helped out. After gathering together and having dinner, Caroline Economopoulos talked with kids about those in need around the world and how the simple things in the health and hygiene kits could make a huge difference in someone's life. It was a great way to put everything in perspective and to explain why we were assembling the kits. The kids then assembled more than 100 kits from the generous donations they received. These kits will be sent to the IOCC to be distributed to those in need around the world. Father Apostolos then led the kids in a great discussion around the campfire and sang songs. And to top off the wonderful evening, the kids made S'mores for dessert and engaged in an impromptu game of "tag" to burn off all of that energy and sugar. It was a great gathering.



Photo and Collage Credits: Caroline Economopoulos

If you are interested in getting involved with HOPE & JOY, please contact Karla Delord: kpdelord@msn.com or Alexia Haugen: haugens4@cox.net.

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 sandymeris@yahoo.com and we'll get you added to the list.

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: _____

Calendar is subject to change.