

Desert Springs

August 2016
Volume I Issue 5



Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
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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 Springs Deadline
The 25th of each month

Sunday Bulletin Deadline
Wednesdays, 12 noon

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Connie Contes—Vice President
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www.SanFran.goarch.org

Archdiocese Website
www.goarch.org

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Choir — Terri Alexon
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Daughters of Penelope — Connie Panagiotakopoulos
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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 — OPEN
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 — Terri Alexon
YAL — Stephanie Venetis

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

More Photos

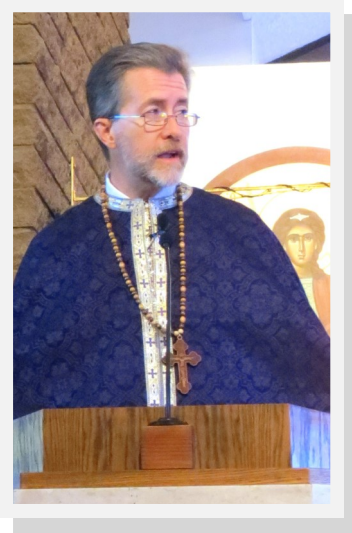
button within an article to link to an album in Google Photos to see more pictures of the events profiled on the page.

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

Check them out!

Message from Father Apostolos

The Indispensable Place of Mary



One Sunday evening my parents visited an ailing parishioner in the local Catholic hospital on Indianapolis' south side to offer prayers and support. This was not unusual as my parents are prayerful and compassionate Christians. What was unusual, however, was the lecture they gave me before a statue of the Virgin Mary set into an alcove off the main lobby about the "evils" of the Catholic Church which worshiped Mary instead of Jesus.

This positioned softened in time and I would end my high school years attending the nearest Catholic school but such biases were commonplace in the Protestant world of the 1970's. And among the many questions would-be catechumens ask as they embark upon their voyage of discovery of Holy Orthodoxy, the place of the Virgin Mary ranks only behind that of how icons are used in Orthodox worship.

Even within our own ranks, absent some very basic teaching often missed in childhood, many have only a vague understanding of why the *Theotokos* holds such a place of prominence in the Eastern Church. Why, for instance, is she commemorated at the end of every litany? Why is she always depicted alongside her Divine Son on every Orthodox iconostasis? And why are there so many supplicatory prayers and services offered to her?



Protestants frequently decry her prominence in Orthodoxy as "unscriptural," conveniently overlooking the first two chapters of St. Luke's Gospel or choosing to embrace novel and heterodox "interpretations" the Virgin Mary's role in God's plan of salvation for the world, as if offering her insult somehow brings enhanced glory upon her Son.

But the Orthodox view of the *Theotokos* (Gr. lit; "God-bearer") is an entirely *Incarnational* statement about who Jesus Christ is and the manner of His "enfleshment" within the womb of His mother. And like all other Christological heresies of the Patristic Age, the heresy of Nestorius who stated that Mary was not the Mother of God but only the Mother of Christ was dealt with by the Holy Fathers of the Church.

Nestorius heresy was condemned at the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD and he himself was anathematized at the Council of Chalcedon twenty years later when he refused to repent of his errant teachings. For the Holy Fathers of Ephesus and Chalcedon, to affirm as Nestorius did that Mary was the Mother of Christ but not of God was simply a backwards way of stating that Christ wasn't God.

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Fr. Apostolos' Message continued from page 3

Instead, affirming the Orthodox truth that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully Man, the Eastern Church decreed that the theological term *Theotokos* is and must be her proper title. She is referred to liturgically as the "All-holy, pure, ever-blessed and glorious Lady *The Theotokos* and ever-virgin Mary," a point also underscored in the icons of her by the three stars on her shoulders and above her head; signifying the Orthodox teaching that she was ever-virgin *before, during, and after* giving birth in the flesh to the pre-eternal Word of God in Bethlehem.



Yet, for all this Mary remains an enigma to us today; purity, virginity, blessedness not being qualities highly esteemed in society today. At a point in human history when adult film stars are heralded while virgins are mocked it is little wonder that the *Theotokos* is so poorly understood. The *Panaghia* (Gr. "all-holy") is also revered by faithful Orthodox as the one to whom, "after God" as we sing in the Paraklesis service, one may resort for assistance in time of distress.

Some maintain today that the Orthodox view of the *Theotokos* is "not necessary for salvation," though certainly the Holy Fathers of Orthodoxy neither believed nor taught this. So inextricably linked is she to the utterly essential teaching of the Divine Incarnation of Christ that this is a specious claim for any who understand the divine economy of salvation through the joining of our broken and fallen humanity to the fire of Christ's divinity in the flesh He took from His Mother's womb!

That the Orthodox Church has no free-standing "Mariology" as do the Roman Catholics does not indicate as some again have suggested that the Holy Fathers of Orthodoxy were divided in their opinions or unconvinced about her role. Rather, it was because her role was so universally embraced by the faithful that after Nestorius it was never again seriously challenged.

To be certain there are substantial differences between the view of some Catholics that Mary is the "Co-redemptress" with Christ (a view spurned by Holy Orthodoxy) and the teaching of the Eastern Church that she is "The Mediatrix" for the salvation of our race.

The first half of the month of August is dedicated to her veneration and this we will do with evening Paraklesis Services on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings and with the glorious feast of her Dormition on the 15th. As we celebrate the unceasing ministry of the *Theotokos* let us do so prayerfully in the Divine Services in her honor, asking for her powerful intercessions for us and our loved ones and for the world.

In Christ,

Fr. Apostolos Nihil

Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

STEWARDSHIP GOALS Educate, Participate, Elevate

We hope this article finds everyone well and enjoying a slower summer schedule. As summer comes to a close, we find ourselves turning our attention back to a more regular routine, which includes Sunday Divine Liturgy and those regular stewardship contributions.

As we prepare for a new ecclesiastical year, we have set **three new goals for our Stewardship Program:**

1) **Participation from 100% of our parishioners.** Did you know that whether or not you make a financial contribution, in order to be considered a Steward of the Church you must fill out a Stewardship Pledge Card?

2) **Increase the pledged amounts from our families.** Did you know that if every single family contributed just \$35 per week we would meet all of Holy Trinity's financial needs?

3) **Making it easier to become a steward.** Coming soon to our Stewardship Program – on-line and automated giving!

Our Stewardship Committee is hard at work to make sure every single one of our Holy Trinity families is included in this campaign and is engaged in the life of the Church. In addition, we are working hard to update our program so that filling out a Stewardship Pledge Card and making those weekly or monthly offerings are easy.

So, as we approach a new ecclesiastical year we ask that you prayerfully consider your future contribution. We thank you for your past and continued Stewardship commitments. You have made Holy Trinity what it is. And now, let us see what Holy Trinity can be in the future!

MINISTRY SUNDAY August 21st

Come on down to the hall for a special coffee hour where each of Holy Trinity's ministries will have a table set up.

Sign up, pay your dues, buy those tickets, and get involved in one of Holy Trinity's various ministries!

We can proudly say we have the most active Greek church in the state!
There is something for everybody!

Meet your Stewardship Team:

Sandy Meris – Chairperson	Charles DeMoss	Angela Koumontzis
Alexi Panagiotakopoulos	Thanasi Panagiotakopoulos	Costa Tzavaras
Adam Venetis	Paulina Watson	

+REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL+

Summer is coming to a close and the pitter-patter of new shoes will be heard in the halls and classrooms of schools all over. We know that our parents will prepare their Littles to come to school on that first day and we know how to make them stay day after day!

Rev. Economos Apostolos Hill, HTA Principal and Cathedral Proistamenos

Meet Father Apostolos, lovingly referred to as Father "A". Father A is a well-loved and respected member of the HTA family. The children adore him and he loves to come visit every chance he gets! We all enjoy our weekly prayer service in the Chapel, especially when Father brings his guitar! We are very blessed to have such a devoted leader to our Littles!

BIO: Rev. Economos Apostolos Hill is the Principal of Holy Trinity Academy and the Dean of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Fr. Apostolos served the Assumption Greek Orthodox community of Denver, CO from 2001 through 2012 before moving to Arizona where he and his wife Denise ministered to the Mission Parish of St. George Church in Prescott, AZ before being assigned to the Phoenix Cathedral. Fr. Apostolos has ministered broadly across the Greek Archdiocese, traveling to the monasteries of northern Greece, the Hogar Raphael Orthodox Orphanage of Guatemala, and to L.A.'s Skid Row on college-aged Orthodox Christian Fellowship "Real-Break" Mission trips.



A frequent lecturer, Fr. Apostolos has addressed students and faculty at King's College, Oxford, Ontario, CN and at Hanover College in Philadelphia, PA on Byzantine Music and Prayer in the Orthodox Church, and served as the keynote speaker at the annual Pan-Orthodox Youth Workers' Conference in Austin, TX in 2013. His extensive work in youth ministry includes many years of Orthodox summer youth camps in the U.S. and in Greece, high school and college retreats, and with the annual College Conference West retreats in California. Fr. Apostolos served as the Youth Director for the Southwest Region of the Antiochian Archdiocese and as a youth pastor in his ministry prior to entering the ranks of the priesthood. He and his wife Denise are parents of four grown children and are pleased to call Phoenix, AZ their home.



Juli Pritsos, Director

Meet Juli Pritsos, the director of HTA. Juli is a fun-loving person with a respected managing style and the energy of the children she teaches! Entering her 12th year as the school's director, she is a staple at HTA and still has as much passion and enthusiasm as the day she started.

BIO: After a successful graphic design career, Juli decided to pack up her portfolio and focus on her real passion—teaching children. Juli brings with her years of experience as a Sunday School preschool teacher and was the director of the Sunday School program for a number of years at Holy Trinity Cathedral. She served four terms as OPA (Orthodox Parent Organization) president overseeing the Holy Trinity Cathedral's youth program and continues to have a seat on the board. Juli continues to work with the Cathedral's youth on a regular basis and spends part of her summer as the director of VCS (Vacation Church School), as well as heading up the arts and

crafts portion of ASC (All Saint's Camp).

Juli went back to school with a focus on early childhood development and administration and brought that knowledge to Holy Trinity Academy in 2005. In the time she has been at HTA, she continues to teach, as well as fulfill her duties as the school's director. In 2013, she was recognized as a top director in Worldwide "Who's Who", and under her directorship Holy Trinity Academy has been featured in the national publication, "Orthodox Observer". Her art background combined with her training as a Music Together

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instructor makes her the right person to impart in our students a love and appreciation for art, music, theater, and dance. Juli loves working with children and seeks different ways to assist and educate her students in the loving, caring environment at Holy Trinity Academy, as well as sharing her experiences with the families who support it.

Juli is married to her husband, Chris, and they have three wonderful children, Katy, Michael (Jenni), Costa and a beautiful new grandson, Calan.



Mercy Peña-Alevizos, Preschool

Meet Mercy Peña-Alevizos, one of HTA's preschool teachers. 2016-2017 will mark Mercy's second year as a staff member, but she has been a HTA family member for years! Her daughter, Marina, attended preschool and just graduated kindergarten. Mercy is an outstanding mother and an amazing teacher with tons of energy and a smile that just won't quit!

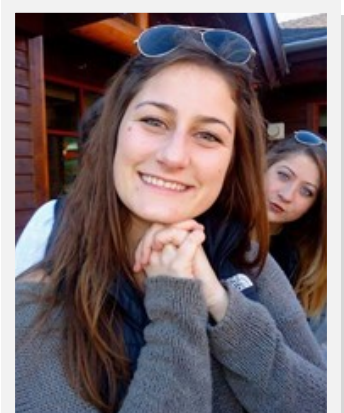
BIO: Mercy has been in the early education field for over 20 years. She has her AA in Early Childhood and currently working towards her BA in Education. During that time she has worked as a preschool teacher, a lead trainer for teachers, a Curriculum Specialist, a trainer for new employees, and an Assistant Director, and has fully enjoyed each position! Mercy has a wonderful family, her husband, Mike, and their lovely daughter, Marina, who attended HTA. They love to camp and spend time together.

Mercy has a great understanding of what is needed to help a child grow and understand the world around them. She knows how important it is for all children to know they are loved, valued, and respected. Helping them understand what they need to succeed is her main goal in life.

Jordan Normoyle, Kindergarten

Meet HTA's newest staff member and kindergarten teacher, Jordan Normoyle! We are beyond ecstatic to have her as part of our HTA Family! Her bio says it all and she has such a lovely smile!

BIO: Jordan Normoyle was born and raised in the Central Valley of California, but after visiting Holy Trinity Cathedral, she just could not resist picking up everything and moving her life over to Phoenix. After earning her Bachelors of Science in Anthropology and Geography at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, she realized that she could not deny her passion for teaching any longer. Beginning in the fall, Jordan will be pursuing her Masters in Elementary Education at ASU. This past year she worked as a tutor for elementary through high school aged students, which allowed her to hone in and strengthen her skills as a patient and encouraging educator. She has also volunteered in kindergarten classrooms since she was in 3rd grade and is so excited to get back into the swing of things. She has been involved in many Orthodox youth ministries, including orchestrating GOYA events, summer camp counseling at camps in California, Oregon, and Arizona, teaching Sunday School, Greek Dancing, and recently building homes for Project Mexico, along with many other fun things! She is beyond grateful to start her teaching career off on a positive path at HTA and to learn so much more from the students in return.



Costa Pritsos, After Care

Meet our After Care Giver, Costa Pritsos. This is Costa's second year as a staff member and we just don't know what we'd do without him! Costa gets along with both adults and children alike and with his dry sense of humor and cool-as-a-cucumber demeanor he keeps the staff members, parents, and students happily entertained and balanced!

BIO: Costa Pritsos is a native Phoenician and has grown up in the Holy Trinity community his whole life. He is currently a student at Horizon High School and upon graduation plans to attend an in-state university.

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Holy Trinity Academy continued from page 7

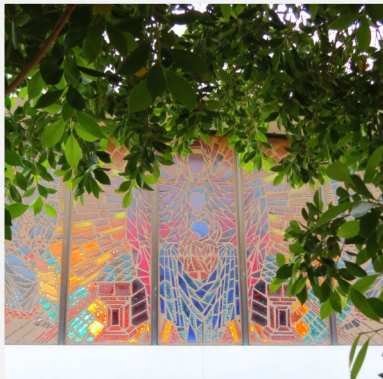
Costa is very active in the Greek community participating in Greek youth activities, including GOYA, Sons of Pericles, Greek dance, Sunday School, ASC (All Saint's Camp), and the altar. In addition he has been a camp counselor for younger campers during VCS (Vacation Church School) for the past five years.

Having attended HTA for his early education before finishing his elementary education at Scottsdale Christian Academy, Costa recognizes and appreciates the importance of a strong academic and religious foundation. Costa is very responsible and has a great relationship with both students and parents alike. He looks forward to continue as HTA's after care giver and continue to build and create new relationships with the students and their families. In his free time he likes watch movies, play video games, hang out with his friends, and spend time with his family.

For more information email me at julipritsos@holytrinityacademyphx.org or visit our web site, htaphx.org.
Become a fan at <https://www.facebook.com/holytrinityacademyphx/>



Cover Photo



Other than a possible glimpse through the trees when driving down Maryland Avenue, most of us usually see the East side of our Cathedral from the outside only once a year when we walk around the Cathedral building in the dark on Holy Friday, our path lit by candles.

The faceted glass windows can be seen INSIDE, of course, behind the altar.



Photo taken at sunset on the walking path that borders the East side of our Holy Trinity Cathedral property.



Photo by Kristen Vasilarakos



The lights from inside shine brighter as the evening progresses.



By the way, do you know why the panels are called “faceted glass” and not “stained glass”? Faceted glass is approximately 1” thick versus $\frac{1}{8}$ ” thick stained glass. And because the glass is so thick, the “negative spaces” (the parts with no glass) are larger in order to support the glass.

Photo by Paul Valonis

Pentecost Vespers

June 18, 2016



A long-time friend of Father Apostolos, Father Makarios Nganga from Nairobi, Kenya, joined in the Pentecost Vesper service, along with Father Michael Pallad of St. Haralambos Church in Peoria.

Father Makarios offered an inspiring homily.

Pentecost Family Glendi



[More Photos](#)

Sponsored by the Parish Council, the community enjoyed a delicious buffet by John Mitchell that included lamb, loukaniko, and chicken.



Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos



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

Your Philoptochos membership means... supporting Kids N Cancer, the Heart Fund, St. Photios Shrine, IOCC, Southwest Center for Autism, Patriarchate, the Wheel Chair Foundation, the Priest's Benevolent Fund of HTC and much more. We are the "community giving arm" of the Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Additionally, for our own spiritual family, Philoptochos provides scholarships for Holy Trinity students. Pascha vespers and adornment of the Epitaphio are additional commitments for our community projects and our budget includes supporting Holy Trinity Academy. Our Circle of Angels will visit and call the sick, hospitalized, and homebound. During the holidays, we visit and deliver gift bags which have been assembled and tied with *heartstrings*.

You can help Philoptochos in 2 ways:

✝ Join and become a member

✝ Support our functions / fundraisers

2016 Members Supporting Philoptochos Commitments

(Updated members as of July 20, 2016)

Alexandra Anagnopoulos	Sandy Annos	Sheila Asala	Jennifer Bilitsis
Harriet Chotras	Kathy Clarke	Connie Contes	Sharon Daniolos
Patty Davis	Margaret Dellas	Irene Demas	Mae Ducas
Katherine Fancher	Mary Fisher	Andi Furlis	Georgia Furlis
Courtney Frieh	Georgana Frieh	Niki Ganolis	Eva Goodman
Gina Graham	Chrissy Hauer	Bessie Hotis	Dena Kantaros
Julie Karoutas	Joann Karros	Cia Katsenes	Mary Katsenes
Katerina Kelly-Derueda	Fanny Kechajias	Cathy Keyser	Emily Kimmell
Matina Kokalis	Stella Kosta	Marina Kretsedemas	
Judith Lamond	Lea Linaris	Sandy Meris	Jean Miller
Edna Nicely	Chrysoula Papadopoulos	Mary Poulakidas	Juli Pritsos
Lyda Rabbitt	Jeannie Ranglas	Lois Sakkas	Dimitra Sampson
Kalliope Schneider	Christine Stamatis	Diane Starros	Christina Terzopoulos
Mary Louise Theodoropoulos		Kristen Vasilarakos	Argyro Vasquez
Terri Vaughn	Connie Venetis	Lexi Venetis	Catherine Wallerich
Eugenia Zannis			

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

St. Katherine Philoptochos

2016 Scholarship Winners

LOZA BROOK Loza graduated from Cortez High School, has been accepted to ASU and will receive the ASU “Dean’s Scholarship” for 2016. She was elected Junior Class President last year, followed by Student Body President this year. She was awarded the distinguished high school “Student of the Year” award at Cortez. She has been active in the Maids of Athena for Community & Team building activities. Loza has been a member of the HTC Choir and participated in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. She also received the Advanced Placement Scholarship Award. She served as a delegate to Arizona Girl’s State this year, is a member of the National Honor Society and was elected Vice-President.

ANASTASIA LAMBROU Anastasia has been attending Duke University and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She is currently finishing her Master’s Degree in Epidemiology. She will begin her Doctoral Degree at Johns Hopkins University’s Bloomberg School of Public Health in August 2016. She plans to pursue a PhD in International Health specializing in Global Disease Epidemiology and Control. During her PhD program, she hopes to work in Brazil to better understand and prevent the Zika virus while also testing potential vaccine candidates against another deadly disease, Dengue virus.

MARY PARDHE Mary is currently attending ASU in the Barrett Honors College, which is a select community of scholars at ASU. She has been a member of the Eta Sigma Alpha Home School Honor Society and served as President. Her other activities and achievements include the President’s Volunteer Service Award for community service, student government, St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, assisted with chanting for the Divine Services at HTC, National Merit Commendation and contributing author of the Visions Literary Journal.

GIANNA PESOGNELLI Gianna’s achievements include Society of Women Scholars, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Freshmen Mentor Program, Pinnacle High School Varsity Volleyball Team & voted Team Captain. She’s been a member of the HTC choir, Dance group and Sr. GOYA. Gianna will be attending Holy Family University, located in Philadelphia, PA, and will be playing on the HFU Volleyball team. She plans to major in Criminal Justice and pursue a career in the FBI and/or pursue getting her law degree.

Congratulations!

Hellenic Historical Museum

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

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 the relocation in 1973 to the present site of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

Open the first Sunday of each month after Divine Liturgy.

Contact Bessie Hotis at bhotis@cox.net for more information.

Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners 50+



Mark Your Calendars!

SEPTEMBER 8th, 11:00am

Welcome Back Pot Luck

James A. Speros Community Center Hall

OCTOBER TBA, 9:30am

Music Concert, ASU Kerr Cultural Center

6110 N. Scottsdale Road

NOVEMBER 10th, 11:00am

All Pan Orthodox Church Picnic

McCormick Railroad Park

7301 E. Indian Bend Road

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

All Pan Orthodox Church Picnic

Chaparral Park, 5401 N. Hayden Road

APRIL 27th, 2017, 10:30am

Trolley Ride and Lunch, Scottsdale Mall

MAY: TO BE ANNOUNCED



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

Diana Harris at 602-996-0113,

Doree Drakos at 602-993-0659 or

Nickolette Tavlarides at 602-725-8653

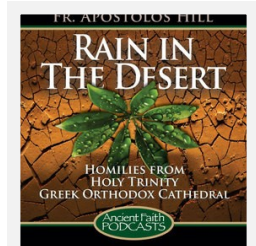
Church Office



Barbara Cope, Tiffani Bichekas, Lynn Graham, and Patsy Harris keep the Church Office moving along smoothly!

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>

Choir and Chanters



Back row (left to right): Basil Davis, Evan Alexon, Billy Tavlarides
Middle row (left to right): Chanter Sharon Daniolos, Doree Drakos, Mary Louise Theodoropoulos, Susie Papadopoulos, Patsy Harris, Tiffani Bichkas, Irene Pappas, Roula Kaneris, Marianna Kaneris
Front row (left to right): Christina Gardner, Director Terri Alexon, Father Apostolos Hill, Chanter George Duvall, Organist Terry Seretis
Absent: Monica Ashton, Greg Lizanich, Kathy New, Jim Thomas, Alexa Wood, Tina Zannis

AHEPA Chapter 219

 <p>AHEPA Chapter 219</p> <p>Congratulations to Mike Salzetti For winning the District 20 AHEPAN of the Year Award</p> 	<p>Next AHEPA 219 Meeting:</p> <p>Thursday August 18, 2016 6:30pm</p> <p>Assumption Greek Orthodox Church</p>
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St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

By Patsy Harris

Firstly, the staff at St. Nectarios Books and Beyond wants to extend a big THANK YOU! to parishioners **Kim and Jim Speros** for donating their time, efforts, and supplies in order to add a return air vent to the Bookstore and for providing our beautiful new sandwich-board sign! These two represent what is best about Holy Trinity Cathedral parishioners: when a need makes itself known, our Cathedral family steps up and addresses it! Now, not only will everyone know that the Bookstore is open, but they will be able to explore its shelves in comfort with air conditioning or heat as the season may be!

August begins with the fast in preparation for the feast-day of the Theotokos on August 15th. Just as the Theotokos is our protection and “ear to her Son”, so must each of us know and understand His gift of grace for us. We must follow her example and be good “parents” to each other, and to those we might encounter in our daily activities by being prepared to explain our faith in our One True Lord and God, Jesus Christ! There are many icons and books about our Blessed Panagia for your perusal or purchase.

Also, many of our children will begin to attend school once again. As you begin to think about what supplies they will need for the coming year, don't forget their most important “supply” of the desire and means to continue in their Orthodox worship. Come visit and see what might be just what will best suit your student.

Here's a listing of the Saints' and Holy Days for August:

August 1st – 14th: the Dormition Fast

August 6th: Holy Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

August 15th: the Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Theotokos

August 29th: the Beheading of John the Baptist

May we all have a good beginning of the school-year, and a good ending to the Ecclesiastical Year! If St. Nectarios Books and Beyond can assist in any way, please contact us at:

www.stnectariosbooksandbeyond.org

patsy@stnectariosphx.org

Patsy Harris – (480) 239-5270

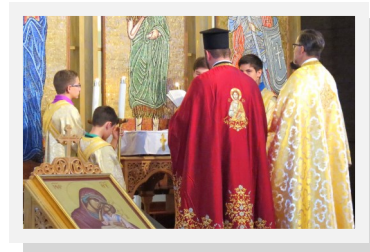
Father Matthew Gilbert and Family

Welcome Father Chrysostom

We were pleased to welcome Fr. Chrysostom Gilbert from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Manhattan to Holy Trinity on July 24. Father is the son of Father Matthew & Presbytera Denise Gilbert and offered the homily.

Father Matthew Gilbert

As you may have learned, Fr. Matthew Gilbert (married to our own Denise Bruskas) has been diagnosed with stage 4 non-smokers' lung cancer which had metastasized throughout his body before it had become symptomatic. If you would like to make an offering to help offset the Gilbert's considerable expenses, **please make your contributions payable to "J. Matthew Gilbert."**



Sunday School

By Kalli Schneider



Dear Parents and Members of our Holy Trinity Cathedral:

We are looking forward to another awesome year starting on our first day of Church School, **September 11th, 2016**. As your Church School staff, we are excited to see all of your children's bright and energetic faces and hear their beautiful voices as they participate in their weekly lessons. Don't miss our first day, as we have a fun activity in store for them! That same weekend as we welcome back all of your wonderful children to Church School, our community will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of our Cathedral! Sunday School will be participating in the "Visions & Traditions" celebration. They will not want to miss this kickoff for our new ecclesiastical year!

This year, as in previous years, your Church School will encompass the curriculum provided by Father Apostolos that he brings to the teaching staff every year during our training Catechism classes. This enhances the curriculum that is set for each grade by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. This year we will focus on the Bible. We will continue having our Godparent Luncheon in November, our 2nd Annual Christmas Pageant, the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival in the spring, and Lazarus Saturday Liturgy and Palm Cross folding with Pancake Breakfast. As your children's teachers meet in August, we will finalize our plans for a new program for Service to Others that will give the children an opportunity to help others.

The Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral's Church School program nurtures our most precious resource—our youth. We are aware that living in our modern day society the only place our children can obtain knowledge of our Orthodox faith is through our families, our church, our Sunday School, and our youth programs. Bringing your children to Church School is one way to provide them the foundation of their faith and allows them a stronger tie to their Orthodox community. Our Church School teaching staff takes this very seriously, as they plan lessons, plan activities, and are there every Sunday for your children.

Every year we meet to discuss how we can make the Church School program better, how we can keep your children involved, all while learning the word of God. We are always excited when our attendance is high and when our classrooms are full! Church School is not Church School if your children are not there to participate.

"...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever, Amen." 2 Peter 3:18

As last year, students will arrive for liturgy at 9:30am to worship with their families. After Holy Communion, the students will leave the Cathedral and join their fellow students to attend Church School. They will remain with their Church School teachers until they are dismissed at the end of class at 11:45am. Any changes from that schedule will be announced by Father Apostolos at the end of Divine Liturgy or posted on the front doors of the Education Building.

We look forward to new year with new experiences and new memories! Thank you for bringing your children to Church School... it is a blessing to be a part of their lives.

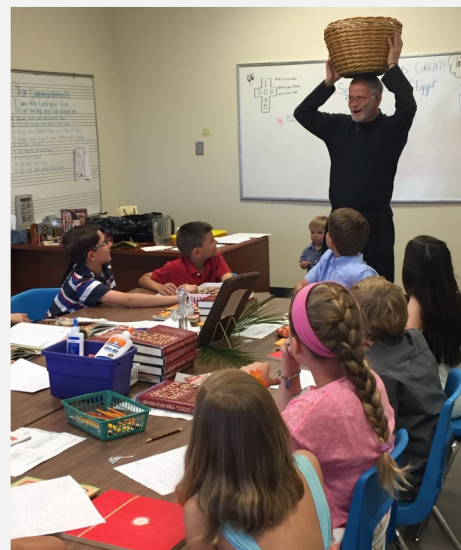
See you on September 11th!

Kay Ehrick & Kalli Schneider

Co-Directors of Holy Trinity Church School



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



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



7/3/2016

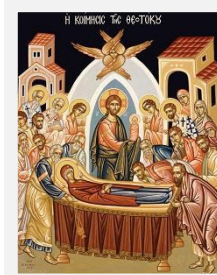
Iliana Moore, daughter of Lauren & Michael Moore

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



6/21/2016

George Georgacakis

May his memory be eternal.

6/23/2016

Pauline Kontsiotis

May her memory be eternal.

7/7/2016

Argirios Pestrivas

May his memory be eternal.

7/16/2016

Evangelia Carras

May her memory be eternal.

7/18/2016

Mary Jane Pilafas

May her memory be eternal.

7/29/2016

John Ioannou

May his memory be eternal.



Do You Have Photos or Videos of the 2015 Phoenix Greek Festival?

We'd like to see them!

Photo discs or flash drives are the preferable method to transport the photos or videos or contact Kristen Vasilarakos at

kvasilarakos@cox.net for more information.



Mark Your Calendars!

8/16/2016 6:00pm Festival Meeting (Lounge): Marketing, Raffle, Friends of the Festival, Signage, Brochure

Open to all. Who do we need to attend?

Anyone associated with marketing, promotions, social media, raffle, Friends of the Festival

What do we want to accomplish?

Marketing budget decisions, marketing plan overview, website, FoF, raffle prizes, new signs, entrance brochure

8/23—8/25/2016 9:00am Baklava and Kataifi Production (Large Hall) Open to all.

8/30 and 8/31/2016 9:00am Tsoureki Production (Large Hall) Open to all.

The dates of the 2016 Original Phoenix Greek Festival are **October 7, 8, and 9.**



Your Festival Chairs,

Nick Kretsedemas

Angelo Pestrivas

Kristen Vasilarakos

Dolmathes Production

Preparation for the 2016 Original Phoenix Greek Festival



[More Photos](#)



2016 Phoenix Greek Festival Meeting and Preparation Schedule

Updated
6/23/2016

	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
Jun 2016				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	1	2
Jul 2016	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Aug 2016	31	1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Sep 2016	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Oct 2016	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29

- **6/14/2016 6:00pm Festival Meeting (Lounge): Food and Beverage**
 Open to all. Who do we need to attend? Anyone associated with food purchasing, food production, kitchens, inside and outside food booths, baking, alcohol, soda and water purchasing/donations, bars
 What do we want to accomplish? Purchasing decisions, finalized menu, calendar laid out for festival prep cooking, current inventory count, donation requests, purchasing, bar lay-outs and construction, staffing and staffing responsibilities, festival week timelines
- **6/22/2016 9:00am Dolmathes Production (Large Hall)** Open to all
- **6/29/2016 9:00am Melomakarona Production (Large Hall)** Open to all.
- **7/12/2016 6:00pm Festival Meeting (Lounge): Infrastructure, Festival Site Plan, Vendor Site Plan, Permitting, Entertainment, Shuttles, Shuttle Parking, Church Lot Parking, Trash, Scout Duties, Hired Labor**
 Open to all. Who do we need to attend? Anyone associated with facilities, equipment, vendors, permitting, entertainment, shuttles, parking, trash, Scouts, hired labor
 What do we want to accomplish? Site lay-out, electricity, lighting, sound, vendors, band, dance, permits, category timelines, hired-labor accountability
- **7/20/2016 9:00am Koulourakia Production (Large Hall)** Open to all.
- **7/24/2016 Following Divine Liturgy Food/ Disposables Inventory (Kitchen)** Open to all. Who do we need to attend? Anyone willing to help.
 What do we want to accomplish? Count and organize on-site food and disposables.
- **8/16/2016 6:00pm Festival Meeting (Lounge): Marketing, Raffle, Friends of the Festival, Signage, Brochure**
 Open to all. Who do we need to attend? Anyone associated with marketing, promotions, social media, raffle, Friends of the Festival
 What do we want to accomplish? Marketing budget decisions, marketing plan overview, website, FoF, raffle prizes, new signs, entrance brochure
- **8/23—8/25/2016 9:00am Baklava and Kataifi Production (Large Hall)** Open to all.
- **8/30 and 8/31/2016 9:00am Tsoureki Production (Large Hall)** Open to all.
- **9/13/2016 6:00pm Festival Meeting (Lounge): Finance, Gate, Admission Tickets, Gift Certificates, Parking Passes, Church Tours, Bookstore**
 Open to all. Who do we need to attend? Anyone associated with finance, the bank, the counting room, cashiers, entrance gate, church office, church tours, bookstore
 What do we want to accomplish? Debit/credit cards, banking procedures, registers, entrance procedures, ticket and passes printing, promotions distribution, who needs tickets/baked goods/other in exchange for donations, church tours schedule and procedures, bookstore needs, any area left unaddressed, finalizing and implementing previous decisions
- **9/15/2016 9:00am Galaktoboureko Production (Large Hall)** Open to all.
- **9/18/2016 12:00pm Festival Meeting (Lunch Room, Ed. Bldg.): General Overview and Q&A**
 Open to all. Who do we need to attend? All
 What do we want to accomplish? Offer an overview of where the committee is at this point, what still needs to be accomplished, answer community questions.
- **9/21/2016 9:00am Diples Production (Large Hall)** Open to all.
- **9/28 and 9/29/2016 9:00am Kourembiethes and Crescents Production (Large Hall)** Open to all.
- **9/27, 9/29, 10/2—10/6/2016 9:00am Daily Festival Set-Up and Prep (Church Grounds)**
- **10/3—10/5/2016 9:00am Pastry Packaging (Large Hall)** Open to all.
- **10/7—10/9/2016 Phoenix Greek Festival (Church Grounds)**
- **10/10 and 10/11/2016 9:00am Festival Breakdown (Church Grounds)** Open to all over 18 (minors need to be accompanied by a parent)
- **10/16/2016 Following Divine Liturgy Festival Leftovers Sale and Buffet**
- **10/28/2016 Wrap-Up** First draft profit and loss statement due

Dates and times are subject to change. Announcements will be made through the church office and by email of any date or time change.

OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

By Sandy Meris, President

Because most Arizona schools start by August, our summers commence way too soon. As many of our Holy Trinity families return from vacations and kids come home from camps, it is time to regroup and prepare for the upcoming school year. Shopping for #2 pencils and spiral notebooks, new shoes, and backpacks and curbing those late night movies and thinking about dusting off the alarm clocks are on the agenda.



Where every adult is a parent to our youth.

And as we look to the fall, OPA is preparing our calendar for the upcoming ecclesiastical year, which promises to be filled with engaging and spiritually edifying discussions and workshops as well as fun and exciting activities and meaningful service projects.

We will also continue our parent workshops and social gatherings to bring our parents closer together and provide some fun activities for the adults as well.

So as we enjoy those precious final days of summer and begin to turn our attention to signing up for soccer and dance classes – let us also remember to leave room in those schedules for Church youth groups, Sunday School, Greek School, Greek Dance, Altar Boys, and OPA. These opportunities for our youth bring invaluable experiences and enrichment to their lives including life-long friendships.

Watch for more information in next month's *Desert Springs* for the next OPA youth event. Until then, enjoy the rest of your summer!

Do you get our 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.

Dance

After a nice warm summer, Greek Dance practices are back Sunday, August 21st at 12:15pm! If you have not registered, it is not too late to sign up kids 4 years old and older! Please encourage any friends, family, and loved ones to find Niko Panagiotakopoulos at Church on Sundays to get a registration form or reach out to him via email!

You can contact Niko at holytrinityphoenixdance@gmail.com. Please join us as we come together in our faith to pursue our love of dance, music, and the Greek culture!



Celebrating Father's Day

June 19, 2016



(above) Just some of the fathers that enjoyed a special Father's Day Lunch sponsored by Philoptochos in the James A. Speros Center after Divine Liturgy.



(right) Connie Venetis serves up complimentary root beer floats while her daughter Stephanie gets ready to enjoy one of the delicious treats.



Greek School

GREEK SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

Holy Trinity Greek School is looking for teachers to teach basic Greek. Please contact Irene Mackos at eirinie@gmail.com.



Visions & Traditions

Join us for an Evening Gala and Brunch celebrating 40 years of parish life and ministry. On Saturday, September 10, enjoy hosted cocktails, dinner and live entertainment starting at 6:30pm.

On Sunday, September 11, following Divine Liturgy, join us for a Sunday Brunch celebrating family and youth. For more information and/or tickets for both events, please contact Angela Raup at 520-276-8289 or email her at PhxTrinityGala@gmail.com.



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).

Lost & Found

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



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

Happy Ads



Thank you,
Paul, Terry, and
Dimitri for all
you do!

Your attentiveness, enthusiasm,
and skills are appreciated!



The Baking Leaders
always make sure
there is a delicious
meal provided to
all the volunteers
who come help.

Interested in *Desert Springs* Home Delivery?

Desert Springs Subscription

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

_____ \$15 for five issues (August, September, October, November, and
December)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

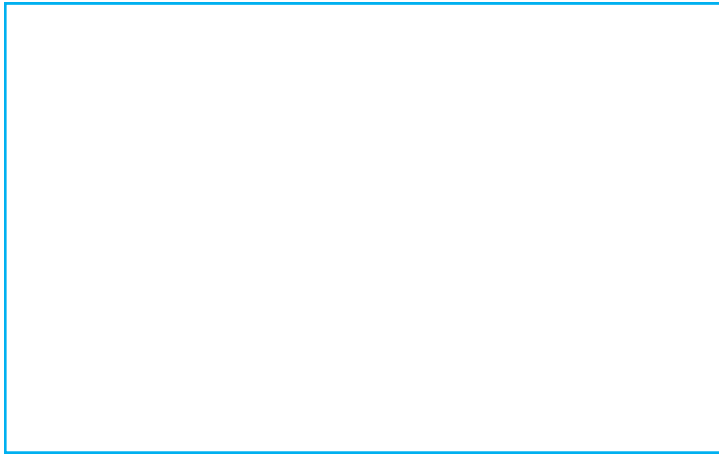
City, ST, Zip: _____

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) ___ / ___ / ___

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: _____

~ August 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Coffee Hour – SUNDAY SCHOOL	1 DORMITION FAST 8am – Matins 9am – Liturgy 6pm - Paraklesis	2 DORMITION FAST	3 DORMITION FAST 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	4 DORMITION FAST	5 DORMITION FAST 7pm - Vespers	6 HOLY TRANSFIGURATION 8am – Matins 9am - Liturgy
7 8am - Orthros 9:30am - Liturgy Magras memorial	8 DORMITION FAST 6pm - Paraklesis	9 DORMITION FAST	10 DORMITION FAST 6pm - Paraklesis 7pm – HTA Board meeting 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	11 DORMITION FAST 6pm – Parish Council meeting	12 DORMITION FAST 6pm - Paraklesis	13 DORMITION FAST
14 8am - Orthros 9:30am - Liturgy 12:15pm-2:30pm - Dance practice (CC) 6pm – Vespers at Assumption	15 DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS 8am – Matins 9am - Liturgy	16 6pm – Festival meeting (Lounge)	17 6pm - Paraklesis 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	18	19	20
21 8am - Orthros 9:30am - Liturgy 12:15pm-3:00pm - Dance practice (CC)	22 9am – Baking prep (Baklava & Kataifi)	23 9am – Baking (Baklava & Kataifi)	24 9am – Baking (Baklava & Kataifi) 6pm – Paraklesis 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	25 9am – Baking (Baklava & Kataifi)	26	27
28 8am - Orthros 9:30am - Liturgy 12:15pm-3:00pm - Dance practice (CC)	29 BEHEADING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST 8am – Matins 9am – Liturgy 11am – Baking prep (Tsoureki)	30 9am – Baking prep (Tsoureki) 6pm – HTA CPR/First Aid class	31 9am – Baking (Tsoureki) 6:30pm – HTA Back to School Night 7pm – Vesperal Liturgy for the New Church Year			

Calendar is subject to change.