

Desert Springs

December 2017
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Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
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Rev. Deacon John Thrasher

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

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Archdiocese Website
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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

Warp Speed



A funny thing happened to my sleep patterns after I reached 50 years of age. For no discernable reason, I find myself popping out of bed fully awake anytime after 4:30 in the morning and once my brain has booted up for the day there is no chance of drifting back to slumber town! There are obvious benefits to this during the summer months as I can easily take my morning stroll in the coolest part of the day.

It occurs to me that there is a certain dread logic to this pattern of sleeplessness in view of the ever-accelerating experience of time as one ages. That same day, week, or month that seemed interminable in one's youth shrink with the passing of the years as those units of measure are weighed against the whole of one's life.

In those rarest of days when I manage to sleep beyond 6:00 in the morning my running gag is "Why bother getting up at all?" But this inevitable change in one's experience of the passage of time bestows a tremendous gift on the discerning by underscoring the fleeting nature of time, the brevity of a human lifespan, and the potential each moment contains for positive action.

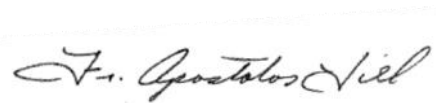
As we near the end of another calendar year, it is customary to reflect on the triumphs and tragedies, milestones and grace-filled moments of our lives. The year now ending witnessed the passing of many of our beloved parish family members, the births of new baby Christians, and many Spirit-inspired changes in our lives, both personally and corporately.

It scarcely needs stating that the challenges of living the Christian faith seem as chronic today as they have been in living memory. And in the trying times of life it is very easy for each of us to momentarily forget the goodness and wisdom of God Whose providence "rules over all" as Metropolitan Philaret's Morning Prayer reminds us. It is a curiosity of the spiritual life that God's benevolence is best perceived in the rear-view mirror of life and not through the windshield.

We cannot yet glimpse what new obstacles lie in our paths in the New Year ahead. As the Marines famously say "the only easy day was yesterday" and our life experience trains us to anticipate difficulties. St. Theophan the Recluse reminds us that we cannot, through a life, of ease, become what we are meant to be in Christ. Even the saints struggle and even Jesus sweat great drops of blood in Gethsemane before His Passion.

And yet, time itself unfolds the gift of wisdom for us and slowly convinces us that the same goodness and deliverance God demonstrated in our past can be relied upon in our future. There exists for us a place of refuge, a sanctuary, to which we may resort when the wind is fierce against us and the path becomes steep and rocky.

There is a shelter in the storm and it is to be found the Ark of Salvation God has provided, the Holy Church of Christ. Standing shoulder to shoulder as brother and sisters in Christ, our hearts woven together in Agape-love and mutual support through our intercessory prayers for each other, we draw renewed strength and fresh inspiration to trek through "valley of the shadow of death" united in our mutual faith in the Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! May our Holiday celebration be filled with this unshakable confidence!



Stewardship 2017

By Sandy Meris

Educate - Participate - Elevate

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men...”
Colossians 3:23*

A traditional American proverb says that, “God makes this request of his children; Do the best you can, where you are, with what you have, now.” The story of Jesus Christ feeding the 5,000 illustrates this through the boy’s offering of all that he had – five loaves and two fish. This boy did his best with what he had, and Jesus used it to perform an incredible miracle. Just like the boy who offered the loaves and the fish, if we offer what we have – however great or small our gift – God will receive our gifts and multiply them to feed His people.

This past year, you, our beloved parishioners, answered the call for help. The Stewardship Committee asked all Holy Trinity parishioners to increase their pledges. Our 2016 budget was set with a goal to reach \$360,000 in pledged offerings. But because of your faith, your love, and dedication to your Cathedral, you pledged a total of \$380,000! What a beautiful and faithful example of generosity.

This was the first step toward reaching the most important of our goals. That goal is that our Stewardship contributions pay the monthly expenses of our Cathedral. In order to do this, we must all dig a little deeper and reach a little higher. And so, we reiterate our goals:

- ◆ We strive for participation in Stewardship from 100% of our parishioners of all ages and all levels of involvement.
- ◆ We ask that every parishioner increase his or her 2018 pledge. Our hope is that you are able to raise your 2018 pledge by \$1.25 per day over your 2017 commitment. If every parishioner did this, it would provide the church an additional \$150,000 per year.
- ◆ Increase the number of our on-line giving Stewards.

Our on-line giving program is gaining momentum. More parishioners are enjoying the ease of this program. Simply go to www.holytrinityphx.org and click on the Stewardship 2018 button on the right and fill out your Stewardship Pledge Card. Then, if you so choose, you can automate your payments by selecting WeShare. In one easy step, you can become a steward and keep current on your contributions.

If you prefer, you can fill out a Pledge Card (mailed to you or found in the Narthex) and bring it with you on **Stewardship Sunday, December 3rd**. Either way, please prayerfully consider your financial commitment to Holy Trinity for 2018. Then on December 3rd, we invite you and your family to be our guest at a complimentary Stewardship Sunday luncheon as an appreciation for your generous commitment.

Thank you for your dedication to our Cathedral and your participation in Christ’s work of salvation.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, December 3, 2017

Please join us to break bread in fellowship at a **FREE** Stewardship Sunday Luncheon. This luncheon is to show appreciation for your ongoing generosity and commitment to your beloved Holy Trinity Cathedral.

During this luncheon we will ask that you prayerfully and thoughtfully fill out your 2018 Pledge Card. We will have Pledge Cards available as well as information about our 2018 Stewardship Campaign and our new on-line contributions program called WeShare.

We look forward to celebrating together on Sunday, December 3rd!

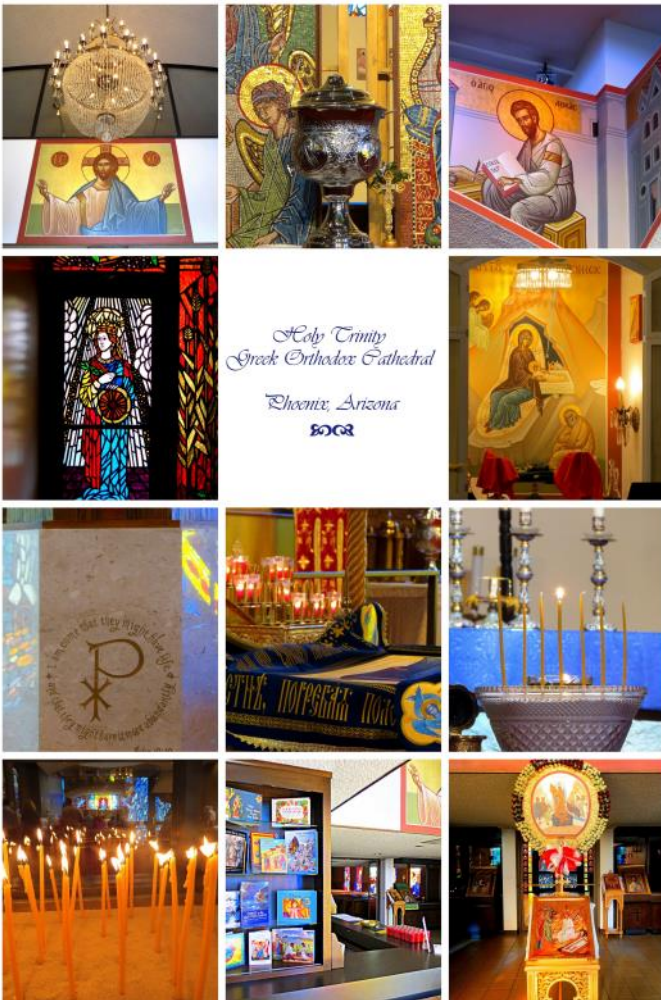
Parish Council

Connie Contes, President




Annual Budget Meeting
November 19, 2017

All 11 2017 *Desert Springs Covers*



ParishPay Is Now WeShare

If you were a user of our electronic giving program ParishPay, please take note of our **NEW** platform-WeShare  Online Giving (Liturgical Publications Inc). WeShare (LPi) acquired ParishPay earlier this year. ParishPay has transitioned to WeShare on October 9th, to ensure your information is up-to-date in WeShare please visit the website below.

Holy Trinity's WeShare Verification Website:
<https://www.churchgiving.com/?pc=vufieq62>

If you are not, we invite you consider it! WeShare is a way to automate your regular weekly offerings. Electronic giving is convenient for you and provides much needed consistency for our church. There is no cost to participate. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks per year or prepare 52 envelopes. Also, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this WeShare will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. Thank you for your continuous support!

If you're new to online giving and would like to sign up, please sign up at <https://holytrinityphx.churchgiving.com>
If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Church Office.

Follow Us on Facebook

The page offers news of our Parish Community, in addition to offering links to podcasts and videos of many of our services.

<https://www.facebook.com/holytrinityphx.org/>



Parish Council

Connie Contes, President

[Candidate Profiles](#)

Election for the 2018 Parish Council

27 November, 2017

James the Great Martyr of Persia

Beloved in Christ,

As we have now fully entered into the holy season of Advent, I pray that the Grace and Joy of Jesus Christ will be with each of us and with our families!

We are grateful to Almighty God for his continued benevolence to our Cathedral Parish as evidenced by the new faces in the divine services, in the new ministries recently launched, and in the upsurge in participation in the life of our community.

Our annual Parish Council elections will be held after the Divine Liturgy and through the afternoon until one o'clock this Sunday, December 3rd. I encourage you to invest the time and effort to make your voice heard in the selection process and to offer your prayers for the candidates who have answered the call to join our leadership team.

May the intercessions of the one who gave birth to God in Bethlehem overshadow and protect each of us in this beautiful and holy season!

In Christ,



2018 Parish Council Candidates (Alphabetical)

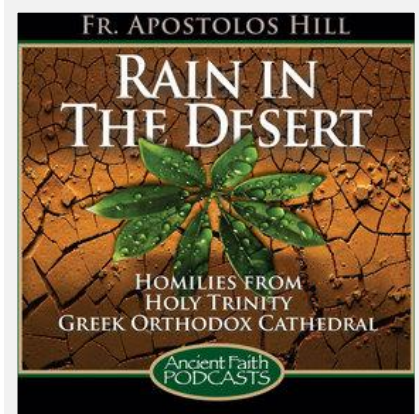
Tiffani Bichekas
Connie Contes
Charles DeMoss
Joe Goard
Jim Manelis
Socrates Papadopoulos
Jim Speros
Adam Venetis

Your vote counts!



Rain In The Desert

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.



CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS CAMPAIGN COMMUNITY CENTER REFRESH PROJECT

After 40+ years of holding thousands of coffee hours, luncheons, glendis, wedding and baptism receptions, meetings and makaria meals, our James A. Speros Community Center is in need of a makeover.

The purpose of this “refresh” project is to do a very basic and simple update in a few areas that will add the most impact for the fewest dollars. By completing these items, the Community will be able to continue to enjoy our Fellowship Hall and we will be able to rent it to a higher clientele and for more rental dollars, giving Holy Trinity some much needed additional income.

The items to be completed are the following:

- * Update Lighting and change to LED bulbs
- * Re-paint stucco
- * Replace carpet in Lounge
- * Repair Terrazzo floors
- * Replace draperies on the north wall
- * Install energy efficient window treatments on east wall of Small Hall

TOTAL COST OF COMMUNITY CENTER REFRESH PROJECT = \$15,000

And now, we are asking for your help! We are reaching out to our parishioners and asking every family to consider pitching in and making a donation toward this very important project. ~~And the best part is, we are already on our way to our goal!~~

Will you help us? Please join us in this fundraising effort! We will gladly list your family name in our running tally along with the amount of your donation. Simply write a check to: Holy Trinity Cathedral and put “Community Center Refresh” in the memo line. Please contact: Sandy Meris at: sandymeris@yahoo.com or Connie Contes at: connie.contes@gmail.com.



CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS CAMPAIGN
COMMUNITY CENTER REFRESH PROJECT

Thank you to the following who have already contributed:

- * Parish Council Members
- * Holy Trinity Academy
- * Philoptochos
- * OPA
- * Joanne Meris
- * Bette & Mary Maniatis
- * Bill & Jean Miller
- * George & Angela Scopelianos
- * John & Mary Katsenes
- * Jim & Stephanie Machas
- * Anonymous (3)
- * Andrea Katsenes
- * Nick & Dena Kantaros
- * Billy & Becky Tavlarides
- * George & Chrysoula Papadopoulos

Total raised to date: **\$6,850**



Music Ministry “Notes”

By Terri Alexon, Choir Director

In the midst of this advent season, both the junior and senior choirs have begun rehearsing special hymns for the feast of the Nativity. Once again they are joining the entire Sunday School to present the annual Christmas pageant at the conclusion of Liturgy on **December 17th**. Please make plans to attend with your family!

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 the *Desert Springs* or if you cannot 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

Have a blessed Christmas!



Holy Trinity's
Choir and Sunday School
present
The Annual Christmas Pageant
following Divine Liturgy
Sunday, December 17, 2017

Altar Service

Interested in learning more about serving on the altar?

Contact:

Chris Francis at battersbox7@yahoo.com,

David Haag at davidmhaag@yahoo.com or

Deacon John Thrasher at thrasheraz@cox.net



Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Alex Anagnopoulos, President

"FRIENDS OF THE POOR"

An organization where membership is an honor & a privilege.

JOIN & ENRICH YOUR LIFE!



St. Katherine faceted glass icon in the south wing of the Narthex.



Flowers and candy were at each seat along with the agenda at the St. Katherine Chapter of Philoptochos' November meeting.



Philoptochos is a philanthropic ministry and each meeting includes discussions on distribution of funds to various causes.

Artoklasia for St. Katherine Sponsored by Philoptochos November 26, 2017



November hostesses were Argyro Vasquez and Joann Karros, who offered delicious treats for everyone to enjoy after the meeting.



Happy Birthday, Argyro!



Want to join this vital organization?
Fill out the form below.

JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS 2018

We are the right hand of the Church! We would like you to know that membership to Philoptochos *IS IMPORTANT* for our community, the Archdiocese and Metropolis.

Invitation to Philoptochos:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: (____) _____ CHECK # _____ AMOUNT: _____

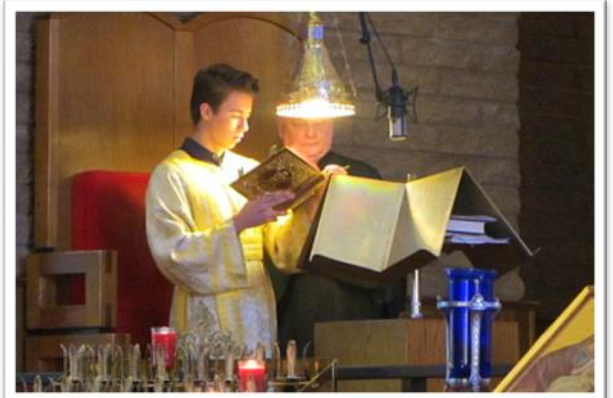
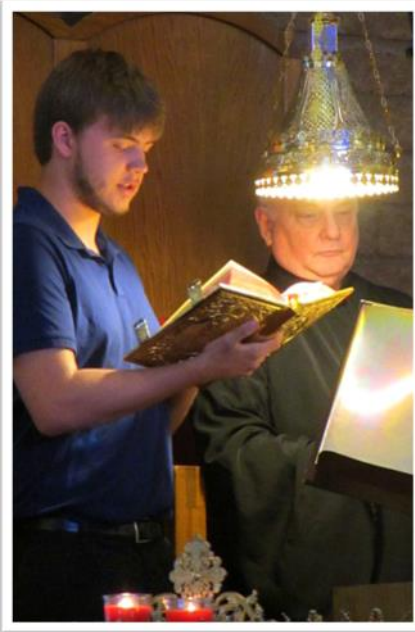
\$15 will be sent to the Archdiocese and \$15 to the Metropolis. **Any amount over \$30 will be retained for our chapter charities and obligations.**

Mail your membership to:

St. Katherine's Philoptochos of HTC Membership 2018, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016

Epistle Readers

To all youth and young adults: we continue our rotation of readers of the Epistle each Sunday Liturgy! Please contact Fr. Apostolos if you would like to get involved. Even if you might be uncomfortable reading, Father and others have offered to help you prepare. This is a beautiful ministry and way to participate in the life of the Church, so please consider taking part!



Videos

For your continued edification, there are weekly video tapings of the Matins, Liturgy and special services posted by Joshua Pardhe on **YouTube** and **Facebook**. Subscribe and like us today

<https://www.facebook.com/holytrinityphx.org/>

Hellenic Historical Museum

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 **group photos**, such as committee, membership, and board pictures.

A few examples on this page are the FDF photos posted at right, and the 2003 Myrrhbearers photo below.

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.

Holy Trinity Academy

By Juli Pritsos

Gratitude and Giving Back

As we approach the end of 2017 I am reminded how much we have to be grateful for. With each passing year I gain a little bit more knowledge to pass along to the Littles and their parents that hopefully help them to be kind, responsible, and loving individuals. I work with incredible educators that are passionate about what they do and share my same personal philosophy – to develop a love of learning that will last a lifetime! In addition, I am thankful that each year new parents find our little school and make HTA their children's home away from home. Our parents are so supportive and it truly warms my heart to hear them talk about HTA as a wonderful jewel they have discovered.

HTA parents Amy and Thomas Stern recently shared their thoughts on what a positive impact HTA has been on their 4-year old daughter Skylar. *“From the moment that I visited Holy Trinity Academy and met Ms. Juli and Ms. Mercy, we knew it was the school for our daughter. This is her second year there and her growth academically and personally is incredible! HTA is thoughtful about educating children in a way that is creative, loving and appropriately challenging based on their age. We've also loved being a part of the Greek community – we're not Greek ourselves but we feel like it's a perfect fit because of the joy and care that the community provides for our daughter. She loves her visits to the church and having prayer as a part of her daily routine. What stands out the most is that her teachers really know her abilities and it is a very child-centered school that's focused on the whole child. The projects and activities that our daughter works on each day have meaning and she loves going to school each day. The projects are also uniquely hers and they allow each child to approach lessons and activities in their own ways. I'm a secondary teacher and I trust and know that our daughter is building the best foundation possible at HTA. The class sizes are small and we know each and every day that our daughter is happy, taken care of and learning so much more than we could have imagined. We are beyond impressed with HTA and we're thankful to have found them!”*

While HTA may not have hundreds of families, the families we do have give 150% to whatever we

need from daily snacks to helping raise money for our spring fundraiser, **A Toast to the Future!**

This year **A Toast to the Future** will be held on Saturday, April 28. I encourage you to save this date as we continue to raise money for our HTA programs. In addition, we are choosing to give back by sharing a portion of our proceeds with long-time Holy Trinity Cathedral and HTA family, the Haugens. Brian Haugen served on the HTA board for many years while his four children, Aidan, Lucas, Zachary and Aleena attended HTA. Brian is currently living with early-onset Alzheimer's and the impact it has had on their family is monumental. While we are saddened for their circumstances, we are honored to bring awareness to this debilitating disease and give back to this wonderful family who has given us so much.

HTA will host an Open House for all prospective families on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 6pm.



NOW ENROLLING!

Learning and Growing Together!

We believe that a positive and successful learning experience during the early years of education forms a solid foundation for future achievement. For most children, preschool and kindergarten are the first steps into the world beyond the family; therefore, we strive to create a nurturing and supportive environment for the optimal growth of our students.

Holy Trinity Academy is a Christian parochial school located at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Our rich curriculum emphasizes a strong academic foundation that develops curiosity and a love of learning through the use of songs, dance, and a variety of hands-on activities!

- Licensed by ADHS • Small Class Size • Full Day Kindergarten
- Meets and exceeds Arizona state standards
- Fine Art & Gardening Programs • Safe and Caring Environment
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HOLY TRINITY ACADEMY

Accelerated learning in a nurturing environment

1973 E. Maryland Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85032 | htaphx.org

Sunday School

Sunday School Directors

Kalli Schneider at 602.568.3139 or at kalliopeschneider@gmail.com

Kay Ehrick at 602.628.8962 or at kehrick@yahoo.com



Godparents
Sunday Brunch on
the Speros Center
Patio sponsored
by Sunday School.

November 5, 2017

2017 Festival Photos



Photos by
Karen Gallagher
Photography

St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

By Patsy Harris

First, a correction from last month: I inadvertently left out St. Katherine's feast day of November 25th. St. Katherine (her name means "pure") was a teenager when she accepted Christ and was baptized. Although a member of a noble or royal family, she was seized in Alexandria during a persecution but at her trial she converted 50 philosophers, the empress, and 200 guards! She was convicted and tortured upon a spiked wheel before she was beheaded. "Na xerese tin eorti sou!" to the many Katherines and Catherines in our parish.

Now on to December! Once again we find a paradox in that as this month ends the calendar year, its most important holy day celebrates the beginning of Christ's ministry here on Earth! This is another example of how our life in Christ has no beginning and no end, but always IS, if we choose Him. May each of take the time to renew our faith and belief in Christ this Christmas season! St. Nectarios Books and Beyond has many books, ornaments, cards, and other liturgical supplies to help with this, and most are on sale this month, so do come and visit us.

December Holy Days:

December 6: St. Nicholas – His Apolytikion tells us "The truth of things revealed you to your flock as a rule of faith, an icon of meekness, and a teacher of temperance; for this cause, you have achieved the heights by humility, riches by poverty." Is it any wonder that this Saint came to be known as Santa Claus?

December 12: St. Spyridon the Wonderworker -- This Saint lived in the 4th century and was an illiterate shepherd. However, he memorized the entire Bible by listening to it! He was ordained a priest, then elevated to bishop, and attended the First Ecumenical Council of 325 A.D. where he defended Orthodoxy. Although he lost his right eye to persecutions, his well preserved body is at the island of Corfu.

December 25: the Holy Nativity – The celebration of this holy event was introduced later (around 200-380 A.D.) and was first joined with the celebration of Epiphany, the first and most glorious manifestation of Christ as Lord and God. The sermons of St. Gregory of Nyssa set the date as December 25 in 380, but many Eastern Orthodox still use January 6 (Epiphany) as the date.

December 27: St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr – His name means "crown or garland." St. Stephen was one of seven appointed by the Church to aid the Apostles by ministering to the poor. He was accused of blasphemy and stoned to death. (See Acts 7:57)

Have a very blessed month! Come visit and reflect on what you must personally do to follow Christ!

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

Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners
and their guests



2016 Christmas Gift Exchange and Potluck

Join us for Holy Trinity Desert Diamonds' annual Christmas Gift Exchange and Potluck on **Thursday, December 21st, 11:00am-1pm** in the Speros Center's Large Hall!

Fun! Food! Music! Festivities!

Bring your lunch contribution and your (\$10.00 value) wrapped gift and join friends for this event!

Desert Diamonds is for folks 50 or better.
Questions? Call Sheila: 623-680-8676

Koinonia, Young Adult Book Club

Daniel A. Valenzuela
602-228-4632
danvalenzuela15@gmail.com

Lost & Found

There are a lot of items in the Lost & Found after the Festival! Contact the Church Office for more information.



Our Church Family

Baptism

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



11/11/17

Penelope Antonia Samaradellis
daughter of Stergios & Nicole Samaradellis
Godparents are Anthony Magoulas & Stella Magoulas
God's Blessings be upon her.

11/18/17

Thomas John Alexander Giatron
son of Thomas Giatron & Ma Chawy Jaleco
Godparent is Nick Ketcios
God's Blessings be upon him.

11/26/17

Marco Athanassios Panagiotakopoulos
son of Thanasi & Melissa Panagiotakopoulos
Godparents are Stefan Fender & Anna Panagiotakopoulos
God's Blessings be upon him.

11/28/17

Nathaniel Lipnos and Emilia Lipnos
son and daughter of Luke & Maria Lipnos
Godparents are Adam and Erini Braddock
God's Blessings be upon them.

Weddings


"Oh Lord our God, crown them with glory and honour."



11/11/17

Philip Bard & Stephanie Alejandra Del Corral
Sponsor is Reid Bard
God's Blessings be upon them.

AHEPA Chapter 219

| | |
|---|---|
|  <p>AHEPA Chapter 219</p> <p>Merry Christmas from the Chapter 219 Brothers!</p> <p><i>Merry Christmas</i></p> | <p>Next AHEPA 219 Meeting: Thursday December 21, 2017 6:30pm</p> <p>Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral</p> <p>Membership Info: Contact Pete Marudas 602-284-1638</p> |
|---|---|

Your 2018 Desert Springs Subscription

Desert Springs Subscription

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\$3 per issue

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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) ___ / ___ / ___

Greek School and Cultural Program

By Irene Dartoozos-Mackos

airinie@gmail.com



Holy Trinity Greek
&
Heritage School of Phoenix

Greek Explorers explored the traditions of Christmas in Greece.

The Greek word for Christmas: "Christougena", literally meaning Christ's birth.

Merry Christmas in Greek: "Kala Christougena"

Happy New Year in Greek: "Kali Hronia"

Wish "Hronia Polla" on someone's Name Day.

Upcoming Name Days:

December 25: Manolis, Hristos, Christos, Christina

January 1: Vasilis, Vasiliki, Basil

January 6: Fotis, Fotini

January 7: Yiannis, John, Joanna



YiaYia's Kitchen Made Koulourakia



No School
December 20th and 27th



KOULOURAKIA

- 1 lb unsalted butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 egg yolks
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp almond extract
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 2 T warm milk
- 5 to 6 cups flour (approx)
- 1 egg beaten
- sesame seeds (optional)

Beat room temperature softened butter and sugar until fluffy. Add egg yolks, baking soda, almond, vanilla, and salt. Mix baking powder and warm milk in small bowl (it will froth up) and add to mixture. Gradually add flour until dough becomes soft and pliable, but doesn't stick to your fingers. Make small twists and place on parchment paper lined cookie sheet. Brush tops with beaten egg. Sprinkle with sesame seeds if desired. Bake in preheated 350 oven for 15-25 minutes (until golden brown). Don't underbake.

Li-Feng Griffin

Original Phoenix Greek Festival

October 13, 14, & 15



The Festival Update presentation made at the Budget meeting on November 19, 2017:

Although the official Profit & Loss Statement will not be completed until after the New Year, Tanya, the Cathedral's outside accountant, gave us a rough first-draft P & L created from the bank deposits and expenses – allowing us to confirm our Counting Room and Office deposits and our noted expenses.

Although there are a few outstanding invoices that we're still *waiting on* and some credits and refunds we're *working on*, we have enough information to start talking true numbers.

Before we give you those – we'd like to make a few notes:

Those of you at the Parish Assembly meeting a few weeks ago will recall the discussion about our Cathedral's Assessments. It was pointed out then that our Assessment amount was determined based on our Cathedral's total expenses – NOT COUNTING special events such as festivals. So this year, we rolled in some Fall expenses under FESTIVAL that were connected in any way to our event: pest control, sewer, kitchen maintenance, landscaping, electrical ... expenses off the Festival's net versus 18% towards assessments.

Speaking of sewer, we paid for a full flush of the system the day before we opened – only to have to do it again a day later on Friday night. An emergency call late-night weekend plumber. The plumbing in this building just can not handle the volume of our volunteers and workers, the elderly and handicapped, and the most likely many regular guests who've figured out over the years that we have indoor bathrooms. We're not sure what will be done next year – but please, if the entrance is nailed shut – don't pry it open and use the bathroom anyway. If the signs say "Closed" it's not "wink wink closed", it's really closed. This is a future expense that we WILL HAVE TO address.

What also needs to be addressed is our labor costs. Essentially, the tribe has spoken – so to speak. As a whole, our community is willing to let PAID labor do much of the not-fun work. **\$2,250**. That is the amount of money we paid out on the Monday and Tuesday – just two days – after the Festival when we had only two – TWO – non-leadership people show up to help break down. That, now, is a cost of doing business. We've been fortunate with the quality of our hired help, but with tax laws we're trying to be compliant with and paying fair wages, we're anticipating a hired labor cost of \$20,000 in two years. Let that sink in – \$20,000 just for the paid labor. To throw our three-day party, we have big-time expenses we all have to understand ARE NOW part of the plan. Our Festival is not a "hey, let's put on a show" and sell liquor until midnight and dance into the wee hours and count on donations and free labor to cover expenses. We all need to understand that with the level of expenses we are now assuming, that future total expenses numbers will NOT be below \$210,000. Just so we are all on the same page.

Our numbers:

We broke \$400,000 in gross sales. Yay! We should have a completed and official P&L soon, so we're only going to give you estimated and rounded numbers today.

2016's final gross was \$365,468. 2017's as of today is \$401,670. That's an increase of **\$36,202** in income over last year.

Our expenses are around \$213,600. That's \$12,481 more than last year. Leaving us with – and this is approximate as of today – a net profit of **\$188,070**. Last year our net working number was \$162,997 profit. Netting us – again, as of today – an increase of \$25,073.

We are on the road to increasing our net year-over-year. And, yay, next year's raffle!

But not to be a Debbie Downer – we are just one rainstorm-y weekend from this counted-on income going down the drainpipes. Pun intended.

We have a working breakdown of the 20 accounting expense categories if anyone has questions. Thank you.

Kristen, Angelo and Nick, 2017 OPGF Chairs

OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

Cindy Kyprianou, President



We received great blessings from our Metropolis of San Francisco on the weekend before Thanksgiving. The Interactive Leadership Conference took place here in our Cathedral by The Family Wellness Ministry of Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco. The Family Wellness Mission Statement is “connecting individuals, couples, families and clergy through the heart toward healthy Christ-centered relationships”. The Family Ministry team consists of Fr. Timothy Pavlatos (director), Pres. Victoria Pavlatos, Mr. George Papageorge, Fr. Jim and Pres. Donna Pappas, and Fr. Tom and Pres. Tsagalakis.

On Friday evening, Fr. Apostolos led a Paraklesis before the conference. Our youth advisors Evan Tragaris, John Schneider and Katie Dye, held an all youth event with fellowship and fun games to help parents participate in this important event. Mr. Papageorge introduced their theme and encouraged families to “face-to-face and heart-to-heart” to overcome our modern-day challenges. We then broke into small groups to discuss one memory from our childhood that speaks to Family Wellness. And Fr. Jim and Pres. Donna Pappas helped us to fill our toolbox towards Family Wellness.

On Saturday, we started promptly at 10am. Fr. Tim presented the Marriage workshop and gave us the dialogo prayer “Lord, love my spouse through me; let me love my spouse through You and be loved by You through my spouse”. Mr. Papageorge presented the Parenting workshop with “Raising Children with Emotional Intelligence”. Fr. Tom Tsagalakis presented Addiction workshop and advised on “when addiction hits home”. Fr. Tim then gave suggestions on how to strategically establish a Family Wellness Ministry in our parish. Pres. Tsagalakis finally wrapped up with a song, “Lean On Me (Jesus)”. All teachings based on Bible verses, Parables and Prayers.

OPA is truly honored to be granted this opportunity to help with organizing this enriching event for the Orthodox families in Phoenix. We had 55 adults and 36 children in attendance. We hope to use the knowledge and tools we gained to straighten our Christ-centered relationships with each other. We pray that God continues to bless the Family Wellness Ministry team with its great vision and mission. Please visit www.familywellnessministry.org.



[More Photos](#)

[More Photos](#)



OPA FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY
Saturday, December 2, 2017
3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Ho!Ho!Ho!

All Holy Trinity families are invited to join us for a **Holly Jolly** afternoon of Christmas Cheer filled with crafts, activities and fellowship!

The community center small hall and patio will be filled with fun and activities for kids of all ages:

Activities for All Ages:

Christmas Cookie Decorating (Please bring 1 dozen plain sugar cookies for decorating)

Christmas Cards

Ornament Making

Decorating the big tree in the Community Center

Hot Cocoa Bar

Activities for Jr. & Sr. GOYA

Decorating the inside of the Cathedral

Ugly Sweater Contest

White Elephant Gift Exchange

Yummy snacks and treats will be provided along with hot cocoa and all the trimmings!

St. Nicholas will pay a special visit!

Fr. Apostolos will regale the little ones with songs and stories!

Please RSVP or contact for questions:

Cindy Kyprianou docandreas@msn.com

Paulina Watson watsonapoulos@yahoo.com

Sandy Annos sannos@cox.net

Jacque Petroulakis cpetroulakis@cox.net



Maids of Athena #158

By Gabriella Papatzimas

The Maids of Athena is an international philanthropic and fraternal organization, and the junior auxiliary to the Daughters of Penelope.

The Maids of Athena strive to achieve the ideals of Athena, as well as promote the Principles of our Order: Sisterhood, Service, Citizenship, Hellenism, Family and Arete.

Here's what the Maids of Athena #158 chapter has accomplished so far this year:

- ⇒ In September, some of our members joined the Daughters of Penelope in the 4th Annual UMOM Walk.
- ⇒ In October, our members volunteered over 100 hours at the Original Phoenix Greek Festival which included volunteering in the saganaki booth, the gyro booth, the bank, baking with the wonderful yiayia's of the festival and performing with the dance group.
- ⇒ In October, 'Aphrodite Irene' raised \$150.00 for the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk.
- ⇒ In November, 'Aphrodite Irene' doubled their goal and raised \$1,000.00 for the Alzheimer's Association while walking to raise awareness.
- ⇒ In November, our chapter (with the help of the dance group) tied 40 no-sew fleece blankets which will be donated to Project Linus. Project Linus is a non-profit organization that provides homemade blankets to children in need at hospitals, shelters, social service agencies or anywhere that a child might be in need of a big hug.
- ⇒ The Maids of Athena are now raising money for two amazing organizations by selling bracelets for \$5.00/piece (pictures below). All sales from these bracelets is going directly to the St. Basils Academy which is a national not-for-profit philanthropic center of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Saint Basil's Academy provides love, shelter, food, education, protection and a home for orphans, children of chronically ill or destitute parents or children from broken homes. If you are interested in purchasing a bracelet, we will be selling them during coffee hour, or reach out to our president, Gabriella Papatzimas (<mailto:bella92@cox.net>). These make wonderful stocking stuffers!

Join Us! Are you between the ages of 14 and 28 with an interest in Hellenism, education, philanthropy and friendship? Check out the many opportunities the Maids of Athena has in store for you by reaching out to Maids of Athena President, Gabriella Papatzimas at <mailto:bella92@cox.net>.



Some of our Maids of Athena joining the Daughters of Penelope at the UMOM Walk



Some of our Maids helping the Yiayias package desserts for the Greek Festival



Our Maids of Athena performing at the Greek Festival



Our Maids of Athena shopping for our no sew fleece blankets



Our Maids of Athena raising awareness for the Alzheimer's Association



These are the bracelets we will be selling starting next week! Please reach out if you are interested in buying one or more!
\$5.00/piece.

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Maids of Athena and some of our Holy Trinity dancers with our complete blankets

OPA, continued

Upcoming Little Lambs Events:

Sunday, December 3rd
Play Date at Coffee Hour
(Subject to switch to the park weather pending)

Saturday, January 6th
New Years Celebration
4:00pm
at the Scopelianos' Home
1750 W San Tan Street
Chandler, AZ 85224

FDF 2018

Wednesday November 29th - 7:00 PM
Friday December 1st - 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM - Ted/Tasso's Group Musicians!
Saturday December 2nd - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM - Older Group Musician Workshop!
Sunday December 3rd - 12:15 PM
Wednesday December 6th - 7:00 PM
Sunday December 10th - 12:15 PM
Wednesday December 13th - 7:00 PM
Sunday December 17th - 12:15 PM
Wednesday December 20th - 7:00 PM
Sunday December 24th - Off for Christmas
Wednesday December 27th
Sunday December 31st - Off New Years

Any questions or concerns, please contact Niko Panagiotakopoulos:
npanos01@yahoo.com OR call/text: [\(602\) 469-2039](tel:6024692039)

OPA Board

President – Cindy Kyprianou
Vice President – Donna Manelis
Treasurer – Stephanie Papadopoulos
Recording Secretary – Denise Dye
Corresponding Secretary – Caroline Economopoulos

Assumption Church Presents...

ARIZONA BEETREAT

Saturday, December 9

9:30am
Youth (6th-12th Grade)
Parents
Youth Workers

Registration Opens Oct. 15
AssumptionAZ.org
Click "Be the Bee Retreat"

Led by Steve Christoforou, Director of Y2AM, and Christian Gonzalez, Young Adult Ministries Coordinator, this event is inspired by our Archdiocese's popular video series, "Be the Bee"! BeeTreats are a powerful way for youth, young adults, parents, and youth workers to come together in Christ.

Visit y2am.org/beetreats to learn more!

8202 E. Cactus Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85260 | AssumptionAZ.org



ASSUMPTION
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



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 Cjecomom@gmail.com or cwkyprrianou@hotmail.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).



Sample Size

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.

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: _____

~ December 2017 ~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 NATIVITY FAST 6:00pm- Youth & Young Adult Paraklesis 6pm – 8pm - Dance Practice (CC) | 2 NATIVITY FAST 9am-2pm - Dance Practice (SH) 3:00pm-6:00pm – OPA Family Christmas Party (Patio) |
| 3 8:00am - Matins 9:30am – Liturgy Tsakiris Memorial Kanelos Memorial Philoptochos Tray (St. Nicholas Ranch) Stewardship Sunday (PC Elections) 12:15pm- Dance Practice | 4 NATIVITY FAST 9am-Philoptochos Baking Set-Up 6:00pm- Vespers 7:00pm- Liturgy | 5 NATIVITY FAST SAVAS THE SANCTIFIED | 6 NATIVITY FAST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER 8:00pm- Matins 9:00pm- Liturgy 9am-Philoptochos Baking HTA Fieldtrip 10am – Bible Study 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed bldg.) 6pm - Sr. GOYA Youth Forum 7pm- Dance Practice | 7 NATIVITY FAST AMBROSE OF MILAN 8:00am- Matins 9:00am- Liturgy 9am-Philoptochos Baking 6pm - Parish Council meeting 7pm – Philoptochos Meeting/Christmas Gift/Exchange (Lounge) | 8 NATIVITY FAST 9am-Philoptochos Baking 6:00pm- Youth & Young Adult Paraklesis | 9 2:00pm – Walsh Wedding Rehearsal (Cathedral) |
| 10 8:00am - Matins 9:30am – Liturgy Meris Memorial Philoptochos Bake Sale 12:15pm- Dance Practice 3pm-Walsh Wedding (SH/Patio) | 11 NATIVITY FAST | 12 NATIVITY FAST SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER 8:00am- Matins 9:00am- Liturgy | 13 NATIVITY FAST 10am – Bible Study 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg.) 6pm - HTA Board Meeting 7pm- Dance Practice | 14 NATIVITY FAST | 15 NATIVITY FAST ST. ELEATHERIOS 8:00am- Matins 9:00am- Liturgy 6:00pm- Youth & Young Adult Paraklesis | 16 NATIVITY FAST |
| 17 SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY 8:00am - Matins 9:30am – Liturgy Christmas Choir Pageant w/ SS 12:15pm- Dance Practice | 18 NATIVITY FAST | 29 NATIVIT FAST | 20 NATIVITY FAST IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH 8:00am- Matins 9:00am- Liturgy 7pm- Dance Practice | 21 NATIVITY FAST 11am-2pm – Desert Diamonds (LH) 6pm – AHEPA (Small Hall) HTA Christmas Program (Large Hall) | 22 NATIVITY FAST 8:00 – Royal Hours of Christmas | 23 NATIVITY FAST 8:00 – Matins 9:00 - Liturgy |
| 24 EVE OF NATIVITY 8:00am - Matins 9:30am - Liturgy No Sunday School | 25 HOLY NATIVITY HTA Winter Break 8:00am- Matins 9:00am- St. Basil's Liturgy | 26 STEPHEN THE FIRST MARTYR HTA Winter Break | 27 HTA Winter Break 7pm- Dance Practice | 28 HTA Winter Break | 29 HTA Winter Break | 30 |
| 31 8:00am - Matins 9:30am - Liturgy No Sunday School | | | | | | |

Calendar is subject to change.