

# Desert Springs

February 2017  
Volume 2 Issue 2

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

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**Rev. Deacon John Thrasher**

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

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The 25th of each month

**Sunday Bulletin Deadline**  
Wednesdays, 12 noon

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Connie Contes—Vice President  
Dina Anagnopoulos—Treasurer  
Tiffani Bichakas—Assistant Treasurer  
Angela Raup—Secretary  
Charles DeMoss, Andi Fourlis,  
Sandy Meris, Tony Nicoluzakis,  
Alexi Panagiotakopoulos

**Holy Trinity Cathedral Website**  
[www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)

**Metropolis of San Francisco Website**  
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**Archdiocese Website**  
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Bible Study — Anthony Arger  
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Choir — Terri Alexon  
Dance — Niko Panagiotakopoulos  
Daughters of Penelope — Connie Panagiotakopoulos  
Desert Diamonds (50+) — Doree Drakos, Diana Harris, Nikolette Tavlarides  
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Greek Festival — Nick Kretsedemas, Angelo Pestrivas, Kristen Vasilarakos  
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HOPE & JOY — Karla DeLord, Alexia Haugen  
Jr. GOYA — Sandy Annos, Donna Manelis  
Little Lambs — Jennifer Kourouglos  
Maids of Athena — Gabriella Papatzimas  
Museum — Bessie Hotis  
Myrrhbearers — Diakonissa Mary Thrasher  
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One Spirit+One Vision — Charlie DeMoss  
Parish Council — Pete Choukalas  
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Sons of Pericles — Nick Petsas, Ted Fourlis  
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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

## The Context of the Faith

Among the priestly joys of parish ministry, the one I treasure most is presenting newborn babies in the Temple. With our own children and grandchildren dispersed across the U.S. and in Europe I especially enjoy that moment when I walk the baby into the Church and watch his or her little eyes gazing into the expanse of the nave as they behold in their purity the mysteries which we in our maturity can no longer perceive.

And beyond the customary prayers and refrains of the presentation rite I enjoy whispering into the wee ones' ears that they are now *home* in God's house! I have often remarked that a parish bereft of the joyous din of children learning how to worship in the Divine Services is a parish without a future. Better the innocent voices of children than the back-handed commentary and all-knowing critiques of the "seasoned!" In time, the children will find their place within the family of God and become attenuated to the rhythm of communal prayer *if they are provided that opportunity*.

Human beings are shaped for good or ill by the context in which they are placed. We tend to rise or fall based on the expectations set for us and the company we keep. And parents know this very well and so take great pains to guide their children toward healthy and positive friendships and associations and away from harmful ones, remembering as we do from our own childhoods how easy it is to be influenced by those around us.

Context requires a great deal of input in order to become firmly established. A child surrounded with engaging books whose family frequents the local library every week will develop a love for reading and intellectual exploration that a child denied those opportunities will not. Another child raised in a home where Greek is spoken and where the culture and history of Greece is revered and celebrated will develop an affinity for Hellenism that others may not.

It is no different with the Faith. In order for a young person to mature into a self-actuated and fully-functioning Orthodox Christian a "critical mass" of content must have been reached in the formative years, a point reinforced in a recent study which listed among the key determinants of adult faithfulness the robust family expression of faith on days other than Sundays in childhood. It is essential that we come to grips with this very basic and obvious truth about context and personal development.

Even as adults we may find ourselves struggling from time to time to bring order and stability to the chaos of our lives when we are long absent from our parish home and this is because context is being constantly formed and reformed whether intentionally or incidentally. Therapists understand that breaking the cycle of unhealthy and even harmful habits often depends upon changing one's context. Sometimes all that is required to facilitate healing and personal growth in a wounded heart is a change of scenery!

The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus Christ in the Temple we celebrate as February begins drives this point home for us! Fish swim in the seas, birds fly in the air, deer roam the forest and plains, and Christians gather around the Table of the Lord! It is simply what we do and it is here that our truest expression of the Faith is unveiled, in the simple act of coming together to constitute the Church and manifest the joyful reality of the Kingdom of Heaven wherever "two or three are gathered in My name."

And while consistency is essential in the creation of context perfection is not a requirement. Life happens and we may not be able to attend every celebration of the Eucharistic banquet. But we will all agree that when we are unable to attend we note the absence of the grace afforded us in the sacred assembly. All the more reason to redouble our efforts to prioritize and not to overlook "the assembling of ourselves together." (Heb. 10:25) Let us, then, take fresh inspiration from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as we celebrate His own Presentation in the Temple!

In Him,



# Stewardship 2017

By Sandy Meris

## *Educate - Participate - Elevate*

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

Our 2017 Stewardship Program is well under way! To date, we have received **198 Stewardship Pledge Cards** and a total of **\$242,647.96** pledged so far.

Thank you to all those parishioners who have already filled out your 2017 pledge cards. We appreciate your dedication and commitment to the Church. To those of you who are not sure if you've filled yours out or not, the list of pledged 2017 Stewards will be periodically printed in the Sunday bulletins to recognize those who have pledged and to serve as a reminder to those who haven't. So, for those who have yet to make their commitment, there is still plenty of time to answer the call and help us achieve our goals for 2017.

As a reminder, those goals are:

- 1) 100% participation from our parishioners in Stewardship 2017
- 2) Each family increases their 2017 pledge by at least \$450 over their 2016 pledge
- 3) On-line Stewardship registration and automated giving

We've taken care of Goal #3 for you... simply go to [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org) and click on the blue "Stewardship 2017" button on the right and fill out your Pledge Card. Hit submit and then, if you so choose, select Parish Pay for easy, automated giving that comes right out of your account. No more envelopes. No more checks. Or, you can continue to write checks and place them in the trays on Sundays. We want to offer multiple ways to fulfill your pledge to make it easy and convenient for our busy families.

And, you may be hearing and seeing more from our Stewardship Committee in the near future. We are continuing in-home gatherings to break bread together and promote fellowship while answering questions about Stewardship and informing our parishioners where we stand as a Cathedral and where we are headed.

We will also continue to send out weekly emailed "Stewardship Facts" with brief reminders and information about stewardship. As we continue to expand our campaign and give more depth into stewardship we hope new and exciting changes are on the horizon. Because if we can educate our parishioners and encourage everyone to participate there is no telling where we can go from here.

Online giving is now available. Simply go to the Cathedral's website at [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org), click on the **Stewardship 2017** button on the right, and fill out your **Stewardship Pledge Card**. Then, if you so choose, you can automate your payments by selecting **Parish Pay**. In a few easy steps you can become a Steward and keep current on your contributions.

**+REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL+**

# Endowment Fund

## + THE HOLY TRINITY ENDOWMENT FUND +

The Holy Trinity Endowment Fund was established in 1992 with an initial deposit of two thousand dollars. The goal was to build the fund whereby the interest and appreciation would one day provide sufficient income for the Church, to no longer be totally dependent on an annual Festival to supplement Stewardship income.

The Endowment Fund is obligated to preserve the donors' deposits, and those deposits (the principal), will remain **inviolable** and **in perpetuity** (forever) by the Church. The only withdrawals allowed from the fund (for the benefit of the Church) will be the income and appreciation of the donors' original deposit (the principal).

Over the course of the past twenty-five years, the Church has held steadfast to this, and thus, generous donors from our Church, desiring to leave a legacy in perpetuity of their family, loved ones, etc., have made (principal) deposits (over the years) of \$535,000. Those original deposits have grown to the current value of \$770,000.

The Endowment Fund has, over the past few years, returned to the Church over \$50,000 in dividends, and has applied over \$150,000 of appreciated value towards reduction (from \$998,000 to \$838,000) of the loan the Church had with JP Morgan Chase Bank. The loan *had* been carried by the bank at an interest rate of 7.25%, however, by transferring (in April 2012) the Endowment Funds assets to Chase Bank as collateral (security), the bank reduced the interest rate to 2.45%. This resulted in an interest savings of over \$50,000 per year while at Chase Bank. The loan is now at The American Bank and Trust.

The Endowment Fund is prudently managed by the Investment Committee of the Church. The Committee has directed the bank to apply some of the collateral's appreciation towards the reduction of the loan and for gifts that donors have directed towards special needs of the Church.

### **This is your opportunity to put your lifetime thumbprint in the history of Holy Trinity Cathedral.**

Please take this moment to become, like others, a part of this legacy by pledging your gift to Holy Trinity Cathedral's perpetual Endowment Fund. Gifts of \$10,000 or more will be separately listed along with others who have reached that level. Your pledge can be made over as many as three years.

Any gift, no matter the amount, will be combined into the General Endowment Fund, and will be greatly appreciated.

### + Gifts over \$10,000.00 +

Faye Boukas, Dr. Nicholas Baziotes, Koula & George Cheros, Connie & Jim Contes, Anastasia & Dennis DeBerry, the DeMoss Families, Mary Montague, Helen H. & Gabriel N. Papagallos, Tasia Pritchard, Dina Sakellarakis, Ann & George Souvall, John George Thomas, Joan & Steve Vrahas, Judith & Steve Vrahas, John G. Zannaras and four General Endowment Fund donations In Memory Of: Stacy Hotis, Danny Speros, Mark Sprintz, Milton Sioles

### + GIFT FORM +

Please list my/our endowment gift as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

Here is my/our one time General Endowment gift, which I/we may add to, of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/we wish to make a gift of \$ 10,000.00 or more payable, now \_\_\_\_\_, or over a three year period.

With this form \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Year Two \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Year Three \$ \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Donor, please sign and keep a copy for your records.

All gifts will be preserved in the archives of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016

+ We Thank You and may God Bless You for your generosity. +

# Message from the Parish Council President

By Pete Choukalas



Dear Fellow Parishioners:

I hope everyone has had a blessed start to the New Year. Welcome to all those who have become a part of our Parish this past year. 2016 was a busy year for all of us at Holy Trinity. A small highlight includes being blessed with a donation that enabled us to update and fix the roofs on the Cathedral, Chapel, Speros Center and all of the South Campus buildings. This was much needed and long overdue. We also had the retiring of Office workers Lynn Graham and Barbara Cope and the hiring of our new Office Administrator, Diana Camacho. We had the Visions & Traditions gala to celebrate our parish life and ministry and the honor of having His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos joining us. The interior Cathedral lights were changed to LED and the 2nd Annual Desert GOYA Lenten Lock-In was held here with Rev. Timothy Pavlatos attending to talk about the Family Wellness program. Our Festival was a great success this past year and our Chairs are making it better and more efficient each year. Father Apostolos launched the Parish Outreach & Narthex Ministry group. A new Stewardship Ministry was put in place and they have created great awareness of what Stewardship is all about and developed an online program to fill out your pledge cards. Stewardship is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace. It allows us to participate in the work of God. Giving is not a substitute for commitment – it is an expression of our commitment.

As we look forward this year, we will build on the Outreach & Narthex and Stewardship Ministries. We are currently working on improvements to the Speros Center and looking into campus-wide internet access. Ted Fournalis and Peter Bilitsis are putting together a team of volunteers to tackle maintenance issues here at the campus. They have been working hard to fix things themselves, saving the Church money. To name a few, they have already replaced the ceiling tiles in the kitchen with the generous donation from Philoptochos, fixed Cathedral and Chapel doors, repaired miscellaneous plumbing problems in the kitchen, and more to happen this year.

I can't give enough thanks to this Parish Council for their hard work and to Father Apostolos for his guidance. Also thank you to Deacon John, all the countless volunteers, the Ministries and the our parishioners who make us who we are. Wishing you all continued blessings.

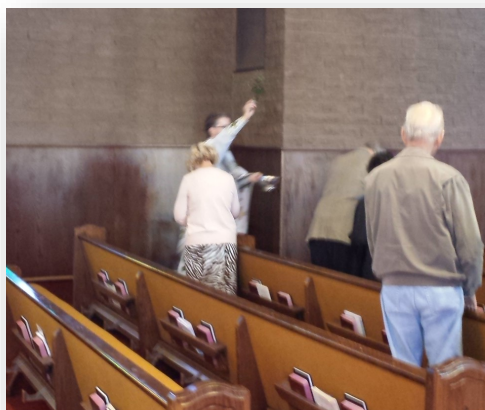
With Love and Faith in Christ,  
Pete

## Blessing of the Waters

Photos by Rita Papaspyrou



The service for the Blessing of the Waters on January 6, 2017.



# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

By Alex Anagnopoulos

What is Philoptochos?

The translation is Philo = Friend and Ptochos = Poor.

It is literally "Friend of the Poor."

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



## IOCC Hygiene Kits



[More Photos](#)

## Vasilopita Cutting & Auction



[More Photos](#)

Thank you to January hostesses  
Rebecca Barabatis and Lois Sakkas



## The Agape Dance to Benefit Camp Agape and Kids 'n' Cancer

Look for upcoming photos from Nick Maydanis.



Some of the dynamite Philoptochos women from the St. Katherine Chapter at Holy Trinity who helped put on the multiple-chapter event.

# St. Katherine's Philoptochos of HTC 2017 Scholarship Application

The Holy Trinity Cathedral Philoptochos Society will be offering **two** one thousand dollar (\$1000) scholarships to Holy Trinity Cathedral students attending college in the fall of 2017. Listed below are the eligibility requirements:

- Student and/or family must be a steward of Holy Trinity Cathedral
- High School students must have graduated in the spring of 2017 and attending college in the fall of 2017

College students may also apply as continuing students or in graduate programs in the Fall of 2017

Applicants must submit:

- A copy of 2016-2017 transcripts
- College acceptance letter
- A resume including school, church and community activities

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** May 27, 2017

If you have any questions or would like to contribute to the Scholarship Fund, please contact a member of the Scholarship Committee or Philoptochos.

Georgana Frieh 480-945-0800 or Mary Louise Theodoropoulos 602-943-5080

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

High School or College presently attending:  
\_\_\_\_\_

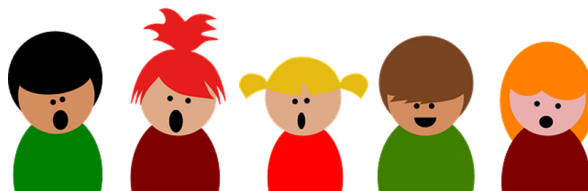
College(s) Accepted to: \_\_\_\_\_

GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

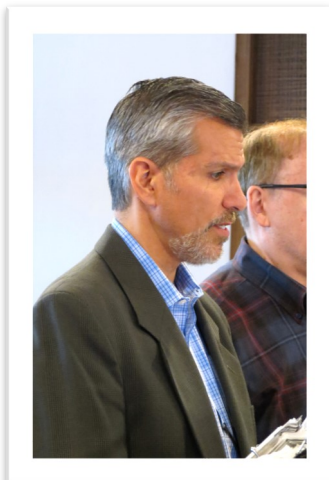


# Music Ministry

## Music Ministry "Notes"



*I will sing to the Lord for He has been good to me.*  
Psalm 13:6



The choir is blessed to have a new choir member who has joined the bass section. **Peter Vardalos** says he'd been thinking and praying about getting involved in the music ministry for awhile despite never having studied music or participated in a choir. Peter's interest in learning the hymns of the Orthodox church deepened during the time his son Ari has been singing in the Youth Choir and Peter decided to make the commitment. Most every Wednesday, he drives the one-hour commute from the Palo Verde nuclear plant to attend rehearsal while listening to taped choir music for extra practice. May God bless his efforts!



Currently, the choir is focusing its efforts on bilingual music written by our Protopsaltis, George Duvall. Also, the Youth Choir is working on the responses and hymns of the first half of Liturgy, which they will sing by themselves on the first Sunday of every month. Youth Choir rehearsals are held after Sunday School at the "piano corner" of the Speros Center.

For more information on how YOU can deepen your participation in the Divine Liturgy by joining the music ministry, please contact Terri Alexon at [htphxmusicdirector@gmail.com](mailto:htphxmusicdirector@gmail.com) or 480-233-2416.

## Parish Council Oath

January 8, 2017



## Narthex Ministry

January 21, 2017 Training Meeting



## Altar Service

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

# Myrrhbearers *Myrrhbearers Needed for Holy Week and Pascha*



2016



2008

We are seeking eight to twelve young girls to serve as Myrrhbearers for Good Friday evening, April 14th at 7:00pm and Pascha, April 15th at 11:00pm.

Girls in the 6th grade through twelfth grade, ages 11-18, serve as the Myrrhbearers that were present at Christ's tomb.

To prepare for these services, we will practice on March 5th, the Sunday of Orthodoxy, following Divine Liturgy (11:45am). We will also meet on Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt, April 2nd, after Divine Liturgy (11:45am) and Lazarus Saturday, April 8th after Divine Liturgy.

Girls should wear a white or light colored modest dress. A white choir robe will be provided.

It is a blessing to serve as a Myrrhbearer and this experience will encourage the young girls to continue to participate in their faith and church life.

If you desire to serve on Good Friday evening and Pascha this year, please contact Mary Thrasher at [thrashermary@cox.net](mailto:thrashermary@cox.net) and/or at 602-867-2827.

I am also seeking assistance with this ministry and working with the girls this Pascha. In addition, I hope to eventually hand this ministry over to a new and dedicated soul.

The hope is to expand this ministry at Holy Trinity Cathedral to include all young girls and young women to become service orientated throughout the year, to participate in the liturgical life of the church through various opportunities related to church and to maintain and preserve the teachings of the Orthodox faith.

Thank you.

Diakonissa Mary Thrasher

## Lost & Found

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



# St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

By Patsy Harris

February this year begins the “Triodion” time liturgically, or the time between the Sunday of the Prodigal Son (four Sundays before Great Lent) to Pascha or Easter Sunday. According to the Dictionary of Greek Orthodoxy, the name derives from the fact that during this season the Canons of the Matins contain only three odes instead of the usual nine. The odes of the Matins always correspond to the theme of the particular feast of that calendar time, so these Triodion odes will refer us to preparing for Great Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Pascha. These odes are rich in their content and very beautiful, so try to be present for as many of the Matins as is possible!

We all know that this period in our Church life is a time of reflection, repentance, and later celebration. St. Nectarios Books and Beyond can help us to better understand and therefore participate more fully in this the most important holy period of our Church. Come spend some time within the Bookstore, looking at the many icons, glancing through the many books, and hearing some of the many hymns of the Church. It isn't necessary to purchase something to visit us. While the Bookstore does provide for the needs and tools of Church life, it is also here to help us learn about our Orthodox Faith!

**Marie Spanos** sent in this month's book review of Ask for the Ancient Paths, by Fr. James Gurguis:

*Fr. James gives a clear and accessible apology for simply returning to what Christ's Church was always meant to be. With quotes from Christ Himself, he affirmed what I believe the Greek Orthodox Church has been and is and will be. (See especially Chapters 14 & 15) The Apostles and Holy Fathers confirm for us what Christ's Church should be.*

*I recommend this book to those of us who are Orthodox to strengthen our belief, and to those who are considering becoming Orthodox to help them decide. This book would be a good gift to the newly baptized/chrisdated from the nouna/nouno!*

Thank you, Marie!

**February 2** – The Presentation of Our Lord: According to the law of Moses, a male child was presented in the tabernacle forty days after its birth with a sacrifice ( a lamb or pair of doves) for the purification “from the issue of the mother's blood.” The purification of a firstborn son also signified redemption for all of God's creatures, both human and animal. Mary and Joseph obeyed this precept and brought the baby Jesus to the Temple where He was blessed by Simeon and recognized as Savior by the prophetess Anna.

**February 5** – The Triodion begins with the Sunday of the Prodigal Son.

**February 10** – St. Haralambos the Martyr: The Greek meaning of this name is “shining with joy, happiness.” Many mistranslations of the name exist so that the English names of Harry, Robert, Bobby, and even Clarence (closest to the Greek in meaning) are all used. St. Haralambos was a priest of a tiny community in Asia Minor who was noticed by the pagan governor, who then demanded that St. Haralambos deny Christianity or be punished. The Saint refused, suffered great torture, and was martyred in 192 A.D.

**February 17** – St. Theodore the Tyro: The name means “gift of God.” There are many saints named Theodore and I wasn't able to find much about this one, except that as a Martyr he refused to deny Christ. Anyone know any more to share with us?

**February 27** – Great Lent begins, following Forgiveness (also Cheesefare) Sunday. Lent is a time of preparing for the Passion and Pascha. It is a time for penitence, spiritual growth and illumination, fighting against temptation, and fasting. The ‘forty’ days commemorate the forty years of Israel's wandering in the wilderness and the forty days Jesus spent in the desert being tempted by Satan.

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

[www.stnectariosbooksandbeyond.org](http://www.stnectariosbooksandbeyond.org) or [patsy@stnectariosphx.org](mailto:patsy@stnectariosphx.org)

Patsy Harris – (480) 239-5270

# Our Church Family

## Baptism

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

1/7/2017

Iliana Christine, daughter of Lauren Elizabeth & Michael Philip Moore,  
Godmother is Joanne Wilson  
*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

1/17/2017

Peter G. Kokalis  
*May his memory be eternal.*

# Maintenance Committee

Do you have time, talent or treasure to assist the newly formed Maintenance Committee? If so, we could use your help! We are looking for anyone who can assist us with upcoming projects, whether it's your time, talent or treasure. The Maintenance Committee has been very busy lately and we have many projects still to complete. Recently we had the kitchen hood, vents, ovens, cooking equipment, shelves and the flooring under all the equipment cleaned. Special thanks to AHEPA Chapter 219 and the Sons of Pericles Chapter 283 for donating the treasure to get the ovens and cooking equipment cleaned. Paul Valonis thoroughly cleaned all the walls in the kitchen! This was back- and knee-breaking work, but he got it done. Thank you, Paul!

Please contact Ted Furlis at 602-625-8835 or Peter Bilitsis at 602-317-7780 to find out what we are up to next or how to participate in the committee needs. Thank you.

Ted & Peter



# Tell Us Something Good

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



Pamela Maydanis for her many years donation of *all* the champagne for the annual Philoptochos Sweetheart Brunch!

Thank you!

We are always pleased to welcome Fr. Chrysostom Gilbert from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Manhattan to Holy Trinity Cathedral.



## Your Desert Springs Subscription—Time to Renew!

### *Desert Springs* Subscription

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

\$3 per issue

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

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 for 10 remaining issues

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, ST, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to the Church Office or contact Kristen at 602-332-8809 or [kvasilarakos@cox.net](mailto:kvasilarakos@cox.net) for more information.

Office use: Payment received on (date) \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

# Hellenic Historical Museum

## Ready for Phase 2!

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

Now, the Museum is looking for photos taken after 1973. That covers a lot, we know. So to start, we are looking for **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.



(left to right) Reni Miers, Georgi Vasilis, Roni Tropea, Panagiota Terzis, Stacy Deligiannis, Elizabeth Bluff, Constantina Kondylis, Jenny Papadopoulos

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](mailto:bhotis@cox.net) for more information.

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

Holy Trinity Cathedral is sending two groups to FDF (Faith Dance Fellowship) in a few weeks. Here's a look back at 1988 and Asteria's first place finish.



(left to right) Olga Frederickson, Stefani Nicoluzakis, Caroline Maydanis, Paulina Pestrivas, Dimitra Hotis, Stephan Mackos



(left to right) Gus Thomas, Jonathan Stamatis, Steven Nicoluzakis, John Anagnopoulos, Ted Theodoropoulos, Angelo Pestrivas, Stephan Mackos



The girls on stage.

# Hellenic Historical Museum



Thank you to Connie & Jim Contes for the donation of a commemorative spade used in the ceremony celebrating the new Education and Office Building on April 1, 1962.

## Epistle Readers

To all youth and young adults – we have begun our rotation of readers for 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!



## Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners 50+  
and their guests



February's Activity:

Tuesday, **February 14th**, 2017, 11:00am  
Valentine's Lunch  
Original Breakfast Restaurant  
13623 E. Thunderbird Road (SE of 32nd Street & Thunderbird Road)  
R.S.V.P. by Sunday, February 12th

**Any February birthdays? Let us know!**

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

Diana Harris at 602-996-0113, Doree Drakos at 602-993-0659 or Nickolette Tavlarides at 602-725-8653

## Holy Trinity Academy

Visit HTA's [Facebook](#) page to view photos and videos celebrating School Choice made by the students and families attending Holy Trinity Academy.



# Greek School

By Irene Dartoozos-Mackos  
[eirinie@gmail.com](mailto:eirinie@gmail.com)



## Holy Trinity Greek & Heritage School of Phoenix

Greek and Heritage School Annual Vasilopita Cutting  
One of the most beautiful and inspirational traditions with any Greek home is the vasilopita cutting.



The name "βασιλόπιτα" comes from βασιλεύς 'king' + πίτα 'pie', but was reinterpreted as Saint Basil's (Βασίλειος) cake.

Fr. Hill read the prayer for the Vasilopita while the students watched awaiting the first cut. The students of the Greek & Heritage School enjoyed the traditional Greek vasilopita story, cutting and making of the traditional sweet bread.

Και του χρόνου!



February 15th—Heritage School: Discussion of Kyria Sarakosti

February 17th—Happy Name Day to Theodoris, Theodore, Theo, Theodora and more!

February 27th—**Clean Monday** (Καθαρά Δευτέρα)

Clean Monday is a public holiday in Greece and Cyprus, where it is celebrated with outdoor excursions, the consumption of shellfish and other fasting food, and a special kind of bread, baked "lagana" (**Greek**: λαγάνα), and the widespread custom of flying kites.

Warm wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year from Holy Trinity Greek & Heritage School.



# OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

By Sandy Meris, President



## Good Luck, Dancers!

We want to wish our dancers the best of luck who are traveling to San Diego for FDF later this month. About 50 dancers will represent Holy Trinity this year, making up two dance groups. They have been hard at work for months practicing and preparing their dances and songs. Musicians from Greece will provide their live music for their performances.

A huge thank you to our dance director **Niko Panagiotakopoulos** who has coordinated everything from practices to fundraising. A thank you also to the instructors for their countless hours of dedication: **Chris Fredericksen, Evan Tsagaris, Ted Kyriacou and Tasso Annos**. Thanks to the costume coordinator **Sandy Annos** who sees that every dancer looks impeccable. And thanks to the parents who help with every single detail behind the scenes from driving their kids to and from practices, to helping with fundraising, serving coffee, and sewing and washing costumes.

It takes a herculean effort to coordinate every last detail that is involved in getting these kids to FDF. These kids represent Holy Trinity with grace and dignity every single year at what is the largest gathering of Greek Orthodox youth in the entire USA. Not to mention, the crown jewel of youth conferences in the San Francisco Diocese. And these are the same kids who serve as an integral part of our Festival's dance performances. They attend church and Sunday School, youth groups, as well as keep up their grades, play sports or other after school activities, and even hold down jobs. We are already proud of them and pray that they enjoy a successful trip and enjoy fun and fellowship at FDF.



Omilos at practice



Terri Vaughn serves soup at the annual Soup & Salad Luncheon.



Voanerges



Omilos dancers goof off for the camera.

## Hope & JOY Bowling

By Karla DeLord

On Saturday, January 21st the Hope & JOY group went roller skating. Many of the kids had not roller skated before, so the parents had fun reliving their youth and showing them how it was done! The kids got the hang of it, though, and asked if they could go again (as did some of the parents.) It was a great time!



## GOYA

Thank you to everyone who participated in Miracle League—it was truly a beautiful experience! Save the date for Saturday, February 25th, for our next event, and for our Lenten Retreat, March 31st-April 1st!

**RSVP to Sandy Meris:** [602-525-0345](tel:602-525-0345) or [sandymeris@yahoo.com](mailto:sandymeris@yahoo.com).

*If you are interested in getting involved with GOYA, please contact Evan Tsagaris: [etsagaris89@gmail.com](mailto:etsagaris89@gmail.com).*

## February Youth Group Calendar

2/16-2/20—FDF in San Diego

2/25—Hope & JOY Activity (Save the Date)

2/25—Jr. & Sr. GOYA Activity (Save the Date)

## Parent Workshop on 3/31 at the Lenten Retreat

We are thrilled George Papageorge will join our Lenten Retreat on March 31 to lead a parent workshop from 7:30-9:30 pm in the Holy Trinity Cathedral Education Building. George is a licensed psychotherapist, specializing in marriage and family counseling, and a popular seminar speaker who is in high demand nationwide. To learn more about George please visit the Family Wellness website at <http://www.familywellnessministry.org/our-team/>.

But wait, there is more! George will return to Holy Trinity November 17-18th for the Southwest Region Interactive Leadership Conference. The goals of the conference are:

- to meet the entire [Family Wellness Ministry Team](#) face to face and to learn more about this new and dynamic ministry—and how you can be a part of it
- the Family Wellness Ministry Team will share the vision of this vital ministry through interactive workshops on topics within their areas of expertise, such as parenting, marriage and addiction.
- model ways on how to incorporate *family wellness* in your parish and offer concrete suggestions on how to build a family wellness ministry within your church community.
- offer an opportunity to connect and collaborate with others in your region—those who also have a heart for Family Wellness Ministry within the Orthodox Church.

To learn more, please access the Conference brochure at <http://www.familywellnessministry.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/FWM-Conference-Brochure-2017.pdf>

# YAL (Young Adult League)


Submitted by Stephanie Venetis

The YAL (Young Adult League) has already been busier than ever this year. We've done extreme bowling, mini-golf, dinners, Bible study classes, volunteered many hours in their Orthodox churches... the list goes on—and the year has just begun!

If you're an Orthodox Christian in your 20s or 30s and looking to get more involved in your Church community, and would like to meet other Orthodox Christians throughout the Valley, the YAL is your place. If interested, contact Stephanie Venetis at [stephanie.venetis@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.venetis@gmail.com).



## AHEPA Chapter 219

 **Phoenix Chapter 219**

**Chapter 219 Member Awards Night Dinner**

Thursday, February 16, 2017

6:00-7:00 Open Bar  
7:00-8:00 Dinner  
8:15-9:00 Awards

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
James A Speros Community Center

\$75 per couple or \$40 per individual

**AHEPA Brothers please RSVP by February 11**

Costa: 602-999-9819 or Pete: 602-284-1638

# Daughters of Penelope

**Daughters of Penelope Picnic**

**Panigiri**

Saturday, March 4th 3:00 – 8:00 pm

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

1973 East Maryland Ave.

Bring your Picnic Blankets or reserve a Table!

Kite Flying ~ Inflatable Jumper ~ Dodgeball

Basketball ~ Tavli ~ Cornhole

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Pasta Dinner ~ Salad ~ Loukoumades

Make your own Sundaes & Frappe!

\$15 Adults - \$10 children 4-10

No host Beer & Wine

Greek Dancing after dinner

For tickets Call (602) 931-5737

# OPA Email List

## Do you get OPA emails?

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

# 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](mailto:OCF@StDemTucson.org) or 520-247-1053. We're also on [facebook.com/OCFTucson](https://www.facebook.com/OCFTucson).

# Stewardship Envelopes

Pre-printed Stewardship envelopes are available for pick up after services or from the Church Office.

# All Saints Camp

## All Saints Orthodox Summer Camp

ASC is pleased to announce that **REGISTRATION FOR 2017 IS OPEN!**

For those who have participated in the past--you know what a beautiful, fun, and transformative experience this can be. For those who haven't--ask someone who has been to see what you've been missing out on! Also, the first five campers to register will receive a discount!

*For more information about registration and staff applications, please visit our website:*

[AllSaintsCampArizona.org](http://AllSaintsCampArizona.org).

See you this summer!



# 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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

~ February 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>Coffee Hour – HTA</b>	<b>1</b> 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg) 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice 7pm-9pm – Dance Practice	<b>2</b> <b>PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD</b> 7pm – Philoptochos meeting (Lounge)	<b>3</b> 6pm-9pm – Dance Musician Workshop (LH)	<b>4</b> 9am-6pm – Dance Musician Workshop (LH) 7pm-11pm – Dance Fundraiser Glendi
<b>5</b> <b>SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE TRIODION BEGINS</b> 8am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy Chris Veremis- 1 Yr. Memorial Youth Choir Rehearsal (Immediately following Sunday School in CC at "Piano Corner") 12:15pm-4pm – Dance Musician Workshop (LH)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6pm-10pm – Dance Dress Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg) 7pm – HTA Board meeting 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>ST. HARALAMBOS</b>	<b>11</b> 10am –Philoptochos Valentine Brunch Set-up 11am-3pm –Dance Practice (Small Hall)
<b>12</b> <b>SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON</b> 8am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy Peter G. Kokalis – 40 Day Memorial Charles J. Speros – 1 Yr. Memorial Youth Choir Rehearsal (Immediately following Sunday School in CC at "Piano Corner") Philoptochos Valentine Brunch 4pm-5pm –Dance Practice (Small Hall)	<b>13</b> No HTA 6pm-8:30pm-Dance Practice (Small Hall)	<b>14</b> 11am – Desert Diamonds Valentine's Day Lunch (Matt's Big Breakfast)	<b>15</b> 10am – Bible Study (Ed Bldg. Café) 10am-6pm –AHEPA Awards Night Set-Up HTA Field Trip 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg) <b>6pm – Paraklesis</b> 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	<b>16</b> 2pm – AHEPA Kitchen Use 6pm – AHEPA Awards Night (LH) FDF	<b>17</b> <b>ST. THEODORE</b> No HTA FDF	<b>18</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> SATURDAY OF THE SOULS</b> FDF
<b>19</b> <b>JUDGEMENT SUNDAY (MEATFARE)</b> 8am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy No Sunday School Youth Choir Rehearsal (CC at "Piano Corner") FDF	<b>20</b> <b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b> No HTA FDF	<b>21</b> 6pm – PC Meeting (Conference Room)	<b>22</b> 10am – Bible Study (Ed Bldg. Café) 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg) <b>6pm – Paraklesis</b> 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> SATURDAY OF THE SOULS</b> 8am – Matins 9am – Liturgy
<b>26</b> <b>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY (CHEESEFARE)</b> 8:00am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy Youth Choir Rehearsal (Immediately following Sunday School in CC at "Piano Corner") 7pm - Forgiveness Vespers	<b>27</b> <b>CLEAN MONDAY</b> 6pm - Compline	<b>28</b> 6pm - Compline				

Calendar is subject to change.