

Desert Springs

August 2017
Volume 2 Issue 7

I am come that they might have life, &
that they might have it more abundantly.

John 10:10

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

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

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The 25th of each month

Sunday Bulletin Deadline
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Connie Contes—President
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Dina Anagnopoulos—Treasurer
Tiffani Bichakas—Assistant Treasurer
Angela Raup—Secretary
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Tony Nicoluzakis,
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www.SanFran.goarch.org

Archdiocese Website
www.goarch.org

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Altar Servers — Deacon John Thrasher, David Haag, Chris Francis
Bible Study — Anthony Arger
Bookstore — Patsy Harris
Choir — Terri Alexon
Dance — Niko Panagiotakopoulos
Daughters of Penelope — Connie Panagiotakopoulos
Desert Diamonds (50+) — Nikolette Tavlarides, Sheila Asala
Feed the Homeless — Christine Stamatis
Greek Festival — Nick Kretsedemas, Angelo Pestrivas, Kristen Vasilarakos
Greek School — Irene Mackos
Holy Trinity Academy Parochial School — TeAnn Philippis, Juli Pritsos
HOPE & JOY — Karla DeLord, Alexia Haugen
Koinonia — Dan Valenzuela, Sophie Miller-Martinez
Little Lambs — Jennifer Kourouglos
Maids of Athena — Gabriella Papatzimas
Museum — Bessie Hotis
Myrrhbearers — Diakonissa Mary Thrasher
OPA — Cindy Kyprianou
One Spirit+One Vision — Charlie DeMoss
Parish Council — Connie Contes
Philoptochos — Alex Anagnopoulos
Sons of Pericles — Nick Petsas, Ted Fourlis
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Stewardship — Sandy Meris
Sunday School — Kalli Schneider, Kay Ehrick
Wedding Coordinator — Terri Alexon
YAL — Stephanie Venetis

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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

Taking Off the Training Wheels



Very few of us today will have forgotten that magic moment in childhood when our fathers removed the training wheels from our bicycles for the first time. I yet recall my excitement as Dad removed those infernal contraptions, eager as I was to hop on the saddle and fly! My yellow (with black racing stripes!) banana-seat bike sped down the gravel alley before I slammed the brakes to skid to a dramatic stop! And though I would gather a few stitches and leave a bit of my skin on the streets of the neighborhood, a love affair was born in that less-enlightened era before helmets!

And as another academic year begins, many of our young adults will be kicking off the training wheels as they leave their parents home to enter university life. The monk-priest and prolific writer and churchman Thomas Merton wrote that anything seems possible to the young college student walking onto campus for the first time, textbooks in hand. Parents feel a swell of pride in their young ones' accomplishments and perhaps a bit of apprehension for their well-being.

But there comes a time when fledglings must leave the nest and try their wings despite whatever misgivings parents may have. The grim finality of eighteen short years of childhood now ended descends heavily on Mom and Dad as they drive away from the college campus, their minds swarming with unanswerable questions; *Did I teach enough? Love enough? Affirm enough? Did we pray enough? Do our children have the tools they need to succeed? Will they keep the Faith?*

To be certain, the Faith of our children will be sorely tested in the academic setting by militant atheist professors who will openly mock the faith of their students and by the culture of resident life and fellow classmates for whom precisely no spiritual formation was offered. In my years in college ministry I have frequently been appalled at how speedily things can go terribly awry in a student's life before he or she even comes to realize the damage being done. Sexual promiscuity and the ubiquitous presence of drugs and alcohol on campus sweep many unwitting victims along year after year.

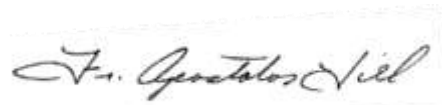
Must these life-lessons come at so terrific a cost? Are our young ones fated to collect such spiritual and psychological scars in their college years? The answer to these questions must surely be a resounding "No!" but what provisions might be made for safeguarding the souls of our young adults even as they leave the protective shelter of our family homes? May I recommend the following to your consideration;

Setting expectations in college selection is essential. We must not set our college students up for failure by placing them in a setting where no Orthodox parish exists nearby, where transportation arrangements are fraught, where the academic load is all-consuming, or where no introduction to the nearest parish priest had been made. If the unspoken message is only "study hard, have fun, be careful... and try to go Church every now and again" then the resulting spiritual calamity is a foregone and inevitable conclusion.

Further, the Orthodox Christian Fellowship campus ministry is a highly-effective vehicle designed to create Orthodox community on campus for the young ones of our parishes from coast-to-coast. OCF offers a variety of tools, kits, events, and ministry opportunities to support the spiritual development of college students when they most stand in need of it, when the training wheels have been removed and when consequences of decisions - for good or ill - become very real.

Finally, serious-minded Orthodox parents must commit to the spiritual development of their young ones long before campus move-in day arrives. I cannot begin to catalog the challenges faced by Orthodox college students whose knowledge of their faith is so sparse as to deny them even the vocabulary to articulate coherent questions about the Faith and how to live it out in the gritty reality of dorm and university life. But, with over 200 OCF chapters on college campuses (including the ASU Chapter which meets every Wednesday at 8:00pm in the Christian Center on 10th and Mill) there is a very good chance your child can benefit from this all-important ministry.

The nation stands in grave need of the gifts, talents, and insights our younger generations can and must provide. Far less seduced by the vapid emptiness of materialism, far more relational than organizational, and far more motivated and empowered by works of charity and community, our young adults must be given the spiritual resources to maximize their contributions and to share the Light of Christ in a world enslaved to darkness. May we, beloved, as the Holy Trinity family of God and community of the Faith, devote ourselves to their success in the year ahead!



Stewardship 2017

By Sandy Meris

E ducate ~ P articipate ~ E levate

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

John 20:21

Stewardship Continues To Grow!

As summer begins to wrap up, Holy Trinity's Stewardship continues to grow. This is exciting and welcome news!

CURRENT STEWARDSHIP NUMBERS (as of July 24th):

Total Stewardship Pledged: \$371,957.00

Total Number of Stewardship Families: 323

The budgeted goal for Stewardship for 2017 was \$360,000, so thankfully we have surpassed that goal.

It just goes to show how generous our Holy Trinity families are. When the Church is in need – our families give, and give with loving hearts! It also shows that when we work together to set a goal, we **reach that goal. If we continue to work together, we can accomplish great things for our Church. Let's keep this momentum going!**

But there may be some who have yet to fill out that 2017 Stewardship Pledge Card – **but that's ok** because it is **NEVER** too late to become a Steward. Join your fellow Holy Trinity parishioners and become a Steward today. Grab a Stewardship Card from the Narthex, fill it out and place in the collection tray on Sundays. Or go to the Church website (www.holytrinityphx.org) and fill it out online.

Questions about your Stewardship? Can't remember if you've filled out a card for 2017? Call the Church Office at 602-264-7863.

And please remember that even while you may be away on summer vacation, the Church still needs to pay those bills and the summer electric bills are very high. Please consider mailing in those Stewardship checks before you leave for your trip.

Let's keep that Stewardship needle moving in the upward direction! Thank you to all of our generous Holy Trinity Stewards!

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

+REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL+

Message from the Parish Council

By Connie Contes, President

Please join me in congratulating the two newest members of our Parish Council: Joe Goard and Socrates Papadopoulos who have graciously accepted the appointment to serve/work on the PC for the remainder of this year and to seek election to the PC for a new three-year term beginning next January. They will take the oath of office at the beginning of the monthly PC meeting on August 10th, the Feast Day of St. Lawrence.

Your PC has been dealing with a variety of issues this summer. Many of our children enjoyed a week with fellow campers from other Orthodox churches at All Saints Camp. But this event realized a financial shortfall because not enough campers attended. Yet, the amount of the shortfall was less than the deposit that would have been forfeited if the camp was cancelled. So our children made life-long memories at camp, and the PC has taken responsibility for raising the funds to cover this shortfall from pro-rated amounts from the involved churches. Your PC is committed to making sure that ASC camp shows no loss next year.

Your PC is continuing with efforts to refresh the Speros Community Center with new paint, repaired flooring, and improved lighting. We are revising our rental contract to include security, cleaning and liability insurance costs. But this effort takes money. We are in need of donations to complete this project so that we can effectively begin generating a stream of revenue from this facility.

The Church Office experienced computer hardware problems with old equipment. With no down time in the office, we managed to upgrade the computer system in the office at minimal expense so that all four computers are now state-of-the-art with i7 processors.

Our Cathedral offers nearly 20 ministries. Representatives will be attending the annual calendar meeting on Monday, August 7 at 5:30pm In the Education Building kitchen.

Many blessings as we celebrate the Feast Day of the Falling Asleep of the Most Holy Theotokos, and begin the Ecclesiastical New Year, and get ready for our annual Greek Festival on October 13, 14 and 15.

Deacon John Thrasher

Father Deacon John Thrasher returns to the Holy Trinity Cathedral altar on Sunday, September 10th, after a summer in New York. Welcome back, Deacon John!



Holy Trinity Academy

By Juli Pritsos

Contact Juli at julipritsos@holytrinityacademyphx.org for more information. HTA is enrolling now for preschool and kindergarten for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. Call now for a tour at 602-248-3881.



“Like” us on Facebook!

Music Ministry “Notes”

By Terri Alexon, Choir Director

Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands. Psalm 66:1



Have you heard the new and beautiful sounds emanating from the **Chanter’s stand lately? At the helm is Protopsaltis George Duvall, along with** the newly formed Holy Trinity Byzantine Choir! On July 2nd the Byzantine **Choir chanted the entire Liturgy, which was the chanting group’s debut and the culmination of chanting** classes diligently taught by George. In consultation with Fr. Apostolos and with an official blessing from His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, the chanting class was created last year to pass on the tradition of Byzantine music to the next generation. According to George, there are few cantors in the Phoenix area and **they are aging! George further points out, “As public schools are de-emphasizing music and the arts, the Church, who has forever fostered all the arts, should intervene,”** he said.

George brings to the classroom a depth and breadth of education and experience—vocal theory, classical organ as well as modern languages, translation and linguistics at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania. Also, George attended Holy Cross School of Theology from 1975 to 1978, studying Byzantine chant. Subsequently, George became a cantor at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox parish in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania before moving to the Boston area where he was cantor for 10 years at Dormition Greek Orthodox Church in Somerville, Massachusetts. It was during this tenure George produced a number of choral works based on Byzantine hymns, **including a “Liturgy of the Faithful” that our Holy Trinity Cathedral Choir has been singing.** In the late 1990s, George moved to Phoenix where he became involved in the music ministry at the Cathedral.



From left to right:
Daniel Pardhe, David Haag, Instructor/Protoypsaltis
George Duvall, Assistant Chanter Samuel Herron,
Mary Pardhe, Joshua Pardhe and Elizabeth Pardhe

Besides learning the eight modes, the beginner’s class lessons focus on overall structure of chant system and Byzantine musical notation. “Learning the music theory of the eight modes was the most challenging part of the class, but the PowerPoint slides and lectures given by Mr. George really helped us understand the theory,” says 15-year-old Joshua Pardhe, who is one of the dedicated students attending the fledgling chanting class.



Other than the obvious fact that the candidate should have a decent singing voice, the only **prerequisites, George tells us, “are a desire to learn something others would call *completely exotic*, and a passion to praise the Lord in song.”** The chanting class, however, is not for spectators. Students who take the course are expected to chant, attend the services and serve as Readers at the Analogion.

Classes have adjourned for the summer, but the “field work” segment of the class continues where students attend services and put theory into practice. In September, bi-monthly classes will resume on Saturday mornings in the church office conference room. If you are interested in joining this important music ministry, candidates should first contact Fr. Apostolos Hill at 602-421-2984.

To check out the developing classroom lessons and materials, visit the nascent, yet-to-be-named website link at: <http://htccc.org.000webhostapp.com/index.html>.

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

By Alex Anagnopoulos



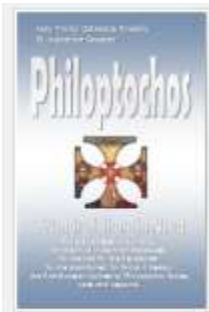
"FRIENDS OF THE POOR"

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.

Thank you to
June Hostesses
Sheila Asala and
Kristen Vasilarakos



June's gathering included a Game Night after the meeting and dinner.

JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS 2017

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 2017, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016

Greek School and Cultural Program

By Irene Dartoozos-Mackos
airinie@gmail.com



Register Today! Classes begin Wednesday, September 13th, 5-7pm
 Find the registration form on page 9. Students must be 3 and potty-trained.

2017-2018 Greek School Calendar

Greek School Classes Wednesday 5-7pm
 Cultural Greek School every 3rd Wednesday 6-7pm

2017	2018
Wednesday, September 13 1st day of Greek School	Wednesday, January 3 NO SCHOOL (WINTER BREAK)
Wednesday, September 20	Wednesday, January 10
Wednesday, September 27 Culture School/Greek Flag/ Map of Greece	Wednesday, January 17 Cultural School/Vasilopita baking/Blessing
Wednesday, October 4	Wednesday, January 24
Wednesday, October 11 NO SCHOOL (GREEK FESTIVAL)	Wednesday, January 31
Wednesday, October 18 Culture School/ OXI day (October 28)	Wednesday, February 7
Wednesday, October 25	Wednesday, February 14
Wednesday, November 1	Wednesday, February 21 Cultural School/ Lenten Cake
Wednesday, November 8	Wednesday, February 28
Wednesday, November 15 Cultural School/ Koulourakia (fundraiser)	Wednesday, March 7
Wednesday, November 22 NO SCHOOL (THANKSGIVING)	Wednesday, March 14 Cultural School/ 25th of March
Wednesday, November 29	Wednesday, March 21
Wednesday, December 6	Wednesday, March 28
Wednesday, December 13	Wednesday, April 4 NO SCHOOL (GOOD WEDNESDAY)
Wednesday, December 20 NO SCHOOL (CHRISTMAS)	Wednesday, April 11 Cultural School
Wednesday, December 28 NO SCHOOL (CHRISTMAS)	Wednesday, April 18
	Wednesday, April 25
	Wednesday, May 2 Cultural School/Graduation
	Wednesday May 8 Greek Proficiency Exam

Special Dates:

- November 5-12 Presale Koulourakia (fundraiser)
- November 19 Delivery of Koulourakia by the Greek School
- December 24 Greek School Christmas Performance after Divine Liturgy
- February 10 Apokries Celebration (Dinner/Dance)
- March 25 Independence Day Celebration and Lenten Luncheon

Great Vespers of Pentecost Saturday, June 3, 2017





**ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ ΑΓΙΑΣ ΤΡΙΑΔΑΣ
HOLY TRINITY GREEK LANGUAGE & CULTURE SCHOOL
REGISTRATION FORM**

Student's First and Last Name: _____

Student's First and Last Name in Greek: _____

Allergies: _____

Student's age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Name Day: _____ Student's grade in school for 2017-2018 school year: _____

Student's First and Last Name: _____

Student's First and Last Name in Greek: _____

Allergies: _____

Student's age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Name Day: _____ Student's grade in school for 2017-2018 school year: _____

Parent's Names: _____

Address: _____

Parent's Home Phone: _____ Parent's Cell Phone: _____

Parent's E-mail Address: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT (If parents not available)

Name: _____

Relationship: _____ Home/Cell#: _____

MEDIA RELEASE

____ I hereby authorize Holy Trinity Greek School to photograph or videotape my child/children throughout the school year and during program functions. I understand that such photos and recordings may be used for public relations and to promote Holy Trinity Greek School through email, the website, Facebook, flyers, Church publications, and similar.

____ I do not want my child/children photographed or videotaped.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Payment Information:

\$375 for first child. Tuition includes a \$40 non-refundable book fee and \$ 25 cultural program. **Note:** There is a 20% discount for the 2nd child and 10% more for the 3rd child. Cultural Program: \$50 per year/ per child, \$75 per year/ family non-refundable or family discount

Make checks payable to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, please write "Greek School" in Memo section

Non-sufficient funds will be charged a \$25.00 fee per check.

Please complete and sign this Form and **Fax, Email, Mail** or **Drop off at Church Office**

Fax Number: (602) 230-9099 **Attn.** Greek School Registration **Email:** airinie@gmail.com **Subject:** Greek School Registration

Mailing Address: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85016 **Attn:** Greek School Program

Please mark payment plan: _____ In Full _____ Per Semester

Amount Paid: _____ Date Paid: _____

Form of Payment: _____ Check _____ Cash _____ Check Number: _____

Culture Program only _____

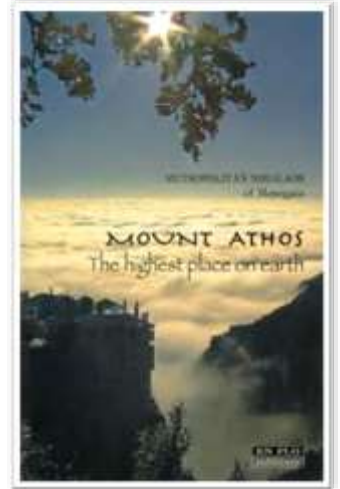
Form of Payment: _____ Check _____ Cash _____ Check Number: _____

Koinonia, a New Ministry Under YAL

By Dan Valenzuela

Greetings! Holy Trinity is now offering a bi-weekly young-adult fellowship called Koinonia, an Orthodox book club sponsored by the **St. Nectarios Bookstore**, and is part of the **Young Adult League (YAL)**. Our goal is to choose a different book to read each month according to the Saints we commemorate. We will meet every other Friday evening following the Paraklesis services to discuss the chosen book and enjoy light refreshments and time together. The first meeting will be August 4, 2017. Locations of the meetings may vary. Come and join us—we hope to see you!

For more information or to let us know you'll be joining in, email Daniel Valenzuela at danvalenzuela15@gmail.com or text Sophia Miller-Martinez at [\(574\) 326-6362](tel:5743266362).



First book to start off the club:
Mount Athos: The Highest Place on Earth by Nikolaos Mesogaia

Rain In The Desert

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

From the link:

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

Link to recordings of Father's sermons: <http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/rain>

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



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



Sunday School

By Kalli Schneider



Greetings from Holy Trinity Sunday School!

We hope everyone is having a wonderful, relaxing summer with family and friends. Your Sunday School teachers are very excited to begin the new year with new faces in our classrooms. Because we hold two grade levels in each classroom, it allows for a different mix of children in each class, each year. What a blessing that is to allow our students to get to know children one year older and one year younger than themselves. This brings fresh discussions, ideas, and questions about our Orthodox faith and our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Our Sunday School curriculum originates from the Archdiocese and is embellished by our teachers with their own flair and gifts that are grade level appropriate. Last year our preschool/kindergarten class, led by Ms. Pamela Maydanis, taught her class to sing Christ is Risen! It was beautiful to hear those young voices sing so loud and clear. Each Sunday, they learned a new word that focused on our faith, in both Greek and English.

Mrs. Cindy Kyprianou uses both the 1st and 2nd grade curriculum in her class. Her students use their ability to read and write in their activities. They learn about the icons that correspond with the many feast days that we celebrate during the year.

Diakonissa Mary Thrasher and Mr. Evan Alexon have brought a new element to helping the 3rd and 4th graders learn about **God's love with science experiments!** **Their students last year learned about Christ's Ascension as they released white balloons outside.**



Our 5th and 6th grade class, led by Mr. John Schneider and Mr. Elias Staikos, was always full of discussion and instruction about Orthodoxy. That class was full on average and always engaged, as well as was the 7th and 8th grade class led by Mrs. Kay Ehrick. Her students were full of lively discussion and questions. Mrs. Ehrick has a wonderful way of bringing our faith to the world our kids live in.

Our Youth Forum is made up of grades 9-12, taught by Mr. Evan Tsagaris. Youth Forum will be held down in the Speros Community Center in the OPA room! This year we have an exciting opportunity for the upper level (Juniors and Seniors) high schoolers! We are very excited for the Youth Forum Narthex Ministry. They will become the 5th team to join the other teams already in place. This means they will be in the Narthex every 5th Sunday. The students will learn the responsibilities and duties of the Narthex ministry. They will rotate so that everyone has the opportunity to be a part of this very important ministry at Holy Trinity. When the kids are not serving in the Narthex, they will have the opportunity to participate in the choir loft!

Last year we were blessed with wonderful speeches at our parish level Oratorical Festival! Katerina Kostouros and Peter Fraenkel represented the Junior Division and Niki Kyprianou (5th year in a row!!!) and Joshua Pardhe represented the Senior Division. Peter Fraenkel went on to represent Holy Trinity at the District level. Niki Kyprianou and Joshua Pardhe not only went to the District level as participants

Greek School Message continued from page 11

for the Senior Division, they both went on to the Regional level and participated in the Oratorical at St. Nicholas Ranch in May. We are so, so proud of all of our Holy Trinity kiddos that participated!

This was the 1st year that all the students from 7th–12th grade wrote an essay on an Oratorical topic of their choice. The essays were submitted to Father Apostolos. Congratulations to ALL the students who took the time to stop, reflect and write about their faith.

This year we will be starting on our Oratorical topics earlier in the year for all Sunday school students. The cliché, “Stop and smell the roses” is so appropriate and true. It’s important to not only stop and smell the roses but stop and think *Who created those roses*. The Oratorical topics created by the Archdiocese encourage the youth to stop and think about our faith and put into words how they feel, using the Bible as their primary source.

So, with our new year about to begin on September 10th, we look forward to seeing both familiar faces and new faces. We look forward to new activities, new Oratorical topics, new discussions, and new faces in the Narthex! Sunday School will be hosting Coffee Hour the month of August. Stop by and meet your children’s teacher(s). We will be there to serve you coffee, answer any questions you may have regarding your children’s class, and provide registration forms for Sunday School. We are so excited to get started! See you soon!



Fr. A's Visual Lesson #1



Pentecost Sunday
June 4, 2017

What are YOU filling your soul (glass) with?

St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

By Patsy Harris

August is a month of both beginnings and endings. This is the last month of the Ecclesiastical Year. The Orthodox believe that only through a continual renewal and a continual contemplation of the life of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord can we begin to glimpse the Mystery that is Christ. So, even though we **come to the 'end' of following the journey of Christ from His birth to His glorification, we also 'begin'** the cycle anew in September knowing that He is never-ending, always present, and that as humans we have much to try to understand to follow His teachings. And so, the end/beginning of the Liturgical cycle is noted, yet often unnoticed by Christians. Our purpose in this life is to try to truly come to know Christ in our hearts and minds, and as this is a constant effort for us, so the life-cycle of our Church is a constant journey, too.

August Holy Days:

August 6: Holy Transfiguration – As Christ was approaching His time of the Passion, He took His three most intimate disciples to the top of Mount Tabor, where He was transfigured and revealed as the Light of the Holy Trinity. The voice of God once more stated that **“This is my beloved Son,”** and admonished His disciples (and us through them) to **“Hear Ye Him.”** It is important to note that this revelation and Transfiguration came only after the effort was made to scale the heights of the Mount. So must we, too, **make a personal effort to endure this life’s struggles yet persevere to reach the Goal of being with Christ and in Christ forevermore.**

August 15: Dormition of the Theotokos – From the liturgical point of view, this is the most important of the feast days dedicated to the Holy Virgin. It is preceded by the two-week Lent of the Theotokos. Only in the Vespers and Matins is her death given reference; the Gospel and hymns of the Liturgy draw from **the other feast days of her life. Through her death, the hymns state “the source of life is laid in the tomb, and her tomb becomes a ladder to Heaven.”** In Mary, human nature reached its Goal.

August 29: Beheading of John the Baptist – This feast does not celebrate so much the man who baptized Jesus and preached repentance as it does he who championed the moral law and was killed because that law was hated.

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

Fr. A's Visual Lesson #2

Sunday, July 31, 2017

When you attend Divine Liturgy, are you *absorbing* the service—or just floating on the surface?



Desert Diamonds



Senior Parishioners
and their guests

2017-2018 Desert Diamonds Schedule

September 30, 2017, Saturday

St. Katherine Festival 10:30am-1:30pm

2716 N. Dobson Rd. Chandler, AZ 85224

Van pick up at Holy Trinity to St. Katherine
10:30am

Van return from St. Katherine to Holy Trinity
1:30pm

October 18, 2017, Wednesday, 10:00am

Uptown Farmers Market

North Phoenix Baptist Church:

5757 N. Central Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85012

SE Corner of Bethany Home/Central in Phoenix

November 16, 2017, Thursday, 10:30am

Picnic in the park 10:30am – Park TBD

November 28, 2017, Tuesday, 10:00am

Christmas Trees at Scottsdale Mall

View the Decorated Christmas trees

7014 E. Camelback Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Meet in the food court at 10:00am

December 21, 2017, Thursday, 10:30am

HT Christmas Party

At Holy Trinity Speros Community Center

Potluck and Gift exchange

January _____, 10:30am

Lunch at the Orchard at Lucy's

7100 N. 12th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85020

February 14, 2018, Wednesday, 9:30am

Light rail ride and lunch

Meet at Light Rail station at Central and
Camelback

Get off Light Rail and eat lunch

March 8, 2018, Thursday

Picnic in the park – Park TBD

April 19, 2018, Thursday, 11:00am

Lunch and games at Spaghetti Factory

Spaghetti Factory address: 1418 N. Central Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85004

Meet at Spaghetti Factory at 11:00am

May 17, 2018, Thursday, 10:30am

Potluck and games at Holy Trinity

At Holy Trinity Speros Community Center

Contact Nickolette Tavlarides at 602-725-8653 or
Sheila Asala at 623-680-8676 for more information
or to R.S.V.P.

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!



Light From Jerusalem

Holy Light from the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.
Brought to Holy Trinity in June and transferred from
candle to candle.



Tell Us Something Good

Congratulations to Ruth and Tony Hotis on their
60th Wedding Anniversary!
August 31, 2017



(L to r) Bessie Hotis, Louis Poulos, Ruth Hotis, Jim Thomas, Tony Hotis, Georgia Poulos, and Stacy Hotis

Lost & Found

There are a lot of items in the Lost & Found! Do you recognize any of these? Contact the Church Office for more information.



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.**”

Psalms 27:4



6/18/2017

Isaiah J. Walker, son of _____

Chrismation

“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put **on Christ.**”

Galatians 3:27



7/2/2017

Mercy Pena-Alevizos

Funerals

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the House of the Lord **forever.**”

Psalms 23:6



6/20/2017

George Kokalis

May his memory be eternal.

7/13/2017

Peter G. Palmer

May his memory be eternal.

7/28/2017

Serafim Michalis

May his memory be eternal.

Original Phoenix Greek Festival

By Kristen Vasilarakos, Nick Kretsedemas, and Angelo Pestrivas



People often ask us, the Triad Chairs of the Original Phoenix Greek Festival, **when preparation for the Festival begins and we answer, “the day after the most recent Festival ended.”** We’re always thinking of and planning for the best ways to present a premier event for the benefit of our Holy Trinity Community.

We held our first Leader Meeting on Tuesday, July 25th. Thank you to all who attended!



We presented our goals for this year and we received terrific feedback.

One item that we implemented immediately was addressing our volunteer needs. We get frequent requests from our generous Parishioners asking, *“How can we help?”*

Starting Monday, July 31st, and every Monday through October 9th, we will send out a weekly update by email. Look for **“Festival 2017 Hot List”** in the subject line. Note that the emails will be sent through the Parish’s office Listserve email account and will show Admin Assist as the sender.

Thank you in advance!

Your 2017 Chairs,

Angelo, Kristen and Nick



2017 Baking Schedule

9/19/2017	Tuesday	Tsoureki
9/27/2017	Wednesday	Baklava
9/28/2017	Thursday	Baklava
9/30/2017	Saturday	Tsoureki
10/2/2017	Monday	Diples
10/3/2017	Tuesday	Melos
10/4/2017	Wednesday	Kourambiethes and Crescents
10/5/2017	Thursday	Kourambiethes and Crescents
10/6/2017	Friday	All Review, Dipping
10/9/2017	Monday	Packaging
10/10/2017	Tuesday	Packaging
10/11/2017	Wednesday	Packaging

Dates subject to change.

Dolmathes Production

July 26-27,
2017

Gary and Althea Conrad and Nick Kantaros top the finished dolmathes



with stock and butter before the pans were packed away. The full crew made 3,888 dolmathes for the Festival!

OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

By Cindy Kyprianou, President



OPA, Orthodox Parent's Association, supports and advises in areas of social, cultural and religious development of our youth. We plan great age appropriate activities for our kids at our Church such as games, discussions, retreats, mission trips and more.

The Barna Group recently concluded that 60 percent of young American Christians (across all traditions) fall away from their church during and after their teenage years. Our goal this year is to directly connect our kids to Jesus through every part of the youth ministry. We cannot simply rely on a program to magically organize our kids into saints; we must first love Christ ourselves as teachers, parents and youth workers. We've added Family Wellness Ministry for our parents to help us strengthen our faith in Him, which will run quarterly.

We'd like to help our teenage high schoolers understand how God is using their struggles to accomplish good purposes in their lives. We're adding a Senior Forum Q & A every first Wednesday of the month.

Below are OPA's mini ministries for all ages:

Little Lambs (newborn to pre-K)

Hope & Joy (K to 5th grades)

Jr. GOYA (6th to 8th grades)

Sr. GOYA (9th to 12th grades)

Sr. Forum Q & A (9th to 12th grades)

Family Wellness Ministry (All Parents)

Dance (K to 12th grades and beyond)

We, as members of Christ's body, are not here to create a new generation of so called "active" GOYANs. We instead would like to unite our youth with Christ. We look forward to a Christ-centered Ecclesiastical Year.

In order to receive the OPA updated weekly emails regarding what, where and when something is taking place, please make sure to submit your email address to Cjecomom@gmail.com or cwkypranou@hotmail.com

"FAITH can move MOUNTAINS" Matthew 17:20

With love in Christ,

Little Lambs

Sunday, June 25, 2017 visit in the Small Hall of the Speros Community Center.



Project Mexico

By Evan Tsagaris

"We had an incredible time building a home for a family in need outside Tijuana, Mexico. We would like to offer tremendous thanks to anyone who supported us in this effort, financially and with prayer; without you, we would not have been able **to accomplish this labor of love!**"



For pictures from our time building and at the orphanage, please visit the link here:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/147582280@N04/albums/72157686526668105>

All Saints Camp

By Evan Tsagaris

"Another year of camp is in the books! With campers from all over Arizona, California, Nevada, and Oregon, we had an amazing week of prayer, fellowship, Olympics, dodgeball, crafts... you name it! **Thank you to everyone who attended. To everyone whom we missed this year: see you in 2018!**"

To see pictures from this and last year, see our Flickr account:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/142850662@N05/albums/with/72157666543901734>

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 cwkyprianou@hotmail.com and we'll get you added to the list.

New OPA Board Ready To Take Office

Congratulations to our new OPA Executive Board who will take over this summer. They are a great group of dedicated parents who will bring fresh ideas and new energy to OPA.

President – [Cindy Kyprianou](#)

Vice President – [Donna Manelis](#)

Treasurer – [Stephanie Papadopoulos](#)

Recording Secretary – [Denise Dye](#)

Corresponding Secretary – [Caroline Economopoulos](#)

While we welcome this new board, we say farewell and thank you to our outgoing board members. We are grateful to you for your years of service to our youth.

Outgoing President – [Sandy Meris](#)

Outgoing Vice President – [Kathy Clarke](#)

Outgoing Treasurer – [Sandy Annos](#)

Koulourakia Production

July 18-19, 2017



Packaged in bags of 12.

The crews made 6,816 cookies and packed them in bags. They are currently stored in the freezer until the Festival. The baking crews rock!



The Wednesday production crew



Father Apostolos stopped by to give the cookies a "taste test." He declared them delicious! (l to r) Fanny Kechajias, Lea Linaris, Rebecca Barabatis, and Argyro Vasquez

Mom Diana acts surprised when her 16-year-old daughter Elena wins a bottle of wine in the raffle and Dorothy Veremis offers to take it off her hands. Want to be in the daily raffle? Volunteer!



Your Desert Springs Subscription

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)

_____ \$15 for 5 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 for more information.

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

AHEPA 219



AHEPA Chapter 219

We have lost two Brothers this summer.
George Kokalis and Peter Palmer.



George Kokalis



Peter Palmer

They will be missed dearly and may
their memory be eternal.

Next AHEPA 219

Meeting:

Thursday

August 17, 2017

6:30pm

Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox
Church

Membership Info:
Contact
Pete Marudas
602-284-1638

Twin 9pm Vigil Services for Sts. Paraskevi and Panteleimon

July 25 and July 26, 2017

"My spirit seeks Thee early in the night
watches, for Thy commandments are a
light upon the earth."

We celebrated the feasts of Sts.
Paraskevi of Rome and Panteleimon the
Great Martyr on Tuesday and
Wednesday evening (respectively) with
the Vigil service (Vespers, Matins, &
Divine Liturgy) at 9:00pm in the St.
George Chapel at Holy Trinity!



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/](https://www.facebook.com/holytrinityphx.org/)

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: _____

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Coffee Hour – SUNDAY SCHOOL	1 DORMITION FAST 6pm – Paraklesis (Cathedral)	2 DORMITION FAST 6pm – Paraklesis (Cathedral) 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	3 DORMITION FAST 6pm – Paraklesis (Cathedral)	4 DORMITION FAST 6pm – Paraklesis (Cathedral)	5 DORMITION FAST 10 am – Isaiah J. Walker Baptism 11am-2pm Baptism Reception (SH)
6 HOLY TRANSFIGURATION 8am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy	7 DORMITION FAST 5:30pm – Calendar Meeting (Ed Bldg. Café) 6pm - Paraklesis	8 DORMITION FAST 6pm - Paraklesis	9 DORMITION FAST 6pm - Paraklesis 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	10 DORMITION FAST 6pm – PC meeting (Conference room)	11 DORMITION FAST 6pm - Paraklesis	12 DORMITION FAST 9:00am- Sunday School Teacher Training
13 8am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy Palmer Memorial Fisher Memorial	14 DORMITION FAST 6:00pm – Great Vespers & Lamentations of the Dormition	15 DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS 8am – Matins 9am – Liturgy	16 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	17 6pm – AHEPA (Small Hall)	18	19 9:00am- Sunday School Teacher Training
20 8am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy Kontsiotis Memorial	21	22	23 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	24	25	26
27 8am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy	28	29 BEHEADING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST 8am – Matins 9am – Liturgy	30 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	31		

Calendar is subject to change.