

# Desert Springs

March 2021  
Volume 6 Issue 3



## *Sharing the Love*

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

Office: 602-264-7863 Fax: 602-230-9099 Website: [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)

Rev. Economos Apostolos Hill  
Rev. Alexander Eliades  
Rev. Deacon John Thrasher

**Office Hours:**  
Monday–Thursday, 9:00am–3:00pm

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

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**Desert Springs Deadline**  
The 25th of each month

**Sunday Bulletin Deadline**  
Wednesdays, 12 noon

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Connie Contes—Vice President  
Jim Manelis—Treasurer  
Dina Anagnopoulos—Assistant Treasurer  
Andi Fourlis—Secretary  
Charlie DeMoss, Sandy Meris,  
Socrates Papadopoulos

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

**Metropolis of San Francisco Website**  
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- **Feed Those in Need** — Christine Stamatis: [cstamatis@cox.net](mailto:cstamatis@cox.net)
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- **YAL 30-49** — Nick Papas: [npapas@yahoo.com](mailto:npapas@yahoo.com)

# Message from Father Alexander

Dear Parents of All Holy Trinity Youth,

I pray the beginning of the 3rd month of 2021 finds you well. We love you and miss you! We've been saddened not to be able to have our usual robust ministry schedule with traditional Sunday School, Youth Groups, Dance, and Greek School and have our campus bustling with you and your children. We are working on a plan to be able to get some in-person group settings created in a safe manner, even if it is conversations around a bonfire outside! I'm sure you know this more than anyone but our youth need to see one another in person, for the last year their lives have been torn from all normalcy and they cannot even socialize with their peers to cope.

Here is where I will make an appeal to you.

## **Come to church.**

For every reason you can imagine, come to church.

On the surface level, here at Holy Trinity is one of the only places they still can come together and physically see their friends and peers. After Liturgy on Sunday we have a short Sunday School lesson which is split up into grade levels depending on how many we see from each level. After this, they would be able to go outside and just talk and be with one another, something that hasn't been able to happen in many places for almost a year. Come so they can see one another. Simply, come to church.

On a deeper level, we can't begin to know the emotional toll this has taken on them. It's a wound that can be healed by God and each other. Your responsibility as Orthodox Christian parents is to rear them in the faith. It's often difficult in our society to speak about God to our children because of our own lack of knowledge or even doubts in faith. If you haven't before, just pray as a family. Pray and pour out your worries to Him and come together as a family before God. Say the Our Father, whatever prayer you know, and ask for God's help. If you want more help in doing this, please reach out to me or Fr. Apostolos, we're here to help you specifically in this!

Finally, this last year has been a reckoning for our lives. What do we find important? What do we prioritize? I hope you've asked the question, "why do I go to church?" I hope you have grappled with this question in your home and hold it in tension, not throwing it away because of its uncomfortability. No growth in faith or in life happens without pain or tension and when we begin to ask ourselves why, we begin to grow.

We understand some of you do indeed have conditions in your family that would make contracting the virus a possibly lethal thing and we love you and hope to see you soon when you feel it safe for your situation. Continue to pray and be as engaged as you can.

However, if we find ourselves going out in settings that have large amounts of people but not considering church, it is time to ask ourselves why. The answer our Lord gives is, "come and see." Come and see your beloved home of Holy Trinity. We await you with open, excited, and loving arms (while maintaining our distance and proper protocols!).

May we all be united in Christ.

With love in Christ,

Father Alexander Eliades

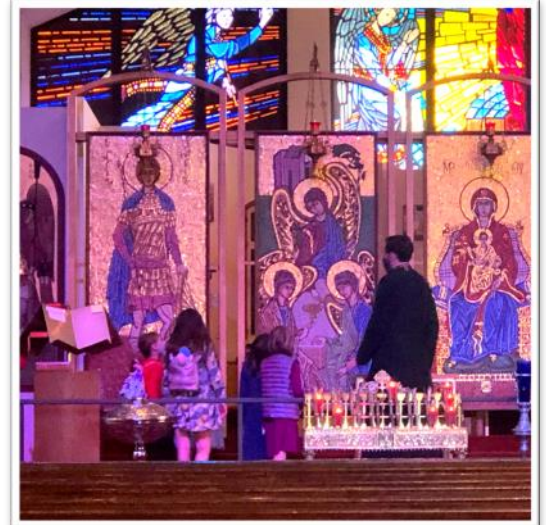


Photo by Angela Scopelianos

# Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

## LET'S MAKE HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL THE "COMEBACK" STORY OF 2021 Covid may have emptied our pews but we are slowly coming back

Alex Smith was a star NFL quarterback when he suffered a terrible leg injury during a game. Doctors told him not only would he never see another snap in a game, he would probably never walk again either. Two years, 17 surgeries and thousands of hours of excruciating rehabilitation later, he is back playing for the NFL.

Walt Disney is one of the most iconic names in modern culture after creating an empire that includes theme parks around the world and one of the largest and most successful television and movie studios in the world. But this came only after creating several failed companies and filing for bankruptcy in 1920.

Bethany Hamilton became a professional surfer as a teenager winning national and international surf competitions and entertaining lucrative sponsorship opportunities. With a bright future looming, in 2003 she was attacked by a shark while surfing and lost her left arm. She tapped into her strong Christian faith, re-designed her surfboard to accommodate her handicap, trained, worked out and fought her way back to returning to competitive surfing.

There are millions of great comeback stories. People, companies, organizations who suffered terrible setbacks that could have destroyed them. But with perseverance, grit, hard work and digging into their faith, they defied the odds and came back to find success.

Covid has been a setback for all of us. Including our beloved Holy Trinity Cathedral. Our pews were emptied, our ministries shut down, and our church family separated. But this does not have to be the final and permanent chapter. We can come back together to make 2021 Holy Trinity's "Comeback" year. Coming back to Liturgy, coming back to in person ministry meetings and gatherings, coming back to coffee hour and youth group activities. We understand the comeback will be in degrees as the Covid numbers decrease and people feel more comfortable and as many get their vaccines.

And even though many of us may have found another routine on Sunday mornings that hasn't involved Liturgy, we are urging you to consider "coming back" to church as you feel ready to do so. Slowly our church lives will be returning to normal including Altar Boys in the Altar, dance practice after church, the choir in the lofts, kids in Sunday School, Philoptochos events, Ahepa meetings and the like.

And so we on the Stewardship Committee, Parish Council and clergy are committed to improving our parish life. **We want to hear from you...**

- Do you feel like there isn't a ministry that fits your needs or one you would like to see started?
- Do you feel spiritually stuck or stagnant and need a boost?
- Do you see areas at our church that need improvement?
- Do you have an untapped gift or talent that you are willing to share?

We are looking at ways to improve our Cathedral life for all of our parishioners. So if you have thoughts or suggestions on any of those items, please feel free to email: [sandymeris@gmail.com](mailto:sandymeris@gmail.com).

Just a sampling of the items the Stewardship Committee is working on for you.....

- Improved Communication
- Various easy options to pay your stewardship
- In Home Small Groups (post Covid)
- Improved Sunday School
- Opportunities for parishioners to participate in meaningful community outreach
- More opportunities to grow in our faith

No idea is too big, no detail too small. *Let's make 2021 our COMEBACK YEAR! Come back to church and let's make Holy Trinity Cathedral bigger and better than ever!*

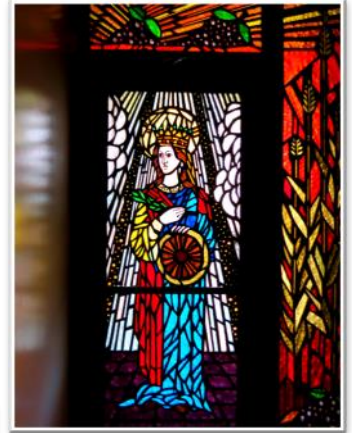
# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

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.

Reminder that 2021 dues are due.

Next Meeting on  
Sunday, March 7, 2021  
11:30am  
**IN PERSON *and* by ZOOM**  
Speros Center Patio



## JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS 2021

**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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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 2021, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016

# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

## *Remembering Mae (Amanthe) Ducas*

Mae, husband Nick and sons Paul and Louie moved to Phoenix in the 1960s. Upon moving to Phoenix they became members of the original Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, at 333 East Virginia. Mae became an integral part of the Church for many years, serving in many capacities. When the Church moved to 1973 East Maryland Ave. she continued in her dedication to the Church/Cathedral.

Our "Bazaar" at the Virginia Church grew to become a city-wide Festival at the Church/Cathedral. Mae was the Chairperson of the Festival. The Festival grew considerably with thousands attending. During the Festival and long days of work Mae would spend the night in her office at the Community Center. Mae was Chairperson of the Festival for many years and along with a Steering Committee guided the growth of the Festival.

Mae was the Administrator of the Speros Community Center and was responsible for any and all activities in the Community Center. Mae also worked on many projects for the Cathedral and had many titles. Mae started and directed a Greek Dance Group for two years and took them to the Folk Dance Festival in California. On one of their trips they met Telly Savalas at the airport who wanted pictures with the Dancers.

Mae Ducas worked very hard for Holy Trinity. She loved and considered Holy Trinity as "Her Church."

Mae will be missed.

May Her Memory Be Eternal.



# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

## 2021 Scholarship Application

The Holy Trinity Cathedral Philoptochos Society will be offering two, one-thousand dollar (\$1000) scholarships to Holy Trinity students attending college in the fall of 2021. Listed below are the eligibility requirements:

1. Student and/or family must be a Steward of Holy Trinity Cathedral
2. High school students must have graduated in the spring of 2021 and attending college in the fall of 2021
3. College students may also apply as continuing students or in graduate programs in the Fall of 2021
4. Applicants must submit:
  - A copy of 2020-2021 transcripts
  - College acceptance letter
  - A resume including school, church & community activities

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: JUNE 5, 2021**

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 Mary Louise Theodoropoulos 602-943-5080

*Mail to: Philoptochos Scholarship, 1973 E. Maryland, Phoenix, AZ 85016*

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

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

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

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

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

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

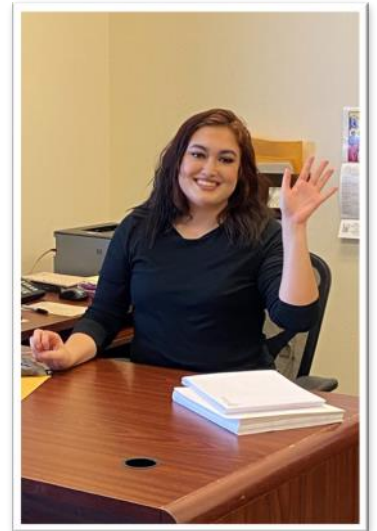
GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

# Welcome!

Natalie Lewis is our newest member in the Cathedral office.

The Parish Council plus Father Apostolos and Father Alexander are pleased to welcome Natalie. She is a Phoenix native, has experience as an office administrator, and will be bringing that level of professionalism with her.

Please stop in and say hello to her Monday thru Friday.



## In-Person Liturgical Services Expands to 150 Communicants

As Covid-19 vaccinations continue and the metrics surrounding the virus trend in a positive direction, we are returning to our previous “Sign-In for Liturgy” instead of the “Sign-Up for Liturgy Online” model. We’re aiming for around 150 communicants each Sunday, but we seem to have great instincts as a parish for staying safe and keeping the crowds manageable. *Great job!*



All applicable safety measures (masks, distancing, and hand-sanitizers) still apply! Our weekday Divine Liturgies, Paraklesis and Great Vespers services are available for any who are not yet comfortable attending on Sundays. With Great Lent fast approaching, our weekly schedule of services will expand beautifully!

## Office Volunteers Needed

As we have been allowed to slowly re-open again the Cathedral for services we are anticipating we will re-open the Cathedral office soon too.

We will have a variety of needs for Volunteer staffing over the next several months.

If you have time and interest to help the church please let Paul Katsenes know at [pkatsenes@cox.net](mailto:pkatsenes@cox.net).





# House of Stewards

Through 03/01/2021

Dorothy Ainslie  
Evan & Terri Alexon  
Dena Anagnopoulos  
Mike & Alex Anagnopoulos  
Nikki Anest  
John & Sandy Annos  
Sheila Asala  
Chris & Angie Athens  
Christina Bakavelou  
Constantine & Eleni Balanis  
Ted & Rebecca Barabatis  
Scott & Stacey Beaty  
George & Stacy Benetos  
Dan & Vicki Bichakas  
Peter & Jennifer Billitsis  
Helen Bixenman  
James & Helen Bruno  
Chris & Georgia Brusalis  
Chris & Rita Bruskas  
Kristen Bruskas  
Elias Carras  
Kathy Carras  
Frank & Alice Carris  
Laurel Charnas-Schiller  
Harriet Chotras  
Pete & Kim Choukalas  
Kathy Clarke  
Andy & Mara Contes  
Jim & Connie Contes  
Ed Cooper & Angie Valerou-Cooper  
Patty Davis  
Len & Elaine Debickero  
Hercules Dellas  
Patrick & Karla Delord  
Tom & Irene Demas  
Bill DeMoss  
Charles DeMoss  
Chris DeMoss  
John & Marjorie DeMoss  
Stan & Fran Drozdz  
Denise Dye  
Kathryn Dye  
Christos & Dena Economopoulos  
Kostas & Caroline Economopoulos  
Athanasia & Georgia Fournalis  
Athanasia Fournalis  
Ted & Andi Fournalis  
Tim Fraenkel  
Chris & Celeste Francis  
Georgi Friehe  
George & Julie Froumis  
Semos Gardner  
Andreanna Georgiou  
Thomas & Christina Georgiou  
John Giannopoulos  
Stella Glitsos  
Eva Goodman  
Bill & Lynn Graham  
Gina Graham  
David Haag  
Mary Haidos  
Donald Hall  
Alexander Harding

Terry Harper  
George Hasiotis  
Stephanie Heckel  
Greg Hill  
Rev. Fr. Apostolos & Presv. Denise Hill  
Bessie Hotis  
Pavlos Kairis  
James & Linda Kalivas  
Pete & Nicole Kamboukos  
Basile & Roula Kaneris  
Nick & Dena Kantaros  
William & Harriet Kapolas  
Christina Karalekas  
Pete & Tina Karegeannes  
Virginia Karegeannes  
Julie Karoutas  
Leon & Fayi Katrakis  
Christos & Kelley Katsanos  
John & Mary Katsenes  
Helen Katsufakis  
Jim & Poppy Kavouris  
Fanny Kechajias  
Cathy Keyser  
Ronald & Virginia Kidd  
Spiros & Maria Kontakis  
Nickolas Koziris  
Nick & Marina Kretsedemas  
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Ted Kyriacou  
John & Angie Lambrou  
Elias & Mary Lampos  
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Anthony Nicoluzakis  
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Marta Ntatsos

Else Paletsos  
Elizabeth Palmer  
Anna Panagiotakopoulos  
Thanasi & Melissa Panagiotakopoulos  
George & Chrysoula Papadopoulos  
Socrates & Stephanie Papadopoulos  
Betty Papas  
Nick Papas  
Spyros & Rita Pappaspyrou  
Irene Pappas  
John & Andrea Pappas  
Daniel & Anna Pardhe  
Athena Parmenter  
Kai & Katherine Pedersen  
Dean & Fotini Pestrivas  
Zoe Pestrivas  
Jacque Petroulakis  
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Gerry & Nitsa Stamatelatos  
Andy & Christine Stamatis  
Despina Tavlarides  
Billy & Becky Tavlarides  
Gus & Mary Louise Theodoropoulos  
Jim G. Thomas  
Rev. Fr. John & Diak. Mary Thrasher  
Dominic Tropea  
Thad & Kathy Tropea  
Dean & Stella Tsantilas  
Costa & Koko Tzavaras  
Peter & Lindsay Vardalos  
Kristen Vasilarakos  
Argyro Vasquez  
Scott & Terri Vaughn  
Andrew & Sandy Vlahoulis  
Paula Walsh  
Michael & Christina Wombacher  
Richard & Katina Wood  
David Worrell & Stephanie Willard  
Dimitri & Eugenia Zannis  
George & Tina Zannis  
Zella Zannis  
Michael & Christina Zistatsis

# Choral Event

## Virtual Choir of “Christ Is Risen!”

Love to sing? Join parishioners from throughout the country in a virtual choir recording of “Christ Is Risen!” an exciting new choral arrangement by Fr. Michael Pallad. Sponsored by Orthodox Christian Choral Fellowship ([www.occfellowship.org](http://www.occfellowship.org)), the virtual choir format eliminates any potential risk of viral spread by singing and recording from the comfort of home. Recording instructions, sing-along Guide Tracks and links to online rehearsals are provided upon registration. The Virtual Choir recording of “Christ Is Risen!” will be posted on social media on Easter Sunday/Pascha, May 2, 2021.

**Register before the March 25th deadline at [www.occfellowship.org](http://www.occfellowship.org)!**



Liturgical Services will continue to be live streamed  
by Father Apostolos and Father Alexander.

**New!** All services can now be found on the **Home Page** of the  
Cathedral's website  
[www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org),  
in addition to the continued postings on our Facebook page.

Thank you to Tom Giatron and Joshua Pardhe for their above-and-  
beyond efforts to bring clear and timely video to all!



## Desert Springs Issues Available to Our Seniors

or the computer-challenged!

In an effort to reach our whole Parish Community with Cathedral news, issues of the Desert Springs will be available for FREE to those in our community who do not own or use a computer, tablet, or smart phone or would prefer to read the news in hard-copy print. Submit names to the Church Office or call or text Kristen at 602-332-8809.

### *Desert Springs* Subscription

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

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

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

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

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

Return this form to the Church Office or  
contact Kristen at 602-332-8809

# Endowment Fund

*We are extremely grateful to those who have made sacrificial donations for the perpetual benefit of Holy Trinity Cathedral*

## + ENDOWMENT GIFTS OVER \$10,000.00 +

Gabriel & Helen Papagallos	Faye Boukas	George & Ann Souvall
The DeMoss Families	Dennis & Anastasia DeBerry	IMO+ Tasia Pritchard
IMO+ Mary Montague	George & Koula Cheros	John George Thomas
IMO+ John G. Zannaras	IMO+ Dina Sakellarakis	Steve & Joan Vrahas
Steve & Judith Vrahas	Dr. Nicholas Baziotes	James & Connie Coin Contes
Ange & Alex J. Pappas	John & Mary Katsenes	

## GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS OVER \$1,000.00

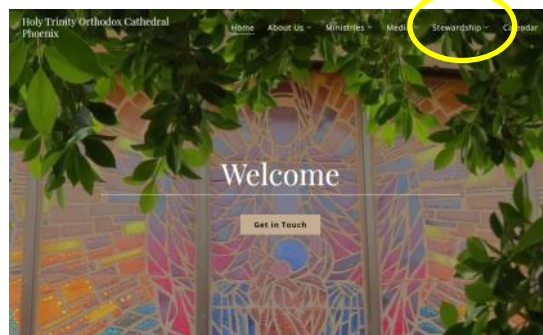
Dr. Christopher J. DeMoss,

**IN MEMORY GIFTS:** IMO+ Stacy Hotis, IMO+ Danny Speros, IMO+ Mark Sprintz, IMO+ Chris Gabriel, IMO+ Fr. James & Presb. Katherine Tavlarides, IMO+ Tom Contes, IMO+ Leonard Mastorakos, IMO+ John Sgouros, IMO+ Chris Gabriel, IMO+ Athena & Dan Choukalas, IMO+Milton & Harriet Sioles, IMO+ Koula & Pete Triantafyllou, IMO+ Fr. Anthony Coniaris

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

## Easy Stewardship Sign Up!

Go to [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)  
and then click on **Stewardship**



# Bible Study

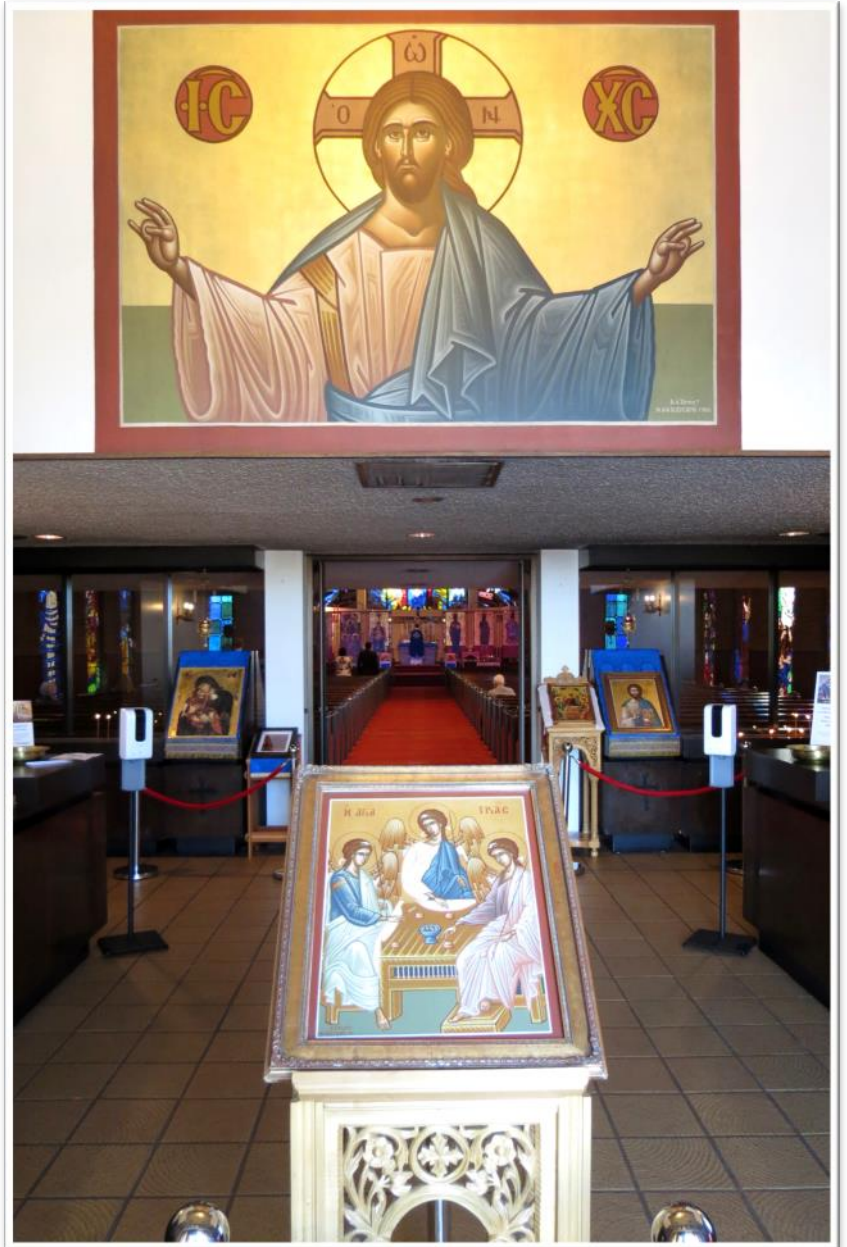
## Fr. Apostolos Re-starts Bible Study!

Join Fr. Apostolos in his Bible Study on ZOOM every **Saturday at 9am!**

The study is titled "Experiencing the Psalms" and will provide an in-depth survey of how the Psalter came to be over 1,000 years by multiple authors, how the Psalms were used in worship in the Old Testament, and how they are used in Orthodox Worship today.

We will examine how to incorporate the Psalms into our Rules of Daily Prayer and how to navigate them as our personal prayer book.

Zoom ID is 84203179482 and the Password is 026451



# Divine Liturgy Class

## Fr. Alexander Class on the Divine Liturgy

Join us on **Mondays at 7pm** on ZOOM as we begin to dissect the Divine Liturgy. We will see the development and history of the Liturgy as well as doing a "prayer-by-prayer" of the center of our life as Orthodox Christians.

Zoom ID is 360 179 3722 and the password is HTPhoenix



## Light a Candle

In this time more than ever we need prayer. For those not able to come to the Cathedral yet, we have set up this ability to light a candle virtually! Please click the link above and follow the instructions. Enter your name and the names of those you wish prayed for in the PayPal "Notes" section, and Father Apostolos or Father Alexander will light a candle and say a prayer for you.

# St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

By Rita Papaspyrou

## Annunciation of the Theotokos

Commemorated on March 25

The Feast commemorates the announcement by the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would become incarnate and enter into this world through her womb.



The Archangel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary, who was living in Nazareth, and said to her, “Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you.” Mary was perplexed and wondered what kind of greeting this was.

The angel told her not to be afraid, for she had found favor with God. He said, “You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Mary responded to the angel by asking how this could happen since she had no husband. The angel told her that the Holy Spirit and the power of God would come upon her, and that the child to be born of her would be called holy, the “Son of God.”

In faith and obedience to the will of God, Mary replied to the angel, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be according to your word.” Upon her response, the angel departed.

It is on the Feast of the Annunciation, that Orthodox Christians commemorate both the divine initiative of God, whereby He took on flesh from the Virgin for our salvation, and the human response, whereby Mary freely accepted the vocation offered to her. He elected to become man, and He desired to do this with the willing agreement of her whom He chose as His mother. Mary could have refused, for she was not a passive instrument, but an active participant with a free and positive part to play in God’s plan for our salvation. Thus, when on this and other feasts the Orthodox Church honors the Theotokos, the Mother of God, it is not just because God chose her but also because she herself chose to follow His will.



# Sunday School—New!

Beginning Sunday  
March 7, 2021  
and for the rest of the Spring

Sunday School  
taught by  
John Schneider & Ted Kyriacou

After Liturgy kids will go outside  
to do a fun activity, and have a quick discussion.



# Sunday School

February 14, 2021



# Our Church Family

## Chrismation

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

Galatians 3:27



02/20/2021

Nick Marino

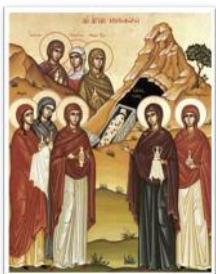
Godparent: Alexander Harding

*God's Blessings be upon him.*

## 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



02/26/2021

Mae Ducas

*May her memory be eternal.*

02/27/2021

Vasillia Papatzimas

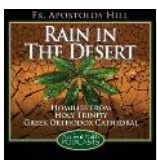
*May her memory be eternal.*

# Follow HTC on Facebook

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



# Rain In The Desert



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

[www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/rain](http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/rain)

Sermons can also be found on the Cathedral website at [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org).

# Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners and their guests



Dear Desert Diamonds & Friends,

Hello!

Praying that you are all well and staying safe.

I am sure that most of us are weary from all the isolation and are waiting to resume the Fellowship that we have shared in the past before Covid hit us!!!!

I am planning a tentative, Pre-Lent Brunch, on **Thursday, March 11th at 11:00am**, for our Desert Diamonds Ministry. We may be able to meet at our church's patio. It will be kept safe & follow the Health rules. More details to follow as we see how we stand for safety. Should we have this catered & all pay our fair share of the cost or do we do a potluck? Please let me know.

Can't wait to see you all!!!!!!

I would like to hear from you if you have any suggestions, email address, phone number corrections or additions to our list.

God's blessings to one and All.

Yours in Christ,

Julie Karoutas

email: [juliekaroutas@gmail.com](mailto:juliekaroutas@gmail.com)

cell: 623-313-8720 call, text, or message with your name & names of guests





## MEETING INFORMATION



**AHEPA Saguaro Chapter 219 will hold it's monthly meeting and Second Annual Steak Night on 11 March, 2021 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral starting at 6:30 PM for a night of fellowship and camaraderie. The meal will include open bar, a 16+ oz. Ribeye Steak, all the fixings, and cake/ice cream and coffee service for \$25 per person. Please come out and join the brothers after a long hiatus due to local health directives. The event will take place outdoors and all mask, social distancing, and contact information protocols will be observed.**

# Greek School

Irene Dartoozos Mackos, Director  
Gabiella Papatzimas, Teacher



## Important March Events

-Apokries (Carnival or Greek Mardi Gras)

February 24 through March 14

-Beginning of March - Marti Bracelets

-March 15 1st Day of Lent, Καθαρή Δευτέρα

-March 25—200 year anniversary of our Independence from the Ottoman Empire



Greek Carnival (*Apokries*) lasts for three weeks and is celebrated seventy days before Easter

The three weeks of Apokries are called *Profoní* (Announcement Week),

*Kreatiní* (Meat Week), and *Tyriní* (Cheese Week), which is also called *Tyrofáγou* (Cheese-eating Week).

The *Kreatiní week* ends with *Apókreo* Sunday (No-meat Sunday) because from the following day, we abstain from eating meat. During the week of *Tyrofáγou*, we eat dairy products as an intermediate step between eating meat and the fasting that will follow in the next period, the Lent.

Our Greek School was honored to present this video yesterday at the Virtual Three Hierarchs Event with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos in attendance. Great job to all involved!



YOUTUBE.COM  
GLC - Phoenix, Arizona  
The 3 Hierarchs Presentation Phoenix, AZ

During Apokries, merrymaking, entertainment, festivals and masquerade occur.

Greek School learned about these traditions and made masks and τρούφες, a yummy chocolate truffle.

Another important holiday is Greek Independence Day! March 25, 1821. This year we celebrate our 200 years anniversary of our Independence from the Ottoman Empire!!  
Ζήτω η Ελλάδα

[Click here to watch the video.](#)

# OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

Dianna Scaccia, Co-President  
Paulina Watson, Co-President

Paulina Watson  
602-740-3950  
[Paulinawatson25@gmail.com](mailto:Paulinawatson25@gmail.com)

Dianna Scaccia  
602-323-4615  
[discaccia@gmail.com](mailto:discaccia@gmail.com)



Are you getting the weekly  
OPA Newsletter?

OPA communicates primarily through email,  
via our email newsletter.

To stay informed on all of the  
youth, parent, and family happenings at Holy Trinity,  
sign up today.

It's easy, just email your information  
[cjecomom@gmail.com](mailto:cjecomom@gmail.com),  
and we'll get you added to list!



**OCMC**  
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER  
PRESENTS

## PRAY GIVE GO VIRTUAL BENEFIT

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021 | 7PM MT

Join us for first ever OCMC virtual event in the Phoenix area! Be part of the movement that began with Christ's last command to His disciples to "make disciples of all nations" and continues with YOU!

Come hear from Fr. Chris Rowe, OCMC Development Officer, as he shares his experience on how a life in Christ brings us closer together.

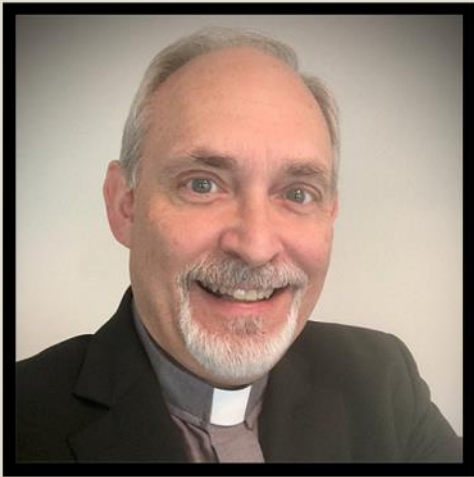
Questions? Contact [events@ocmc.org](mailto:events@ocmc.org)



P R E S E N T S

# PRAY GIVE GO VIRTUAL BENEFIT

Sunday, April 11, 2021 | 7PM MT



GUEST SPEAKER

**Fr. Christopher Rowe**

*OCMC Development Officer*

***Connecting with Christ,  
Connecting with Others***

Join us for Phoenix's first ever OCMC virtual event! Be part of the movement that began with Christ's last command to His disciples to "make disciples of all nations" and continues with YOU! Hear from OCMC's Development Officer as he shares his experience of how a life in Christ brings us closer to each other.

This FREE Stay-At-Home event is a new way to bring our communities together at the comfort of your own home. Register TODAY to get your Zoom link. We look forward to seeing you!

Questions? Contact [events@ocmc.org](mailto:events@ocmc.org)

Register by scanning the QR code with your phone camera or visit:

[https://www.ocmc.org/serve-from-home/host-or-join-event.](https://www.ocmc.org/serve-from-home/host-or-join-event)

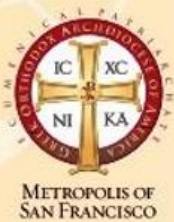


# A Lenten Journey

## Volunteer Opportunity for High School and College Students

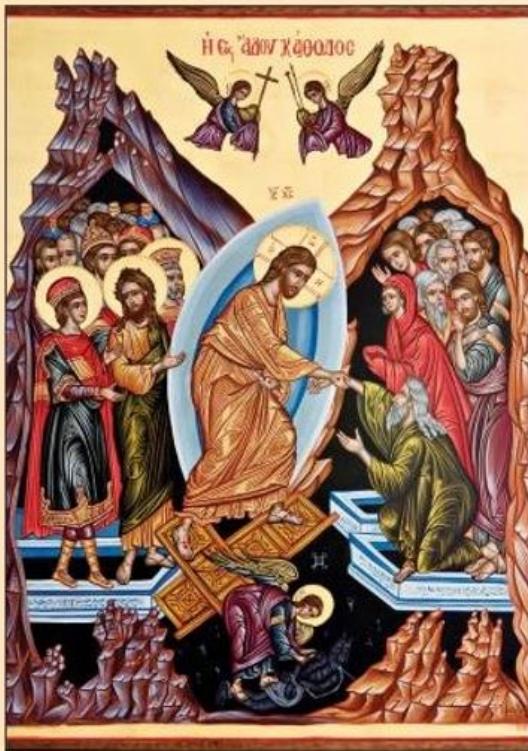
Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity that connects you to your faith? Become a volunteer today!

# A LENTEN JOURNEY



## TO GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

*Metropolis-wide Youth Religious Education Program*



- 11-week virtual youth Religious Education program
- Pre-Kindergarten through 8th Grade
- Lessons will include key themes of the liturgical cycle beginning with the Triodion, continuing into Great Lent, through Holy Week and concluding with Holy Pascha.
- Classes will be held on Zoom every Sunday beginning February 21 from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. PST. The last session will be held on Good Friday, April 30.
- Sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Christian Education Ministry, in collaboration with the Orthodox Youth Mentorship Program of Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Camarillo, CA.
- A team of volunteer teachers will engage students with lessons, activities, and service projects. High school and college students will participate as mentors and activity leaders.
- **Register Today!** There is no cost to attend, but registration is required, prior to Friday, February 5, 2021.

*"This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to participate in insightful lessons, activities and service projects, all designed to enrich their Lenten journey and prepare them for the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection," stated His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco.*

*"Our children deserve the best opportunities to be empowered with knowledge on their faith, and especially during these times of ongoing physical separation, this program creates an opportunity to enhance fellowship and friendships from across our Metropolis."*



Christian  
Education



For more information visit:

[www.religioused.sanfran.goarch.org](http://www.religioused.sanfran.goarch.org)

or contact Program Coordinator [María Tangalos](mailto:MaríaTangalos@gmail.com) at [mariatangalos@gmail.com](mailto:mariatangalos@gmail.com).

Holy Trinity Cathedral

# WE'RE BACK!

YOUTH NIGHT  
MARCH 13

**5PM-8PM**

Masks will be worn inside at all times  
and hand sanitizer readily available

## **A NIGHT OF FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, FUN, AND DANCE!**

- For all Youth from 1st Grade-High School
- Vespers at 5pm
- Pizza for dinner!
- Rotations with classmates of Greek Dance, activities, and in the church with Fr. Alexander



Come reconnect with your Church  
and Church family!

Please email Fr. Alexander to RSVP:  
[aeliades@holytrinityphx.org](mailto:aeliades@holytrinityphx.org)

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

We are so excited to announce the return of our Youth Nights on Saturday, March 13 at 5pm after a year of absence! We'll begin with Vespers, followed by a Pizza Dinner and rotations with each age group of Greek Dance, crafts, activities, and a session with Fr. Alexander in the Cathedral. All youth from 1<sup>st</sup> Grade-High School are welcome to come and will rotate with their peers through these great activities!

Join us for a wonderful evening of faith, fun, food, and dance as our youth can come together for the first time in a year! Masks will be worn at all times indoors and when in close proximity, hand sanitizer will be available, and all precautions taken for a safe and wonderful time.

Please RSVP to Fr. Alexander at [aeliades@holytrinityphx.org](mailto:aeliades@holytrinityphx.org)