



December 2022
Volume 7 Issue 11



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

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

Office Hours:

Monday–Friday, 9:00am–3:00pm

Sunday Worship

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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info@stnectariosphx.org

2022 Parish Council Members

President: Paul Katsenes

Vice President: Connie Contes

Treasurer: Jim Manelis

Ass't. Treasurer: Dina Anagnopoulos

Secretary: Andi Furlis

Sandy Annos, Charlie DeMoss,

Alexander Harding, Jill Leach,

Sandy Meris, Elias Moussa,

Socrates Papadopoulos

Holy Trinity Cathedral

www.holytrinityphx.org

Metropolis of San Francisco

www.SanFran.goarch.org

Archdiocese Website

www.goarch.org

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- **Bookstore** — Rita Papaspyrou: stnectariosphx@gmail.com
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- **Celebration Committee** — Terri Alexon and Mary Pardhe: htcphxevents@gmail.com
- **Dance** — Niko Panagiotakopoulos: npanos01@yahoo.com
- **Daughters of Penelope** — Cathy Keyser: keyserc53@gmail.com
- **Desert Diamonds (50+)** — Julie Karoutas: juliekaroutas@gmail.com
- **Epistle Readers** — Presvytera Denise Hill: denkevhill83@gmail.com
- **Feed Those in Need** — Christine Stamatis: cstamatis@cox.net
- **Greek Festival** — Nick Kretsedemas, Angelo Pestrivas: niko.37@cox.net
- **Greek School** — Irene Mackos: eirinie@gmail.com
- **Hellenic Museum** — Bessie Hotis: call 602-953-1913
- **Little Lambs** — Angela Scopelianos: angelagarozzo@gmail.com
- **Living Orthodox (formerly St. Nicodemus Young Adult Book Club)** — Mary Pardhe: livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com
- **Maintenance** — Peter Bilitsis, Ted Furlis: htcmaintenance1973@gmail.com
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- **Philoptochos** — Alex Anagnopoulos: aanagnopoulos2@msn.com
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- **Sons of Pericles** — Ted Furlis: text or call: 602-625-8835
- **Special Events Administrator** — Angie Lambrou: angie.lambrou@cox.net
- **Stewardship** — Sandy Meris: sandymeris@gmail.com
- **Sunday School** — Kathy New: kkatsalis@msn.com
- **Wedding Coordinator** — Lindsay Vardalos
- **YAL** — Alexander Harding: text 480-626-3149

Attention Organizations:

Please check the listings on this page and confirm that the information is correct. Email is the default contact type, but listings can be changed to text or phone if preferred. Email any changes to both the Office at AdminAssist@holytrinityphx.org and Kristen at kvasilarakos@cox.net. *It is the organization's responsibility* to inform Heidi and Kristen of any updates to your listing.

Message from Father Apostolos



The American novelist O. Henry published a short story in 1905 titled “The Gift of the Magi” about a poor, young couple struggling to purchase gifts for each other at Christmas. The woman, blessed with long, beautiful hair, sold her silky locks to a wig maker to buy a silver chain for her husband’s gold timepiece. The man, meanwhile, sold his watch, a family heirloom, to purchase silver combs for his wife’s beautiful hair.

Though neither could use the gifts they received, the young man and woman still cherished their gifts as expressions of the love they shared with each other.

The three Wise Men from the East were, of course, the very first to offer their gifts to the newborn King. Traveling from faraway lands, the three kings brought with them the costliest gifts then available; gold, frankincense, and myrrh, to pay homage to the Son of God.

Gift-giving lies at the heart of the Christmas tradition. Sharing gifts is a tangible way to express love and gratitude. Parents work late into the night to prepare the gifts before their children (awaking far too early!) race to the tree on Christmas morning to unwrap their treasures. The national economy depends upon robust Christmas holiday spending to maintain itself, the term “Black Friday” referring to the day on which retail outlets reliably begin to turn a profit.

What is the real gift of Christmas? Think back, right now, to last Christmas and name three gifts you received! Not so easily done, huh? How many of these gifts once joyously embraced have already been forgotten and discarded? This doesn’t denote ingratitude on the part of the receiver but how fleeting is the joy of material possessions.

The proper Orthodox title for the Christmas holiday is **“The Feast of the Incarnation of the Word of God.”** And to understand the incalculable value of The Gift, we need only examine the two icons on the iconostasis which flank the Royal Doors; the exalted Jesus Christ to the right, and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary on the left. Remember that icons are illustrated scripture, each color and aspect signifying profound theological insights.

The icon of Jesus depicts him wearing a seamless (John 19:23) tunic of red, over which He wears a blue robe, while the pattern is reversed for the Virgin Mary who is depicted wearing a red outer robe over a blue inner tunic. What do these colors indicate? In Orthodox iconography, the color red indicates the fire of divinity (“God is a consuming fire” Deut. 4:24) while the color blue denotes our humanity.



The Feast of the Incarnation, or Christmas, celebrates the coming of the Word of God, Who was “in the beginning with God” (John 1:2) and “apart from Him nothing came into being.” The Christ-child in the manger in Bethlehem is the self-same “True Light, which, coming into

the world, enlightens every man." (John 1:9)

And yet, in Jesus' love for humanity, He robed Himself in our human flesh, uniting all of us to God as we are reborn in Him in the Holy Mysteries of the Church. St. Gregory Nazianzus (+390) reminds us that salvation consists in being united to God, and in nothing less than this.

Conversely, we see in the icon of the Theotokos the color pattern reversed. Born to her righteous parents Joachim and Anna, Mary surrendered her will to the will of God, "be it done unto me according to your word," (Luke 1:38) and became the "Mediatrice" of our salvation. We see her humanity, then, robed in the fire of the Divine.

This is the true gift of Christmas; the opportunity to receive the divine Life, to be robed in divinity through union with Jesus Christ! St. Athanasius would later write "God became a man so that man might become God." ("Incarnation" chap.4) This bold statement echoes the words of the Apostle Peter who wrote; "He has granted us His precious and magnificent promises that by them you might become partakers of the Divine Nature." (2 Pet. 1:4)

What greater gift could be imagined than to be absorbed into the Life of the Holy Trinity? The coming of Jesus Christ celebrated at Christmas ransomed all of creation from its spiral into the abyss of nothingness through rebellion and forgetfulness of God. The message of salvation announced by angels to simple shepherd boys; "Glory to God in the Highest, Peace on the Earth, and Goodwill to all men!" is as relevant today as it was when first proclaimed. This is the Gift of Christmas; a New Life in Jesus Christ, the chance to begin anew *every day!* "May we cherish this priceless gift above all others in our holiday celebrations and offer our own homage and devotion to the Word of God made flesh this Christmas Season!

Parish Assembly Agenda

December 4 2022

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY December 4, 2022

As provided in the Uniform Parish Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, a meeting of the Parish Assembly will be held at the Holy Trinity Cathedral Speros Community Center, 1973 E. Maryland Ave, Phoenix, Arizona, immediately **after Divine Liturgy on Sunday December 4, 2022**. Those listed as Stewards in Good Standing are eligible to vote.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Paul T. Katsenes, President, Parish Council
2. Opening Prayer and Ecclesiastical Report -- Father Apostolos
 3. Determine whether a quorum exists
 4. Election of a Chairperson
 5. Chair Appoints a Parliamentarian for Assembly
 6. Chair Appoints a Secretary for Assembly
7. Parish Council Presidents Report, Paul T. Katsenes
7. Festival Report -- Co-Chairs Ted Furlis, Nick Kretsedemas, Angelo Pestrivas.
8. Budget 2023 Presentation -- Review and Adoption, Jim Manelis, Treasurer
9. Sampson Memorial Youth Project -- Sandy Meris, Niko Panagiotakopoulos
 10. New Business
 11. For the Good of the Cathedral
 12. Adjournment -- Motion
13. Closing Prayer -- Father Alexander

Stewardship

By Sandy Meris



*To be a welcoming community sharing
Christ's love
through faith and service*

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY GRATITUDE LUNCHEON

**Please join us for our annual
Stewardship Sunday Gratitude Luncheon
Sunday, December 11, 2022**

Please bring your completed 2023 Stewardship Pledge Card in the Cathedral where they will be blessed at the end of Divine Liturgy. Then join us down at the Community Center for the FREE luncheon.

Menu Includes:

Fish Plaki
Pasta Marinara
Vegetable
Salad
Rolls
Lenten Dessert

THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE THANKS

Giving Thanks: Eucharistic Stewardship is the theme for Stewardship 2023. What a perfect and beautiful message for the year! And what better way to show our appreciation and give thanks for all we have been given than by giving thanks. We have two distinct opportunities to give thanks.

The first is by becoming a 2023 Steward. Simply fill out and return your 2023 Pledge Card and make a financial contribution toward that pledge.

The second is by joining us in the ***Season of Giving*** as we support those less fortunate during the holidays through St. Vincent de Paul. We are collecting ***non-perishable food items, toys and school supplies***. Simply bring your items and leave them in the donation boxes in the Narthex or Community Center. Or simply clip cash, gift card or a check (made out to St. Vincent de Paul) to the Giving Tree in the Narthex.

When becoming a 2023 Steward we urge you to consider using WeShare, our online giving portal. WeShare makes your Stewardship contributions easy, automatic and regular. You set your pledge amount for the year, enter your banking or credit card information. You can make your payments weekly, monthly or as often as you like. This way, there is no catching up at the end of the year. Either way you do it, we appreciate you becoming a 2023 Steward.

Stewardship



Holy Trinity's Stewardship Holiday Community Outreach Project is supporting **St. Vincent de Paul** in hopes of making the holidays a little brighter for families in need.

Let's create a **SEASON OF GENEROSITY** as our parish bands together to support people in our own community who are less fortunate.

We are collecting the following items:
Non-perishable food items
School Supplies
Toys

Collection boxes are located in the Cathedral and Community Center.

We appreciate your donations and will also accept cash, checks or gift cards that can be pinned to the Christmas tree in the Narthex which will assist the organization in purchasing supplies.
(Checks made out to St Vincent de Paul)

Final day to donate your items:
Sunday, December 18.

For any questions, contact Sandy Meris
at sandymeris@gmail.com.

***"Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart;
then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work
and in everything you put your hand to."
-Deuteronomy 15:10***



Stewardship

Spotlight on Stewardship

Stewardship 2023 is upon us. The theme for 2023: ***Giving Thanks: Eucharistic Stewardship*** is a joyful reminder to us to be grateful and give thanks through stewardship. We are called to take care of our beloved Cathedral, help the poor and worship together in fellowship.

Soon you will receive your 2023 pledge card in the mail. We ask you to prayerfully consider your 2023 pledge and consider increasing your pledge year after year until we become a tithing parish. If each of us is truly giving sacrificially then we are well on our way.

Please bring your completed pledge card to church on **Stewardship Sunday, December 11th**. We will collect the cards in church where the Fathers will bless them in the altar. For those who fill out their pledge cards online, those names will be added in church and included in the blessing. Either way you do it, we thank you for becoming a 2023 steward.

Online Giving

Becoming a steward and joining our online giving portal is quick and easy! Fill out your pledge card [HERE](#). We encourage you to join WeShare our online giving portal. Simply click on "online giving" under Stewardship and fill out the required information. You can make your payments as often as you like. It's an easy way to keep current on your stewardship donations.

Stewardship Sunday Gratitude Luncheon

Please join us on **Sunday, December 11th** for Stewardship Sunday's Gratitude Luncheon. This luncheon is free to all parishioners and a way for us to show gratitude for our stewards. Please join us following Divine Liturgy as we break bread together as a Cathedral family, celebrate stewardship and ring in the Christmas season.

Steward in Good Standing

What does it mean to be a "steward in good standing?" In order to be a steward in good standing one must complete the following two items: ***Fill out a new pledge card every year. And make a payment toward that pledge.*** Being a steward in good standing enables us to do many things including, participating and voting in parish assemblies, run for the parish council, hold an office in a ministry, become a Godparent, get married in the church among other things.

Do I need to fill out a new Pledge Card every year?

The answer is YES! This is a frequently asked question and there is a very good reason the Archdiocese requires us to do this. First, it is important that the church be kept updated with your contact information. People move, change jobs, get a new cell number or email address and may forget to let the church office know. In addition, it's important to take a moment to prayerfully and thoughtfully consider your pledge amount every year. This gives us an opportunity to consider our giving and how and if we can give more. Perhaps we have had a job or life change and need to give less. Either way, it is a time of reflection and careful consideration. Filling out this card annually takes just a few minutes but it is extremely important!

"What shall I give to the Lord in re- turn for all His benefits towards me?"

- Ps 116:2

House of Stewards

As of 12/01/2022

Panagiota Agelakos
Catherine Agra
Evan & Terri Alexon
Constance Anagnopoulos
Mike & Alexandra Anagnopoulos
Nikki Anest
Bettina Angelos
John & Alexandra Annos
Elaine Apostle
Argyro Apostolou
Chris Athens
Christina & Chris Bakavelou
Constantine & Eleni Balanis
Taylor Bankson
Ted & Rebecca Barabatis
Marissa Bard
Shannon & Elise Bard
Alexandra Bates
Joyce Bavlinka
Dr. Nicholas Baziotis
Scott & Stacey Beaty
George & Stacy Benetos
Stamatios Benetos
Dan & Vicki Bichekas
Peter & Jennifer Biliotis
Emily Blazev
James & Helen Bruno
Chris & Georgia Brusalis
Chris & Rita Bruskas
Kristen Bruskas
Constance Burkhart
Kathy Carras
Frank & Alice Carris
Chad & Amanda Carver
Laurel Charnas—Schiller & Todd Schiller
Thanos & Anna Chimonas
Harriet Chostras
Jim Chostras
Pete & Kim Choukalas
Katherine & Jeffrey Clarke
Andrew & Mara Contes
James & Connie Contes
Kathy Contes
Ed Cooper
Jean Dal Pan
Nick & Sharon Daniolos
Patricia Davis
Leonard & Elaine Debickero

Elevsis & Alexis Delgadillo
Dimitrios & Ellen Deligiannis
Hercules Dellas
Patrick & Karla Delord
Joanne Demangus
Tom & Irene Demas
John & Mary Demetropoulos
Bill DeMoss
Charles DeMoss
Chris DeMoss
John & Marjorie DeMoss
Michael & Maureen DeMoss
Basil & Ruth Denaxas
Alexandros & Erika Dimitriadis
Stanley & Fran Drozd
Denise Dye
Kathryn Dye
Caroline Economopoulos
Christos & Dena Economopoulos
Emil Ellis
Fr. Alexander & Presv. Laura
Eliades
Greg Fernandez
Helen Fernandez
Mary Floor
Tim & Karla Floor
Athanase & Georgia Fourlis
Athanasia Fourlis
Ted & Andi Fourlis
Tim Fraenkel
Chris & Celeste Francis
Georgana Friehe
George & Julie Froumis
Christopher & Catherine Frye
Chris & Anne Gavras
Andreanna Georgiou
Pamela Georgelos
Diana Georgelos
Demetra Georgelos
John Giannopoulos
Polly Ginakes
Stella Gliosis
Eva Goodman
Bill & Lynn Graham
Gina Graham
David Haag
Mary Haidos
Donald Hall

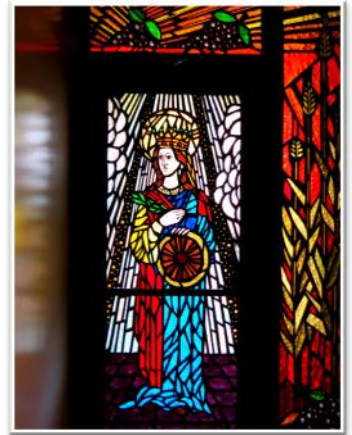


Alexander Harding
Terry Harper
Mary & Roger Harris
Patsy Harris
Alexia Haugen
Rev. Fr. Apostolos & Presv. Denise Hill
Gregory Hill
Veronica Hill
Maria Hontzas Ruffe
Bessie Hotis
Jeffrey Johannesmeyer
James & Linda Kalivas
Basilis & Roula Kaneris
Jean Kantaros
Nick & Dena Kantaros
William & Harriet Kapolis
Vasilios & Vasiliqi Karagiannis
Christina Karalekas
Mia Karandreas
Julie Karoufas
Joann Karros
Stavros & Olga Kassimatis
Christos & Kelley Katsanos
John & Mary Katsenes
Paul & Lori Katsenes
Thomas Katsenes
Jim & Poppy Kavouris
Fanny Kechajias
Catherine & Quentin Keyser
Ronald & Virginia Kidd
Emily Kimmell
George & Zanelta Kleanthis
Anastasia Kompos
Maria Kompos
Kostadinos & Anatoli Kostouros
Dean & Angela Koumontzis
Elizabeth Kratsas
Tammy Kretsedemas
Nick & Marina Kretsedemas

Debbie Kunkel
Theodore Kyriacou
Tassie Ladas
Anastasia Laitas
John & Evangelia Lambrou
Judith Lamond
Elias & Mary Lampos
Scott & Jill Leach
Mike & Lea Linaris
Gregory Lizanich
Efterpi Lourias
Melina Machas
James & Stephanie Machas
Maria Maciejewski
Aristotle & Evelyne Macrodimitris
Marika Makridis
Margarita Makris
Douglas & Anna Markakis
Mark Mallas
Julie & Felix Mamani
Anna Manos
Jim & Donna Manelis
Maria Manialtis
William & Rina Marinakos
Nicholas Marino
Mary Lou Mastorakos
Stephen & Mari Mastorakos
Pamela Maydanis
Peter & Christina Maydanis
Angela Mead
William & Sandy Meris
Joanne Meris
Anthony & Tania Miaoulis
George Miller
Paul & Linda Miller
William & Jean Miller
Andrew & Anastasia Mitchell
Philip & Helen Mitchell
Dino Moschovitis
Elias Mousa
Spyro & Effie Mousses
John & Maria Nicholas
Evelyn Nickalew
John Nicolettos
Annamarie Nieblas
Pamela Nolen
María Niatsos
Irene Pagoudis
Jeremy & Anastasia Oxley
Else Paleisios
Elizabeth Palmer
Alexander & Alexia Panagiotakopoulos
Anna Panagiotakopoulos
Christo & Connie Panagiotakopoulos
Nikolas Panagiotakopoulos
Thanasi & Melissa Panagiotakopoulos
Sofia Panagiotoglou
George & Chrysoula Papadopoulos
Socrates & Stephanie Papadopoulos
Ria Papageorgiou
Alexander & Olga Papamatheakis
Betty Papas
Nicholas Papas
Rita & Spyros Pappas
Gabiella Papatzimas
Nicholas & Stacy Papatzimas
Andrew & Emily Pappas
Angeline Pappas
Harry & Fannie Pappas
Irene Pappas
John & Andrea Pappas
Daniel & Anna Pardhe
Athena Parmenter
Katherine Pedersen
John & Dina Pesognelli
Fotini Pestrivas
Zoe Pestrivas
Chris Petroulakis
Jacquelyn Petroulakis
William & Kathryn Petsas
Nicholas & Laurel Petsas
Michael & TeAnn Philippis
Evanthia Piatt
Brian & Athena Pickett
Georgia Pikoula
Mary Pikulas
Andreas & Mary Poulakidas
Tracy Poulos
Chris & Juli Pritsos
Constantinos Pritsos
Nicole Pyle
Bertha Quinn
Lydia Rabbitt
Alex & Rose Rentzis
Lois Sakkas
Dimitra Sampson
Paul Sarantes
Leslie Sarantinos
John Schneider
Warren & Kalliopi Schneider
George & Angela Scopelianos
Diane Sedlacek
Chris & Terry Seretis
Elaine Seretis
George & Traci Sgouros
John Siavelis
Elyse Sioles
Robert & Donna Sioles
George & Evi Skintzis
Elias & Phyllis Skoubis
George Skoubis
Evangelos Skoubis
Constantin Solomon
Angelo & Marie Spanos
Leo & Rachel Speliopoulos
James A. & Christiana Speros
Elias & Theodora Staikos
Jim & Kathryn Stamadianos
Andrew & Christine Stamatis
Jane Steffens
Tristan & Alana Stoutenburg
Christopher Tapas
Despina Tavlarides
William & Rebecca Tavlarides
Gus & Mary Theodoropoulos
Nick & Effie Theodore
Jim Thomas
Deac. & Diak. John & Mary Thrasher
Andrew Touvannas
Thaddeus & Katherine Tropea
Constantine & Stella Tsantilas
Stacy & Gerri Tsantilas
Dimitrios Tsioutsopoulos
Constantine & Katherine Tzavaras
Daniel Valenzuela
Peter & Lindsay Vardalos
Kristen Vasilarakos
Argyro Vasquez
Andrew & Sandy Vlahoulis
Steve & Mary Vrahas
Kenneth & Angela Walker
Catherine Wallerich
Paula Walsh
Douglas & Paulina Watson
Timothy West
Robert Williams
Dan Williams
Richard & Katina Wood
Michael & Christina Wombacher
Dimitra Zakas
Anthony & Karen Zaman
Dimitrios & Eugenia Zannis
George & Katherine Zannis
Zella Zannis
Evangelia Zikos
Michael & Christina Zistatsis

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Alex Anagnopoulos, President



St. Katherine faceted glass icon in the south wing of

☯☯
**Next Meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2022
at 6:30 pm
in the Speros Community Center**
☯☯
Annual Gift Exchange!



What is Philoptochos?
The translation is Philo = Friend
and Ptochos = Poor.
It is literally "Friend of the Poor".

JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS 2022-2023

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 2022, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Philoptochos Bake Sale

GOOD NEWS!

St. Katherine Philoptochos of Holy Trinity Cathedral is having its annual Christmas Bake Sale on December 18th in the Community Center. We are taking prepaid orders for Koulourakia, Tsourekia, and Baklava every Sunday until December 11th (which is the deadline for ordering). The baked goods ordered will be delivered on December 18th during the bake sale. We look forward to providing delicious baked goods for your Christmas celebration.

As always, Philoptochos thanks you for your continuing support!

*thank
you*

Koulourakia \$10.00 per dozen
Tsourekia \$12.00
Baklava \$25.00



Our twice-yearly bake sales help support our many missions!



Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos



ST. KATHERINE PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE PRE-ORDER FORM

NAME _____

PHONE # _____ EMAIL _____

ITEMS AVAILABLE:

TSOUREKI \$12 each (please specify quantity & type):

_____ PLAIN

_____ ALMOND

_____ SESAME

TOTAL \$ _____

KOULOURLAKIA \$10 dozen (how many?) _____ TOTAL \$ _____

BAKLAVA \$25 per 8" x 8" pan (how many?) _____ TOTAL \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

PAYMENT:

CHECK NO. _____ AMOUNT \$ _____

(Please make check payable to: PHILOPTOCHOS)

CREDIT CARD # _____ CVV _____ EXP _____ ZIP _____

PLEASE MAIL COMPLETED FORM AND CHECK (IF APPLICABLE) TO:

PHILOPTOCHOS
4022 E HAMBLIN DR
PHOENIX, AZ 85050

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022

ALL ORDERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 ONLY.
QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL PATTY @ 480-703-4713.

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Coffee in the Conference Room!

EVERY TUESDAY!

9:30-11:00 am

No RSVP needed -
just stop on by!



Fall School Project—Collecting for Sweatshirts

Fall School Project—Collecting for Sweatshirts



Community leaders at the Kennedy at Loma Linda K-8th grade school have requested sweatshirts for their students in need. The school has requested specific types of sweatshirts in their school colors, without logos or any kind of graphics or writing. As such, it would be best to collect money to purchase the desired sweatshirts in bulk.

We are accepting monetary donations for this cause from Sunday, 11/06/2022 to 12/11/2022.

Look for the collection boxes in the Narthex and down by the Community Center.

Philoptochos will match up to
50%
of the total dollar amount that our
Cathedral community donates!

Artoklasia for St. Katherine



Parish Council Elections on 12/04/2022

Please read the biographies for the Candidates for the 2023 Parish Council. We are grateful to God that these souls have responded to the call to serve the needs of our vibrant and growing Orthodox "koinotito," the place where Christian fellowship and brotherhood ("koinonia") exists.

Parish Council elections are scheduled for Sunday, December 4th in conjunction with our Budget Parish Assembly. For your part, please also prayerfully consider how your gifts and energies might be effectively applied to the work of the Gospel being accomplished by the Holy Spirit here at Holy Trinity!

In Jesus Christ,

Fr. Apostolos Hill
Fr. Alexander Eliades

Parish Council Election – Candidate Profile

Name: Paul T. Katsenes

Address: 11221 N. 54 Place, Scottsdale, Arizona, 85254

Occupation: Retired, City Government (Phoenix & Scottsdale)

Name of Spouse: Lori

Names of Children: Katherine Bebe, Senior, University of Southern California; Thomas, 2nd LT, Infantry, US Army

Member of Holy Trinity Cathedral for how many years – This is my birth parish, I was baptized in Holy Trinity Church at 333 E. Virginia, prior to our Parish moving to this current location.

Have you served on the Parish Council at Holy Trinity before? Yes, I served two terms beginning in 1973 and again elected 2018, my term expires December 31, 2022

Office held at Holy Trinity Cathedral and years served in office. I am currently President now for two years. I was previously Vice President for two years of the Parish Council.

Came from what city and Church and served Church in what capacity? I was born here in Phoenix. However, while living in Los Angeles 1980 to 1986 I served on Parish Council, St Sophia Cathedral.

What do you hope to see happen at Holy Trinity Cathedral in the future?

I believe it is important for each of us, especially Parish leadership to be spiritually active on year round basis. With our two highly committed priests, Father Apostolos and Father Alexander, I am very interested in our Cathedral bringing new members to Orthodoxy and expanding spiritual programs and services for our parish members of all ages. Believe it is very important for the Parish Council to be effective in efficiently managing relations and support of our current and new ministries.

Its vitally important to maintain/protect our campus facilities while seeking additional ways to continue to be a financially secure parish.

Please tell us about yourself:

My parents Fannie and Thomas Katsenes provided the first lessons in service to my sister and brothers. We each found our own paths to serve. Mom was very active in the Daughters of Penelope and Philoptochos.

While Dad was a regular chanter in services and an Ahepan. Growing up I was an altar boy, later sang in the choir, taught Sunday School to high school students and adults.

Currently, I have chosen to come to the Cathedral office five days a week since January 2018. During this time I have been delighted to work on projects our Parishioners, Priests and Parish Council have deemed important. As a result we have been fortunate enough to be awarded two Department of Homeland Security Grants totaling more than \$222,000.

With these funds have been able to significantly improve the security of our campus buildings. We have completed additional large expensive "Capital Projects" – Chiller Cooling Tower for the Cathedral, new roofs on the Cathedral and latest example the resurfacing of the Parking Lot. We developed a process of Due Diligence to try our best to buy these services as well as we can. We have a few more of these Capital Projects that I look forward to explaining to the Parish Assembly meetings this year.



**Paul
Katsenes**

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION - CANDIDATE PROFILE

(You may submit your own Word or PDF form to htfrontoffice@holymtrinityphx.org. If you use this form please print clearly as this form will be copied and sent to all Stewards)

Name: Alexander Harding

Address: 4750 E. Union Hills Dr. # 2021
Phoenix, AZ 85050

Occupation: Sales Representative

Name of spouse: Christina Harding

Name(s) of children: none

Member of Holy Trinity for 3 years

Have you served on the Parish Council at Holy Trinity before? Y When? 2022

Office held at Holy Trinity (all organizations) and years served in office: Leader Young Adult Program, Stewardship Committee, Narthex Leader, Parish Council, AHEPA

Came from what city and Church and served Church in what capacity?

What do you hope to see happen at Holy Trinity in the future? Further growth and cohesion of i within our Parish community

Please tell us about yourself: Always looking for ways to serve and immerse myself in the Orthodox Faith



Alexander Harding

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION - CANDIDATE PROFILE

Name: Jill Leach

Address: 13724 W Harvest Ave. Litchfield Park Arizona 85340

Occupation: Office Manager for family practice medical office

Name of spouse: Scott

Names of children: Allyson and Ryan

Member of Holy Trinity for 5 years.

Have you served on the parish council at Holy Trinity before? Yes When? Present

Office held at Holy Trinity (all organizations) and years served in office: One year as present Parish Council member and volunteer for the 4F Sunday School (Faith, Family, Fellowship and Fun) acting as the meal coordinator for the monthly meals provided to youth, volunteers and parents attending each event.

Came from what city and Church and served Church in what capacity: Served in many churches over my lifetime (non-orthodox) mainly in youth and children ministries.

What do you hope to see happen at Holy Trinity in the future: I hope to grow and love my parish and work together to serve each other and others in need. I would love to see more fellowship and growth outside of coffee hour (example small groups or couples Bible study).

Please tell us about yourself: The Air Force brought our family to Arizona in 2009. This month I will celebrate 30 years being married to my best friend, Scott. We were blessed with 2 amazing children who are now adults, and both continue to make us proud every single day. I have fond memories of attending liturgy with my vivia growing up. It was not until we moved to Arizona that I started to embrace my Orthodox faith again. With guidance from Fr. Apostolos Hill, Fr. Alex Aeliades and with much prayer my husband and I were baptized in December of 2019. I was constantly asking and looking to help in the church in any way I could. One day I was asked about running for Parish Council and after more prayers, I ran and was appointed last year. I recently volunteered to be on the group that came together in the hiring process to fill two very important roles in our busy church office. It was such a joy and pleasure to be a part of that process. I have served on this council for one year and have loved every minute of it. I have learned so much about Holy Trinity and how it runs, and I believe there is so much more to learn and that I can be a part of that growth. I have also enjoyed learning from my experienced council members and all they offer to the council and this Parish. I feel like one year is not enough time for me and I would love the chance to serve again as a Holy Trinity Parish Council member.

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left but could say I have used everything you gave me." Emma Bombeck



Jill Leach

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION - CANDIDATE PROFILE

(You may submit your own Word or PDF form to htfrontoffice@holytrinityphx.org. If you use this form please print clearly as this form will be copied and sent to all Stewards)

Name: Chris Petroulakis
Address: 7456 E Red Bird Rd Scottsdale Arizona 85266
Occupation: Retail Leadership
Name of spouse:
Name(s) of children: Panteleimon (Pantelis)
Member of Holy Trinity for years - 49 years

Have you served on the Parish Council at Holy Trinity before? (YES) When? 2005 - 2011

Office held at Holy Trinity (all organizations) and years served in office: I served on the Parish Council - I also was co-chairman of the Greek Festival for 7 years

Came from what city and Church and served Church in what capacity? I attended Saint Demetrios Church as a child until 1973

What do you hope to see happen at Holy Trinity in the future? The future of the orthodox church are the children, therefore as orthodox adults, and parents we need to be conscious and involve ourselves and our children in the teachings and dogma of the church.

Please tell us about yourself:

My parents are immigrants of Greece and after 20 years of living in the mid-west our family of 5 moved from Chicago Illinois to Phoenix Arizona in 1973. I have one older brother and one younger sister and out of the three I am the only one living in Arizona.

I enjoy traveling, cooking, eating out and sports... I am a proud father of Pantelis who is 17yrs old and a junior in high school, to say the least he keeps me active, and we both enjoy the outdoors, tools, music (Greek) and church.

If I chose my favorite church services it would be a service celebrating a saint, a mid-week service and last but not least Holy Week of Pascha.



Chris Petroulakis

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION - CANDIDATE PROFILE

(You may submit your own Word or PDF form to htfrontoffice@holytrinityphx.org. If you use this form please print clearly as this form will be copied and sent to all Stewards)

Name: John Schneider
Address: 6743 N. 8th St. Phoenix, AZ 85014
Occupation: CPA
Name of spouse: N/A
Name(s) of children: N/A
Member of Holy Trinity for All years

Have you served on the Parish Council at Holy Trinity before? No When? N/A

Office held at Holy Trinity (all organizations) and years served in office: Sunday School 2015-present

GOYA 2016-present

All Saints Camp - Boys Director / Activities Director since 2018

Came from what city and Church and served Church in what capacity? N/A

What do you hope to see happen at Holy Trinity in the future? Increased support of youth programs, increased outreach and support to our external community, increased financial transparency

Please tell us about yourself: Born and raised in Phoenix, John considers Holy Trinity to be a home away from home. He looks forward to serving the community in any way possible.



John Schneider

Endowment Fund

✦ THE HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL ENDOWMENT FUND ✦

The Holy Trinity Endowment Fund was established in 1992 with an initial deposit of \$2,000. The goal was to build the Endowment Fund whereby the interest and appreciation would one day provide sufficient income so Holy Trinity would no longer be totally dependent on an annual festival to supplement stewardship income.

The Endowment Fund is obligated to preserve the donor's contributions such that the principal will remain **inviolable** and be held in perpetuity by the Church. The funds are prudently managed by the investment committee, which reports to the Parish Council. The investment committee only approves withdrawals from the earnings and appreciation, over and above the donor's contributions, and are used only to benefit Holy Trinity and its ministries.

Over the course of the past twenty-nine years the committee has held steadfast to this mission, and as a result, generous donors from our Church, desiring to leave a legacy ***in perpetuity*** for their family, have made contributions totaling \$644,340.00.

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

We have been blessed by the generosity and foresight of the individuals and families listed on the next page. We benefit today from their kindness and vision. If your circumstances allow you to give a gift above and beyond your annual stewardship commitment, then please take this occasion to join the others in creating a 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 gift, no matter the amount will be combined into the general endowment fund, and will be greatly appreciated.

GIFT DONATION FORM

Please list my **endowment gift** as follows: _____

Here is my Endowment gift, which I may add to, of \$_____

I plan to include the Holy Trinity Endowment fund in my
Will___, my Living Trust___, or TOD*___

Signed:_____

Dated:_____

Donor, please sign and keep a copy for your records

*TOD = transfer on death

All gifts will be preserved in the archives of Holy Trinity Cathedral
Gifts of \$10,000 or more may be made over a three year period.

Thank You, and + God Bless You + for your generosity.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral + 1973 E Maryland Phoenix AZ 85016

Endowment Fund

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
ENDOWMENT GIFTS

PLATINUM DONORS: \$100,000.00 +

Faye Boukas
George and Ann Souvall
John George Thomas

GOLD DONORS: \$50,000.00 +

Dr. Nick Baziotes

SILVER DONORS: \$25,000.00 +

DeMoss Families
IMO+ Tasia Pritchard

BRONZE DONORS: \$10,000.00 +

Gabriel & Helen Pappagallos
IMO Mary Montague
John & Mary Katsenes
George & Koula Cheros
IMO Dina Sakellarakis
Steve and Joan Vrahas
Ange & Alex J. Pappas
James & Connie Contes
Dennis & Anastasia DeBerry
IMO John G. Zannaras
Steve & Judith Vrahas

GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND: \$1,000.00 +

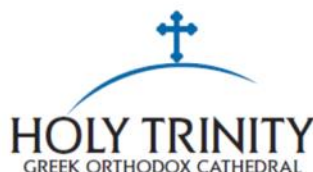
Dr. Christopher J. DeMoss
The Lambrou Family

OTHER IN MEMORY GIFTS

IMO Stacy Hotis
IMO Danny Speros
IMO Mark Sprintz
IMO Chris Gabriel
IMO Fr. James & Katherine Tavlarides
IMO Fr. Anthony & Mary Coniaris
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 James H. Karros
IMO Bette Maniatis
IMO Dan Lester Hill

Consider gifting highly appreciated stock. 72 and older, save taxes by giving from your IRA.

IMO - In Memory Of



+ REMEMBER HOLY TRINITY IN YOUR WILL +

Youth 4F Night—December

4F in December will be Saturday, December 17 from 4:30pm-8pm. We'll be reveling in some Christmas Cheer so please join us for a great night as a Holy Trinity Family! Register [here!](#)



Sunday Lessons



Celebration Committee



Let's Celebrate!

On the first Sunday of each month, the Celebration Committee organizes a potluck during Coffee Hour to celebrate all the special events in parishioners' lives and birthdays that take place in that month. Please join us every month and bring your favorite food item

to share! As always, the goal is to help the faithful get to know each other better and to grow closer as a spiritual family. We especially encourage you to invite a friend or neighbor to the monthly potluck. This month, we launched a new, communal cooking event. On the Saturday before each Celebration Sunday, we will be meeting in the Holy Trinity kitchen from 2:30 - 5:00 to prepare some dishes for Sunday. Then, we'll attend Vespers together and have a communal dinner.

In November, we celebrated both Chris and Rita Bruskas' 65th wedding anniversary and Scott and Jill Leach's 30th wedding anniversary. We wish them many more years! In addition, we celebrated all November birthdays.



Each table was covered with golden brown overlays and fall-inspired arrangements of dried Indian corn, acorns, and pinecones. Anniversary cards were circulated during Coffee Hour. Please see the following page for a flyer of November birthdays.

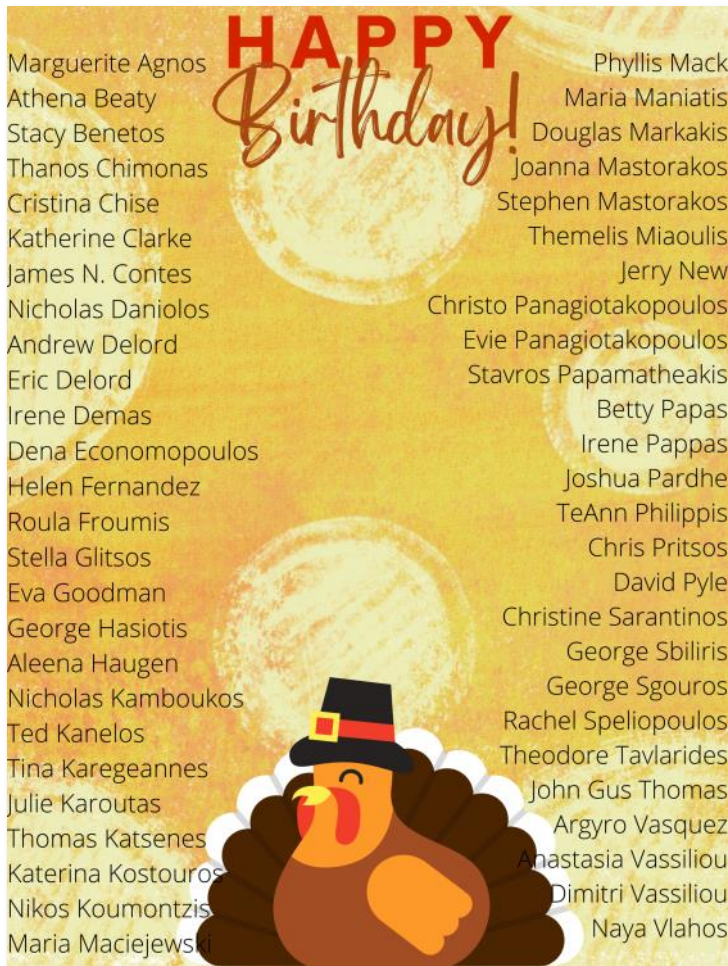
Thanks to all who have participated in the monthly potluck, sharing your favorite food item. Again, we greatly appreciate those who have shared their milestone events with our Holy Trinity Christian family. If you or someone you know from the parish is celebrating a baby, a birthday, an anniversary milestone, or any other

special event, please let the Church Office or the parish Celebration Committee know so that we can celebrate as a community! You can contact the church or send an email with suggestions and details to: htcphxevents@gmail.com.



Celebration Committee

November & December Birthdays!



Welcome Father Mario & November 6, 2022

Father Nick Visits November 20, 2022



Celebration Sunday



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.

holytrinityphx.org

Have you checked out the website lately?

Events • Services • Photos • Calendar • Stewardship



What YOU Can Do to Help Visitors Feel Welcome

Have you noticed new faces? We've had many visitors stop by lately. Some are Orthodox and visiting from other Parishes, some are returning to Orthodoxy after a long time away, and some are coming to check out Orthodoxy for the very first time. No matter how they come to us, let's make sure we say Hello!

"Welcome! I don't believe we've met yet. My name is (your name)" is a great start. Offer to walk with them to the Coffee Social. A personal connection goes far!

"To be a welcoming community sharing Christ's love through faith and service."



Our Church Family

Weddings

*“Oh Lord our God,
crown them with glory
and honour.”*



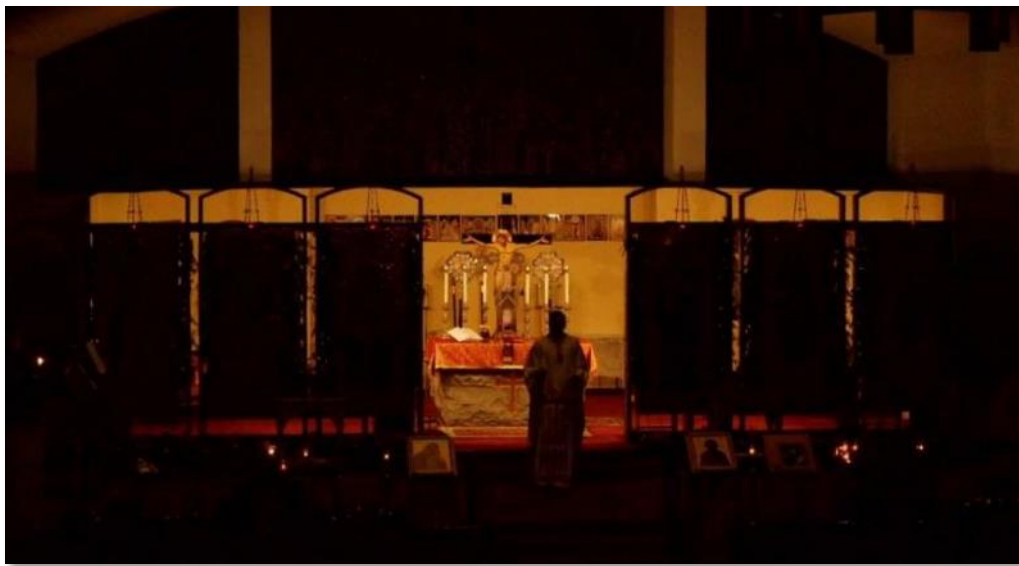
11/05/2022

Melina Machas & Jeffrey Johannesmeyer



Vigil for St. Porphyrios of Kavsoakalyvia

December 1, 2022



HTC on Facebook

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

[Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral—Phoenix, AZ](#)



Donations

We greatly value all your donations! Please remember, when you write us a check, to include your **intention for the donation and your envelope number in the memo line.** i.e. stewardship, candles, etc.

Thank you all!



Turkey Bowl 2022!

November 24, 2022



Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners and their guests

Julie Karoutas

email: juliekaroutas@gmail.com, cell: 623-313-8720 call or text



Dear Desert Diamonds & Friends,

Some of the First Watch lunch participants:



Yours in Christ,

Julie Karoutas

email: juliekaroutas@gmail.com

Cell# 623.313.8720

Kristen Bruskas Serves as Guest Conductor in NY

Congratulations to Kristen Bruskas who recently served as the guest choir director for the Archdiocesan District Church Music Federation. The conference was held October 28 - 30, 2022 at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York which included a 45-voice adult choir and a 12-voice youth choir. The choir spent two days in intense rehearsals, culminating in the Divine Liturgy featuring the Liturgical arrangement of Dr. Theodore Bogdanos. The weekend also included workshops and presentations from Fr. John Vlahos, V. Rev. Archimandrite Chrysostomos Gilbert, Dr. James Maniatis, and Grammy-nominated Orthodox composer and conductor Benedict Sheehan. It was a beautiful weekend of friendship and harmony, and the angelic voices of the choir gloriously filled the Archdiocesan Cathedral.



V. Rev. Archimandrite Chrysostomos Gilbert; His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Formerly of America; Kristen Bruskas



Members of the Archdiocesan District Church Music Federation following the Divine Liturgy and Conference on Sunday, October 28

Office Mailing Help

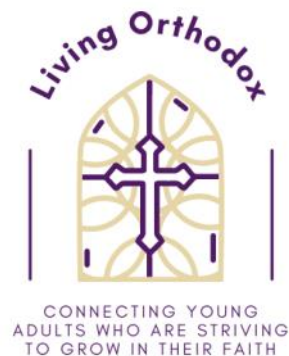
Thank you!



Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry

Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry

Living Orthodox is a national, pan-Orthodox ministry that is building a community of young adults (18-35) who are striving to grow in and connect with their faith! The focus of this ministry is to highlight ways that we, as young adults, personally grow in our Orthodox faith (ex. attending services, reading books, listening to podcasts, watching spiritual videos, etc.) and to share ideas on how to increase our commitment to live an Orthodox life. Join us on for virtual meetings every other week and in-person for our monthly potluck discussions!



Upcoming Events

All young adults (18-35) are invited to a Christmas Party on Dec. 11th at 5:30 pm! We will be enjoying a potluck meal together, doing a group service project to assemble blessing bags for the homeless, and hearing from our guest speaker, John Hinson (St. Ignatius), on the topic - "Finding Healing Through the Sacraments". Please RSVP by Dec. 7th - <https://tinyurl.com/HTCphx>.



November Cooking Event

The November cooking event with Tom Nations from Assumption was a huge success with 25 young adults from over 5 parishes. The focus of the event was learning how to make delicious fast-friendly meals. Everyone participated in cooking a meal of roasted potatoes and eggplant, sweet and sour pumpkin, spicy chickpea and potatoes, and mushroom bolognese. Then, we enjoyed the meal! Tom gave a short presentation on how to view fasting seasons as an opportunity to explore the rich and varied cuisines that have vegan food. The event inspired us to collect fast-friendly recipes that can be shared with the rest of the Living Orthodox group.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Living Orthodox, please email livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com! You can also visit <https://linktr.ee/livingorthodox> for links to our Instagram channel and Discord server.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
Christmas Potluck Party
December 11, 2022 | 5:30 pm
Contes' residence - South Tempe (address provided upon RSVP)

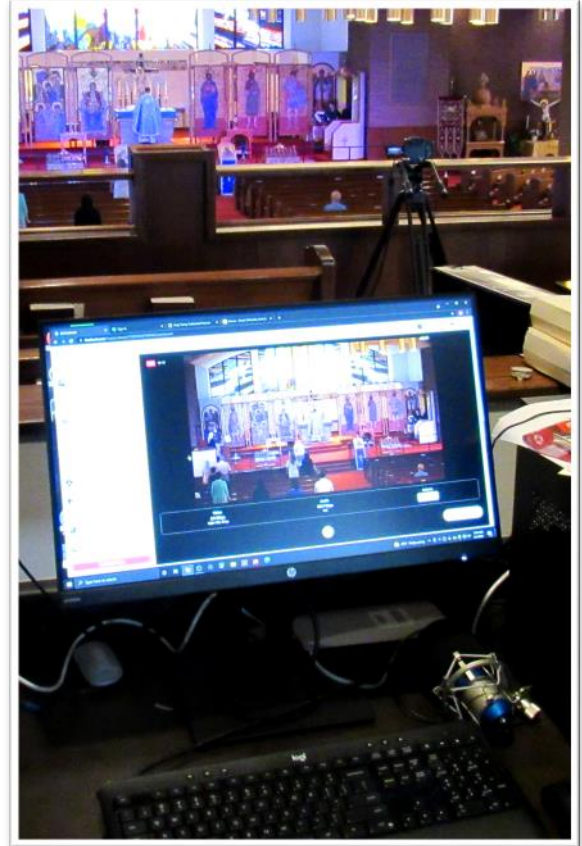
All young adults (18-35) are invited to this fun Christmas event! We will be enjoying a potluck meal together, doing a group service project to assemble blessing bags for the homeless, and hearing from our guest speaker, John Hinson (St. Ignatius), on the topic - "Finding Healing Through the Sacraments".

RSVP by Dec. 7th - <https://tinyurl.com/HTCphx>
Questions? Email livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com!

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

All services can now be found on the Home Page of the Cathedral's website 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 text Kristen at 602-332-8809.

If you have been receiving the mailed Desert Springs, but no longer need it mailed to you, please let the Church Office know. Thank you!

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

Coffee Hours

Thank you to **Dance** for sponsoring Coffee Hours in November.



The December Coffee Hours are sponsored by **Philoptochos**.



Thank you!



The HTC Office Staff



Heidi Demopoulos Bass

Office Manager



Yvonne Vranes

Office Administrator

AHEPA Chapter 219

AHEPA CHAPTER 219



2022 Contributions

• UMOM	\$ 9,000
• St. Innocents	13,000
• Benevolent Fund	2,000
• Ukraine	3,000
• Festival Bar	15,000
• Scholarships	11,000
• Community Picnic	1,000
• Misc. Charity	5,000
• Chapter Misc.	700
	<hr/>
Total Contributions	\$60,000

OUR NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15TH 6PM
HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX
CATHEDRAL - COMMUNITY CENTER

AHEPA Chapter 219

AHEPA CHAPTER 219



Merry Christmas!

PHOTOS FROM RECENT MEETINGS AND EVENTS
BY NICK MAYDANIS

Daughters of Penelope

Helenos Chapter 432,
Phoenix, AZ



As you celebrate the miracle of this special season, May your heart be filled with joy and peace.

Merry Christmas!

Thank you to all for your support of our
Founder's Day Celebration!



If you would like to join in the fun, please consider becoming a member.

Officers:

Cathy Keyser, *President*

Deedee Staikos, *Recording Secretary*

Anastasia Mitchell, *Treasurer*

Julie Karoutas, *Officer at Large, Ahepa Liaison*

Angie Lambrou, *Vice President*

Connie Panagiotakopoulos, *Corresponding Secretary*

Jennifer Bilitsis, *Marshal*

If you are interested in joining, please contact Angie Lambrou (Vice President) by email:

angie.lambrou@cox.net or by phone at (480) 473-4906

Greek School

Irene Dartoozos Mackos, Director
phxgreeksschool@gmail.com



When we think about the Month of December in Greece, we usually think of winter and celebrations. Let's learn more about a typical Greek December Month. December is the first month of winter, which means you could say "kalo xeimona" - "Καλό χειμώνα"

However, usually Greeks say this wish much earlier, when they come back from their holidays, in September and October!

December is the most festive month of the year in Greece! Apart from Christmas we also have many other religious feasts and important name days. In Greece, overall name days are more important than birthdays, so have a look if you have any Greek friends with the following name!

December 4: Barbara 's name day (protector of the army)

December 5: Savas' name day (protector of the sick)

December 6: Nick, Nikki, Nikoleta, Nicholas' name day (this day is very important to the Greeks, as St. Nicholas is the protector of sailors.)

Attention! Saint Nicholas does not bring gifts; children in Greece will have to wait till New Year's Eve. Santa Claus or "Agios Vassilis" is honored on the 1st of January!.

December 9: Anna's nameday. This day is also supposed to be a cold day.

December 12: Spyros and Spyridoula's name day.

December 15: Lefteris and Eleftheria's name day.

December 25: Christos, Christina, Chrysa, Chrysoyla's name day.

December 27: Stephanos, Stephania's name day.

Do not forget to call your friends with those names and tell them "Chronia Polla"! Χρόνια Πολλά!

Christmas

As in many countries, Greek people celebrate Christmas. The family gathers and eats together. During the days before Christmas and on the day itself, people wish each other "Kala Xristougenna" and "Kales Giortes". Of course there are also several traditions connected to the Christmas period.

Trigona Kalanta

In Greece children sing the Christmas carols accompanied by their small metal triangles. Early in the morning on 24/12 the children go from door to door, asking "na ta poume" - Can we sing it?-. They sing the carol and will receive a small gift (usually some coins and chocolates or sweets!). Once they have finished their song, children wish "Merry Christmas" and the adults answer "and next year again!". This basically means that they wish to celebrate Christmas also next year with health and happiness.

Christmas Boat

The decoration of the Christmas tree was not a Greek habit. It is said that the first Christmas tree in Greece was decorated by the Bavarian king Otto in 1833. Today, most Greeks decorate Christmas trees, but according to the tradition, Greeks were also decorating a boat, mainly on the islands. The boat symbolizes the maritime identity of the country. Greeks, a seafaring nation, of course combined the celebration of Christmas with the sea. And the last decade,

you also see more and more decorated boats in Athens and other towns on the mainland.

New Year

Just like Christmas, New Year is a family event in Greece. In the morning of December 31st, children sing again from door to door, but this time with a typical New Year song. People get together for dinner on New Year eve & wish each other 'Kali Xronia' at midnight. And many will continue to party the whole night in the various clubs and music venues all over the country. On the 1st of January, people will gather and cut the Vasilopita (see below).

Sweets

If you have ever been in Greece during this season, you must have noticed all the cookies and pastries in the shops. Winter is a season with plenty of delicious Greek sweets.

Christmas period: Melomakarona

The melomakarono (Greek: μελομακάρονο plural: μελομακάρονα, melomakarona) is an egg-shaped Greek dessert made mainly from flour, olive oil, and honey. It is a traditional sweet prepared primarily during the Christmas holiday season.

Christmas period: Kourabiedes

Together with Melomakarona, these are traditional cookies that are made during the Christmas period in Greece. Kourabiedes are almond butter biscuits, powdered with lots of icing sugar.

New Year Day: Vasilopita

The word Vasilopita is a compound Greek word which means the sweet bread of St. Basil the Great, the one that is cut at home on New Year's eve or New Year's day.



OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

Caroline Economopoulos, President



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
ciecomom@gmail.com,
and we'll get you added to list!

OPA Meetings

One of the unique things about Holy Trinity Cathedral has always been OPA (Orthodox Parents Association) and their ability to facilitate ministry. This year we would like to empower the parents of different age groups to have meetings in their homes and other social outings with our groups:

HOPE: Grades 1-3

JOY: 4-6

Jr. Goya: 7-8

Sr. Goya: 9-12

If you are interested in heading up some outings or hosting your child's age group at your house, or simply learning more about OPA, please email Caroline Economopoulos [here](#).

Please also join us also for OPA's informational meeting on **August 14** after Divine Liturgy in the Hall. Refreshments will be offered.



Where every adult is a parent to our youth.



Little Lambs

By Debra Harrison

The Little Lamb's are organizing crafts for the kids on Sunday's after Divine Liturgy. We did our first craft this past Sunday and it seemed like all the kids really enjoyed themselves.



And we are looking forward to kindergarteners and preschool age kids joining 4F night in the New Year.

Sr. GOYA

A festive green invitation card for a Christmas party. At the top, a white Christmas ornament contains the text "SR GOYA Christmas Party". Below the ornament, it says "5:00 PM" and "DINNER, GAMES & SECRET SANTA". The date and location are listed as "16 DEC Papamatheakis HOME CHANDLER, ARIZONA". At the bottom, it says "Please bring a gift for the Secret Santa exchange (\$30 limit)" and "RSVP olgakriti@gmail.com". The card is decorated with snowflakes, holly leaves, and Christmas trees.

SR GOYA
Christmas Party
5:00 PM
DINNER, GAMES & SECRET SANTA
16 DEC Papamatheakis HOME
CHANDLER, ARIZONA
Please bring a gift for the Secret Santa exchange (\$30 limit)
RSVP olgakriti@gmail.com

A black poster for a City Skate event. The title "City Skate" is written in a large, gold, cursive font. Above it, in a smaller font, is "PHOENIX'S REAL OUTDOOR ICE SKATING RINK". Below the title, it says "Attention: SR GOYA Come ICE SKATE together!" and "Sunday, December 4th at City Skate". The location is "11 W. Washington St Phoenix, AZ 85003 (near Chase Field)". The cost is "Cost for ticket & skates: \$20 (or \$15 IF you bring your school ID)". At the bottom, it says "RSVP to Fr. Alexander fraeliades@holyltrinityphx.org".

PHOENIX'S REAL OUTDOOR ICE SKATING RINK
City Skate
Attention: SR GOYA
Come ICE SKATE together!
Sunday, December 4th
at
City Skate
11 W. Washington St
Phoenix, AZ 85003
(near Chase Field)
Cost for ticket & skates: \$20
(or \$15 IF you bring your school ID)
RSVP to Fr. Alexander fraeliades@holyltrinityphx.org

OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

Senior Goya Discussion

This upcoming school year we will hold a meeting with our Senior Goya (Grades 9-12) the first Sunday of every month (unless noted below) at 7pm. This will provide our High Schoolers with a great opportunity to connect with each other and their faith. Please mark these dates down:

December 4

January 8

February 5

March 5

April 2

May 7



There is also a possibility of a Sr. GOYA trip to **San Francisco** in the Spring, keep a look out for that exciting venture!

Winter Retreat

GOYA
Winter
Retreat

JANUARY
13-15, 2023

LOCATION: EMMANUEL PINES CAMP, PRESCOTT, AZ
WHO: 6TH - 12TH GRADE
PRICE: \$150
FINANCIAL AID IS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE IN NEED

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*Come & experience Christ
amidst His Creation*

For More Information Contact Niko Paris: Youth@Assumptionaz.org

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