

# Desert Springs

June/July 2022  
Volume 7 Issue 6



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-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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Holy Trinity Bookstore  
[info@stnectariosphx.org](mailto:info@stnectariosphx.org)

**2022 Parish Council Members**

President: Paul Katsenes  
Vice President: Connie Contes  
Treasurer: Jim Manelis  
Ass't. Treasurer: Dina Anagnopoulos  
Secretary: Andi Fourlis  
Sandy Annos, Charlie DeMoss,  
Alexander Harding, Jill Leach,  
Sandy Meris, Elias Moussa,  
Socrates Papadopoulos

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

**Metropolis of San Francisco**  
[www.SanFran.goarch.org](http://www.SanFran.goarch.org)

**Archdiocese Website**  
[www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

## Organization Contacts

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- **All Saints Camp** — Evan Tsagaris: [etsagaris89@gmail.com](mailto:etsagaris89@gmail.com)
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[davidmhaag@yahoo.com](mailto:davidmhaag@yahoo.com), [battersbox7@yahoo.com](mailto:battersbox7@yahoo.com)
- **Bible Study** — Father Apostolos Hill: [papoulihill@gmail.com](mailto:papoulihill@gmail.com)
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Pardhe: [htcphxevents@gmail.com](mailto:htcphxevents@gmail.com)
- **Dance** — Niko Panagiotakopoulos: [npanos01@yahoo.com](mailto:npanos01@yahoo.com)
- **Daughters of Penelope** — Cathy Keyser: [keyserc53@gmail.com](mailto:keyserc53@gmail.com)
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[niko.37@cox.net](mailto:niko.37@cox.net)
- **Greek School** — Irene Mackos: [eirinie@gmail.com](mailto:eirinie@gmail.com)
- **Hellenic Museum** — Bessie Hotis: call 602-953-1913
- **Little Lambs** — Angela Scopelianos: [angelagarozzo@gmail.com](mailto:angelagarozzo@gmail.com)
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- **St. Nicodemus Young Adult Book Club** — Mary Pardhe:  
[yalazbookclub@gmail.com](mailto:yalmazbookclub@gmail.com)
- **Sunday School** — Kathy New: [kkatsalis@msn.com](mailto: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](mailto:AdminAssist@holytrinityphx.org) and Kristen at [kvasilarakos@cox.net](mailto:kvasilarakos@cox.net). *It is the organization's responsibility* to inform Natalie and Kristen of any updates to your listing.

# Message from Father Alexander

## Joining the Inner Circle



When we think about Christ and His followers and His ministry on earth we perhaps get the idea that He spoke to everyone all the sayings we read in the Gospels. What you heard as one of the 12 Apostles and as a passer-by in Judea listening in to His sermons was probably about the same. Yet, a closer understanding of Christ's ministry finds this not to be the case! We see even some stratification of His followers and friends: the 70 Apostles, the 12 Disciples, and even in certain moments, the taking away of the 3 closest to Him, Peter, James, and John. Some Biblical Scholars and Fathers of the Church take the first verses of Matthew 5, the famous Sermon on the Mount, to mean that Jesus spoke this integral Christian teaching only to his disciples and not for all to hear. We know He spoke those words of great love and care in John 12-17 only to His disciples and John shared them with us after the fact.

What am I saying here? Is there some secret knowledge that only some can know, some are holy enough to pursue it and others not? No, this is indeed Gnosticism, a condemned heresy of the Church because it is the antithesis of the Gospel. The Gospel is for all!

Then how do we reconcile these two seemingly contrary facts? When Christ has his disciples together at the Last Supper He tells them, "It is to your advantage that I go away." Why is this? Because the knowledge of God then is shined upon all who wish to come to the knowledge of the Truth. It is not simply for those who are close to Him physically but we can then have God dwelling in us spiritually! The Holy Spirit is granted to all of us, we all can be a part of the inner circle of Christ's disciples! The difficult part of this is we must utilize the gifts given to us by the Spirit in baptism pro-actively and we must also become Apostles (from the Greek *Apostelo*, those sent out). To be a follower of Christ does not mean that I can recite the Creed on command but that my life is a beacon of the Creed. The Spirit must pour forth from me just as it did the Apostles 2000 years ago and I must become on fire for Christ and go forth and preach His Love, His Joy, and His Hope that flow through me.

Christ is for all, this inner circle that was once restricted to those close to Christ physically is now extended to all of us! We must take hold of this, listen to Him, unite ourselves to Him. Only then can we be his Apostles, those sent out as we are called to be.



Sanctuary at Sunset

*Desert Springs June/July 2022*

# Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

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



## WE ARE GETTING IT!

Sometimes, as the saying goes, slow and steady wins the race. Over the past several years the Stewardship Committee has been on a mission to educate our community on the importance of stewardship, that stewardship is more than just financial giving, what it means to be a Steward and how stewardship plays a role in our own personal faith journey.

And I am pleased to report that positive change is happening! Overall, Holy Trinity parishioners are giving more, increasing their pledges and using the online payment portal called WeShare.

Holy Trinity parishioners have always been generous and quick to offer assistance when help is needed. In the past, when there is a financial need, a call for donations for a specific item or situation, Holy Trinity parishioners rise up and give with generosity!

Referencing the information below, you will see that the median pledge per family is \$1,000. Just two years ago, the median pledge was around \$800 per family. That's a 20% increase over two years. In addition, families pledging in the \$1,000 to \$1,999 range are now the largest group of stewards. Just two years ago the largest group was in the \$500 to \$799 range. These are beautiful examples that as a church family are giving more to stewardship!

The future of Holy Trinity is up to us. It is in our hands. We can continue the status quo or we can grow this beautiful Cathedral and ensure a legacy exists for our children and grandchildren. Thanks to all of our generous stewards who realize the important role stewardship plays in your faith journey. And that we can and will do more and do better for our Cathedral!

### 2022 Stewardship At A Glance (as of 5/11/22)

Number of Pledged Families: 253  
Total Amount Pledged: **\$407,400**  
Total Stewardship Collected: **\$161,870.85**  
Total Collected from Non-Pledged Families: **\$32,400**  
Total Stewards Using WeShare: 53

### Median Pledge is \$1,000

#### Number of Families Pledging...

\$20,000 & over = 1  
\$10,000 & over = 1  
\$5,000 - 10,000 = 13  
\$3,000 - \$4,999 = 14  
\$2,000 - \$2,999 = 28  
\$1,000 - \$1,999 = 66  
\$800 - \$999 = 11  
\$500 - \$799 = 35  
\$300 - \$499 = 29  
Less than \$300 = 28

# House of Stewards

As of 05/31/2022

Panagiota Agelakos  
Catherine Agra  
Evan & Terri Alexon  
Constance Anagnopoulos  
Mike & Alex Anagnopoulos  
Christi Anagnostopoulos  
Panagiota Agelakos  
Catherine Agra  
Evan & Terri Alexon  
Constance Anagnopoulos  
Mike & Alexandra Anagnopoulos  
Bettina Angelos  
John & Alexandra Annos  
Elaine Apostle  
Chris & Angie Athens  
Christina & Chris Bakavelou  
Constantine & Eleni Balanis  
Taylor Bankson  
Ted & Rebecca Barabatis  
Marissa Bard  
Shannon & Elise Bard  
Alexandra Bates  
Joyce Bavlinka  
Scott & Stacey Beaty  
George & Stacy Benetos  
Stamatios Benetos  
Dan & Vicki Bichekas  
Peter & Jennifer Bilitsis  
Emily Blaze  
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 Chotras  
Jim Chotras  
Pete & Kim Choukalas  
Katherine Clarke  
Andrew & Mara Contes  
James & Connie Contes  
Kathy Contes  
Jean Dal Pan  
Nick & Sharon Daniolos  
Patricia Davis  
Leonard & Elaine Debickero  
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  
Basil & Ruth Denaxas  
Stanley & Fran Drozd  
Denise Dye

Kathryn Dye  
Caroline Economopoulos  
Christos & Dena Economopoulos  
Fr. Alexander & Presv. Laura Eliades  
Mary Floor  
Tim & Karla Floor  
Athanasia & Georgia Fourlis  
Athanasia Fourlis  
Ted & Andi Fourlis  
Chris & Celeste Francis  
Georgana Frieh  
George & Julie Froumis  
Chris & Anne Gavras  
Andreanna Georgiou  
John Giannopoulos  
Polly Ginakes  
Stella Glitsos  
Eva Goodman  
Bill & Lynn Graham  
Gina Graham  
David Haag  
Mary Haidos  
Donald Hall  
Alexander Harding  
Terry Harper  
Mary & Roger Harris  
Alexia Haugen  
Rev. Fr. Apostolos & Presb. Denise Hill  
Gregory Hill  
Veronica Hill  
Bessie Hotis  
James & Linda Kalivas  
Basilis & Roula Kaneris  
Jean Kantaros  
Nick & Dena Kantaros  
William & Harriet Kapolas  
Vasilios & Vasiliqi Karagiannis  
Christina Karalekas  
Mia Karandreas  
Julie Karoutas  
Joann Karros  
Stavros & Olga Kassimatis  
Christos & Kelley Katsanos  
John & Mary Katsenes  
Paul & Lori Katsenes  
Thomas Katsenes  
Jim & Poppy Kavouris  
Fanny Kechajias  
Catherine Keyser  
Ronald & Virginia Kidd  
Emily Kimmell  
George & Zanetta Kleanthis  
Anastasia Kompos  
Maria Kompos  
Kostadinos & Anatoli Kostouros  
Elizabeth Kratsas  
Tammy Kretsedemas  
Debbie Kunkel  
Theodore Kyriacou  
Tassie Ladas  
Anastasia Laitsas  
John & Evangelia Lambrou  
Judith Lamond



Elias & Mary Lampos  
Scott & Jill Leach  
Gregory Lizanich  
Efterpi Lourias  
Melina Machas  
James & Stephanie Machas  
Maria Maciejewski  
Aristotle & Evelyne Macrodimitris  
Marika Makridis  
Margarita Makris  
Julie & Felix Mamani  
Anna Manos  
Jim & Donna Manelis  
Maria Maniatis  
William & Rina Marinakos  
Nicholas Marino  
Mary Mastorakos  
Pamela Maydanis  
Peter & Christina Maydanis  
Angela Mead  
William & Sandy Meris  
Joanne Meris  
Anthony & Tania Miaoulis  
Paul 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  
Marta Ntatsos  
Else Paletsos  
Elizabeth Palmer  
Anna Panagiotakopoulos  
Christo & Connie Panagiotakopoulos  
Nikolas Panagiotakopoulos  
Thanasi & Melissa Panagiotakopoulos  
Sofia Panagiotoglou  
George & Chrysoula Papadopoulos  
Socrates & Stephanie Papadopoulos  
Alexander & Olga Papamatheakis  
Betty Papas  
Nicholas Papas  
Spyros & Rita Papaspyrou  
Nicholas & Stacy Papatzimas  
Andrew & Emily Pappas  
Angeline Pappas  
Harry & Fannie Pappas  
Irene Pappas  
John & Andrea Pappas  
Daniel & Anna Pardhe  
John & Dina Pesognelli

*House of Stewards continued on page 6  
Desert Springs June/July 2022*

*House of Stewards continued from page 5*

Dean & Fotini Pestrivas  
Zoe Pestrivas  
Chris Petroulakis  
Jacquelyn Petroulakis  
William & Kathryn Petsas  
Evanthia Piatt  
Brian & Athena Pickett  
Georgia Pikoula  
Andreas & Mary Poulakidas  
Chris & Juli Pritsos  
Costa Pritsos  
Nicole Pyle  
Bertha Quinn  
Lydia Rabbitt  
Alex & Rose Rentzis  
Lois Sakkas  
Dimitra Sampson  
Paul Sarantes  
Leslie Sarantinos  
John Schneider  
Warren & Kalliopi Schneider  
Diane Sedlacek  
Chris & Terry Seretis  
George & Traci Sgouros

John Siavelis  
Elyse Sioles  
Robert & Donna Sioles  
Elias & Phyllis 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 Stoutenburg  
Christopher Tapas  
Despina Tavlarides  
William & Rebecca Tavlarides  
Gus & Mary Theodoropoulos  
Nick and 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  
Richard & Katina Wood  
Anthony & Karen Zaman  
Dimitrios & Eugenia Zannis  
George & Katherine Zannis  
Zella Zannis  
Evangelia Zikos  
Dimitrios Zistatsis  
Eleanna Zistatsis  
Michael & Christina Zistatsis

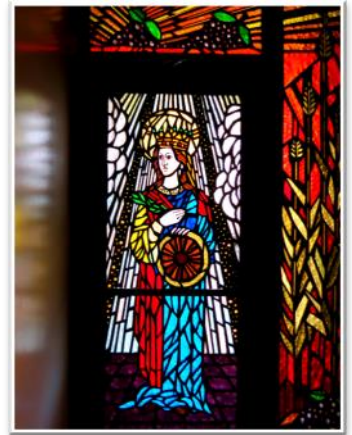
# Parish Assembly

May 15, 2022



# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Alex Anagnopoulos, President



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



Next Meeting on Thursday, September 1, 2022  
at 6:00pm

First in the St. George Chapel and  
then in the Speros Community Center



May Meeting Hostesses  
Bessie and Georgia



June Meeting Hostesses  
Joyce, Gina, Kathy, and Julie



## JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS 2022

**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

## Save the Date!

### Philoptochos' FREE Father's Day Lunch!

Sunday, June 19, 2022

following Divine Liturgy in the Speros Center Large Hall

*Everyone is invited for lunch and cake!*

**Included: taking a photo with the fathers and sons of our community!**



2019

In 2019, our Philoptochos chapter took the **inaugural fathers and sons picture**. Little did we know a pandemic would interrupt the next few years and the **second** annual menfolk photo would not be until 2022! In town? We hope to see **YOU!**

## June Meeting Guest Speaker

*Johannah Burkle*

Executive Director, [StreetLightUSA](https://www.streetlightusa.com)





# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos Scholarships

When graduates are looking for extra money to help with their college expenses, the Ladies of Philoptochos are pleased to offer **three** \$1000 scholarships to our Holy Trinity Cathedral students. When you support Philoptochos, please keep in mind, you are supporting many charities including those bright & talented young adults from our community wishing to further their education. In the Narthex, you will find an application for the fall of 2022. The application deadline has been **extended to June 12th**.

*We thank our community for your support and blessings.*

## *2022 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 2022. 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 2022 and attending college in the fall of 2022
3. College students may also apply as continuing students or in graduate programs in the Fall of 2022
4. Applicants must submit:
  - A copy of 2020-2022 transcripts
  - College acceptance letter
  - A resume including school, church & community activities

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 12, 2022**

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

Email: [gfrieh@cox.net](mailto:gfrieh@cox.net)

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

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

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

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

High School or College presently attending:

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos Charity Projects

## Clear Backpack Project

Thank you to our community—we raised \$520.00 to buy clear backpacks for students in need!



THANK YOU!

## Chapter Focus on Local Charities

In an effort to engage our membership in the Philoptochos mission to 'Help the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, those with disabilities and the victims of disaster', and to expand involvement locally, we include, as a new part of our monthly program, **the opportunity for members to formally nominate and select charity recipients.**

Bill Marianes, who assisted with the Cathedral's "Why Statement", reminds us that **the more money extended out into our community, the more we will realize from the community back into our church.**

The Chapter will accept nominations at each monthly meeting.

Philoptochos Members: [Click HERE for the Nomination Form](#)

May's Chosen Charity:  
[Junior Achievement of Arizona](#)

June's Chosen Charity:  
[Lura Turner Homes](#)

Click on the links to learn more.



# Christos Anesti!



## Leave-Taking of Pascha

June 1, 2022



# Parish-Wide Retreat for Pentecost

Saturday, June 4, 2022



Missed the Talks?

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

Fr. Apostolos and Fr. Alexander delivered talks and led discussions on the Great Feast of Pentecost, our parish feast day! This was a great opportunity to learn more about this feast, your faith, and to come together with your parish family!

## Summer Youth Meetings

This Summer we will continue with our popular (with Father at least) "Donuts with Father" on Sundays in July. We would also like to offer smaller gatherings for each age group either with social trips for an activity or a house gathering. If you are interested in coordinating or hosting for your child's age group please [email](#) Fr. Alexander. If you would like to bring donuts for your child's meeting, please let Father know as well .

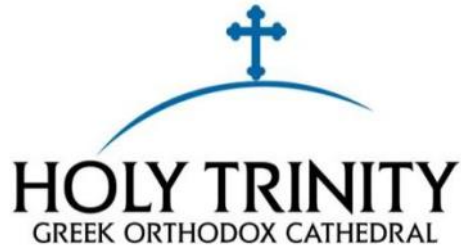
July 3: Grades 1-3  
July 10: Grades 4-6  
July 17: Grades 7-8  
July 24: High School  
July 31: Young Adults



**“With fear of God, faith, and love draw near.”**



# Pentecost Celebration



## Parish Feast Day Celebration

You are invited to celebrate our Cathedral's Feast Day!

### Sunday, June 12

Vespers at 5:00 pm

Dinner at 6:00 pm



### Monday, June 13

Orthros at 8:00am

Divine Liturgy at 9:00am



Greek style chicken, potatoes, and green beans will be prepared by Phil Panagiotoglou.



Join us to celebrate

## Holy Trinity's Parish Feast Day!

Sunday, June 12th

5:00 pm - Vespers

6:00 pm - Dinner

1973 E. Maryland Ave.  
Phoenix, AZ, 85016



# 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 \$642,340.00.

*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.**

### TAX SAVINGS FOR HOLY TRINITY MEMBERS WITH IRA'S

Seniors are **required** to take withdrawals from their IRA's when they reach 72 years old.

Those withdrawals are fully taxable at ordinary income rates. There is a simple way to avoid that tax, and help Holy Trinity. When you have funds sent **directly** from your IRA to Holy Trinity, **the tax is avoided**. You do not get an additional deduction for this donation, because you have already saved the tax by your direct gift from your IRA.

You can make this process very simple by asking your IRA manager to **issue a checkbook to you**, then you simply write checks directly from Your IRA to Holy Trinity and any other charitable gifts you wish to make.

✦ REMEMBER HOLY TRINITY IN YOUR WILL ✦

# Endowment Fund

## 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

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Gabriel & Helen Papagallos  
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### **GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND DONATIONS OVER \$1,000.00**

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**IN MEMORY GIFTS:** IMO+ Stacy Hotis, IMO+ Danny Speros, IMO+ Mark Sprintz, IMO+ Chris Gabriel, IMO+ Milton Sioles, 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, IMO+ James H. Karros

**+ REMEMBER HOLY TRINITY IN YOUR WILL +**

# Sunday School

By Kathy New, Director



## *Sunday School—It's A Wrap!*

A BIG Thank You to all the teachers, parents, students, and community members who attended and supported Sunday School this year! We are already looking ahead to next school year with exciting new ideas and activities to incorporate into our program. Registration will start end of July/beginning of August, so be on the lookout!

### **WE NEED YOU - VOLUNTEER TODAY!!**

Sunday School is made possible by our amazing community members. We cannot continue to provide this wonderful and most needed ministry to our youth without your participation and support! Please support Sunday School with your time and talents. There are numerous ways and opportunities available for you to help—teach, substitute, distribute snacks, arts/crafts, other projects, events (Godparents Sunday, Christmas Pageant, Pancake Breakfast.....). Everyone is needed! To volunteer or for more information, please contact Kathy New at 602-318-0611 or [kkatsalis@msn.com](mailto:kkatsalis@msn.com).

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

**MAY 2022**





# Mother's Day

Sunday, May 8, 2022



# Celebration Committee

## Let's Celebrate!



The Celebration Committee at Holy Trinity Cathedral has been busy hosting a celebration event and community potluck during coffee hour on the first Sunday of each month. The goal is to help the faithful get to know each other better and to grow closer as a spiritual family. To further our ministry, we especially encourage you to invite a friend or neighbor to the monthly potluck to expose them to our wonderful church family!

In May, we were honored to celebrate a long list of birthdays (see names on the following page) as well as a baby shower for Mara Contes and Emily Pappas. With a “little peanut is on the way” theme, the coffee hour tables were decorated with mason jars filled with roasted peanuts in the shell. Both mothers received a diaper cake topped with an elephant security blanket as well as a gift card. This event also featured a peanut-counting contest where parishioners submitted their best guess. Phil Panagiotoglou was the winner, missing the exact amount by only four peanuts! His prize was a five-pound bag of peanuts and a beautiful handmade keychain, featuring an elephant carved from sandalwood.

In June, we were pleased to celebrate another long list of birthdays (see names on the following page) as well as the 40-day blessings of Magdalene Jael, daughter of Tristan and Alana Stoutenburg and Veronica, daughter of Deborah Harrison. The Committee’s signature decoration, the balloon arch, adorned the community center. With a “Welcome, Little One” theme, the Celebration Committee presented the new parents with a guardian angel icon box and two books: “Akathist to the Mother of God: Nurturer of Children” and “Akathist to the Guardian Angel Who Keepeth Unceasing Watch Over One’s Life”. Additionally, we acknowledged the 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Harry and Fannie Pappas, parents of Connie Venetis. What a milestone, indeed!

We greatly appreciate those who have wanted to share their milestone events and birthdays so we can be together and honor you. 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 send a request with suggestions and details to: [htcphxevents@gmail.com](mailto:htcphxevents@gmail.com).



# Celebration Committee



*Happy May Birthdays!*

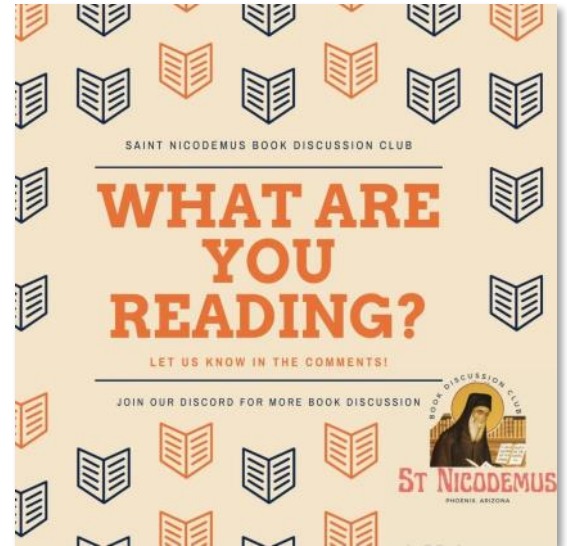
Sheila Asala	Angie Lambrou
Angie Athens	Mary Lampos
Natalia Bakavelou	Pete Linaris
Olivia Bakavelou	Iliana Moore
Nicholas Baziotis	Dino Moschovitis
Anya Beaty	Jeremy Oxley
Scott Beaty	Marco Panagiotakopoulos
Danny Bichekas	Alexia Panagiotakopoulos
Georgia Brusalis	Christine Papadopoulou
Chris Bruskas	Alex Papamatheakis
Joanne Carras	John Pappas
Casey Cartier	Vasili Paul
Titus Chimonas	Vincent Paul
Jim Chotras	Jacque Petroulakis
Mikela Cooper	Andreas K. Poulakidas
Patty Davis	Mary Poulakidas
Marsel Dimitriadis	Anthipe Pries
Andrew Forman	Bertha Quinn
Tim Fraenkel	Dimitra Sampson
John Ginakes	Robert Sioles
Lynn Graham	James L. Speros
Bessie Hotis	Aristithi Vardalos
Olga Kasimatis	Isaiah Jason Walker
Emily Kimmell	Sofia Walsh
Maria Kompos	Ari Watson
Panayiotis Kostouros	Ella Wombacher
Ted Kyriacou	Stephanie Yarusinsky

*Happy June Birthdays!*

Constance (Dina) Anagnopoulos	Christina (Chris) Maydanis
Alexandra (Sandy) Annos	Angeline (Angie) Miller
Tasso Annos	Evangelia Miller
Theodore Annos	Lauren Moore
Rebecca Barabatis	Edna Nicely
Marissa Bard	Soula Papadopoulou
Gianna Benetos	Stefania Papamatheakis
Constance (Connie) Burkhart	Nicholas Pappas
Dawn Cartier	Christine Patten
Jack Choukalas	Peter Petkas
Kim Choukalas	Kathryn (Kathy) Petsas
Anthony Chronis	Michael Philippis
Steven Counelis	Nicole Philippis
Tiffany Daniolos	Evanthia Piatt
Ruth Denaxas	Anastasia Pickett
Sofia Economopoulos	Brian Pickett
Kay Ehrick	Barbara Prato
Peter Fraenkel	Gio Pries
Chris Gavras	Leslie Sarantinos
Polly Ginakes	Donna Sioles
Demetri Harris	Andrew Stamatias
Nicholas Harris	Tristan Stoutenburg
Gregory Hill	William (Billy) Tavlarides
Tressa Karagiannis	Georgios Tsakiris
Stavros Kassimatis	Constantine (Costa) Tzavaras
Ronald Kidd	Katherine (Koko) Tzavaras
Spiros Kontakis	Teresa (Terry) Valonis
Lea Linaris	Peter Vlahos
Gregory Lizanich	Strata Vlahos
Donna Manelis	Matthew Walsh
Becky Martin	

# St. Nicodemus Book Discussion Club

The St. Nicodemus Book Discussion Club has been steadily growing and carrying out its mission of connecting Orthodox young adults across the Valley! On May 22nd, the club hosted its second dinner social. Attendees from three parishes were represented. After a delicious potluck dinner, Fr. Apostolos and Fr. Alexander led a forum discussion. It was a fun, casual evening of fellowship! The club also started a newsletter and an Instagram channel (<https://www.instagram.com/yalazbookclub/>) to promote club events, pan-Orthodox fellowship opportunities, and books that members have been reading.



All Orthodox young adults from 18-35 are invited to the monthly dinner socials! Participation in the club is not required for attendance. To join our mailing list or to learn more about the book club, please follow us on Instagram, email [yalazbookclub@gmail.com](mailto:yalazbookclub@gmail.com), or visit the St. Nicodemus Book Club table during coffee hour on the first Sunday of every month. If you know any young adults in other parishes that might be interested in the book club or pan-Orthodox social events, please encourage them to reach out to us!

## 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 Coffee Hour. A personal connection goes far!

## 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

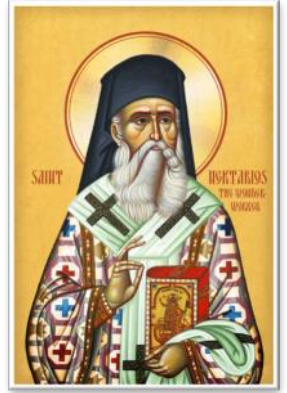
We greatly value all your donations! Please remember, when you write us a check, to include your **intention for the donation and your envelope number in the memo line**. i.e. stewardship, candles, etc.

*Thank you all!*

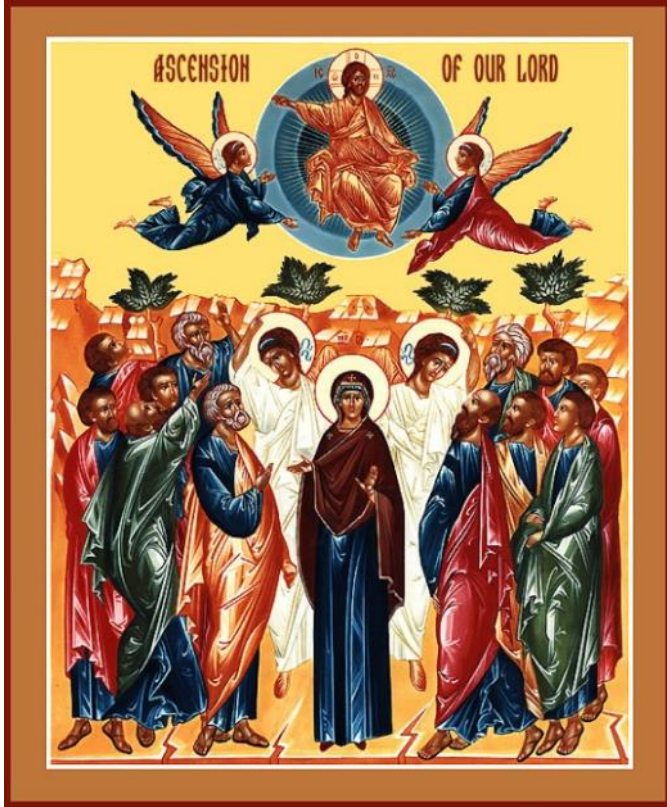


# St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

Submitted by Rita Papaspyrou  
[stnectariosphx@gmail.com](mailto:stnectariosphx@gmail.com)



## Ascension of our Lord Commemorated Forty Days after Pascha



The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on the fortieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter). Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of the Feast of the Ascension changes. The Feast is always celebrated on a Thursday.

The Feast itself commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven.

The moment of the Ascension is told in one sentence: "He was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud which took Him from their sight" (Acts 1:9).

It is also at this time that the disciples were directed by Christ to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Jesus also told them that He would be with them always, "even to the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

The icon of The Ascension of Our Lord is a joyous icon. It is painted with bright colors. Christ is shown ascending in His glory in a mandorla. A mandorla is a design which is almond-shaped or round. Inside the mandorla is the figure of a holy person. Christ blesses the assembly with His right hand. In His left is a scroll. The scroll is a symbol of teaching. This icon shows that the Lord in heaven is the source of blessing. In addition, Jesus is the source of knowledge. The icon reminds us that Christ continues to be the source of the teaching and message of the Church, blessing and guiding those to whom He has entrusted his work.

The Theotokos occupies a very special place in this icon. She is in the center of the icon, immediately below the ascending Christ. The gesture of her hands is a gesture of prayer. She is clearly outlined by the whiteness of the garments of the angels. The Theotokos is depicted in a very calm pose. This is quite different from the appearance of the Disciples. They are moving about, talking to one another and looking and pointing towards heaven. The entire group, the Theotokos and the disciples represent the Church.

# Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners and their guests

Julie Karoutas

email: [juliekaroutas@gmail.com](mailto:juliekaroutas@gmail.com), cell: 623-313-8720 call or text



## St. Anthony's Monastery Trip on June 3, 2022



## Maintenance Corner

Submitted by Ted Furlis

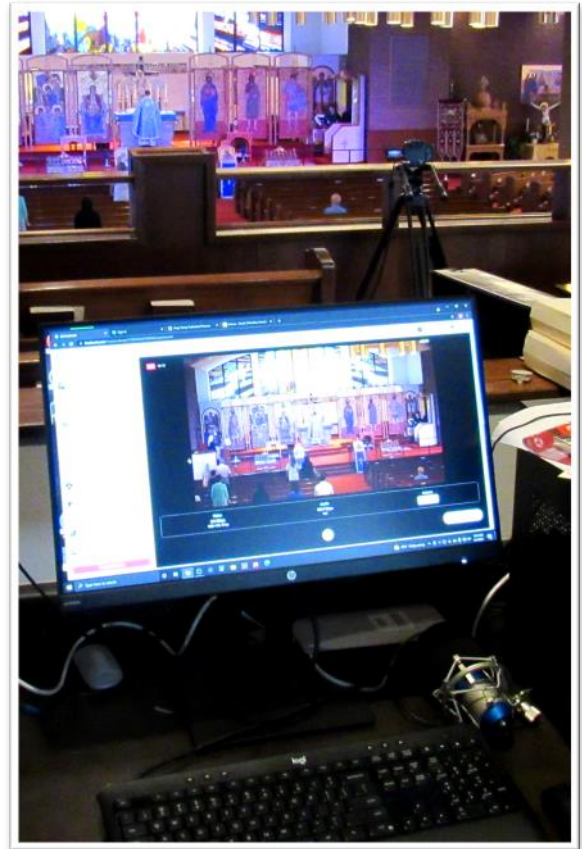
The Maintenance Committee is currently working to address the lack of lighting in the courtyard outside the chapel and cathedral. The wiring is original with a fault in the line, and we are working to come up with a solution. We are in the process of doing a property and basement cleanup. We are currently doing a study of maintenance needs throughout the property and will work with the Parish Council on a plan to address issues found. We are also putting together a plan to update the electrical needs in the patio to better serve the power needs during the Festival. The Valonis Bros. were able to change out all the broken casters in the kitchen, and changed out burnt light bulbs throughout the campus. If you would like to donate to the Maintenance Committee or would like to participate as a member of the committee please reach out to Ted Furlis at 602-625-8835, or Peter Bilitsis at 602-317-7780.



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](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 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

# Our Church Family

## 40 Day Blessings

“One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.” Psalm 27:4



05/08/2022

Jaxon, son of Danielle & Jason Lowell  
*God's Blessings be upon him.*

06/05/2022

Magdelene, daughter of Alana & Tristan Stoutenburg  
*God's Blessings be upon her.*

06/05/2022

Veronica, daughter of Deborah Harrison  
*God's Blessings be upon her.*

## Funeral

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

Psalm 23:6



05/14/2022

Bette Maniatis

*May her memory be eternal.*



*Babies!*



## 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.



# Coffee Hours

Thank you to **OPA (Orthodox Parents Association)** for sponsoring Coffee Hours in May.

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



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



## \*Free\* Wheelchairs & Walkers Available!

If you or someone you know is in need of a 2-wheel walker, a 4-wheel walker or a wheelchair, please let Natalie in the office know so we can arrange to give them to you..



## Home Caregiver Opportunities

If you or someone you know work as a home caretaker/caregiver/aid/helper, the Cathedral would love the resources to spread to those in need. Please reach out to Natalie in the office if you have any information!

## House Meeting for 3-5th Grade

The Michalaks will be hosting our 3rd-5th Graders for a Summer Pool Party and BBQ on Saturday, June 18 at 2pm. Please RSVP [here](#) by June 15!



# AHEPA Chapter 219



## AHEPA PHOENIX CHAPTER 219

The AHEPA Phoenix Saguaro Chapter 219 closes out the 2021-2022 year with a total philanthropic contributions of \$54,080.

Have a great summer and we will resume meetings in August.

**Interested in becoming a member?  
Contact Steve Lemere 770-990-6825**

# Young Adult Diamondbacks Game

Our Young Adults (18-35 years old) will be going to the Diamondbacks-Twins game on **Friday, June 17 @ 6:40pm**. Let Fr. Alexander know if you are interested, in person, text, or [email](#), tickets are \$15!



## AHEPA Sunday

May 15, 2022



## Arizona Hellenic Foundation Scholarship Winners

The following students were awarded scholarships by the Arizona Hellenic Foundation.

Listed in alphabetical order:

Stefanos Ambus,  
Madeline Fraenkel,  
Noah Goldsmith,  
Katerina Kostouros,  
Panagiotis Kostouros,  
Harris Manelis,  
Kristin Myer, and  
Demetrios Pickett who was awarded the AHEPA Chapter 454 scholarship.

# Congratulations!

The scholarship recipients will be honored during an **award ceremony on June 11, 2022 at 12:00 pm at VinciTorio's Restaurant, 1835 E Elliott Rd., Suite 108, Tempe, AZ.**

Cost \$35.00 per person. For reservations or other info please call Telis Evripidou at 480-332-6957.

# 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](mailto:ciecomom@gmail.com),  
and we'll get you added to list!

## May Youth Night



# 2022 Cathedral Graduates!



*Holy Trinity Cathedral congratulates our 8th grade, high school, college, and post-college graduates!*

Individual profiles are on the following pages.

Above, Father speaks to the graduates in attendance on May 22, 2022.

Right, AHEPA donated a celebration cake.



# 2022 Cathedral Graduates!



# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduates



Nicholas  
8th Grade  
2021-22



**Nicholas “Nick” Beaty** will be graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade from Desert Harbor Middle School. In middle school, Nick was on the Honor Roll, and Treasurer of Best Buddies. At Holy Trinity, Nick has been active in the Greek Festival’s food line, the Alter Boys ministry, and the youth groups. In the fall, Nick plans to attend Sunrise Mountain High School. In the future, Nick plans to go to college and study to be a teacher working with special needs children.

Words to live by: “Never judge a book by its cover. Treat everyone equally. Go for your goals and work hard.”



**Ryan Choukalas** will be graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade from Madison Meadows Middle School. In middle school, Ryan was Student Council Vice President; in National Juniors Honor Society; a member of the Young Investors Society; and, in Odyssey of the Mind which were the State Champions and took 3<sup>rd</sup> Place for the Worlds. In his free time, Ryan enjoys playing flag football, and his team was the 2022 Divisional VAC Flag Football Champions. Ryan also plays golf and volleyball, and is part of Boys Team Charity. At Holy Trinity, Ryan has been active in Sunday School, the Greek Dance and FDF competition programs, the Greek Festival, and the youth groups. In the fall, Ryan plans to attend Sunnyslope High School. In the future, Ryan plans to attend college and determine his path from there.

“You’ll miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.” – Wayne Gretzky

Important lesson: Money does not buy happiness



**Jonathan Oxley** will be graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade from Basis School in Prescott, AZ. In his free time, Jonathan is on a Mountain Bike Team. At Holy Trinity, Jonathan is part of the Alter Boys ministry, the youth groups, and participated in All-Saints Camp. In the fall, Jonathan plans to attend Basis High School. In the future, Jonathan would like to mountain bike competitively.

"You'll miss 100% of the shots you don't take." – Wayne Gretzky



**Sophia Philippis** will be graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade, with honors (Cum Laude) from Cicero Preparatory Academy. In school, Sophia received Academic Award for all A's; Excellence Within a Discipline – Rising Linguist Award; Scholar Athlete Award; and finished Maxima Cum Laude on the National Latin Exam. In her free time, Sophia enjoys playing softball, and played on a team from 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade. At Holy Trinity, Sophia attended Holy Trinity Academy; and, has been active in Sunday School, the Greek School program, Myrrh Bearers, the Greek Dance program, and the youth groups. In the fall, Sophia plans to continue her education at Cicero Preparatory Academy. In the future, Sophia would like to ride her bike across the country to see the sights.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. – (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)



**Grace Wombacher** will be graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade from Aprende Middle School. In middle school, Grace was the Student Council Vice President, and part of the Jaguar Players Theater Group. In her free time, Grace enjoys acting and theatre. Grace is a member of and involved in activities at both Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral and St. Katherine's Orthodox Church. At St. Katherine's, Grace was the GOYA President, participates in the church baking, and is part of the Sunday School program. At Holy Trinity, Grace is a part of Sunday School, Myrrh Bearers, and the youth groups. In the fall, Grace plans to attend Corona Del Sol High School. In the future, Grace plans to pursue a career in acting.

"I have learned to have trust in others and find something I am good at and stick to it."





# High School Graduates



**Anya Beaty** will be graduating from Shadow Mountain High School. In school, Anya was very involved in dance and yearbook, and lettered for Yearbook. At Holy Trinity, Anya has been involved in the Greek Festival and Myrrh Bearers. In the fall, Anya will be attending the Academy of Nail. In the future, Anya wants to work in a resort and spa.

"My great grandmother 'Ya', as we called her, use to tell me all the time, 'Do what makes you happy. It was not an easy journey, but I made it!"



**Mikela Cooper** will be graduating in the top 1% of her class from Valley Vista High School. Mikela received the President's Scholarship Award; Women's Leadership Award; and, the Dr. Voie Stuart Chase Coy Scholar-Athlete Award. Mikela has been very involved in basketball, played on her school's Girls Varsity Basketball Team, and with her team won three 6A Division State Basketball Championships. Outside of school, Mikela volunteered with Special Olympics, and assisted at basketball camps for kids with disabilities. At Holy Trinity, Mikela was involved with the Greek Dance and FDF competition programs, Sunday School, the youth groups, and attended All-Saints Camp. In the fall, Mikela will be attending Bentley University. In the future, Mikela hopes to travel the world to learn about and better understand different cultures and languages; give back to her family; and, build a better world for the future generations.

"I've learned to trust myself and accept that no matter what I do, I can't make everyone happy. My proudest moments include maintaining a high GPA for all 4 years of high school; earning a full ride to the university of my choice; and, trying out for the Greek National Team."

"Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive." – Dalai Lama



**Sofia Economopoulos** will be graduating Summa Cum Laude honors from Pinnacle High School. Sofia is graduating in the top 16% of her class; earned the Academic Achievement Award for over a 4.3 GPA; was on the Principal's List; and, is the recipient of the New American University – President's Award. In school, Sofia was in National Honor Society (NHS) & Healthcare Occupational Students of America (HOSA), and held positions on each Executive Boards. Sofia was a member of Key Club, Young Life, Mentors, The Red Cross Club, Society of Women Scholars, and part of the Healthcare Pathways Program through PVHS & Mayo Hospital. Sofia has always loved sports, and was on the Pinnacle Swim & Dive and Pinnacle Girls Basketball teams. When not in school, Sofia works at Starbucks, volunteered at Teen LifeLine, and participated in National Charity League (NCL). Through NCL, Sofia earned The President's Silver Volunteer Service Award, the Yellow Rose Award, the Mission Bell Award and the Mother-Daughter Award. At Holy Trinity, Sofia participated in the Sunday School, the Greek Dance program, Myrrh Bearers, and the youth groups. In the fall, Sofia will be attending Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University. Sofia plans to study in the field of medicine, and one day become a surgeon. Her hope in life is to have a successful medical career, live in New York, and have great family and friends.

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it." – *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*



**Peter Fraenkel** will be graduating in the top 10% of his class from Sandra Day O'Connor High School. Peter received the Presidential Scholarship for his academic excellence. In school, Peter was on the Tennis Team. At Holy Trinity, Peter participated Sunday School program, and the Greek Dance program. In the fall, Peter will be attending Arizona State University, and majoring in Film and Media Production. After college, Peter hopes to continue in the film and media production field, and travel as much as possible.

"The most important thing I've learned so far in life is to unapologetically be true to yourself and strive for what you are truly passionate about no matter what."

"I'd rather be hated for who I am, than loved for who I am not." – Kurt Cobain



**Zachary "Zach" Haugen** will be graduating from Chaparral High School. In his free time, Zach enjoys snowboarding, golfing and fishing. At Holy Trinity, Zach participated in the Sunday School program, the youth groups, attended All-Saints Camp, and was part of the Greek Dance and FDF competition programs. In the fall, Zach will be attending Coconino County Community College. Zach hopes to one day work in nature.

"The most important think I have learned so far is to be true to your word and stand by your actions."

Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. – (1 Corinthians 16:13)



**Katerina Kostouros** will be graduating in the top 1596 of her class from Cactus Shadows High School. Katerina has been awarded the President's Achievement Award merit scholarship for her high academic performance. Katerina is an accomplished competitive soccer player. She currently plays for SC Del Sol's Girls Academy League (the highest level of US youth soccer); and, was selected for the Arizona ODP state team and ODP West Region ID Camp. Playing soccer through school, Katerina was a 4-year varsity starter and letterman; was on the Arizona All Academic First Team; received All Region recognition; was a team captain; was the Offensive Player of the Year her junior year; and, was Player of the Year her senior year. In addition to soccer, Katerina has always enjoyed art, and creating and design. At school, Katerina was in the Literary Magazine Club, and her artwork was featured in their award winning magazine. Katerina also designed and made her prom dresses the last two years. At Holy Trinity, Katerina has been involved in the Sunday School program, Greek School program, and the Greek Dance programs. In the fall, Katerina accepted an offer to Division 1 soccer at Kent State University. Her passion for design has led to studying fashion design at Kent State University's top ranked Fashion School. Katerina plans to have a career as a fashion designer.

"Stay curious, stay weird, stay kind and don't let anyone ever tell you you aren't smart or brave or worthy enough." – Alex Hirsch



**Christina Kyprianou** will be graduating from Indian Rocks Christian School. Christina received the Silver Honor Roll Award, and the Hofstra University Presidential Scholarship. When not in school, Christina was very involved as a Cellist in the Phoenix Youth Symphony, and placed Regional and All-State Music in cello. In her free time, Christina enjoys fencing and track and field. At Holy Trinity, Christina was involved in the Sunday School program, Myrrh Bearers, the Oratorical Festival, the Greek Dance and FDF competition programs, and all the youth groups. In the fall, Christina will be attending the Hofstra University Honors College in New York. Christina hopes to pursue studies towards and a career as a Speech Pathologist and Audiologist.

"The most important thing I have learned is the power of a smile. It is the universal gesture of kindness. Smile and the world will smile with you."

"Let us make our future now, and let us make our dreams tomorrow's reality." – Malala Yousafzai

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. – (1 Peter 4:8)



**David Pyle** will be graduating with honors from Basha High School. David maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout high school, and received the Lumberjack Scholarship based on his academic performance. In school, David was a member of National Honor Society, and played basketball. At Holy Trinity, David participated in the Sunday School program, the Altar Boys program, volunteered at the Greek Festival, attended All-Saints Camp, and was part of the youth groups. In the fall, David will be attending Northern Arizona University, where he plans on majoring in Criminal Justice. In the future, David hopes to become a Crime Scene Investigator.

"I have learned that hard work definitely pays off."

"I can accept failure, everyone fails at something, but I can't accept not trying again." – Michael Jordan

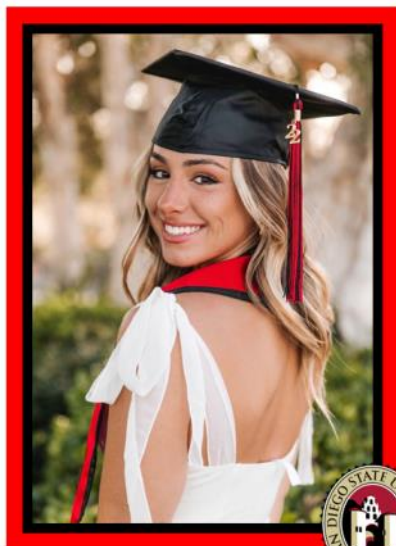


**Jake Watson** will be graduating from Desert Mountain High School. Jake recently received the Carnegie Hero Medal of Honor for his actions saving the lives of two girls; to date, this is one of Jake's proudest accomplishments. In school, Jake was part of the AZ High School Bass Masters Fishing team, and was a Bass Masters Tournament winner. When not in school, Jake likes to play golf, fish, go camping with friends, work in the family construction business and spend time with his girlfriend. At Holy Trinity, Jake participated in the Sunday School program, the Greek Dance and FDF competition programs, attended All-Saints and St. Nicholas Ranch Camps, volunteered at the Greek Festival, and was part of the youth groups. In the fall, Jake will be attending Scottsdale Community College.

"I'm not sure, but whatever I end up doing, I hope to be successful and have a happy life!"

"All men die, few ever really live." – John Eldredge

# College Graduates



**Thea Cartier** is graduating with a triple major in Journalism Media Studies, Communications and Rhetorical Writing Studies from San Diego State University. While in college, Thea was a Daily Aztec Journalist for her school; was a member of Alpha Chi Omega; was the Alpha Chi Omega New Member Education Chair; and participated in a local swimming masters group. At Holy Trinity, Thea was very involved in youth programs, and hopes to continue her involvement as a young adult. Thea plans to head into the work force and join a local news station. Thea hopes to one day be a major sports broadcaster or journalist for ESPN. Thea's biggest accomplishment is graduating from college.

"Don't take life too seriously."



**Eleni Debickero** is graduating Summa Cum Laude honors with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Arizona State University. Eleni received the New American University Scholarship for four consecutive years; received two AHEPA Chapter 219 scholarships; and, made the Dean's List for three consecutive years. Outside of school, Eleni likes to work out at the gym, hike and have outdoor adventures. At Holy Trinity, Eleni volunteered at the Greek Festival, participated in the Young Adult League (YAL), and assisted as a leader for youth night events. In the community, Eleni volunteered at Hands on Phoenix during the COVID-19 pandemic by administering vaccines, and she volunteered at St. Mary's Food Bank with YAL. After graduation, Eleni will begin working on her nursing board exams to become a Registered Nurse (RN). Her hope is to become a Labor and Delivery Nurse, and then go back to school at ASU to earn her Master's of Science in Nursing to become a Family Nurse Practitioner.

"My favorite quote, that has gotten me through my college career and life is, 'This too shall pass.' My mom has always told me this quote, as her mom (my Yiayia) use to tell it to her. This quote always reminded me that whatever struggles I am going through, it will pass in time and will lead to success."



**Aidan Haugen** is graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry from the Northern Arizona University. While at school, Aidan volunteered with the Arizona Antelope Foundation. After graduation, Aidan plans to go to work for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. In the future, Aidan hopes to become a wildlife biologist.

"The only thing that I know is that I know nothing at all."  
– Plato



**Christian Meris** is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Sports Business degree from the Arizona State University – W.P. Carey School of Business. While at school, Christian was on an intramural softball team; the team was the Spring 2022 Champions. At Holy Trinity, Christian participated in the Greek Dance and FDF competition programs, volunteered at the Greek Festival, and was part of the Young Adult League (YAL). After graduation, Christian will be working with Sanderson Lincoln in their Junior Management Training Program. Christian hopes to move up in Sanderson Lincoln, and see where life and work will take him in the future. In life, Christian states, "I have learned, that hard work pays off."

"The greatest teacher, failure is." – Yoda



**Eleni Papadopoulou** is completing the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center (SARRC's) Program at the Transition Academy at Gateway Community College. At Holy Trinity, Eleni has participated in the Greek Dance program and volunteered at the Greek Festival. In the fall, Eleni plans to attend Phoenix College. In the future, Eleni wants to work with animals.

"I am proud of learning to run long distances; earning my varsity letter in cross country during my junior year of high school; and, finishing three half marathons.

The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. – (Isaiah 58:11)



**Joshua Pardhe** is graduating Summa Cum Laude honors with a bachelor's degree in Computer Systems Engineering from the Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University (ASU) – Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering; a Business Minor from the ASU – W.P. Carey School of Business; and Certificates of International Business, Data Analytics, and Cross-Sector Leadership through ASU – Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions. Joshua was on the Dean's List consecutively from 2018-2022. Joshua has received the following: EY Financial Services Consulting Intern, Goldman Sachs Summer Analyst Intern, Regent's Cup 1st Place Winner (Oxford Debate, Storytelling, & Civil Discourse), CactusCon 10 Presenter, BSides Prishtina Presenter, BSides Seattle Presenter, ASA DataFest - Judge's Choice Award, Creative Frameworks Co-founder (via Barrett Honors thesis project), Expo 2020 Dubai Researcher, Codonify Co-founder and CTO. Joshua is a patent-holder/inventor of codon sequencing algorithms, Trace Labs Participant, published internationally for cybersecurity research on financial scams and ethical hacking/intelligence gathering methods, certified in ethical hacking, cloud computing, vulnerability analysis, etc., Cisco Innovation Challenge Guest Speaker, Public Service Academy Scholarship Recipient. In school, Joshua participated in/as: Next Generation Service Corps-Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff, Peer Instructor, Peer Mentor, Media Director, Section Lead, Mission Team Lead, Squad Lead, and Volcker Alliance Liaison; Alpha Kappa Psi Fraternity Recruitment Chair, Campus Relations Chair, Case Competition Committee; AZAFAP Picnic Philanthropy Member; Delta Zeta Entertainment Committee Member; Tau Beta Pi Honor Society Member; Golden Key International Honor Society Member; Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Member; American Statistical Association Member; Executive Board Member for ASU Artificial Intelligence; Sun Devil Alka Rocketeers Co-founder, President, Rocketpalooza Director, Trading Markets and Investments Member; ASU School of Computing and Augmented Intelligence (SCAI) Student Researcher (FURI); Undergraduate Student Government Senator, University Affairs Committee Member, Accessibility Coalition Liaison; Fulton Student Council Member; Watts College of Public Service DEI Committee Chair; Barrett 30th Anniversary Project Interviewer; and, Honors Community Assistant. At Holy Trinity, Joshua is the Holy Trinity Chanting Choir Leader and Left Choir Leader; part of the Dynamis Byzantine Ensemble Choir and St. Nicodemus Book Club; and assisted with HTC Livestreaming Operations. Joshua has a summer internship in New York City, then will return in the fall to attend graduate school at ASU – W.P. Carey School of Business & Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering to earn a masters in Finance and Computer Science. In the future, Joshua plans to become a managing director or partner at a leading global investment banking and investment management firm.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. – (Jeremiah 29:11)



**Angelina Tadros** is graduating Cum Laude honors with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Arizona State University. While in college, Angelina was part of the National Student Nursing Association. At Holy Trinity, Angelina was part of the Young Adult League (YAL); assisted as a leader for youth event nights; has participated in the palm crossing on Lazarus Saturday; and, volunteered at St. Mary's Food Bank with YAL. Angelina plans to take her nursing exams, and start working as a Registered Nurse (RN). Angelina is interested in becoming a traveling nurse for a few years; then wants to go back to school to specialize in becoming a Neonatal Nurse. In the future, Angelina hopes to work as a nurse, become financially independent, get married and have children.

"My proudest accomplishment is sticking with the nursing program. There have been times where I did want to just give up when it became too tough. I'm glad I stuck with it because it brought me far in my nursing education."

# Masters/PHD Graduates



**Nichole “Niki” Kyprianou** is graduating with a Masters in Global Health from Boston University School of Public Health (BUSPH). In graduate school, Niki was awarded the BUSPH Merit Scholarship and the Travel Award for T21RS International Conference. While in school, Niki worked with Food Is Medicine Collective – an organization helping to fight food insecurity in Boston; and, with BU Period Project – a program dedicated to provide equitable access to hygiene and menstrual supplies on campus. In Boston, Niki is involved in the Orthodox Christian Fellowship at Annunciation Cathedral. In the fall, Niki plans to attend Wake Forest School of Medicine. Niki plans to become a physician who focuses on public health. Her goal is to become a physician who advocates for health equity, in addressing social determinants of health in clinical practice and conducting research related to health disparities in maternal and child health.

“Life has many twists and turns, but by trusting God to take the lead, I realized that I have the patience, perseverance, and acceptance for whatever challenge lies ahead of me.”

“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths – (Proverbs 3:6)



**Mary Pardhe** graduated with a PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the School of Life Sciences at Arizona State University. Mary was co-inventor on one awarded patent (Universal vaccine platform - U.S. Patent No. 11,058,766); four patent applications; three peer-reviewed publications; currently has four papers-in-progress; and was co-founder of two biotech companies. Mary was the recipient of the Hint-of-Entrepreneurship Scholarship; Harry Lowell Swift Advancing Health Scholarship; a Teaching Excellence Award; an Outstanding Research Award; and, awarded several research grants from the Graduate and Professional Association. While getting her PhD, Mary was on the ASU School of Life Sciences E-board; and, volunteered with ASU Ask-A-Biologist, the Crisis Text Line as a Crisis Counselor (Level 5), and with ASU COVID-19 Response program.

Mary is the co-founder and Chief Science Officer of a national biotech company, VaxSyna INC. Their mission is to develop low-cost vaccines and therapeutics for under-served populations, especially those in low-to-middle-income countries. Mary is focused on leading the company’s research projects, developing strategic global collaborations, and managing their lab. Mary’s career goal is to use her science and business skills to tackle the problems surrounding cost-effective, globally equitable vaccine development and distribution.

Mary has been involved at Holy Trinity throughout her life, and currently is part of the St. Nicodemus Young Adult Book Discussion Club, the Celebration Committee, and the Young Adult League. Mary hopes to use her other talents and interests in event planning/organization, reading, and baking for various church ministries.

“The most important thing I have learned at this point in life is that I need to do the very best I can at the task God has given me to do in the present moment.”

Future events will unfold in the right time. – (Jeremiah 29:11)

*congratulations*

# OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

Thank You

FROM OPA

The OPA Board would like to thank Fr. Alexander and his group of young adults who helped plan & execute all the 2021-22 Youth Events. Thank you for keeping our community's youth engaged.

In addition, a thank you to all the parents that helped assist with coffee hours and youth nights, and who brought your children to the youth events.

SAVE THE DATE

August  
14  
2022

OPA GENERAL MEETING

Calling all Parents to attend!  
Immediately following Divine Liturgy  
in the Community Center