

# Desert Springs

February 2023  
Volume 8 Issue 2



Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
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**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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**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,  
Chris Petroulakis, John Schneider

**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

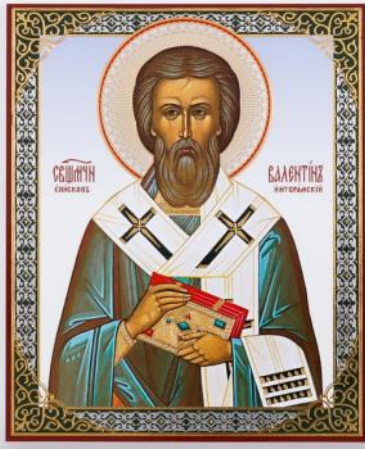
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- **All Saints Camp** — Evan Tsagaris: [etsagaris89@gmail.com](mailto:etsagaris89@gmail.com)
- **Altar Servers** — David Haag, Chris Francis: [davidmhaag@yahoo.com](mailto:davidmhaag@yahoo.com), [battersbox7@yahoo.com](mailto:battersbox7@yahoo.com)
- **Bible Study** — Father Apostolos Hill: [papoulihill@gmail.com](mailto:papoulihill@gmail.com)
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- **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 Heidi and Kristen of any updates to your listing.

# Message from Father Apostolos

## Falling in Love



Christmas had scarcely passed and the Holiday items had scarcely made it to the clearance aisles before the Valentine candies appeared. Predictably, one could purchase Christmas candy canes, Valentine's Day conversation hearts, and Reese's peanut-butter Easter eggs all at the same time in the nearby Target store before New Year's Day has even arrived! There must be a temporal distortion in the retail universe that sees time so tightly compressed!

Saint Valentine's Day, as it is properly named, has long since shed itself of its historical connection to the 3rd century Christian priest-martyr who secretly wedded young Christian couples despite the prohibition by the Emperor Claudius the Cruel who pressed young male citizens into the Roman Legions to serve his territorial ambitions. Now, Valentine's Day is merely "Part Two" of the Christmas

Holiday movie meme of finding true love. Well, finding true love and imbibing even more sugar!

America could certainly stand to benefit from true love, so loveless and self-seeking we sometimes seem to be. Our hearts yearn for an unforced expression of love from those around us, not based on utility and performance, but a love that is genuine and freely offered. The Orthodox understanding of love is based firmly on the example of Jesus Christ Whom we describe as Love personified.

St. Paul describes this *Agape* love as patient, kind, not envious, boastful, or proud;; a love that doesn't degrade others, isn't self-seeking or easily angered, that doesn't keep score of perceived slights and offenses or delight in evil but rejoices in truth. This love bears all things, endures, all things, believes all things, hopes all things. This love never fails or quits when things get tough.

St. John reminds us *"Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us that we should be called the children of God."* And again, *"Beloved, let us love one another for love is of God and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who doesn't love, does not know God for God is love."* As Christians, we ought to be renowned for our capacity not to judge and condemn or be harsh and unyielding, but to love! And to love in the same expansive and all-embracing way that Jesus loves us!

If this is the true standard of love for us, how might we go about deepening our capacity for Love? How might we deepen our own faith in Jesus Christ so that our love for others becomes an instinctive reflex and not a taxing ordeal? Do we perceive or experience God's love as predicated upon our good behavior? Must we qualify for God's Love? Have we been taught or do we teach our children that God loves us more when we behave and less when we do not?

We begin to see the problem. The Prophet Solomon wrote the *"the fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom,"* (Proverbs 9:10) just as St. John wrote *"there is no fear in love for perfect love casts out all fear."* (1 John 4:18) We must graduate from a fear-based neophyte view of God's love to one based upon the *Agape* Love that He offers us; *"For (He) so loved that world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes on Him should not perish (forever!) but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16)



Everything about the Christian experience ought to resound with the love of the God Who created us, sustains, us, provides for our needs, nurtures our growth, nourishes us with His own Divine Life in the Holy Eucharist, Who heals us when we are sick, Who forgives us when we fall into sin, who embraces us and welcomes us home when our passions and proclivities mislead us into the darkness, and Who consistently demonstrates His mercy and Fatherly care for us in every way.

Once we begin to glimpse the unflinching Love that God holds for us, we will yearn to be in His presence whenever the doors of the Cathedral are open. We will run to Him as the lover of our souls and repent of those times we neglected His Love in pursuit of our other "loves," so-called. Aware of God's love for us, being with Him will become a source of inexplicable joy, strength, and comfort. Buoyed on the current of God's love for us, we will no longer view the Christian life as a dreary rules-based obligation.

As we stroll past the aisles of red and pink Valentine's Day merchandise, before it too is swept aside to make way for 4th of July BBQ items, let's pause and reflect upon the love of God and on how we might share that love with those around us! And upon how we might learn to fall more deeply in love with Him!

## 2023 Parish Council

### Congratulations to our Parish Council Officers!



On Sunday, 01/22/2023 our Parish Council had their Affirmation of Office and then elected the executive committee for the year:

President: Paul Katsenes  
Vice President: Connie Contes  
Treasurer: Jim Manelis  
Secretary: Andi Furlis



May God guide them all in their ministry this year!



# Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

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



## Stewardship 2023 - We Are Off To A Great Start!

This year we set 2 goals for our Stewardship 2023 campaign... the first being for 100% of our stewards to submit their pledge cards by January 31st. And the second for us to increase our financial commitments in order to reach \$500,000 in total pledges.

First, we are truly grateful for those who have fulfilled step 1 of our goals. Thank you to those stewards in the list below who have made their pledges. And if you have not yet made your pledge, there is no time like the present! Simply visit [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org), click on “stewardship” in the upper right hand corner, fill out your pledge card and click submit. It’s as easy as that!

It’s because of the generosity of our stewards that Holy Trinity is now able to tackle many projects to improve our community and our campus. In 2022 we purchased a new cooling tower for the Cathedral. The parking lot has been newly paved. New roofing was installed and the beginnings of the courtyard refresh are underway. Imagine what else can be accomplished if we continue to increase our pledges to grow stewardship.

## New and Improved ONLINE PORTAL IS COMING SOON!

New changes are also in the works for our new and improved online payment portal and systems. The office is currently in the process of upgrading our software to ShelbyNext. Once the systems have been totally integrated we will be encouraging everyone to become an online giver in order to be a ShelbyNext member and receive all of the improvements and conveniences of this system.

With ShelbyNext we will be able to text you with important church reminders and information, by downloading the app you will be able to make stewardship or donation payments quickly and easily from your phone or computer. And even each of our ministries will be able to better keep track of their members and get information collected and distributed quickly and easily.

Keep an eye out for additional information coming soon!

[hollytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)

*Have you checked out the website lately?*

*Events • Services • Photos • Calendar • Stewardship*



# Archbishop Elpidophoros Visit

February 5, 2023



His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America will be in Phoenix for the Leadership 100 Conference this week. His Eminence will lead us in worship THIS Sunday, February 5, with Orthros beginning at 8:15 a.m. and the Archieratical Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. We will also welcome members of Leadership 100 to our parish that day and have the opportunity to meet them and show them our hospitality in thanks for their furthering the mission of the Church. We will also pray for the repose of the souls of all the Leadership 100 members who have reposed in the Lord, including a few members of Holy Trinity Cathedral who were instrumental in the founding of Leadership 100 and the life of our Cathedral. Please join us in prayer and fellowship!

When we greet the Archbishop it is proper to call him "Your Eminence" and receive his blessing in the usual way from a clergyman.

## Lessons with the Fathers



# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2023

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week <b>FEBRUARY 5th</b>	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> <b>Publican and the Pharisee</b> Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week <b>FEBRUARY 12th</b>	 <b>The Prodigal Son Returns!</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare <b>FEBRUARY 19th</b> FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 <b>The Last Judgement</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare <b>FEBRUARY 26th</b> FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 <b>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!</b> <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 5th</b>	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> <b>SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY</b> Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 12th</b>	 <b>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</b> Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 19th</b>	 <b>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 26th</b>	 <b>ST JOHN of the LADDER</b> Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent <b>APRIL 2nd</b>	 <b>ST MARY of EGYPT</b> Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! <b>APRIL 9th</b> GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> <b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b> Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <b>APRIL 14th</b>	 <b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b> <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! <b>APRIL 16th</b> NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> <b>HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b> Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

# House of Stewards

As of 02/01/2023

Panagiota Agelakos  
Evan & Terri Alexon  
Constance Anagnopoulos  
Nikki Anest  
Bettina Angelos  
John & Alexandra Annos  
Elaine Apostle  
Argyro Apostolou  
Christina & Chris Bakavelou  
Constantine & Eleni Balanis  
Taylor Bankson  
Crisanne & Scott Bansner  
Sam & Heidi Bass  
Joyce Bavlinka  
Scott & Stacey Beaty  
Stamatios Benetos  
Dan & Vicki Bichekas  
Peter & Jennifer Bilitsis  
James & Helen Bruno  
Georgia Brusalis  
Chris & Rita Bruskas  
Kristen Bruskas  
Constance Burkhart  
Kathy Carras  
Frank Carris  
Chad & Amanda Carver  
Laurel Charnas-Schiller  
& Todd Schiller  
Harriet Chotras  
Pete & Kim Choukalas  
Katherine & Jeffrey Clarke  
Andrew & Mara Contes  
James & Connie Contes  
Nick & Sharon Daniolos  
Patricia Davis  
Rebecca Davis  
Leonard & Elaine Debickero  
Hercules Dellas  
Patrick & Karla Delord  
Joanne Demangus

Tom & Irene Demas  
Alexa DeMoss  
Bill DeMoss  
Charles DeMoss  
Chris DeMoss  
John & Marjorie DeMoss  
Michael & Maureen DeMoss  
Basil & Ruth Denaxas  
Alexandros & Erika Dimitriadis  
Jimmy Drakos  
Stanley & Fran Drozd  
Clyde (Emil) Ellis  
Fr. Alexander & Presv. Laura  
Eliades  
Ed & Katherine Fancher  
Athanas & Georgina Fournalis  
Athanasia Fournalis  
Ted & Andi Fournalis  
Tim & Antonette Fraenkel  
Chris & Celeste Francis  
Georgina Frieh  
George & Julie Froumis  
Chris & Anne Gavras  
Andreanna Georgiou  
Thomas & Christina Georgiou  
Pamela Georgelos  
Diana Georgelos  
Demetra Georgelos  
John T Giannopoulos  
Stella Glitsos  
Eva Goodman  
Bill & Lynn Graham  
Gina Graham  
David Haag  
Donald Hall  
Mary & Roger Harris  
Patsy Harris  
Diane Herman  
Veronica Hill  
Maria Hontzas Ruttle



Bessie Hotis  
Gelu Isfanut  
Ekaterini Jaynes  
Jeffrey Johannesmeyer  
Pavlos Kairis  
James & Linda Kalivas  
Pete & Nicole Kamboukos  
Basilis & Roula Kaneris  
Marianna Kaneris  
Jean Kantaros  
Nick & Dena Kantaros  
Maggie & Marko Karakozis  
Peter Jr & Tina Karegeannes  
Virginia S Karegeannes  
Vasilios & Vasiliqi Karagiannis  
Julie Karoutas  
Joann Karros  
Fotini Katrakis  
George & Niki Katsaros  
John & Mary Katsenes  
Paul & Lori Katsenes  
Thomas Katsenes  
Jim & Poppy Kavouris  
Fanny Kechajias  
Catherine & Quentin Keyser  
Ronald & Virginia Kidd  
Emily Kimmell  
Peter and Pat Kladis  
Maria Kompos  
Spiros & Carol Kostaras  
Anthony & Janet Kouvousis  
Elizabeth & Johnny Kratsas  
Tammy Kretsedemas

*House of Stewards continued on page 9*  
*Desert Springs February 2023*

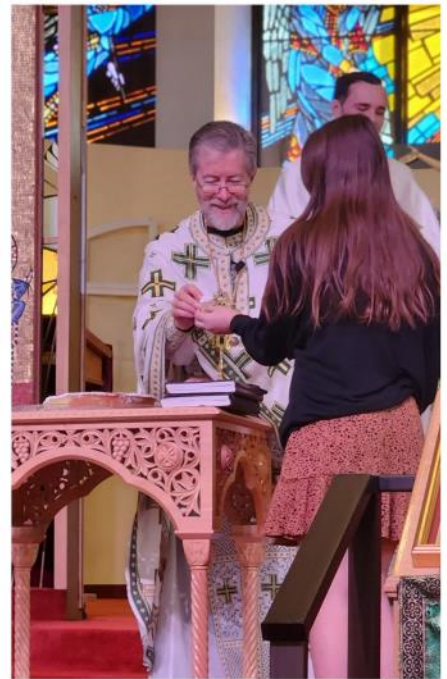


*House of Stewards continued from page 8*

Nick & Marina Kretsedemas	Aaron Papagalos	Angelo & Marie Spanos
Debbie Kunkel	Maria Papageorgiou	Leo & Rachel Speliopoulos
John & Evangelia Lambrou	Rita & Spyros Papaspyrou	William & Dianne (Tiki) Spell
Judith Lamond	Nicholas & Stacy Papatzimas	James L & Karen Speros
Elias & Mary Lampos	Andrew & Emily Pappas	Vasilios Speros
Scott & Jill Leach	Harry & Fannie Pappas	Jim & Kathryn Stamadianos
Constance Lemere	Irene Pappas	Andrew & Christine Stamatis
Andrew Limber	John & Andrea Pappas	Nitsa Stamatelatos
Gregory Lizanich	Daniel & Anna Pardhe	Tristan & Alana Stoutenburg
Melina Machas	Athena Parmenter	William & Rebecca Tavlarides
James & Stephanie Machas	Amy Paul	Nick & Effie Theodore
Maria Maciejewski	Christine & Peter Pearce	Jim Thomas
Joanne Mackos	John & Dina Pesognelli	John Gus Thomas
Aristotle & Evelyne Macrodimetris	Fotini Pestrivas	Deacon John & Diak. Mary Thrasher
Marika Makridis	Zoe Pestrivas	Andrew Touvannas
Margarita Makris	Katherine Petersen	Thaddeus & Katherine Tropea
Julie & Felix Mamani	Chris Petroulakis	Vaios Tsanos
Anna Manos	Jacquelyn Petroulakis	Constantine & Stella Tsantilas
Jenny Margaris	William & Kathryn Petsas	Vaious & Areti Tsanos
William & Rina Marinakos	Michael & TeAnn Philippis	Matthew Turgeon
Nicholas Marino	Brian & Athena Pickett	Costa & Koko Tzavaras
Mary Lou Mastorakos	Andreas & Mary Poulakidas	Daniel Valenzuela
Stephen & Mari Mastorakos	Tracy Poulos	Kristen Vasilarakos
Debra & Demetrios Mavroidis	Panagiotes & Anthipe Pries	Leah Venetis
Angela & Chris Mead	Nicole Pyle	Peter & Maria Vlahos
William & Sandy Meris	Bertha Quinn	Terri & Scott Vaughn
Anthony & Tania Miaoulis	Lydia Rabbitt	Andrew & Sandy Vlahoulis
Angeline Miller	Menelaos Rentzis	Steve & Mary Vrahas
William & Jean Miller	Voula Rentzis	Matthew & Jaclyn Walsh
Philip & Helen Mitchell	Maria Hontzas & Curt Ruttle	Paula & Colin Walsh
Emily Moroz	Lois Sakkas	Zach & Mary Wilhelmi
Dino Moschovitis	Dimitra Sampson	Richard & Katina Wood
Spyro & Effie Mousses	Paul Sarantes	Michael & Christina Wombacher
John & Maria Nicholas	Les & Christine Sarantinos	Zachariah Yoon & Elizabeth Hong
Evelyn Nickalew	John Schneider	Anthony & Karen Zaman
AnnaMarie Nieblas	Warren & Kalliopi Schneider	Dimitrios & Eugenia Zannis
Else Paletsos	Angela & George Scopelianos	George & Katherine Zannis
Elizabeth Palmer	Diane & George Sedlacek	Evangelia Zikos
Alexander & Alexia Panagiotakopoulos	John Siavelis	Dimitri Zistatsis
Socrates & Stephanie Papadopoulos	George & Evi Skintzis	Eleanna Zistatsis
Chrysoula Papadopoulos	Elias & Phyllis Skoubis	Michael & Christina Zistatsis
	Constantin Solomon	
	David Solheim	

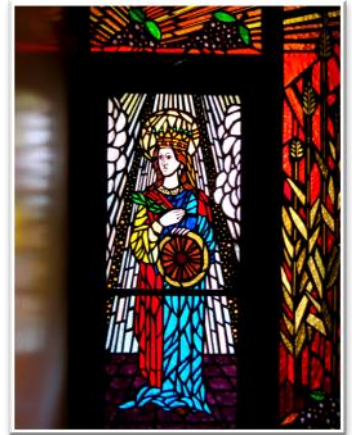
# Vasilopita Cutting

January 8, 2023




# 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,  
February 2, 2023  
at 6:30 pm  
in the Lounge of the Speros Community Center**

## Coffee in the Conference Room!

**EVERY TUESDAY!**

9:30-11:00 am  
No RSVP needed -  
just stop on by!



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

## JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS 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 2023, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016

# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

## Brunch!

Philoptochos is hosting a **Valentine Brunch** on **Sunday, February 12th**, following Liturgy. Fun for the whole family! Come and enjoy the activities, good food, and great fellowship. Adults \$12, 5 yrs to 12 yrs old \$7, and any child under 5, free!

“From Our Hearts to Yours”



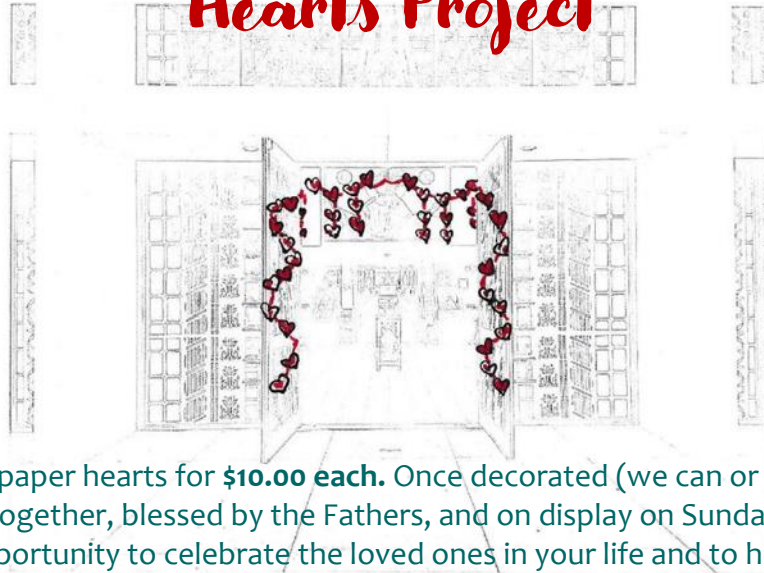
Have you bought **YOUR**  
tickets yet?

Contact Alex at 602-738-6053 to reserve your tickets today!



Look for the table in the Large Hall on **02/05/2023!**

# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos Hearts Project



Philoptochos is selling paper hearts for **\$10.00 each**. Once decorated (we can or you can), the hearts will be strung together, blessed by the Fathers, and on display on Sunday **12th, 2023**. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the loved ones in your life and to honor those In Memory Of - May their Memory be Eternal.

Look for tables and presentations every week through the first week of February. Let's fill the entry into the Cathedral with many colorful reminders of those dear to us past & present! Time is limited to get your hearts- **last day to order is 02/09/2023**. Text 602-332-8809 or email [kvasilarakos@cox.net](mailto:kvasilarakos@cox.net) for further information or to order your hearts!

Zelle: 602-332-8809, Venmo: Kristen-Vasilarakos, CashApp: \$KV1973



## Camp Agape

**The Silent Auction to benefit  
Camp Agape and Kids 'n  
Cancer will go live on  
02/14/2023!**



# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

## Vasilopita Auction

January 8, 2023



**Thank you to Georgia Furlis for leading another successful year!**

Thank you to all those who made the tasty and attractive vasilopitas for auction and sharing, thank you to those who supported our sale, and thank you to Irene Demas for making the large vasilopita the Fathers cut and distributed in the Sanctuary.

## Sweatshirts Delivered!

January 24, 2023

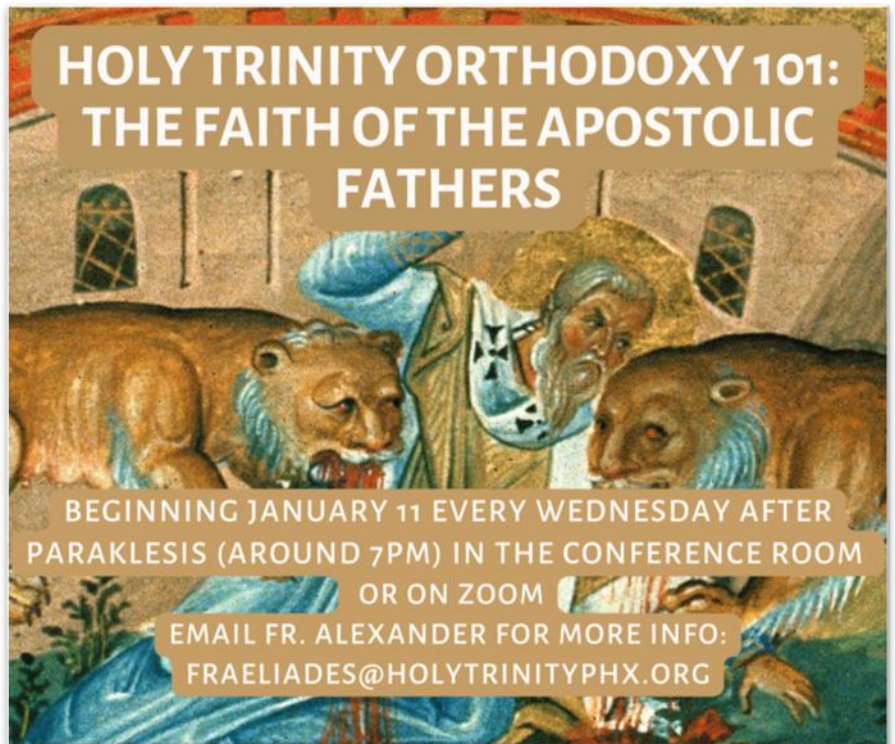


**\*120\*** navy and grey sweatshirts were delivered to students in need!

# Orthodoxy 101

Beginning on **January 11** Fr. Alexander will hold his **Orthodoxy 101 Class** every **Wednesday after Paraklesis (around 7pm)** in the Conference Room and on Zoom ([here](#)). We will approach the faith through the lens of the Apostolic Fathers, the Fathers of the Church who lived within the first 100 or so years after Jesus! What did these early Christians believe? How did they live? Let's find out together!

We read some writings from the book "The Apostolic Fathers in English" by Michael Holmes. This book is not *required* as all readings are also available online through google for free but is helpful. Another helpful way to frame the class will be through reading "The Illumined Heart" by Pres. Frederica Matthews-Green.



## Anointing for Healing

After the services of 2/1, 3/3, and 3/31 there will be an anointing for healing. Open to all Orthodox and Unorthodox families.

## Free Driving Program for Seniors!

The **YMCA** is sponsoring a program to help seniors( 65 and older) who can no longer drive get to where they need to be. They are expanding this program to include many parts of Central Phoenix, Scottsdale, and more. Call the **YMCA** at **602-404-9622** for more details

## House Blessings

House Blessings for the New Year have begun by appointment. Please call the office or Fr. Apostolos or Fr. Alexander individually to make an appointment.



# 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 **involute** 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

<p><b>PLATINUM DONORS: \$100,000.00 +</b> Faye Boukas George and Ann Souvall John George Thomas</p> <p><b>GOLD DONORS: \$50,000.00 +</b> Dr. Nick Baziotes</p> <p><b>SILVER DONORS: \$25,000.00 +</b> DeMoss Families IMO+ Tasia Pritchard</p> <p><b>BRONZE DONORS: \$10,000.00 +</b> Gabriel &amp; Helen Pappagallos IMO Mary Montague John &amp; Mary Katsenes George &amp; Koula Cheros IMO Dina Sakellarakis Steve and Joan Vrahas Ange &amp; Alex J. Pappas James &amp; Connie Contes Dennis &amp; Anastasia DeBerry IMO John G. Zannaras Steve &amp; Judith Vrahas</p>	<p><b>GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND: \$1,000.00 +</b> Dr. Christopher J. DeMoss The Lambrou Family</p> <p><b>OTHER IN MEMORY GIFTS</b> IMO Stacy Hotis IMO Danny Speros IMO Mark Sprintz IMO Chris Gabriel IMO Fr. James &amp; Katherine Tavlarides IMO Fr. Anthony &amp; Mary Coniaris IMO Tom Contes IMO Leonard Mastorakos IMO John Sgouros IMO Chris Gabriel IMO Athena &amp; Dan Choukalas IMO Milton &amp; Harriet Sioles IMO Koula &amp; Pete Triantafyllou IMO James H. Karros IMO Bette Maniatis IMO Dan Lester Hill</p>
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+ REMEMBER HOLY TRINITY IN YOUR WILL +

## Coffee Hours

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

The February Coffee Hours are sponsored by the **Celebration Committee**.

*Thank you!*



# Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners and their guests

Julie Karoutas

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



Dear Desert Diamonds & Friends,

**Happy Chinese New Year 2023—Year of the Rabbit!** We will be celebrating on **Friday, February 10, 2023!**

Location: **George Yang's Chinese Cuisine**

Address: 6048 N 16th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85016

Telephone: 602.368.2688

Please RSVP as soon as possible with your name and number of guests.

Looking forward to seeing YOU there.

*Yours in Christ,*

*Julie Karoutas*

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

Cell# 623.313.8720



January 2023

Fran Drozd brought the Olympic torch she carried for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics!  
Many of the guests took pictures with the torch.

# 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!

This month, we celebrated Zachariah Kratsas' 40-day-blessing, Angelo and Marie Spanos' 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, and all January birthdays (see the list of names on the following page). The décor theme, "Wintery Wonderland", was reflected in the blue, silver, and white balloon garlands, blue tablecloths with silver organza overlays, vases filled with snow-covered willow branches and glittery leaf arrangements, and paper snowflake garlands. We also welcomed attendees with a fog machine set up at the entrance to the hall. We greatly appreciate those who have shared their milestone events with our Holy Trinity 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 send an email with suggestions and details to: [htcphxevents@gmail.com](mailto:htcphxevents@gmail.com).

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more, please email [htcphxevents@gmail.com](mailto:htcphxevents@gmail.com) and/or talk to Terri Alexon or Mary Pardhe.



# Celebration Committee January Photos



# Celebration Committee January & February Birthdays!

*Happy*  
**BIRTHDAY**

George Peter Agnos	Nick Kretsedemas
Bettina Angelos	Leonithas Mackos
Elaine Apostle	Stephan Mackos
Sophia Bakavelou	Sandy Meris
George Benetos	Joanne Meris
Rita Bruskas	Claire Meyers
Frank Carris	Anastasia Mitchell
Pete Choukalas	Zoya Moroz
Adriana Chronis	Kathy New
Mariam Contes	Irene Pagoudis
Yiorgo Cooper	Elizabeth Palmer
Leonard Debickero	Gayle Petkas
Patrick Delord	Georgia Pikoula
Joanne Demangus	Nicole Pyle
Fran Drozd	Lyda Rabbitt
Judy Farr	Nikki Sackos
Bill Graham	Theodore Schneider
Alexia Haugen	Alisha Solheim
Constantinos Herrara	Michael Jim Solomon
Ekaterini Jaynes	James A. Speros
Grace Kamboukos	Alana Stoutenburg
Harper Kamboukos	John Theodore
Vasilios Karagiannis	Sophocles Tsaninos
Vasiliki Karagiannis	Dimitrios Tsioutsopoulos
Fotini Katrakis	Staci Vaughn
Poppy Kavouris	Andy Vlahos
Fanny Kechaijas	Andrew Vlahoulis
George Kleanthis	Jessica Young

*Happy Birthday*

Dorothy Ainslie	Esme Mallas
Taylor Bankson	Nick Maydanis
Michael Cartier	Amalis Miaoulis
Thea Cartier	Philip Mitchell
Ryan Choukalas	Jonathan Oxley
Michael Chronis	Phillip Panagiotoglou
Hercules Dellas	Maria Papamatheakis
Costa DeMoss	George Poulos
Maria Dennis	Vasiliqi Qiro
Matthew Dye	Rose Rentzis
Lisa Elam	Lois Sakkas
Greg Fernandez	Giorgios Sbilliris
Madeline Fraenkel	John Schneider
Miki Ganolis	Elaine Seretis
Semos Gardner	Terry Seretis
Eugene Gavriilidis	Gus Theodoropoulos
Thomas Georgiou	Martha Tsakiris
Jeffrey Johannesmeyer	Vajois Tsanos
Mick Kantaros	Athena Tsioutsopoulos
Jack Katsenes	Roger Undhagen
John Katsenes	Peter Vardalos
Zanetta Kleanthis	Scott Vaughn
Maria Kontakis	Terri Vaughn
Marina Kretsedemas	Anthony Zaman
Emilia Lipnos	Eugenis Zannis
Stephanie Machas	

# Our Church Family

## Funerals

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

Psalm 23:6



**01/02/2023**

Constantine Tsantilas

*May His Memory Be Eternal.*

**01/014/2023**

Gerry Stamatelatos

*May His Memory Be Eternal.*

**01/18/2023**

Catherine Wallerich

*May Her Memory Be Eternal.*

**01/23/2023**

Bettina Angelos

*May Her Memory Be Eternal.*



## 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.

# 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

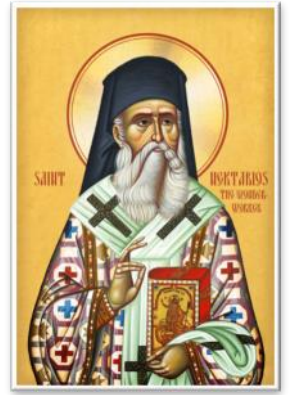
We greatly value all your donations! Please remember, when you write us a check, to include your **intention for the donation and your envelope number in the memo line.** i.e. stewardship, candles, etc.

*Thank you all!*



# St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

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



The month of February offers us the opportunity to celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord into the Temple as well as the Feast Day of St. Haralambos the Hieromartyr.

## Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Commemorated on February 2



Another name for this feast is The Meeting of our Lord.

The story of the Presentation is told in Luke 2:22-29. Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews and observed their religious customs. An important custom was for the couple to take their first-born son to the Temple. The baby was taken to the Temple forty days after his birth and was dedicated to God. In addition, if the parents were wealthy, they were to bring a lamb and a young

pigeon or a turtle dove to be offered as a sacrifice at the Temple. The custom provided that if the parents were poor, they were to offer two pigeons or two turtle doves for the sacrifice.

Joseph and Mary were not wealthy, so they took two turtle doves with them to offer as a sacrifice at the Temple.

When Jesus was forty days old, Mary and Joseph took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem. They were not wealthy, so they took two turtle doves with them to offer as a sacrifice at the Temple. As they arrived at the Temple, Mary and Joseph were met by a very old man named Simeon. He was a holy man and was noted as a very intelligent scholar. Simeon spent much time studying about the prophets of Israel. It was during his studies that he learned of the coming of the Messiah. The Jewish people were waiting for the Messiah to come and deliver Israel from their conquerors. From that time on, Simeon spent his time praying for the Messiah to come. He spent many years in prayer. Finally, while Simeon was praying he heard the voice of God. God promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah.

When Simeon saw Jesus, he took the baby in his arms and blessed the Lord and said:

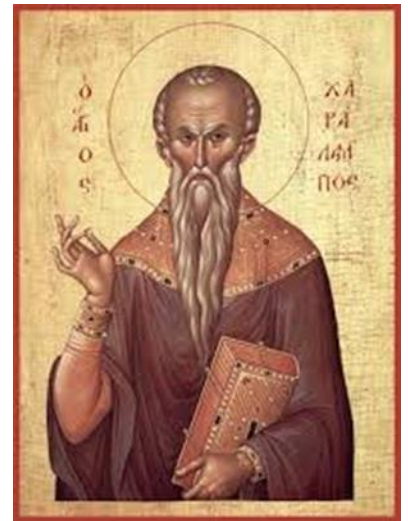
"Lord, now let Your servant go in peace according to Your promise, because my eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory to your people Israel."

## Haralambos (Charalampus) the Hieromartyr

Commemorated on February 10

His name Χαράλαμπος means "glowing with joy" in Greek. It is believed that at the time of his martyrdom in 202, Haralambos was 113 years old. Despite his advanced age, he was tortured mercilessly.

He was the bishop of Magnesia and spread the Gospel in that region for many years. However, when news of his preaching reached the authorities of the area, the proconsul Lucian and military commander Lucius, the Saint was arrested and brought to trial, where he confessed his faith in Christ and refused to offer sacrifice to idols. He endured atrocious tortures but held steadfast to his faith.



Lucius, enraged, seized the instruments of torture and began to torture Haralambos himself, but suddenly his forearms were cut off as if by a sword. The governor Lucian then spat in the face of the saint, and immediately Lucian's head was turned around so that he faced backwards. Then Lucius entreated the Saint to show mercy on him, and both torturers were healed through the prayers of Saint Haralambos. During this a multitude of witnesses came to believe in Christ. Among them also was Lucius, who fell at the feet of the holy bishop, asking to be baptized.

The Saint was brought to the emperor Septimius Severus who sentenced him to beheading with a sword. During Saint Haralambos' final prayer, the heavens opened and the saint saw the Savior and a multitude of angels. The holy martyr asked Him to grant that the place where his relics would repose would never suffer famine or disease. He also begged that there would be peace, prosperity, and an abundance of fruit, grain, and wine in that place, and that the souls of these people would be saved. The Lord promised to fulfill his request and ascended to heaven, and the soul of the hieromartyr Haralambos followed after Him. By the mercy of God, the saint died before he could be executed.



## 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!



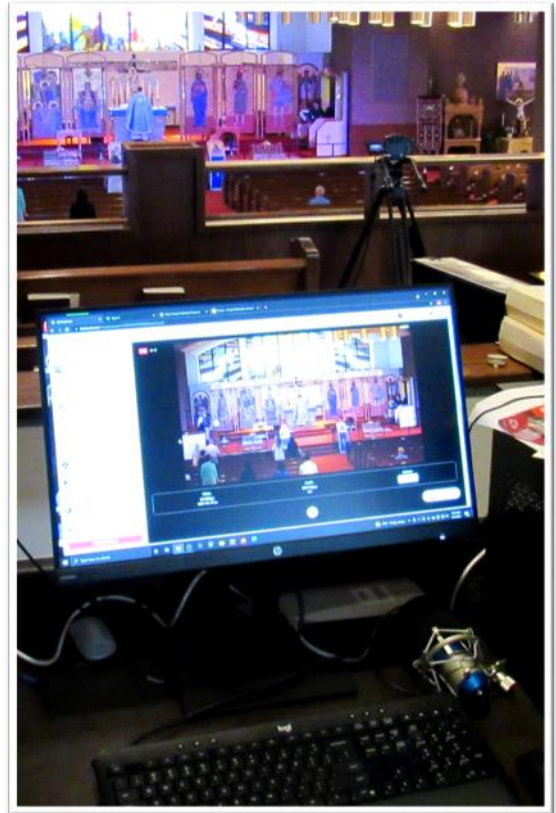
“Welcome! I don't believe we've met yet. My name is (your name)” is a great start. Offer to walk with them to the Coffee Social. A personal connection goes far!

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

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.

**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



# AHEPA Chapter 219



## PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

Hosted by the Brothers of  
AHEPA Chapter 219

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**SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH**  
FOLLOWING CHURCH SERVICES

**\$30 ADULTS**

**\$20 AGES 6-17**

**5 AND UNDER FREE**

**HOLY TRINITY  
GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  
1973 E. MARYLAND AVE - PHOENIX**

Reservations beginning Sunday, March 19th during  
Coffee Hour in the Church Community Center

OR CONTACT:

Natalie, Holy Trinity Office, (602) 264-7863  
Pete Marudas, [rosemar2@msn.com](mailto:rosemar2@msn.com) (602) 284-1638

Reserved Tables of 8 or 10  
must be prepaid in advance.  
All other reservations will be open seating.

# AHEPA Chapter 219



## **AHEPA CHAPTER 219 A NIGHT OF RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION**

**FEBRUARY 18, 2023**

**6:00PM COCKTAILS  
6:30 PM DINNER  
7:45 AWARDS  
SOCIAL AFTER AWARDS**

**HOLY TRINITY GREEK  
ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  
JAMES A SPEROS  
COMMUNITY CENTER**

**OPEN BAR WITH 4 COURSE - 5 STAR MEAL**

**\$80 per Couple or  
\$45 per person**

**RSVP no later than February 12, 2023 to:**

**John Kostaras: 480.318.1935  
or [jkostaras61@gmail.com](mailto:jkostaras61@gmail.com)**

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW - LIMITED SEATING**

# Daughters of Penelope

Helenos Chapter 432  
Phoenix, AZ



Our Daughters celebrated the holidays on December 11th with a Saguaro Lake cruise on the Desert Belle followed by lunch at the Shiprock Restaurant in Tonto National Forest. This “all-afternoon” event flew by as we spent time talking with all our sisters. It was a great way to celebrate the season!



Our chapter has a very busy calendar in the next few months:

- February** Meeting followed by a wine tasting
- March** Meeting & Bunko / membership drive
- April** Dinner with the AHEPANS followed by Meeting
- May** Walk for UMOM & Kentucky Derby event



District conference was held January 27-29 in Palm Desert this year!

## Officers:

- Cathy Keyser, President
- Angie Lambrou, Vice President
- Deedee Staikos, Recording Secretary
- Connie Panagiotakopoulos, Corresponding Secretary
- Anastasia Mitchell, Treasurer
- Jennifer Bilitsis, Marshall
- Julie Karoutas, Officer at Large



# 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!

## 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.



# 4F Youth Night

January 21, 2023

We learned about Sacraments and even learned directly about baptism when we “baptized” Katherine the doll!



# OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

## Little Lambs

Debra Harrison



## Greek Dance

Niko Panagiotakopoulos, Director

Email: [npanoso1@yahoo.com](mailto:npanoso1@yahoo.com)

Call/text: (602) 469-2039



# Soup & Salad

To benefit the Dance Program

## Sunday, February 5, 2023

# \$10.00

*See you there!*

