

# Desert Springs

June/July 2023  
Volume 8 Issue 6



## Joyful Pentecost

Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85016  
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**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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The 25th of each month

**Sunday Bulletin Deadline**

Wednesdays, 12 noon

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Vice President: Connie Contes

Treasurer: Jim Manelis

Secretary: Andi Furlis

Sandy Annos, Charlie DeMoss,  
Alexander Harding, Jill Leach,  
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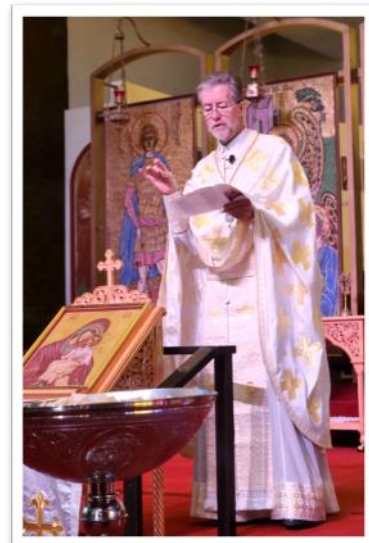
Please check the listings on this page and confirm that the information is correct. Email is the default contact type, but listings can be changed to text or phone if preferred. Email any changes to both the Office at [AdminAssist@holytrinityphx.org](mailto:AdminAssist@holytrinityphx.org) and Kristen 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

## The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

*"For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost." (Acts. 20:16)*

Though he had been prophetically warned against it by a Prophet named Agabus, St. Paul was determined to be in Jerusalem by Pentecost. Agabus had demonstrated the fate awaiting Paul if he persisted in his intention by binding his own hand and feet with Paul's belt, saying; *"So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles."* (Acts 20-11)



This is indeed what occurred after St. Paul's teaching in the Temple so enrage the hearers that a riot erupted to tear the Apostle to pieces which required Roman soldiers to quell. The resulting examinations before Legionary Commander, the Sanhedrin, then the Regional Governor Felix and his successor Festus, resulted in Paul's appeal to Caesar which, as a Roman citizen, was his right. In Rome, St. Paul would be martyred and beheaded under Nero.

What was so compelling about the Feast of Pentecost that constrained St. Paul to pursue his own doom by ignoring the warning of Agabus and others to stay away from Jerusalem? Pentecost was known as the Feast of Weeks, a period of 50 days after Passover on the Jewish Calendar date of 14 Nissan to sanctify the grain harvest. It was an agricultural celebration until it became, by the 1st century BC (according to the Babylonian Talmud) associated with the giving of the Law by Yahweh to Moses on Mt. Sinai. Shavuot, or Pentecost, was the 2nd holiest feast day of the Jewish year.

Jesus instructs the Disciples to remain in Jerusalem (Acts 1:4) for the "Promise of the Father" to be fulfilled. This promise Jesus described in St. John's Gospel; *"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."* (16:12-15)

Thus it was immediately after the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven and His enthronement at the right hand of the Father, that the Disciples returned the short distance from Mount Olivet to Jerusalem "with great Joy" to await the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. St. Luke records that there were 120 disciples, including "Mary, the Mother of Jesus" who assembled in the Upper Room in prayerful anticipation. Essential business was also conducted as the 11 remaining Disciples after Judas Iscariot's grisly suicide (Acts 1:18) drew lots to ascertain who would replace him, the lot falling to Matthias. (vs. 26)

The account of the Descent of the Holy Spirit described by St. Luke in Acts 2 depicts a dramatic transformation and a spiritual empowerment which would shake the entire world. Rushing from the Upper Room and filled with the Divine Energy of the Holy Spirit, St. Peter's impromptu homily to the men of Jerusalem, the same men who had but 53 days prior shouted "Crucify Him!" on the day of the Christ's Crucifixion, resulted in the conversion of 3,000 of them. Thousands more would be swept into the nascent Church which St. Luke describes;

*"Then fear came upon every soul and many wonders and signs were done through the Apostles. Now all who believed were together and had all things common and sold their possessions and goods and divided them among all, as anyone needed. So continuing daily with one accord in the Temple and breaking bread from house*



to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved." (2:43-47)

Such is the blueprint for explosive Church growth! This is why the Feast of Pentecost is sometimes referred to as the "Birthday of the Church." It is also the Feast Day of our beloved Cathedral and we will celebrate it with the prescribed services from Saturday of Souls through Holy Spirit Monday. But what does the Pentecost portend for us as Orthodox Christians in our time? How can we account for the vast differences between the explosive growth of the Early Church *among those who had but recently demanded the death of Jesus Christ* and our own rather indifferent participation in the feast?

Holy Scripture and the hymnology of the Orthodox Church has very much to say about the essential role of the Holy Spirit in our salvation. The Festal Hymn to the Holy Spirit describes Him as the "*Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth... Treasury of Good Gifts, the Giver of Life.*" St. Luke's Gospel foretells the intention of the Father to send the Holy Spirit upon His children; "*If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*" (11:13) St. Paul describes the Holy Spirit as the guarantor of our freedom; "*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*" (2 Cor. 3:17) References to the Holy Spirit in the entirety of the Bible are too numerous to list here.

Every Orthodox Christian brought into the Church, whether as infants or as adult converts, receive the Gift of Confirmation by the Holy anointing oil known as Holy Chrism, with the affirmation "the Seal of the Gift of the Holy Spirit." The Church teaches us through Holy Scripture, sacred hymnology, the writings of the Holy Fathers, and the lived-out experience of faithful Orthodox Christians, that we must cooperate and collaborate with the Holy Spirit in our journey into the Heavenly Kingdom.

We are also admonished not to "grieve" (Eph. 4:30) or "quench" or "extinguish" (1 Thess. 5:19) the Holy Spirit. It is from the Holy Spirit that we receive the Fruit of the Spirit, "love, joy, peace, patience, forbearance, goodness, kindness, gentleness, and self-control." (Gal 5:22-23) To the Romans, St. Paul writes that those who are in Christ "walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." (8:4)

All of which brings us to the festal celebration at hand. One cannot live the life in Christ absent the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. To do so would akin to attempting to utilize our mobile devices with a dead battery. The Holy Spirit is the vivifying Dynamis of God who continually abides within us, comforting, teaching, warning, correcting, encouraging, and finally... saving us! How, then, can we be sure to receive from God the Father the full measure of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost?

Simply by participating energetically in the Divine Services assigned to the Feast, principally, the Kneeling Vespers on the evening of June 4th at 5:00PM. I understand that our frequent invitations toward liturgical participation have since receded into the background noise of regular parish communiques, but to miss the precise service in which, through the massively powerful prayers of invocation, the Holy Spirit is given as a gift from God is... calamitous. The weariness of daily life, the fog of confusion, the looming shadow of unnamed anxieties, even the fear of death, can be healed and dispersed by the in-rushing "mighty wind" of the Spirit descending upon the thirsty hearts assembled and kneeling in supplication.

Please rearrange your schedules accordingly to be with us throughout the festal services of the Name-Day of the Cathedral and join us after the Kneeling Vespers Service for the Pan-Orthodox reception to follow in the Speros Center!

# Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

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



**Stewardship 2023 Theme: Giving Thanks: Eucharist Stewardship**

## **WE DID IT!! WE MET OUR STEWARDSHIP GOAL!!**

We are excited to announce that we reached the \$500,000 mark in stewardship pledges for 2023! You may recall back in December at Stewardship Sunday we set the goal of reaching \$500,000 collectively in our total pledges. And as of this month, we have reached and even surpassed that goal!

Here is where we stand as of May 19th:

**Total number of pledged families 307**

(this does not include 31 families who are contributing financially to Stewardship but have not completed a 2023 pledge card, therefore not allowing us to officially count them as Stewards)\*

**Total amount pledged \$510,222**

**Total amount collected \$229,732**

Clearly, we are growing as a Cathedral family! We are better understanding the true meaning of Stewardship and sacrificial giving. We are giving thoughtful, prayerful consideration to increasing our Stewardship financial commitments annually.

We are gaining new parishioners who are discovering Orthodoxy or Holy Trinity for the first time and we are welcoming back past parishioners. Our pews have been full and we have lots of young families with new babies and little ones who will ensure the future of Holy Trinity.

It is due to the continued support and generosity of our Stewards that we are able to make improvements and repairs to our campus and create a Cathedral family with something to offer everyone. We are truly blessed and grateful for our Holy Trinity family!

\*If you feel you may be one of the 31 families who does not have a 2023 pledge card on file, please contact the church office.

## **SHELBYNEXT LAUNCHES JUNE 1st**

We are pleased to announce that **ShelbyNext** is officially our new online giving Stewardship portal as of **June 1st**.

There are many exciting new opportunities for us with the Shelby system. We will begin to inform you about and unveil new things to make your stewardship and giving opportunities better and easier.

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT NOTE FOR THOSE WHO USE WESHARE:\*\*\*** If you are currently a WeShare user for your online stewardship giving, your account and all information has already been transferred to ShelbyNext. There is nothing you need to do. Your giving amount, account information and timing of your monthly or weekly donations will continue as normal.

If you're not an online giver, there is no better time than to sign up for ShelbyNext and make your giving simple. Please visit the church website at [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org) click on Stewardship in the upper right hand corner and become an online giver today! And as always, we are here to help if you need assistance with this process. Simply call the church office and Heidi or Yvonne can assist you or reach out to me at: [sandymeris@gmail.com](mailto:sandymeris@gmail.com).

# House of Stewards

As of 05/25/2023

Panagiota Agelakos  
Catherine Agra  
Evan & Terri Alexon  
Constance Anagnopoulos  
Mike & Alexandra Anagnopoulos  
Nikki Anest  
John & Sandy Annos  
Elaine Apostle  
Argyro Apostolou  
Chris Athens  
Christina & Chris Bakavelou  
Constantine & Eleni Balanis  
Taylor Bankson  
Crisanne & Scott Bansner  
Sam & Heidi Bass  
Alexandra Bates  
Joyce Bavlinka  
Scott & Stacey Beaty  
George & Stacy Benetos  
Stamatios Benetos  
Dan & Vicki Bichekas  
Peter & Jennifer Bilitsis  
Helen Bixenman  
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  
Jim Chotras  
Pete & Kim Choukalas  
Katherine & Jeffrey Clarke  
Andrew & Mara Contes  
James & Connie Contes  
Ed & Angeliki Valerou-Cooper  
Wyatt Coppinger  
Hon Steve & Stacia Counelis  
John & Jean DalPan  
Evonne Damianos  
Nick & Sharon Daniolos  
Patricia Davis  
Rebecca Davis  
Leonard & Elaine Debickero  
Anastasia Dellas  
Hercules Dellas  
Patrick & Karla Delord  
Joanne Demangus  
Tom & Irene Demas  
John & Mary Demetropoulos  
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  
Carolina Economopoulos  
Christos & Dena Economopoulos  
Clyde (Emil) Ellis  
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Ed & Katherine Fancher  
Athanas & Georgia Furlis  
Athanasia Furlis  
Ted & Andi Furlis  
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John & Evangelia Lambrou  
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Jenny Margaris  
William & Rina Marinakos  
Nicholas Marino

*House of Stewards continued on page 7  
Desert Springs June/July 2023*

*House of Stewards continued from page 6*

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Stephen & Marianthi  
Mastorakos  
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Angela & Chris Mead  
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John Nicolettos  
AnnaMarie Nieblas  
Else Paletsos  
Elizabeth Palmer  
Alexi & Alexia  
Panagiotakopoulos  
Anna Panagiotakopoulos  
Christo & Connie  
Panagiotakopoulos  
Niko Panagiotakopoulos  
Thanasi & Melissa  
Panagiotakopoulos  
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Sofia Panagiotoglou  
Chrysoula Papadopoulos  
Socrates & Stephanie  
Papadopoulos  
Aaron Papagalos  
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Rita & Spyros Papaspyrou  
Gabriella Papatzimas  
Nicholas & Stacy Papatzimas  
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Christine & Peter Pearce  
Katherine Pedersen  
John & Dina Pesognelli  
Fotini Pestrivas  
Zoe Pestrivas  
Peter & Gayle Petkas  
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Jacquelyn Petroulakis  
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William & Kathryn Petsas  
Michael & TeAnn Philippis  
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Andreas & Mary Poulakidas  
Tracy Poulos  
Panagiotes & Anthipe Pries  
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Voula Rentzis  
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Richard & Katina Wood  
Michael & Christina Wombacher  
Zachariah Yoon & Elizabeth  
Hong  
Anthony & Karen Zaman  
Dimitrios & Eugenia Zannis  
George & Katherine Zannis  
Evangelia Zikos  
Kostas & Margarita Zistas  
Dimitrios Zistatsis  
Eleanna Zistatsis  
Michael & Christina Zistatsis

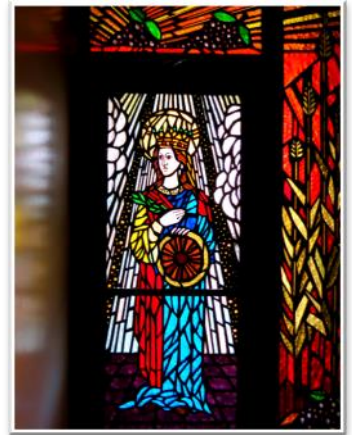
## 2023 PLEDGED FAMILIES

We offer you our thanks for your dedication to our parish  
and your participation in Christ's work of salvation.

If you have not filled out a pledge card for 2023, please pick one up in the Church Narthex or  
[visit holytrinityphx.org](http://visit.holytrinityphx.org). Pledged families as of 05/26/23

# 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,  
June 8, 2023  
at 6:30 pm  
in the Lounge of the Speros Community Center**

Thank you to the  
May meeting  
hostesses Julie  
Mamani, Zoe  
Pestivas, and Lois  
Sakkas!



**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 Scholarships!



Every year Philoptochos awards scholarships to HTC students. Please check out the applications in the Narthex as you walk in on the left.

If you have any questions, call Georganna at 602-300-0016.

## Coffee in the Conference Room

is on hiatus until the Fall.  
*See you in September!*



## Election Committee

May 4, 2023

Led by Election Chair **Judith Lamond**, the Elections Team of **Crisanne Bansner**, **Laurel Charnas**, and **Gina Graham** presented each of their areas of research and review to the membership. The election of the 2023-2025 Philoptochos Board followed.

The new Board will be announced in the Fall.



Everyone's Invited!

June 4, 2023

CELEBRATION  
COMMITTEE

HTC Community Event

**PENTECOST**

✦ *Celebration* ✦

Please join us on **June 4th** after  
Divine Liturgy to celebrate our  
church's feast day with a community  
BBQ and potluck.



*See you there!*

# Feast Day Services

Please join us for our Feast Day Weekend on **June 4 and 5!** We will celebrate the Great Feast of Pentecost as usual on Sunday morning, June 4 and then invite the whole Valley for Sunday evening Kneeling Vespers at 5pm followed by a reception. If you are able, please worship with us on Monday morning for Orthros and Liturgy for the Day of the Holy Spirit at 8/gam with the whole Valley as well!



# 4F Helpers



Jill Scott, Mary Pardhe, and AnnaMarie Nieblas are just a few of the many volunteers who assisted at the monthly 4F events.

*You are appreciated!*

# Coffee Hours

Thank you to the **OPA** for sponsoring Coffee Hours in May.

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



*Thank you!*



# Parish Assembly

Sunday, May 21, 2023



Have you checked out the website lately?

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

Events • Services • Photos • Calendar • Stewardship



Did you know?

We have had **39,967** site visitors  
in the last 12 months!

# 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 Friends,

With Summer approaching, it is time for us to take a break until September. I may from time to time write to you, please read the contents. I would love to hear from you if you have any suggestions. I do have a special event planned for September, but you have to read any notices from either me or from some of our volunteers. We will also be very busy baking during the late summer months for the Festival!!!

Enjoy your Summer.

Stay cool & hydrated!!!!

See a few pictures of some of our gatherings.

Yours in Christ,

Julie Karoutas

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

Cell# 623.313.8720



# 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!

During the May Celebration Sunday, we celebrated Ria Papageorgiou's achievement of earning her pilot instrument rating and all May birthdays. The décor incorporated shades of pastel in the tablecloths and balloon arch. The children and parents participating in the May 4F event were a big help in setting up the balloon arch and tablecloths! The table centerpieces were bird nests wreathed in a rose garland. Each nest had tiny pastel eggs and a colorful bird.

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. We're looking for more volunteers to help out on a monthly basis!

## **Communal Cooking Event**

In May, our Communal Cooking event was, once again, led by Phill Panagiotoglou. The team prepared a delicious meal of chicken primavera with chicken, Greek salad, and garlic bread. In June, we will be having a grilling event on Sunday after Divine Liturgy to celebrate Pentecost as a parish family. If you are interested in helping out or joining us for future cooking events, please email [htcphxevents@gmail.com](mailto:htcphxevents@gmail.com)! It is a great opportunity to learn how to make new recipes and spend time with our Holy Trinity Community.

# Celebration Sunday

May 7, 2023



# Celebration Committee

## June Birthdays



Happy BIRTHDAY



Dina Anagnopoulos  
Sandy Annos  
Tasso Annos  
Theo Annos  
Rebecca Barabatis  
Marissa Bard  
Gianna Benetos  
Connie Burkhart  
Dawn Cartier  
Charlie Carver III  
Jack Choukalas  
Kim Choukalas  
Anthony Chronis  
Betty Chronis  
Isabella Contes  
Steven Counelis  
Tiffany Daniolos  
Ruth Denaxas  
Sofia  
Economopoulos  
Kay Ehrick  
Peter Fraenkel  
Chris Gavras  
Polly Ginakes  
Demetri Harris  
Nicholas Harris  
Diane Herman  
Gregory Hill  
Tressa Karagiannis  
Tina Karalekas  
Stavros Kassimatis  
Ronald Kidd

Spiros Kontakis  
Lea Linaris  
Gregory Lizanich  
Donna Manelis  
Chriss Maydanis  
Stefania Papamatheakis  
Nick Papas  
Christine Patten  
Christine Pearce  
Peter Petkas  
Kathy Petsas  
Michael Philippis  
Nicole Philippis  
Evanthia Piatt  
Anastasia Pickett  
Brian Pickett  
Barbara Prato  
Gio Pries  
Leslie Sarantinos  
Donna Sioles  
David Solheim  
Madeleine Solheim  
Andrew Stamatis  
Tristan Stoutenburg  
Billy Tavlarides  
Effie Theodore  
Mary Thrasher  
Costa Tzavaras  
Koko Tzavaras  
Terry Valonis  
Peter Vlahos  
Strata Vlahos  
Matthew Walsh

June



# Our Church Family

## 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

05/16/2023

Dr. Andreas Poulakidas

*May his 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.



# Summer Series 2023

Last Summer, once per month, Fr. Alexander led a special lecture series, the "Summer Series"--3 classes on one-off topics: The Apostles, the Book of Judith, the Theotokos.

This Summer we'll look to do that again but are open to input on what YOU want to learn about! Email Fr. Alexander [here](#) if there is a topic or shorter book of the Bible you want to learn about this Summer! Class will be in person and on Zoom.

## Dates all following Paraklesis at 6:30pm:

June 14

July 12

August 2

# 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!*



# HTC on Facebook

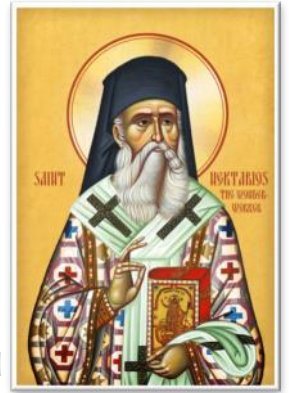
The page offers news of our Parish Community, in addition to offering links to podcasts and videos of our services.

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

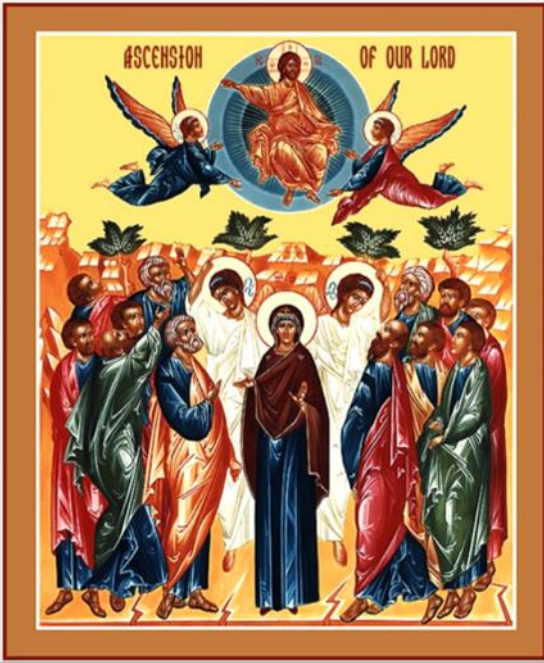


# St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

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



**The month of May gives us the opportunity to celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**



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 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.

# Mother's Day

May 14, 2023



## 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!

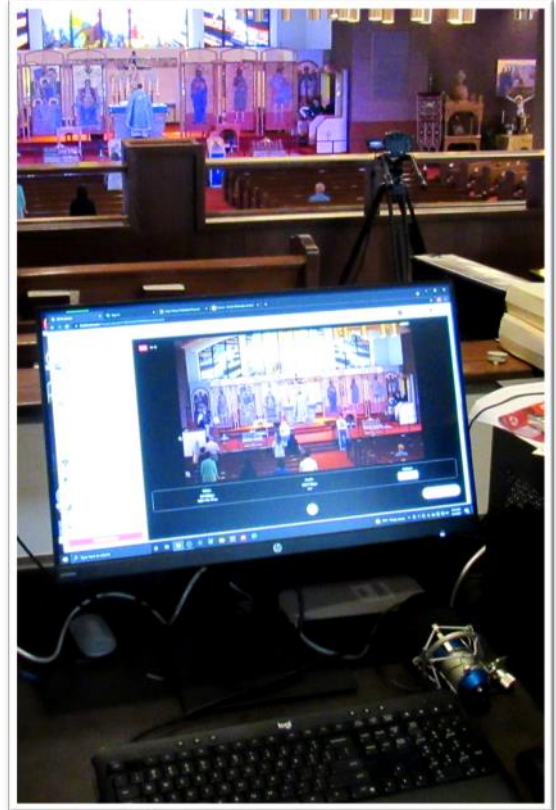


*"To be a welcoming community sharing Christ's love through faith and service."*

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

# Endowment Fund

## ✦ THE HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL ENDOWMENT FUND ✦

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

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

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

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

We have been blessed by the generosity and foresight of the individuals and families listed on the next page. We benefit today from their kindness and vision. If your circumstances allow you to give a gift above and beyond your annual stewardship commitment, then please take this occasion to join the others in creating a legacy by pledging your gift to Holy Trinity Cathedral's perpetual Endowment Fund. Gifts of \$10,000 or more will be separately listed along with others who have reached that level.

**Your gift, no matter the amount, will be combined into the general endowment fund, and will be greatly appreciated.**

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

✦  
**REMEMBER  
HOLY TRINITY  
IN YOUR WILL**



## AHEPA CHAPTER 219



**Chapter 219 Brothers  
wish you a safe and happy  
Summer! Our meetings  
resume in August. Details  
to follow.**

On behalf of all the Brothers in AHEPA Chapter 219, we would like to sincerely thank all the parishioners who attended our Palm Sunday Luncheon this year. We look forward to serving you again next year - mark your calendars for April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024!

**INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?  
CONTACT STEVE LEMERE  
602-882-9990**

# Daughters of Penelope

Helenos Chapter 432

Phoenix, AZ

Submitted by Deedee Staikos



Our year has come to a close. New officers have been elected and they will be installed in September.

We would like to share the 2022-2023 with our community...



Founders Day Daughters of Penelope Coffee Hour.



Grab and go lunches.

# Daughters of Penelope



Crafts boutique.



Desert Belle Christmas party excursion and lunch at the Shiprock.



Wine tasting/meeting.





# Daughters of Penelope



Joint Ahepa Dinner with a speaker on Ukraine .



Game night at a members home.



# Daughters of Penelope



Kentucky Derby luncheon at Turf Paradise.

Not to mention meetings, initiations, charitable contributions, the midwinter conference and in the coming months the District Convention in CA and the National Convention in Nevada...

And in a wink ;) it's summer!

## **Officers:**

*Cathy Keyser, President*

*Angie Lambrou, Vice President*

*Deedee Staikos, Recording Secretary*

*Connie Panagiotakopoulos, Corresponding Secretary*

*Anastasia Mitchell, Treasurer*

*Jennifer Bilitsis, Marshall*

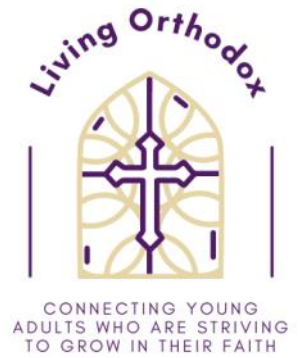
*Julie Karoutas, Officer at Large*



# Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry

## Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry

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



## April Updates/Discussion

Thank you for supporting the pan-Orthodox Project Mexico food drive! Donations were collected at four parishes, and we collected around 50 boxes of food.

In April, we had a virtual presentation by Fr. Jacob Saylor on the topic of Orthodox relationships and marriage. The two papers that Fr. Jacob covered during the meeting were "The Marriage of Priests: Towards an Orthodox Christian Theology of Gender" and "Christian Purity: The High Value of Marriage, Virginity, and Chastity" - both by Dr. Timothy Patitsas.

Finally, our virtual meetings are back! After a hiatus for Lent, we will be restarting virtual meetings on Discord (<https://discord.com/invite/FvayXXf6Wk>). If you are a young adult between 18-35 or so, please join us for bi-weekly discussions on Orthodox materials.

For past videos, please visit our YouTube channel at <https://tinyurl.com/LOvideosYT>. The April video won't be posted due to the nature of the event, but stay tuned for videos from later events!

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



# 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!

## Graduation Celebration Lunch

May 21, 2023



Holy Trinity Cathedral's  
**2023**  
Graduates



GIANNA BENETOS - 8TH



ERIC DELORD - 8TH



NATHAN DELORD - HS



COSTA HERRERA - 8TH



EMILIA LINOS - COLLEGE



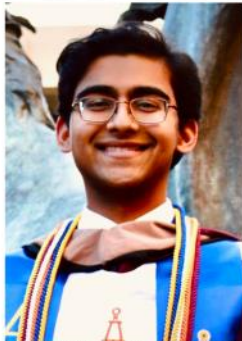
JOANNA MASTORAKOS - 8TH



CLAIRE MEYERS - 8TH



ELIZABETH PARDHE - HS



JOSHUA PARDHE - MASTERS



ALEXANDER PETSAS - HS

**2023**  
*Graduates*



GUS PYLE - COLLEGE



ELENA SCACCIA - COLLEGE



SOPHIA STAMATIS - HS



DOMINIC TROPEA - COLLEGE



SOFIA WALSH - COLLEGE

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



**Gianna Benetos** will be graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade from Sonoran Trails Middle School. In middle school, Gianna participated in Game Cheer. At Holy Trinity, Gianna attended Holy Trinity Academy, and has been active in the Greek dance program, Myrrhbearers, and the youth groups. In the fall, Gianna plans to attend Cactus Shadows High School. In the future, Gianna would like to teach Greek dance, and be an interior designer.

"Do not be afraid to try new things. If you mess up, the only person that will remember is you."



**Eric Delord** will be graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade from Madison Meadows Middle School. In his free time, Eric enjoys playing flag and tackle football. At Holy Trinity, Eric has been active in Sunday School, the Greek Dance program, the Greek Festival, All-Saints Camp, and the youth groups. In the fall, Eric plans to attend Arcadia High School. In the future, Eric hopes to play football for his high school.



**Costa Herrera** will be graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade from Kyrene Altadena Middle School. In school, Costa was part of the National Junior Honors Society (NJHS) and the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Program. In his free time, Costa enjoys playing soccer and the trumpet. Costa serves in the altar at both Holy Trinity Cathedral and St. Katherine's Church. In 2023, Costa participated in St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival and received Honorable Mention. In the fall, Costa plans to attend Desert Vista High School or Horizon Honors. Costa's future goals are to improve the world in some way through the field of engineering, and solve some of the mysteries of the planets and universe.

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. – ( John 3:15)

"There is no such thing as failure, unless you do not try." – Albert Einstein

"The most important thing in life that I have learned at this point would be the fact that everything is in the Lords hands and that he has a plan for us."



**Joanna Mastorakos** will be graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade from Sunrise Middle School. In school, Joanna was part of the DLC Gifted Program. In her free time, Joanna participates in Girl Scouts and Youth Theater. At Holy Trinity, Joanna has been active in Sunday School, Choir, Myrrhbearers, and the Greek Dance and FDF competition programs. In the fall, Joanna will be attending Horizon High School. In the future, Joanna wants to become a Forensic Psychiatrist.

"I have worked hard in school and I am proud of my accomplishments in the DLC at Sunrise MS. I am looking forward to high school and ultimately going to college."



**Claire Meyers** will be graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grade from All Saints Episcopal Day School. In middle school, Claire was on the Head of School list every trimester, and part of National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). In middle school, Claire was awarded the Coaches Award for Basketball, and each year was awarded the Presidential Fitness Award. In her free time, Claire is part of the Desert Heat Club Lacrosse team; plays basketball; participates in equestrian competitive jumping; and, is a member of National Charity League. At Holy Trinity, Claire participated in Sunday School and the Greek dance program. In the fall, Claire plans to attend Notre Dame Preparatory High School. In the future, Claire hopes to attend Duke University, major in business, go to culinary school, and develop a global culinary brand.

"Work hard to create choices for yourself."

## High School *Graduates*



**Nathan Delord** will be graduating from Arcadia High School. In school, Nathan played for his school's football teams for four years, and was on his school's track and field team for a year. At Holy Trinity, Nathan has been active in Sunday School, the Greek Dance and FDF competition programs, the Greek Festival, All-Saints Camp, and the youth groups. In the fall, Nathan will be attending the University of Arizona. Nathan plans to study business in college.





**Elizabeth Pardhe** will be graduating Summa Cumme Laude honors from ASU Prep Digital. In and out of school, Elizabeth participated in Next Generation Service Corps., 4-H, Model UN, SCENE (Science and Engineering Experience), and Discovery. Elizabeth was the 4-H in Space Arizona Ambassador; Maricopa 4-H STEM Ambassador; President of Discovery; and, 4-H Vice-president of Model UN. Elizabeth has been awarded: Two-time Champion of 4-H Arizona Communications Day (2022 & 2023); Spirit of 4-H Award; and, the 4-H in Space Initiative Certificate. At Holy Trinity, Elizabeth has been active in Sunday School, the Chanting Choir, Myrrhbearers, the Celebration Committee, and the youth groups. Through the church, Elizabeth has participated in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival (SJCOF). She was the Regional 3<sup>rd</sup> Place winner, and two-time District Nominee for the SJCOF in 2019 and 2023. Elizabeth is the recipient of the New American University Scholarship, and in the fall will be attending the Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University. Elizabeth plans to major in Data Science and get a minor in business or finance.

"I would love to travel the world and explore new countries, and I hope to make the most of my time at ASU!"

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me –  
(Philippians 4:13)



**Alexander Vasilios Petsas** will be graduating from Chaparral High School. In school, Alexander was part of the Varsity Football and Varsity Track Teams. Outside of school, Alexander was part of Boys Team Charity. At Holy Trinity, Alexander has been active in Sunday School, the Greek Dance and FDF competition programs, the Greek Festival, Altar Boys and the youth groups. In the fall, Alexander will be attending the University of Arizona.

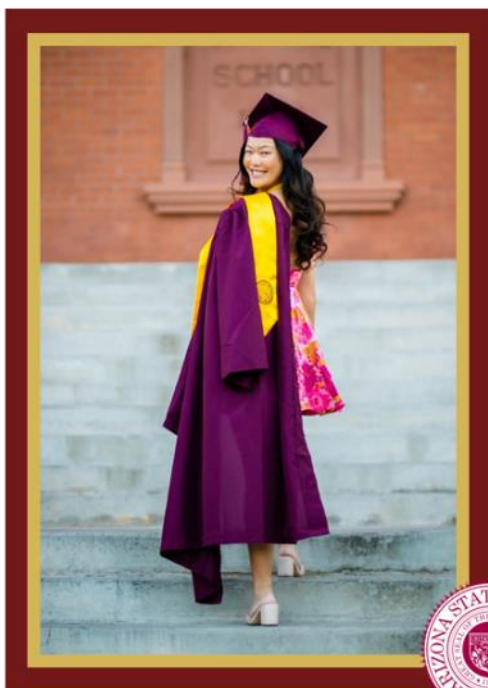


**Sophia Stamatis** will be graduating from Xavier College Preparatory. In school, Sophia played on the Xavier golf team for four years, and in 2023 her team placed second in the state of Arizona. Through golf, Sophia was awarded the Best Sportsmanship award, 2023 Captains Award, and she received a scholarship to play golf at a college level. In addition to golf, Sophia played on her school Lacrosse team, was part of the President's Council, and was in the Photography club. Sophia was in National Honors Society and National English Honors Society; and, achieved First Honors from 2020-2023, and Second Honors in 2019. In her free time, Sophia was a member of National Charity League. At Holy Trinity, Sophia participated in the Sunday School program, the Greek Dance program, All-Saints Camp, and the youth groups. In the fall, Sophia will be attending Regis University in Denver, CO, and will be playing on the Regis' golf team. After college, Sophia would like to continue on to graduate school to become a Physician's Assistant.

"My proudest accomplishment was recently receiving a scholarship and invitation to play on the Regis University Golf team."

"There are three ways to ultimate success: The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind." – Mister Rodgers

## College Graduates



**Emilia Linos** is graduating Magna Cum Laude honors with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and Minor in Psychology from Arizona State University Barrett Honors College. Emilia was a Presidential Scholar recipient, and was a convocation speaker. Through the Barrett program, Emilia completed an honors thesis on birth order effects on personality. Outside of school, Emilia was an Mayo Clinic Extern, an AmeriCorp member at Hushabye Nursery, and a SDFC fitness coordinator. After graduation, Emilia has accepted a position as a registered nurse at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, and will complete a nurse residency program in Heart Transplant Cardiovascular Surgery ICU. In the future, Emilia would like to continue her education, and be a leader in providing care for critically ill patients.

Every good and perfect gift is from above. – (James 1:17)



**Gus Pyle** is graduating from the University of Arizona with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Business Administration – Marketing. In school, Gus was an Eller Elite member, and played intramural sports. In his youth, Gus was very involved in church activities, and he looks forward to getting more involved in the church in the future. Beginning in July, Gus will be working for Treloar & Heisel as an insurance representative.



**Elena Scaccia** graduated from Northern Arizona University with a Bachelor of Science in exercise science and a Minor in Psychology. In college, Elena was a recipient of the Lumberjack Scholarship, and was on the Dean's List every semester. In the fall of 2024, Elena will be attending Physical Therapy school at Stony Brook University in New York. Elena hopes to become a physical therapist, and one day open an all women's gym.

"Positivity is a choice. The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts." – Marcus Aurelius

Elena's proudest accomplishment: "Getting accepted into Stony Brook University's doctorate of physical therapy program."



**Dominic Tropea** is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice (Policing) degree from Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions at Arizona State University. In school Dominic was on the Dean's List. At Holy Trinity, Dominic has been a 4F Night Young Adult Assistant, has helped run the food line at the Greek Festival, and is a Senior Acolyte in the Altar. Dominic is leaving in January for Coast Guard Officer Candidate School. Dominic hopes to one day work for a federal agency like the FBI, U.S. Marshals or Homeland Security Investigations. Dominic's future goals are to one day get the job of his dreams and continue growing in his faith wherever he may be.

"My proudest accomplishments are graduating from ASU, finishing school, and moving forward in life by starting my lifelong career with law enforcement and the military.

My Heavenly Father will do to every one of you if you do not forgive your brother from your heart. – (Matthew 18:35)

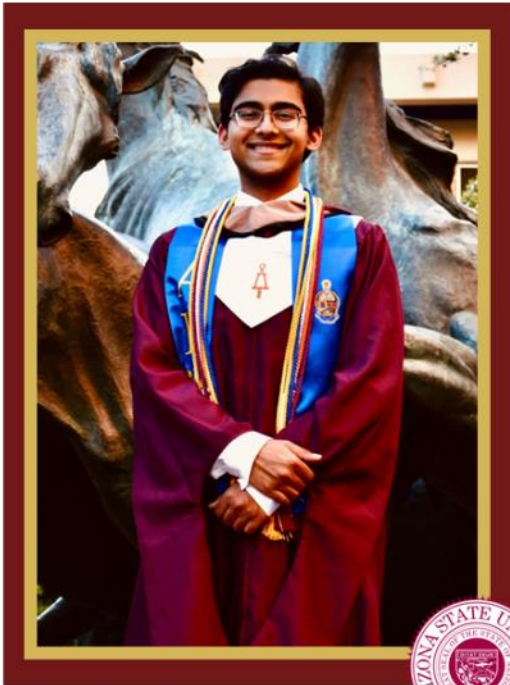


**Sofia Walsh** is graduating from the Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies, Minors in Russian, Spanish and Political Science, and, Certificate in Russian and East European Studies. Sofia made the Dean's List, and received the Foreign Language and Area Studies scholarship to study Russian. While in college, Sofia volunteered with the Anike Foundation, and the U.S. State Department's Education USA Tajikistan Program. Sofia worked as a Spanish tutor, and a Program Aide at ASU's Melikian Center's Critical Languages Institute summer language program. At Holy Trinity, Sofia continued to help with the annual Greek Festival. Sofia was selected as an Alternate for a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Award to Estonia, which is funded by the U.S. State Department and would allow her to teach English in Estonia for one year. After graduation, Sofia will be attending American University in Washington, D.C., to pursue a Master's in International Affairs with concentrations in foreign policy and national security, and Eastern European affairs. In the future, Sofia plans to pursue a career in the federal government with the State Department or a national security agency.

"My proudest accomplishment is writing and defending my undergraduate honors thesis, which is focused on Estonia's efforts to build resilience against Russian disinformation.

For I know the thoughts I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. – Jeremiah 29:11

# Masters/PHD Graduates



**Joshua Pardhe** is graduating Summa Cum Laude honors with a Masters of Science (MSc) Finance (Statistics and Mathematics) degree from Arizona State University. Joshua is ASU's youngest Master of Finance graduate at age 21; and, is ranked in the top 5% globally for #OSINTForGood hackathon participants. [OSINTForGood is a powerful movement enabling positive action to support charitable causes.] Joshua was a recipient of the Next Generation Service Corps Scholar, W.P. Carey Graduate Scholar, and named the 2022 Graduate Mentor of the Year. In school, Joshua participated in: Alpha Kappa Psi-lota Xi Executive Board; Tau Beta Pi Honor Society; was the 2023 Barrett Alumni Speaker; and, was the 2022 Barrett Dean's Lecturer. In his free time, Joshua was a W.P. Carey Graduate Leadership Board member and Judiciary Councilman; IEEE Council of Electronic Design Automation Member; and IEEE Computational Intelligence Society Councilmember (focusing on regulation/standardization of intelligence systems). At Holy Trinity, Joshua is Protopsaltis of the Holy Trinity Chanting Choir, and a member of the Celebration Committee. Joshua will be moving to New York City for a job as a financial consultant in emerging technologies. In the future, Joshua would like to start his own hedge fund.

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)

# congratulations

## We are so proud of you all!

# 2023 Graduates

May 21, 2023

