

# Desert Springs

January 2024  
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Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85016

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**Rev. Alexander Eliades**  
**Rev. Deacon John Thrasher**

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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,  
Chris Petroulakis, John Schneider

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## 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, Yvonne, and Kristen of any updates to your listing.*

# Message from Father Apostolos

## First Things

**"O Lord our God, who have placed times and seasons under your own authority; who, in your infinite compassion and goodness, have counted us worthy to enter a New Year of your loving kindness, bless it and keep us in peace." (from the prayer for the New Year)**

There is sacredness to the first day of the New year, a sense of wanting to begin the year well and consistent with our hopes and aims. Time itself has been made sacred by the coming of the God-Man into our temporal and spatial reality. Whereas, before His Divine Incarnation, time was random and unyielding (hence: Xronos, the father of Zeus in Greek mythology who devoured his progeny,) it has now been redeemed in Jesus Christ.



Even the terms used to describe time have been altered. Chronos" is replaced with "kairos," the time of the Kingdom which is unveiled whenever the Church assembles to pray. This is reflected in our hymnology, as in; *"Today the Son of God becomes the son of the Virgin,"* and *"Today is suspended upon the Tree,"* which hymns echo the admonition of St. Paul who wrote to the Hebrews; *"Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as your fathers did when they rebelled against me in the wilderness."*

And while *Kairos* reflects the languid and gentle timelessness of the Holy Trinity, *Chronos* is a brutal and unfeeling taskmaster. The emergence of mobile technologies means for us that we are always "on the clock," always accountable for our use of time, always left breathless and exhausted, feeling guilt that we couldn't get more done. The recklessness of "rush hour" traffic, our incivility toward one another as we race through our days to check all the boxes and meet every demand and expectation placed on us, discloses the grim specter of our looming mortality that chases us through life.



Is this any way to live? How can we learn to become like Mary in our very Martha world? Jesus visited the home in Bethany of His friends Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha. And while Mary sat patiently at the feet of Jesus to drink in His words of Life, Martha raced about "much serving," and too busy seeing to the demands of social custom to nourish her own soul at the feet of the God-Man. To this, Jesus responded; "Martha, Martha, you are concerned with many things but only one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good part which will not be taken from her."

As we plan the year ahead, what are we willing to *let go of* for the sake of nourishing our souls? Where in our ever-growing list of priorities, (most of which are handed to us by others) does the care of our soul fall? Before you begin to feel any guilt about this question, let me share this experience with you!

Once, while attempting to confess to my spiritual father how difficult it was (and remains!) to be consistent to my rule of prayer, Geronda and I had to move three times to various places in the Denver Cathedral complex; this because those who needed something from me kept finding me to interrupt my confession! Finally, Geronda and I snuck back into my office where he told me, "My child, you may only have 2-3 minutes a day to yourself to pray. But if you offer those few spare minutes to God from your heart, He can make them enough for your needs."

*Fr. Apostolos' Message continued on page 6  
Desert Springs January 2024*

# Stewardship

By Sandy Meris



## NEW YEAR - NEW STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

**“Well done, good & faithful servant.”**

Matthew 25:23

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

We pray you enjoyed a blessed Christmas with family and friends and we wish everyone a happy and healthy 2024. As we embark on a new year, it is important we give our first fruits to the church as Christ instructed us. So now that the celebrations, festivities, shopping, wrapping, baking, and preparing are over, we need to sit down with a grateful heart and consider our 2024 Stewardship pledge.

Our goal is for 100% of our parishioners to submit your 2024 pledge card and make a commitment toward that pledge by January 31st. For those who are able, we ask that you increase your pledge over last year’s commitment. How much of a percentage are you able to increase your giving amount? 1%? 3%? 5%? Whatever the amount, we are truly grateful for the incredible generosity of our Holy Trinity Stewards.

### SHELBYNEXT IS HERE!

Our ShelbyNext system is in place and we encourage all of our stewards to please join us in filling out your Pledge Card online and sign up to pay your stewardship through ShelbyNext. This user-friendly system makes becoming a Steward and making payments simple!

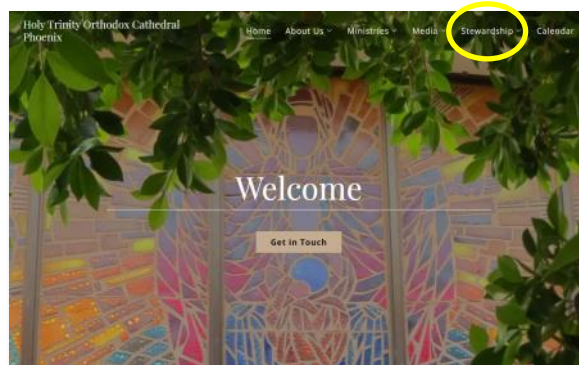
Go to: [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)

Click on “Stewardship” in the upper right hand corner

Click on “Pledge Card” - fill out and submit

Then click on “Stewardship” again

Click on “ShelbyNext” and fill out and submit



# Stewardship Sunday

December 10, 2023



Stewardship Chair **Sandy Meris** spoke.

Submitted Pledge Cards were Blessed by the Fathers.

# Complimentary Stewardship Lunch

December 10, 2023



Thank you to **John Mitchell** for another delicious lunch!

# Parish Assembly

December 10, 2023



Informative biannual Parish Assembly. Thank you to all who participated!

*Fr. Apostolos' Message continued from page 3*

The saying runs that "The perfect is the enemy of the good." God doesn't demand perfection from us, only our effort and intention. Metropolitan Isaiah often said that "The intention is equal to the accomplishment." God knows our hearts and He understands our limitations! But, beloved parish family... eternity is open to us when we steal away into the inner room of our heart to be with God! And we can breathe the atmosphere of Heaven when we assemble in the Church to pray. Here, our psychosomatic selves can be soothed as the "Peace of Christ which surpasses all understanding" (Phil 4:7) floods into every fiber of our being.



The world we inhabit writhes under the lash of deadlines and anxieties, petty divisions, insufficient resources, strained relationships, and day-to-day exhaustion. We can become weary and disoriented. But the Lord, our Shepherd, "makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside the still waters, He restores my soul." My prayer is that we can navigate the year ahead and the challenges and opportunities it will bring "with the firm conviction that (His) will governs all things." (From St. Philaret's Morning Prayer)

The Prayer for the New Year we will offer at the end of the Divine Liturgy on New Year's Day concludes with this. "Let your kingdom come upon us, O Lord; the kingdom of love, goodness, peace and justice; and make us worthy to praise and glorify, with one mouth and one heart, your most honorable and majestic name, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages."

A most blessed, grace-filled, and prosperous New Year to you all,

In Jesus Christ,  
Rev. Father Apostolos Hill | Dean

## Eleftherios Chasanidis Visit

Protosaltis, Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New York City  
December 27, 2023



Tristan Stoutenburg, Eleftherios Chasanidis, Father Apostolos, Elizabeth Pardhe, Joshua Pardhe.  
(Not pictured: Daniel Valenzuela)



With former HTC Phoenix Byzantine Choir Director George Duvall.

# House of Stewards

As of 12/31/2023

Catherine Agra  
Evan & Terri Alexon  
Constance Anagnopoulos  
Dina Anagnopoulos  
Mike & Alexandra Anagnopoulos  
Nikki Anest  
John & Sandy Annos  
Carla Antypas  
Elaine Apostle  
Argyro Apostolou  
Chris Athens  
Debbie Babakitis  
Christina & Chris Bakavelou  
Constantine & Eleni Balanis  
Taylor Bankson  
Crisanne & Scott Bansner  
Ted & Rebecca Barabatis  
Christopher Bass  
Sam & Heidi Bass  
Alexandra Bates  
Joyce Baulinka  
Nicholas P Baziotes  
Scott & Stacey Beaty  
George & Stacy Benetos  
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  
Kenny & Zoe Christenson  
Harriet Chotras  
Jim Chotras  
Pete & Kim Choukalas  
Katherine & Jeffrey Clarke  
Andrew & Mara Contes  
James & Connie Contes  
Jamie Contes  
Ed & Angeliki Valerou-Cooper  
Wyatt & Emily Coppinger  
John & Jean DalPan  
Evonne Damianos  
Nick & Sharon Daniolos  
Stefanos & Tiffany Daniolos  
Patricia Davis  
Rebecca Davis  
Leonard & Elaine Debickero  
Jim & Ellen Deligiannis  
Anastasia Dellas  
Hercules Dellas  
Patrick & Karla Delord  
Joanne Demangus  
Tom & Irene Demas  
John & Mary Demetropoulos  
Bill DeMoss  
Charles DeMoss  
Chris DeMoss  
John & Marjorie DeMoss



Michael & Maureen DeMoss  
Basil & Ruth Denaxas  
Alexandros & Erika Dimitriadis  
Diane Dion  
Jim Drakos  
Stanley & Fran Drozd  
Carolina Economopoulos  
Christos & Dena Economopoulos  
Clyde (Emil) Ellis  
Fr. Alexander & Presu. Laura Eliades  
Peter & Marie Eliades  
James & Lisa Glitsos-Elam  
William Ezo  
Ed & Katherine Fancher  
Greg Fernandez  
Helen Fernandez  
Mary Floor  
Tim & Karla Floor  
Zachary & Nikki Forman  
Athanase & Georgia Fournalis  
Athanasia Fournalis  
Ted & Andi Fournalis  
Tim & Antonette Fraenkel  
Chris & Celeste Francis  
Georgana Friehe  
George & Julie Froumis  
Chris & Catherine Frye  
Semos Gardner  
Chris & Anne Gauras  
Andreanna Georgiou  
Pamela Georgelos  
Diana Georgelos  
Demetra Georgelos  
Dinos & Koula Georges  
John T Giannopoulos  
Polly Ginakes  
Andrew & Angela Goard  
Stella Glitsos  
Eva Goodman  
Bill & Lynn Graham  
Gina Graham  
David Haag  
Mary Haidos  
Donald Hall  
Terry Harper  
Mary & Roger Harris  
Patsy Harris  
George & Georgette Hasiotis  
Alexia Haugen  
Diane Herman  
Fr. Apostolos & Presu. Denise Hill  
Gregory Hill  
Veronica & Michael Hill

Bessie Hotis  
Steve & Candy Huff  
Gelu & Jesa Isfanut  
Peter D. Janos  
Jeffrey Johannesmeyer & Melina Machas  
Paulos Kairis  
James & Linda Kaliuas  
Pete & Nicole Kamboukos  
Basilis & Roula Kaneris  
Marianna Kaneris  
Jean Kantaros  
Nick & Dena Kantaros  
William & Harriet Kapolas  
Maggie & Marko Karakozis  
Mia Karandreas  
Peter Jr & Tina Karegeannes  
Virginia Karegeannes  
Vasilios & Vasiliki Karagiannis  
Markos & Maggie Karakozis  
Julie Karoutas  
Joann Karros  
Fotini Katrakis  
George & Niki Katsaros  
Chris & Nobuko Katsenes  
John & Mary Katsenes  
Paul & Lori Katsenes  
Thomas J Katsenes  
Jim & Poppy Kavouris  
Fanny Kechajias  
Catherine & Quentin Keyser  
Ronald & Virginia Kidd  
Emily Kimmell  
Pete & Pat Kladis  
Maria Kompos  
Spiros & Maria Kontakis  
Arthur & Carol Kostaras  
Kostadinos & Anatoli Kostouros  
Dean & Angela Koumontzis  
Anthony & Janet Kouvousis  
Elizabeth & Johnny Kratsas  
Athena Kretsedemas  
Tammy Kretsedemas  
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Tassie Ladas  
Anastasia Lambrou  
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Lea Linaris  
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Gregory Lizanich  
David Lyon  
James & Stephanie Machas  
Maria Maciejewski  
Daniel MacInnis  
Joanne Mackos  
Aristotle & Evelyne Macrodimetris  
Marika Makridis  
Margarita Makris

*House of Stewards continued from page 6*

Mark & Efia Mallas  
Julie & Felix Mamani  
Jim & Donna Manelis  
Maria Maniatis  
Anna Manos  
William & Rina Marinakos  
Nicholas Marino  
Douglas & Ann Markakis  
Mary Lou Mastorakos  
Stephen & Marianthi Mastorakos  
Debra & Demetrios Mauroidis  
Pamela Maydanis  
Peter & Christina Maydanis  
Angela & Chris Mead  
Stephen Mellas  
Joanne Meris  
William & Sandy Meris  
Anthony & Tania Miaoulis  
Alan & Joanna Michalak  
Anastasia Migias  
Angeline Miller  
George Miller & Chloe Jeffries  
Paul & Linda Miller  
William & Jean Miller  
Irene Mirs  
Andrew & Anastasia Mitchell  
Philip & Helen Mitchell  
Emily & Oleg Moroz  
Dino Moschovitis  
James & Irene Mourikes  
Spyro & Effie Mousses  
Jerry & Kathy New  
John & Maria Nicholas  
Evelyn Nickalew  
John Nicolettos  
AnnaMarie Nieblas  
Jeremy & Anastacia Oxley  
Irene Pagoudis  
Else Paletsos  
Elizabeth Palmer  
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Alexi & Alexia Panagiotakopoulos  
Anna Panagiotakopoulos  
Niko Panagiotakopoulos  
Thanasi & Melissa Panagiotakopoulos  
Philip & Eleni Panagiotoglou  
Sofia Panagiotoglou  
Chrysoula Papadopoulos  
Socrates & Stephanie Papadopoulos  
Aaron Papagalos  
Ria Papageorgiou  
Spyros & Rita Papaspyrou  
Dr. Mike & Stefania Papamatheakis  
Betty Papas  
Nick Papas  
Rita & Spyros Papaspyrou  
Gabriella Papatzimas  
Nicholas & Stacy Papatzimas  
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Andrew & Emily Pappas  
Harry & Fannie Pappas  
Irene Pappas  
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Lois Sakkas  
Brandon Salazar  
Stellios & Nicole Samaradellis  
Dimitra Sampson  
Paul Sarantes  
Les & Christine Sarantinos  
John Schneider  
Peter Schneider  
Warren & Kalliopi Schneider  
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Diane & George Sedlacek  
Terry & Chris Seretis  
Elaine Seretis  
John Siavelis  
Robert & Donna Sioles  
Robert Stamm & Elyse Sioles  
George & Evi Skintzis  
Elias & Phyllis Skoubis  
Constantin Solomon  
David & Alisha Solheim  
Angelo & Marie Spanos  
Leo & Rachel Speliopoulos  
William & Dianne (Tiki) Spell  
James A. & Christina Speros  
James L & Karen Speros  
Vasilios & Diana Speros  
Jim & Kathryn Stamadianos  
Andrew & Christine Stamatis  
Jonathan Stamatis  
Gerry & Nitsa Stamatelatos  
Jimmy & Lisa Sterio  
Tristan & Alana Stoutenburg  
Robert Stuart  
Despina Taularides  
William & Rebecca Taularides  
Nick & Effie Theodore  
Gus & Mary Louise Theodoropoulos  
Jim Thomas  
John Gus & Teresa Thomas  
Deac. John & Diak. Mary Thrasher  
Andrew Touvannas  
Thaddeus & Katherine Tropea  
Basilios & Mary Tsakiris  
Stacy & Gerri Tsantilas  
Constantine & Stella Tsantilas  
Vaio & Areti Tsanos  
Dean & Brenda Tseunis  
Dimitri Tsioutsiopoulos  
Sotirios & Nicki Tsioutsiopoulos  
Matthew & Eva Turgeon  
Costa & Koko Tzavaras  
Daniel Valenzuela  
Peter & Lindsay Vardalos  
Kristen Vasilarakos  
Argyro Vasquez  
Terri & Scott Vaughn  
George & Connie Venetis  
Leah Venetis  
Peter & Maria Vlahos  
Andrew & Sandy Vlahoulis  
Steve & Mary Vrahas  
Ken & Angela Walker  
Paula & Colin Walsh  
Zach & Mary Wilhelmi  
Richard & Katina Wood  
Michael & Christina Wombacher  
Stephanie Yarusinsky  
Zachariah Yoon & Elizabeth Hong  
John & Andreanna Zafiropoulos  
Anthony & Karen Zaman  
Jerry & Amanda Zannis  
Dimitrios & Eugenia Zannis  
George & Katherine Zannis  
Zella Zannis  
Evangelia Zikos  
Kostas & Margarita Zistas  
Dimitrios Zistatsis  
Michael & Christina Zistatsis

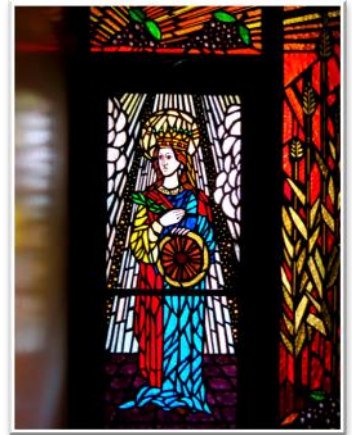
## 2023 PLEDGED FAMILIES

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). If you have filled out a 2023 Pledge Card but your name does not appear on this list, please know any omissions are unintentional. Please call the Church office immediately and we will resolve the situation.



# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Kristen Vasilarakos, President



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

❧  
**Next Meeting on Thursday,  
January 4, 2024  
at 6:30pm  
in the Lounge of the Speros Community Center**  
❧

Did you know...

There were **13** 40-Day Blessings performed in our Cathedral in 2023?

To celebrate each one, Philoptochos provided a hand-made crocheted blanket, books, and a card to the families.



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

## JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS 2024

**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

## Vasilopita Auction

January 7, 2024

Please join us on Sunday, January 7th, in the Speros Community Center, following Divine Liturgy. We auction several beautiful Vasilopitas made by the ladies of the Philoptochos for you to take home and share with your families to start the New Year. We look forward to seeing you!



## Philoptochos Trays

Our chapter passes trays throughout the year to benefit various causes. Following Divine Liturgy **six times a year**, the women of Philoptochos will pass trays to collect your donations for the following beneficiaries:

- 09/10/2023 Holy Cross/Hellenic College
- 11/05/2023 the Patriarchate
- 11/19/2023 the chapter here at HTC
- 12/03/2023 St. Nicholas Ranch
- 01/07/2024 St. Basil's Academy**
- 04/28/2024 Epitaphio Flowers for HTC

In most cases, our chapter will add to the collected amount.  
Please make checks payable to **"Philoptochos"**.  
*Your donations are much appreciated!*

## December Coffee Socials



# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

## December Meeting with Gift Exchange

December 7, 2023



## December Bake Sale

December 17, 2023

Thank you to our community for your continued support of our twice-yearly bake sales! Profits earned help support Philoptochos' many missions.



# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

## Baking—Day 1 of 3

December 13, 2023



# Theophany Picnic—Open to All

January 6, 2024



**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral**

## **THEOPHANY CELEBRATION!**

Please join us for a community BBQ on **January 6th** following the Blessing of the Waters! We will be grilling whole lambs and enjoying a potluck lunch. Bring your family/friends and a favorite dish to share!

If you have a lamb rotisserie spit and can volunteer to help with the grilling, please let us know at [htcphxevents@gmail.com](mailto:htcphxevents@gmail.com)! We also need volunteers to help with the kitchen prep.

8:00 am: Orthros

9:00 am: Divine Liturgy/ Blessing of the Waters

11:00 am: Community Fellowship/Potluck

**RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/HTCpotluck>**

# Sunday School



## Stories from the Bible

We are excited to announce that we will be leading our children through a journey of Bible stories from Genesis to Revelation beginning August 20 after Divine Liturgy. This 32 week syllabus begins in Eden with the Creation and ends on Patmos with St. John. If you wish to assist with treats, please speak with Presvytera Denise or to assist with crafts, please speak with Debra Harrison.



## FOCUS Kickoff Meeting for the Homeless Shelter

Steve Christoforou from FOCUS North America will be returning to Phoenix on **Sunday, Jan. 21** for a follow-up to the July meeting regarding the establishment of a new homeless shelter in Phoenix. Over 50 parishioners from 10 parishes attended the July meeting. There was significant interest in pursuing this idea and we're ready to move forward with a kickoff meeting and team formation! If you have any questions about the proposed FOCUS shelter in Phoenix or want to be involved in the effort, please contact Steve at [schristoforou@focusna.org](mailto:schristoforou@focusna.org). The recording of the presentation can be found at <https://bit.ly/3O2roul>.

**FOCUS**  
NORTH + AMERICA

**KICK-OFF MEETING**  
HOMELESS SHELTER

**JANUARY 21, 2024 @ 5:30PM**

Holy Trinity Cathedral  
1973 East Maryland Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Help us address the needs of our neighbors.  
Join us as we develop a homeless shelter.  
We'll (i) review the plan, (ii) build our team, and  
(iii) get to work!

Dinner will be served. All are invited.

RSVP BY JANUARY 15: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/HTCPHX](https://tinyurl.com/htcphx)

# 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 December Celebration Sunday, we celebrated Fr. Alexander Eliades' birthday and all December birthdays! The hall was decorated for Christmas with red tablecloths, mini Christmas trees, vases with gold foliage with mini floating candles, and strings of Christmas-themed balloons.

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!



### Communal Cooking Event

In December, the Communal Cooking crew led by Phillip Panagiotoglou gathered to cook and serve a meal of Greek navy bean soup, lemon orzo soup, garlic bread, green salad, and assorted desserts provided by Philoptochos. We also had a small cake to celebrate all the birthdays in December! If you are interested in helping out or joining us for future cooking events, please email [htcphxevents@gmail.com](mailto:htcphxevents@gmail.com). In addition, please feel free to bring a dish to share with the community on the first Sunday of every month.

# Celebration Committee

## January Birthdays

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY

George Peter Agnos

Carla Antypas

Elaine Apostle

Sophia Bakavelou

George Benetos

Rita Bruskas

Frank Carris

Pete Choukalas

Adriana Chronis

Mariam Contes

Leonard Debickero

Patrick Delord

Joanne Demangus

Fran Drozd

Nehemiah Fightmaster

Karla Floor

Bill Graham

Courtney Harris

Mary Harris

Alexia Haugen

Constantinos Herrera

Ekaterini Jaynes

Grace Kamboukos

Harper Kamboukos

Vasilios Karagiannis

Vasiliqi Karagiannis

Fotini Katrakis

Poppy Kavouris

Fanny Kechajias

George Kleanthis

Nick Kretsedemas

Haroula Kyriacou

Stephan Mackos

Leonithas Mackos

Jenny Margaris

James Markakis

Joanne Meris

Alexandra Meris

Claire Meyers

Irene Mirs

Anastasia Mitchell

Zoya Moroz

James Mourikes

Kathy New

Irene Pagoudis

Elizabeth Palmer

Gayle Petkas

James Petsas

Georgia Pikoula

Nicole Pyle

Lydia Rabbitt

George Rouman

Nikki Sackos

Theodore Schneider

Angelo Scopelianos

Alisha Solheim

James A. Speros

Sophia Stamatis

Sophia Sterio

Alana Stoutenburg

Sophocles Tsaninos

Dimitrios Tsioutsopoulos

Staci Vaughn

Andy Vlahos

Andrew Vlahoulis

January



# Our Church Family

## 40 Day Blessings

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



12/10/2023

Elias, son of Zoe & Kenny Christensen  
*God's Blessings be upon him.*

12/17/2023

Sebastian, son of Victoria & Theofilis Asimos  
*God's Blessings be upon him.*

## Weddings

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



12/09/2023

Emily & Wyatt Coppinger  
Sponsors: Anna & Daniel Pardhe  
*God's Blessings be upon them.*

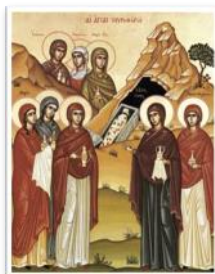
Jill & Scott Leach  
Sponsor: Kathy New  
*God's Blessings be upon them.*

Alana & Tristan Stoutenburg  
Sponsor: Daniel Valenzuela  
*God's Blessings be upon them.*

## 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



12/21/2023

Mike Anagnopoulos  
*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, 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.

## Church Website

Have you checked out the website lately?  
[www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)  
Events • Services • Photos •  
Calendar • Stewardship



Did you know?  
We had **3,369** site visitors in  
December -  
including **224** visitors on  
Christmas Eve!



# Busy Mats

## Resources for our little ones and parents!

We are pleased to make available for our youngest members a supply of Baby Mats in the Narthex!

These "busy mats," lovingly crafted by one of our parishioners, provide a variety of tactile challenges for infants and toddlers to occupy them during the Divine Services.

Please feel free to utilize them as needed for your little ones and simply return them (refolded) to the basket in the Narthex when exiting the services.

Please also remember to utilize the Children's Guide to the Divine Liturgy booklets previously made available to you. This excellent resource fosters an essential connection to the Divine Liturgy in an accessible way to our young ones.

**Fr. Apostolos & Fr. Alexander**



# Coffee Socials Following Sunday Liturgies

Thank you to the **Philoptochos** for sponsoring Coffee Socials in December.

*Thank You*

The January Coffee Socials are sponsored by **Dance**.



# What YOU Can Do to Help Visitors Feel Welcome

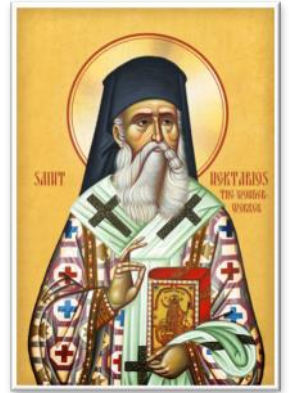
Have you noticed new faces? We've had many visitors stop by lately. Some are Orthodox and visiting from other Parishes, some are returning to Orthodoxy after a long time away, and some are coming to check out Orthodoxy for the very first time. No matter how they come to us, let's make sure we say Hello!

"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."*

# St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

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



The month of January gives us the opportunity to celebrate the Feast of Holy Theophany.

In the East, the Nativity of Christ was celebrated together with Epiphany of January 6<sup>th</sup>, while in the West, the Nativity was celebrated before Epiphany became known to them. It is important to stress that, contrary to what is written in some places, Theophany is NOT the birth of the Church. The Church has always existed since the beginning of times. The Church is God and since God has always existed, so has the Church.

The term Theophany and Epiphany is used interchangeably. Theophany is a Greek word. 'Theophania', (Theos - God; phaneia - manifestation) means in literal translation,

"Manifestation of God". The literal meaning of Epiphany (Epi - above; phaneia - manifestation) is "Manifestation from above".

The Orthodox Church has defined the Epiphany of the Holy Trinity as the appearance of God during Christ's baptism in the Jordan River. It is the beginning of Christ's official dedication to His Divine Mission in the presence and manifestation of the Triune God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus and the one chosen by God to proclaim His coming, was preaching in the wilderness and was baptizing all who would respond to his message calling for repentance. As he was doing this, John was directing the people toward the one who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11).

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. Initially, John would not do this, saying that Jesus should baptize him. Jesus said to John, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness (3:15). John consented and baptized Jesus.

When Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened suddenly, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. The Bible records that the Spirit descended like a dove and alighted on him. When this happened, a voice came from heaven and said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with Whom I am well pleased." This was the voice of God the Father.

Christ's baptism in the Jordan was "theophany," a manifestation of God to the world, because it was the beginning of our Lord's public ministry. It was also a "theophany" in that the world was granted a revelation of the Holy Trinity. All three Persons were made manifest together: the Father testified from on high to the divine Sonship of Jesus; the Son received His Father's testimony; and the Spirit was seen in the form of a dove, descending from the Father and resting upon the Son.

Theophany represents our redemption from darkness and illumination by the light of the knowledge of God. This is why it is also referred to as the Feast of Lights, the Lights which illuminates our conscience and our Christian way of life. "I am the Light", Jesus said. The

*St. Nectarios Bookstore continued on page 20*

*Desert Springs January 2024*

# St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

Church celebrates on this day the illumination of the world by the light of Christ.  
As Orthodox Christians, let us always walk upright in the Light of Christ!

## Icon of the Feast

1 The Icon of the Feast of Theophany tells the story from the Gospels in images and color. On the left side of the icon we see John the Baptist who is dressed in camel's hair and has the appearance of one who lives in the wilderness. His arms are outstretched, showing an attitude of prayer and reverence, but also directing others to Christ. With his right hand he is conducting the baptism.



2 The Heavens open, the voice of the Father is heard, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descends upon Christ.



3 In the center of the icon is Christ being baptized in the Jordan. He is standing in the water wearing a waistcloth, and with His right hand He is blessing the waters of the Jordan. Above His head is the Holy Spirit descending as a dove upon Him. At the top of the icon, a semicircle depicts the opening of the Heavens and the voice of the Father.

4 Angels of the Lord gathered on the shore of the Jordan River give praises to Christ.



5 An angel of the Lord receives Christ as He comes out of the water.



3



# Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry

Living Orthodox is a national, pan-Orthodox ministry that is building a community of young adults (18-30s) who are striving to grow in and connect with their faith. Sign up for our email newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/jxBiEk> to be informed about upcoming events!



## Living Orthodox Christmas Party

On December 8, we co-hosted a Christmas party with the St. George young adult group. The event was held at the Legacy Ballroom at St. George Antiochian Church. Over 45 young adults gathered for a fun evening with Christmas-themed games and a delicious potluck dinner. Fr. Apostolos Hill was the featured speaker and gave a wonderful talk - "On the Incarnation". The

video of the talk is available on our YouTube channel (<https://tinyurl.com/LOvideosYT>)!

We also launched a fundraiser to raise \$30,000 by January 31<sup>st</sup> for IOCC relief efforts in the Holy Land. If you would like to donate, please visit our Phoenix fundraiser donation page at <https://give.iocc.org/give/546180/#!/donation/checkout>. As part of the fundraising campaign, the young adults at St. George Antiochian Church will be hosting a special luncheon and raffle on January 12<sup>th</sup>. Please see the following flyer for details on how to purchase tickets!



*Living Orthodox continued on Page 22.*

# Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry

January

On January 21, we will be having a special follow-up presentation by Steve Christoforou from FOCUS North America. Steve visited Holy Trinity in July to discuss the establishment of a new homeless shelter in Phoenix. Over 50 parishioners from 10 parishes attended and there was significant interest in pursuing this idea. Now, we're ready to move forward with a kickoff meeting and team formation! If you have any questions about the proposed FOCUS shelter in Phoenix or want to be involved in the effort, please contact Steve Christoforou at [schristoforou@focusna.org](mailto:schristoforou@focusna.org). The recording of the July presentation can be found on our Living Orthodox YouTube channel (<https://bit.ly/3O2roul>). **This event is open to all parishes and all ages!** Please RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/HTCphx>.

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.

**HOLY LAND  
FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON**

**Sunday, January 14th  
11:30AM**

**St. George Legacy Ballroom  
after Divine Liturgy**  
To-go meals available

**Grand Auction, Raffle, and Live Music  
Join for a Chance to Win Big Ticket Items!**

**For Event Registration and Donations,  
use the below QR code and link**

Hosted by  
St. George  
Young Adults



For inquiries  
contact Joann  
Hannoona  
(480)298-0771  
[joann.hannoona@skanska.com](mailto:joann.hannoona@skanska.com)

<https://give.iocc.org/phoenix>

*"If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it"*  
~1COR12:26

 Saint George  
Antiochian Orthodox Church

 IOCC®  
International Orthodox Christian Charities

 Living Orthodox  
COMING FROM  
HEALTHY AND SERVING  
TO SERVE IN YOUR PARISH



# Christmas Eve Reception

December 24, 2023



# Three Marriages!

December 9, 2023



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

All services can 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.



## Desert Springs Issues Available to Our Seniors

or the computer-challenged!

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

## Desert Springs Subscription

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

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

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

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

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

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

## HTC on Facebook

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

[Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral—Phoenix, AZ](https://www.facebook.com/holytrinityphx)





# 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 **\$654,340.00**.

***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.**

## Endowment Gifts

### Platinum Donors: \$100,000+

Faye Boukas  
George & Ann Souvall  
John George Thomas

### Gold Donors: \$50,000+

Dr. Nicholas Baziotes  
Silver Donors: \$25,000+  
The DeMoss Families  
IMO+ Tasia Pritchard

### Bronze Donors: \$10,000+

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

### General Endowment Fund donations over \$1,000.00

Dr. Christopher J. DeMoss, the Lambrou Family

### In Memory Of Gifts:

IMO+ Stacy Hotis, IMO+ Danny Speros, IMO+ Mark Sprintz, IMO+ Chris Gabriel, IMO+ Fr. James & Presb. Katherine Tavlarides, IMO+ Fr. Anthony & Mary Coniaris, IMO+ Tom Contes, IMO+ Leonard Mastorakos, IMO+ John Sgouros, IMO+ Chris Gabriel, IMO+ Athena & Dan Choukalas, IMO+ Milton & Harriet Sioles, IMO+ Koula & Pete Triantafyllou, IMO+ James H. Karros, IMO Bette Maniatis, IMO Dan Lester Hill



**✦ CONSIDER GIFTING HIGHLY APPRECIATED STOCK. ✦  
72 AND OLDER, SAVE TAXES BY GIVING FROM YOUR IRA. ✦**

# Endowment Fund

+ CONSIDER GIFTING HIGHLY APPRECIATED STOCK. +  
+ 72 AND OLDER, SAVE TAXES BY GIVING FROM YOUR IRA. +

## + GIFT FORM +

Please list my/our endowment gift as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

Here is my/our one time General Endowment gift, which I/we may add to, of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/we wish to make a gift of \$ 10,000.00 or more payable, now \_\_\_\_\_, or over a three year period.

With this form \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Year Two \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Year Three \$ \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_

Donor, please sign and keep a copy for your records.

All gifts will be preserved in the archives of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016

+ We Thank You and may God Bless You for your generosity. +

## Desert Diamonds

Julie Karoutas

for senior parishioners and their guests:



Dear Desert Diamonds & Friends,

Wishing you All a Blessed & Merry Christmas Holiday; have a blessed, Happy, Healthy New Year!

Please save the date, **Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 10.00am**. Plan to attend the ASU Coffee at the Kerr performance of **"The Barber of Seville"**. I have secured **12** tickets, to be given to the first 11 to RSVP. If we have more wishing to attend, I can check availability, and may be able to receive more tickets.

Briefly, the ASU School of Music joins ASU Kerr in presenting free entertaining concerts that feature faculty & graduate students. **A \$5.00 donation is encouraged** & bring a can of food or sealed personal item to be donated to Vista del Camino Food Bank. **Coffee service begins at 9:30 a.m.** Performance **at 10:30a.m.**

ASU Kerr Cultural Center, 6110 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85253

**Please note:** The center is located on **Rose Lane**, between Lincoln & McDonald Drive on Scottsdale Rd., Head West on Rose Lane, drive 175 yds.; turn Left onto first unmarked street in the spacious parking lot.

After the performance we can plan on going to lunch in the area. A new Mediterranean restaurant has opened up nearby, if we choose to go. Details to follow.

With love in Christ,

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

Cell# 623.313.8720

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# AHEPA CHAPTER 219

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## Our Next Chapter Meeting

Thursday, January 18 at 6 PM

Holy Trinity  
Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
Community Center  
1973 E Maryland Ave  
Phoenix, AZ

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**INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?**  
**CONTACT PETE MARUDAS**  
**602-284-1638**

# AHEPA Chapter 219 Year In Review



Donated \$12K to St Innocents

Donated \$10K to UMOM

Awarded \$8K in Scholarships



Donated \$2.2K to Maui Relief

Donated \$2.3K to 4F



Donated \$1K to Alex  
Sampson Memorial

Donated \$1.1K to  
Benevolent Fund



Made \$19K in Festival  
Bar Sales



Donated \$900 to All Saint's  
Camp

Donated \$2K to Charities



Sponsored Palm Sunday Lunch

Sponsored Community Picnic

Interested in Membership?  
Contact Pete Marudas  
602-284-1638

# AHEPA Chapter 219



# 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!

## Youth 4F Night

Youth 4F Night: Join us **Saturday, January 20 at 4:30 pm** for an evening of Faith, Fellowship, Christmas Fun and Food. All of our youth from Grades 1-12 are invited to join us for this great night. Keep an eye out for registration!

Our 4F Nights return again on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 4:30pm-8pm! Our theme this year is "**God is Wondrous in His Saints**" and every month we will learn about a different "type" of saint and how we can apply what they did to our lives as Orthodox Christians even in our world today! PLEASE mark off these dates in your calendar for the whole year.

## HOLY TRINITY 4F 2023/24

**DATES:**  
SEPTEMBER 16  
OCTOBER 21  
NOVEMBER 5 GODPARENTS SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 18  
DECEMBER 16  
JANUARY 20  
FEBRUARY 24  
MARCH 16  
APRIL 6 - LENTEN RETREAT  
APRIL 27 LAZARUS SATURDAY  
RETREAT  
MAY 11

WORKSHEET ASSIGNMENTS DUE AT  
FOLLOWING 4F, AFTER COMPLETING  
3: ICON  
5: PRAYER BOOK  
10: BIBLE

## RESOURCES

- Weekly Bulletin attachments/narthex handouts
- DailyReadings App
- Weekly Sunday School Questions
- Catechism and Bible Study classes
- Fr. Apostolos and Fr. Alexander

# Youth Ministries at Holy Trinity Cathedral 2022/23

## House Meetings

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](#).

## Other Opportunities

Reach out to Fr. Alexander [here](#) if you'd like to learn how your children can be involved such as

- serving as an Altar Boy
- singing in the Choir
- learning Byzantine Chant
- joining our Greek School
- or any other ministry of interest.

Of course you and your children are welcome to join for both Bible Study and Catechism Class throughout the year. More information will be forthcoming on this soon as well.

**Our children have been entrusted to us by God to return them to Him as much like Him as they can be. Whether your child will prioritize God and the Church when they grow up is dependent on you prioritizing it when they are home with you. If other events and activities take precedent now, they will take precedent later.**

**We are all on a journey to Christ together as a Cathedral family; join us this year as we march forward towards Him.**

Fr. Apostolos Hill  
Fr. Alexander Eliades



Thankful poster made by the youth at the November 2023 4F event.

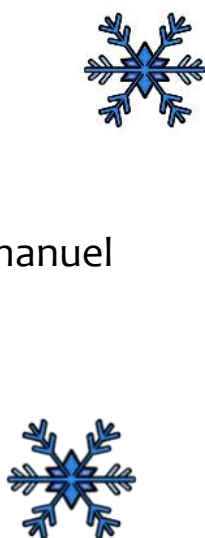
## Annual Youth Winter Retreat

Join us **January 12 - 14, 2024** at Emmanuel Pines Camp in Prescott, AZ.

Cost: \$175 per person, \$25 sibling discount.

Register at [assumptionaz.org/winterretreat](http://assumptionaz.org/winterretreat).

Questions: Niko Paris at [youth@assumptionaz.org](mailto:youth@assumptionaz.org).



# All Saints Camp 2024



# ALL SAINTS CAMP 2024!

REGISTRATION OPENS DEC. 15  
CAMP SHADOW PINES | HEBER, AZ  
MAY 26 - JUNE 1  
[WWW.ALLSAINTSCAMPARIZONA.ORG](http://WWW.ALLSAINTSCAMPARIZONA.ORG)

## All Saints Camp Fundraiser



**ALL SAINTS  
CAMP  
ARIZONA  
PRESENTS**

# PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

**11AM SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 3, 2024**

**HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL  
POULOS COURT**

**ENTRY**

- 16 Teams
- Single Elimination
- First Come, First Serve Sign-ups
- Open Dec. 8 @ 12pm
- \$100 per team

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- Raffle for great prizes!
- BBQ and drinks for sale
- Cornhole and Fun!

Questions? Email Chris Fredericksen at:  
[c.fredericksen@yahoo.com](mailto:c.fredericksen@yahoo.com)