



Sunday, September 8th, 2019 - Nativity of the Theotokos-Sunday before Holy Cross

This Morning's Readings

St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

The Gospel according to John 3:13-17

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

This Morning's Hymns

Your Birth, O Mother of God, brought joy to all the world; for from you arose the sun of righteousness, Christ our God. He took away the curse and gave the blessing. He abolished death and bestowed on us eternal life.

Ἡ γέννησίς σου Θεοτόκε, χαρὰν ἐμήνυσε πάσῃ τῇ οἰκουμένῃ· ἐκ σοῦ γὰρ ἀνέτειλεν ὁ ἥλιος τῆς δικαιοσύνης, Χριστὸς ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, καὶ λύσας τὴν κατάραν, ἔδωκε τὴν εὐλογίαν· καὶ καταργήσας τὸν θάνατον, ἔδωρήσατο ἡμῖν ζωὴν τὴν αἰώνιον.

Let all things above in Heaven rejoice and let all things below on earth be glad. With the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet, He has trampled down death by death. The first born of the dead did He become. From the depths of hades did He deliver us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος, ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος, ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιλίας ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

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In your holy birth, O Immaculate One, Joachim and Anna were rid of the shame of childlessness; and Adam and Eve of the corruption of death. And so your people, free of the guilt of their sins, celebrate crying: "The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, who nourishes our life."

Ἰωακείμ καὶ Ἄννα ὄνειδισμοῦ ἀτεκνίας, καὶ Ἀδὰμ καὶ Εὐά, ἐκ τῆς φθορᾶς τοῦ θανάτου, ἠλευθέρωθησαν, Ἄχραντε, ἐν τῇ ἀγία γεννήσει σου· αὐτὴν ἑορτάζει καὶ ὁ λαὸς σου, ἐνοχῆς τῶν πταισμάτων, λυτρωθεὶς ἐν τῷ κράζειν σοι· Ἡ στείρα τίκτει τὴν Θεοτόκον, καὶ τροφὸν τῆς ζωῆς ἡμῶν.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix AZ 85016 Office: 602.264. 7863
Holy Trinity website: www.holytrinityphx.org
Email: htfrontoffice@holytrinityphx.org
Rev. Economos Apostolos Hill, Proistamenos: htpriest@holytrinityphx.org
Alexander Eliades, Pastoral Assistant: aeliades@holytrinityphx.org

Announcements

NARTHEX DUTY SCHEDULE

Group 4: Parish Council

EPISTLE READER

Katie Dye

MINISTRY SUNDAY, OPA BACK-TO-SCHOOL LUNCHEON & WELCOME TO ALEXANDER & LAURA TODAY

Please join us for Ministry Sunday and OPA's Back-to-School Luncheon in the Large Hall following the Divine Liturgy. Hosted by the Stewardship Committee, each of Holy Trinity's ministries will have a table set up providing information. We encourage you to take this opportunity to join a new ministry, get information or just see all the opportunities to get involved. This is also a wonderful opportunity for our parishioners to meet our new pastoral assistant, Alexander Eliades, and his wife Laura.

FESTIVAL BAKING HAS STARTED

Are you available to help bake? We would love to have you! Stop by the Speros Center kitchen at 9:00am on Friday, September 13, Monday the 16, and Tuesday the 17. We will be baking baklava. Hope to see you there!

ORTHODOX COLLEGE MINISTRY

If you are the parent of an ASU student, let us know! Our Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) ministry on the ASU campus meets every Tuesday evening at 6:00pm at the campus Christian Center on 19th & Mill, just north of the Chipotle. Contact Fr. Apostolos or Alexander with your student's contact details and for more information.

GREEK SCHOOL BEGINS WEDNESDAY 9/11

Classes begin this Wednesday from 5:00pm-7:00pm so please register today! Starting at age 3, just be potty trained.

DESERT DIAMONDS & FRIENDS POT LUCK LUNCHEON ON THURSDAY 9/12

We'll kick off our fall season on Thursday, 9/12 at 11:30am in the Speros Community Center with a special guest speaker, Magda Gryparis. She is the author of "The Village: The war and the occupation of Greece through the eyes of a four year old". Please bring friends, a dish to share. RSVP to Julie Karoutas at 623-313-8720 or juliekaroutas@gmail.com, or text Judith LaMond at 703-819-9957.

BEATITUDES BIBLE STUDY RETURNING SOON!

Our parish Bible Study examining the Beatitudes resumes on Friday, September 13 at 10:00am and will run through October 4. After a break for the Festival, classes will revert to Tuesday mornings at 10:00am on November 5 and run through November 26.

OPA FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT AT CHASE FIELD WITH AZ DIAMONDBACKS ON FRIDAY 9/13

All families are welcome to join the D-backs Faith and Family Night featuring Fireworks and Postgame concert by for KING & COUNTRY. Meet at 5:00pm for Chapel service, then carpool to the ballpark. Please contact Paulina Watson at 480-740-3950 to purchase tickets.

GOYA BEGINS SUNDAY 9/15

GOYA begins Sunday, 9/15 at 7:00pm. The meetings will be every third Sunday night with socials and service projects interspersed.

INQUIRERS CLASS BEGINS MONDAY 9/16

On Mondays at 7:00pm, an Inquirers Class will be held for those looking to join Holy Trinity or are simply interested in the Orthodox Church. It is also open to parishioners wanting to engage more with their faith.

LITTLE LAMBS' PUMPKIN PATCH OUTING ON SATURDAY 9/28

Please mark your calendars. More details to follow...

3RD ANNUAL ASC INVITATIONAL

All Saints Camp Golf Tournament will be on November 9, 2019. 100% of the proceeds go directly towards camp and camp scholarships. Registration opens Monday, September 9! See the flyer in the Narthex for details.

This Week at Holy Trinity Cathedral

Today Sunday 9/8 NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS SUNDAY BEFORE HOLY CROSS	8:00 am - Matins 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy 1st Day of Sunday School Ministry Sunday OPA Back-to-School Luncheon	12:30 pm - Dance Practice
Tuesday 9/10		6:00 pm - OCF (ASU campus) 7:00 pm - 90th Anniversary meeting
Wednesday 9/11		5:00 pm - Greek School 7:00 pm - Choir Practice 7:00 pm - Dance Practice
Thursday 9/12	11:30 am - Desert Diamonds Pot Luck & Guest Speaker	6:30 pm - Parish Council meeting
Friday 9/13	9:00 am - Festival Baking , Baklava 10:00 am - Bible Study	5:00 pm - Chapel Service and OPA Faith & Family Night at Chase Field
Saturday 9/14 EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	8:00 am - Matins 9:00 am - Divine Liturgy	
Sunday 9/15 SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS	8:00 am - Matins 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy Maniatis Memorial Philoptochos Tray Sunday School 11:45 am - Youth Choir rehearsal	12:30 pm - Dance Practice 12:30 pm - Daughters of Penelope meeting (Conf. Rm.) 7:00 pm - GOYA meeting

MEMORIALS TODAY

Rev. Fr. Matthew Gilbert - 3 years. Husband and father of Presvytera Denise Gilbert & Family. Son-in-law and brother-in-law of Chris, Rita & Kristen Bruskas.

Helen Thanos Barnes - 40 days. Sister of Rita Bruskas.

Angela Hapgood - 6 months. Prosforo, Wine and Oil donated by the Lambrou Family.

George Lazarou - 24 years. Also Helen Lazarou, Antoinette & Constantine Zaceraroudis, Mary & Emanuel Truman. Prosforo, Wine and Oil donated by Patricia Lazarou.



Ορεκτικό

An appetizer before the main course

Why Do You Believe?

September 8th, 2019

The Apostle Peter encouraged the believers of his age *"Be prepared at all times to give an answer to anyone who asks you the reason for the hope that lies within you."* (1 Pet. 3:15) What would we say if we were asked by a friend or stranger or an unbelieving family member "Why do you believe in God?" Perhaps our answer may sound something like this.

I believe in God in the basis of direct, personal experience. I perceive Him as a loving and creative God who willed that I exist; a God who created the world out of His vast love and creative energy in order to share Himself with us. I believe that this God is eternal and exists as a Father, a Son, and a Holy Spirit, a community of divine Persons.

This personal God created human beings as the pinnacle of the created order and endowed us with life and a free will so that we could freely choose to unite ourselves to Him as He willed which is the very purpose of our existence. The first humans made a contrary choice and severed themselves and all their descendants from God, the only source of life.

But God's love for us prevailed when He sent His only Son to reunite his human children with Himself. This He accomplished by becoming a man, just as we are, while remaining fully God. In Him, that is in Jesus Christ, death and our slavery to sin and darkness is destroyed. By uniting ourselves to God through His Son Jesus Christ, we regain the god-likeness He intends us to possess.

I believe that God has provided a divine-human organism, the Holy Church, of which I am a single cell. Anyone who wants to become part of this "body of Christ" may do so by embracing this all-holy God-in-Trinity freely and from the heart. As we are united to God in His body, we become united with each other, forming a whole greater than the sum of its parts.

I believe, as the Bible states, that "God is love," that He is not angry and does not look for ways to punish us. I believe that God is predisposed to redeem us from ultimate death, from fear and loneliness, from sin and darkness. I know that perfection on my part is not demanded for God is patient. I will make many mistakes, have good days and bad ones, as an imperfect human person.

But my direct, personal experience of God convinces me that I cannot sin so much as to exhaust His love and compassion for me. And so I serve Him out of love because I cannot conceive of my life apart from Him. The joy and faith that sustains me is so precious that I am eager to share it with others, even if only by the way that I live my own life. This is why I believe in God.

This morning as we hear the Gospel reading from the 3rd chapter of John *"For God so loved the world.."* perhaps we can reflect on how we may respond to our family, friends, and neighbors who have not yet responded to the message of the Gospel. I fervently pray that our love for God will serve as beacons in the darkness of the world to light the way home for them!

In Christ,

Fr. Apostolos