

Desert Springs

February
2026
Volume 11
Issue 2



Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

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Rev. Alexander Eliades

Rev. Deacon John Thrasher

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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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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 manager@holytrinityphx.org and Kristen at kristen.vasilarakos@outlook.com. **It is the organization's responsibility** to inform Heidi or Kristen of any updates to your listing.

A Message from Father Alexander

Hardscape Hard Changes

God willing over the next few months our Hardscape in front of our Cathedral will be demolished and rebuilt. What was once smooth and familiar will be temporarily broken and difficult to navigate. Our steps will be removed and redone so they can be strengthened, and rebuilt with greater beauty and durability.

As anyone who has lived through construction knows, this work is rarely simple. What lies beneath the surface often needs more attention than expected. Materials must be torn up before they can be replaced. Progress can feel slow, and the process can be disruptive. In this communal endeavor we may not even agree with what is happening! Yet the end result, a space that is safer, more welcoming, and more fitting for worship, makes the struggle worthwhile.

This physical transformation mirrors the spiritual labor to which Christ calls each of us. The Fathers speak of the need to “excavate” the heart: to remove old habits, dig out hidden resentments, clear the debris of distractions, and create space for God and His Grace. Like construction, this is not tidy or painless. But through prayer, discipline, and repentance, God reshapes our inner life into something more stable and beautiful.



With Great Lent approaching, the Church places before us a sacred season for this very kind of reconstruction. Lent is not simply a liturgical cycle, it is a spiritual work site. Through fasting, prayer, confession, and acts of mercy, we allow Christ to uncover what needs healing and to rebuild what has grown weak or neglected. It may feel disruptive at times, but these holy labors lead to Resurrection.

As our Cathedral's hardscape is renewed, let it remind us that Lent offers the same opportunity for our souls. Let us approach the coming weeks with patience, humility, and hope, trusting that Christ, the true Architect, rebuilds all things for His glory and our salvation.

Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and Leadership 100 Visit

Please join us on Sunday, February 8 for Orthros and Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco as they are in Phoenix for the Leadership 100 Conference that weekend.



Let's Meet Our Parishioner Neighbors!

Terry Harper



After graduating from the University of Illinois with a degree of Fine and Applied Arts in Graphic Design, the Vietnam war was at its peak. Terry joined the Air Force and his one year in Korat, Thailand, in the Photo Reconnaissance Squadron, was a memorable twelve months of his four years of military service. He then moved to Sydney,

Australia after his discharge but realized the salary for a graphic designer did not match up with the cost of living, so he needed to move on.

Terry worked as art director for Southern Illinois University, Carleton University (Ottawa, Canada), Channel 8 PBS at ASU, The Arizona Republic newspaper, and ended his career as Executive Art Director of Farnam Companies, the world's largest animal health care company at that time. After retirement, he continued his university fine



art training by taking courses at Phoenix College in life drawing, painting and advanced drawing.

His greatest blessing was coming to the Greek Festival 37 years ago and

attending a tour of the Cathedral. After listening to Fr. John Hondros talk about some basic beliefs of Orthodoxy, he was amazed they lined up with his limited beliefs. After months of meeting with Fr. John, he was given the blessing to be baptized (Constantine).

A few years later, under the direction of Fr. Tim, Terry turned two offices into one large book store in the former education building. Later, Fr. Theo told him to give tours of the Cathedral during the Greek Festivals and he has been doing them since. Then he was asked to drive Fr. Ephraim to and from the newly established St. Anthony's Monastery. At that time there was no road on the property and there was only one double-wide trailer housing three monks and three novices. It was a truly humbling and memorable time. A few years ago, Fr. Apostolos encouraged him to greet new people which was outside his comfort level but now he can't imagine not doing it. He has learned through these experiences to follow the requests of our priests for surprising personal and spiritual growth.

Terry has been Blessed with three Goddaughters; Trisha (Christina), Cynthia (Katherine), Jessica (Anna) and five Godsons; Michael, Clair (Nectarios), Garrett (John the Theologian), Ryan (Justin Martyr the Philosopher) and was given the blessing to be the Godfather for Daniel Alejandro.

He is currently attending Fr. Alexander's Bible classes and also attending Fr. Apostolos' catechumen classes. Terry adds that most of our catechumens come to us after much research and their knowledge and enthusiasm is contagious. We all should do ourselves a favor by getting to know these new parishioners.

Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

2026 Theme:
“Rise Up and Build”
Building the Body of Christ
- Nehemiah 2:18



Holy Trinity Cathedral “Why Statement”:

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

I recently participated in a Stewardship webinar offered by the Archdiocese. The webinar was led by Dr. Bill Marianis who leads a variety of these workshops on behalf of our Archdiocese and Metropolis. I have learned a great deal about Stewardship over the years from Dr. Marianis.

But last week’s seminar hit on a challenge we face in our churches I hadn’t considered. When I heard it, it resonated! We are all familiar with the fast food chain, Burger King’s famous slogan, “Have it your way.” And in the burger world, that’s a great mentality. You can have your burger with or without cheese, ketchup, etc. But in regards to the church this is a trap we should all avoid.

We’ve all either heard the complaints or have been the one doing the complaining. The church is too hot, too cold. We should have chanters instead of a choir. We should have a choir instead of chanters. The priests conduct the Liturgy using too much Greek or too much English. Liturgy starts too early or too late. Pick your issue....there are plenty of them to choose from.

And then comes....If I don’t get what I want or I don’t like it, I’ll reduce my stewardship. Or, I’ll switch churches. This is Dr. Marianis calls, “consumer talk,” or as he put it, it is first world grumbling.

But the truth is, the Lord’s house doesn’t exist to meet our preferences. The church isn’t here to cater to our whims or our convenience. It’s here to lead us to salvation. We aren’t here to be served like a customer. We are here to become a servant. To serve God, His people and His world that He loves.

It’s easy to get caught up in “complaint culture” and quite frankly when we hear someone else complaining it’s easy to jump on that bandwagon. But instead we should practice gratitude for this beautiful Cathedral we get to worship in and this vibrant, growing community we get to be a part of. Maybe the challenge is to stop, reflect and remember that we are not in the drive thru at Burger King. Rather, we are in God’s house where we come to be guided toward salvation and learn to be a servant rather than the one being served.

Ensuring a Safe Worship Environment

To help keep our parish community safe and at peace during worship, you will notice we have a uniformed police officer on duty each Sunday. This presence is new for our church. It is simply one more way we care for one another and ensure that all who come to pray, serve, and gather here may do so in a secure environment.



2026 Lenten Schedule

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2026		
<i>Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)</i>		
SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 1st	<i>TRIDION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 8th	The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 15th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare FEBRUARY 22nd FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 1st	<i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 8th	ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 15th	VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHAI</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent MARCH 22nd	ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent MARCH 29th	ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 5th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	<i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 10th	GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 12th NO FASTING!	<i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

Narthex Duty

January 25, 2026

Charlie DeMoss —
95 and still behind
the counter!



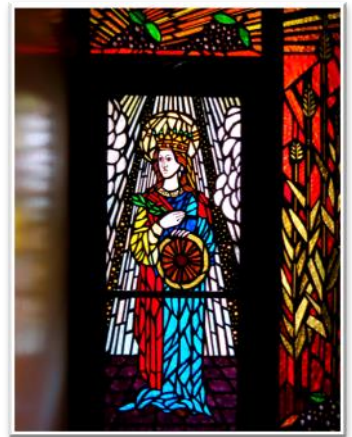
Donations

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!*



Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Kristen Vasilarakos, President



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



Next Meeting: Thursday, February 5, 2026, 6:30 pm
AFFCF—360 E Coronado Rd



Check in on a Parishioner—Circle of Angels

Do you have a family member or friend who has not been able to come to church lately? Please let us know! Call or Text Julie at 850-225-4978.



Philoptochos New Member Coffee



Please join the women of Philoptochos for our New Member Coffee and continental breakfast on **Sunday, February 22** following Liturgy in the Small Hall of the community center. Learn why Philoptochos is considered the “right hand of the church,” meet the members, sign up and pay your dues. Considered the “friends of the poor,” together we have fun and do important work.

Super Sunday Social

On February 8, Philoptochos is hosting the Sunday Social and providing Mimosas before heading home to the big game. Please join us!



Tuesday Coffee

For those with a flexible schedule: Join us for coffee and talk. Included within the social are activities related to Philoptochos' **Circle of Angels**, other chapter support, sometimes church office support, and just plain hanging out with friends.



Camp Agape/ Kids with Cancer

We are actively asking our friends and parishioners to help with donations for the online Auction from which we make money to fund our project. The Auction begins on **February 15th through March 15th**. Please call Chairman Julie Karoutas at **623.313.8720**.

Full-sized copies of this letter are in the Narthex.



Arizona Philoptochos Chapters
Kids 'n' Cancer
Camp Agape
Auction Fundraiser

Dear Friends & Sponsors,

Each year we have had the opportunity to come together to raise funds for the beautiful ministry of Kids 'n' Cancer/ Camp Agape. On February 14, 2026, the Arizona Philoptochos Chapters will launch our 18th Annual Kids 'n' Cancer Camp Agape Fundraiser. This event is our main source of funding for Camp Agape Arizona. Our virtual fundraiser with an online auction will go live on February 14th and run through March 15th. We are seeking sponsorship from our local businesses, members and friends to support this wonderful ministry that has helped many Arizona families over the past 18 years.

We are also collecting donations of gift baskets, gift items, gift cards, sporting event tickets, etc. for our online auction. 100% of the proceeds from this fundraiser support Kids 'n' Cancer and the Camp Agape Family Camp program. Your generous donations and business will be acknowledged on our fundraiser web site. The Metropolis of San Francisco Ladies Philoptochos sponsors Kids 'n' Cancer Camp Agape. Philoptochos was established in 1931, as the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Church of America. Today, there are more than 27,000 members across the United States dedicated to serving all people in need.

The mission of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Kids 'n' Cancer program is to provide support for children afflicted with cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Camp Agape offers a life-changing, all expense paid experience for children from every background and their families. It provides opportunities for enjoyment, learning and building self-esteem and confidence in a safe setting. The kindness and caring that surrounds them offers an ideal environment for therapy and healing. Since our first camp in Dunlap, California in 1989, Camp Agape has expanded to camps in Portland, OR, San Diego, CA and Rimrock, AZ. We opened the first Arizona camp in July of 2008. June 2026, will mark our 19th year serving Arizona families.

Please give your heart to a child and support the 2026 Kids 'n' Cancer Camp Agape Auction and Fundraiser for Camp Agape Arizona and the needs of our children battling cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Camps are supported 100% through fundraising efforts. Your generous donation is guaranteed to put smiles on children's faces and provide comfort and relief to the families. Auction winners will be announced at the end of the auction in March.

Thank you for your support,
Kathy Connell, Kristen Vasilarakos, Angela Koumantzlis, Cynthia Bekiaris, Sophia Makris & Juli Pritzos
Philoptochos Presidents/ Arizona Philoptochos Chapters
To make a donation contact your chapter president or:
Kathy Connell – Camp Agape SFO Metropolis Co-Chair 602 524-1959 modagreekkathy@aol.com

Kids 'n' Cancer is a non-profit community outreach program of
The Metropolis of San Francisco Ladies Philoptochos Society, Tax ID #364585276

For more information, please contact Julie Karoutas at juliekaroutas@gmail.com

Philoptochos Scholarship Applications

The Ladies of Philoptochos are thankful to our parishioners for the support and donations we receive during the year, which allows us to give back to our HTC students by offering

scholarships. Students may pick up an application in the Narthex with the needed requirements, beginning November 16th. The **deadline to submit the application is February 15th.**

Mail to Philoptochos Scholarships, 1973 E Maryland, Phoenix, AZ 85016 or send to gfrieh@gmail.com or contact **602-300-0016**



St. Katherine's Philoptochos of Holy Trinity Cathedral 2026 Scholarship Application

St. Katherine's Philoptochos is pleased to announce we will be offering three one thousand dollar (\$1000) scholarships to Holy Trinity students attending college in fall of 2026. Listed below are the application requirements.

1. Student and/or family must be a current steward, in good standing, of Holy Trinity Cathedral
2. High school students must have graduated in the spring of 2026 and attending college in the fall of 2026
3. Current college students may apply as a "continuing student" or "graduate student" A student may not apply more than twice.
4. Applicants must submit:
 - A copy of 2025 -26 transcripts
 - College acceptance letter
 - A resume including school, church and community activities

APPLICATION DEADLINE: **FEBRUARY 15th**

If you have any questions or would like to contribute to our scholarships Fund, please contact a member of the scholarship committee. Georgana Frieh 602-300-0016. Scholarships may also be mailed to: Philoptochos Scholarship, 1973 E. Maryland, Phoenix, AZ 85016. Email completed form to: gfrieh@gmail.com

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY & ZIP _____

PHONE & EMAIL _____

HIGH SCHOOL – COLLEGE (presently attending) _____

COLLEGE ACCEPTED TO: _____

GPA _____ Signature _____



Paper copies are available in the Narthex.

January Meeting

January 8, 2026



We finished up the January meeting at Zipp's.



CHANGE THE STORY FOR YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE IN ARIZONA

START COLLECTING!

Boxes will be in the Narthex on February 8.

Female

- Toothbrush/Toothpaste/ Floss
- Deodorant/Antiperspirant
- Body wash
- Shampoo and Conditioner (include 30% for ethnic hair)
- Shaving cream/gel
- Body lotion
- CeraVe Foaming Facial Cleanser
- Feminine hygiene products (tampons and pads)
- Hairbrush/Comb (include 30% for ethnic hair)
- Hair styling products (gel, mousse, hairspray)
- Leave-in conditioner/hair oil (include 30% for ethnic hair care)
- Nail clippers/nail file
- Tweezers

Male

- Toothbrush/Toothpaste/ Floss
- Deodorant/Antiperspirant
- Body wash
- Shampoo and Conditioner (include 30% for ethnic hair)
- Shaving cream/gel
- Aftershave
- Body lotion
- CeraVe Foaming Facial Cleanser
- Hairbrush/Comb (include 30% for ethnic hair)
- Hair styling products (gel or pomade and 30% for ethnic hair)
- Nail clippers
- Tweezers

[Click for More Photos](#)

Vasilopita Cutting & Auction

January 4, 2026

Philoptochos-Sponsored

Church-Wide Rummage Sale!

February 28, 2026

AT HOLY TRINITY

RUMMAGE SALE

FEBRUARY 28TH
8:00 AM – 3:00 AM

DONATIONS:
Now - Feb 22nd
contact the front office

ORGANIZE DONATIONS:
February 25th & 26th

DAY OF SUPPORT
Set Up: 5:30am - 8:00am*
Running Event: 7:30am - 3:30pm
Clean Up: 3:00pm - 5:30pm*
*Need to be able to lift & carry items



FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT
Christina@Bakavelou.com

God's Corner at Coffee Hour

This corner is available every Sunday for our little ones to play in and learn together. If you're interested in helping, please contact Mara Contes at ma-ra.contes18@gmail.com.



Youth Ministry Sunday School

If you have a child age 3 (by 9/1 of current school year) through grade 10, please send him/her to Sunday School!

If you have an 11th or 12th grader who would like to help in the classroom, text 602.705.3172.

Submitting a [Student Information Form](#) for each student helps our team better support your student and family. We are always looking for additional teachers and substitute teachers to grow our program. Please contact our director, Alexia, at 602.705.3172 if you are interested in joining the team or have general questions.

Students meet in the following areas when dismissed from Liturgy by Father. **Our youngest two groups are walked down from the Cathedral by their teachers.** We aim to dismiss no earlier than 11:30 a.m. and no later than 11:45 a.m. from the classrooms.

- Age 3 (by 9/1 of current school year) and 4 (must be potty trained): God's Garden (in the Community Center)
- PreK/Kinder: Classroom across from Small Hall
- Grades 1-4: GOYA room
- Grades 5-8: OPA room
- Grades 9-10: Conference Room

If you are interested in being a part of the Sunday School ministry, please email htphxsundayschool@gmail.com or text 602-705-3172 to see how you can help.

Youth Ministry 4F Night

January 10, 2026



Jr. GOYA Party

Scopelianos home,
January 31, 2026



Coffee Socials Following Sunday Liturgies

The January Coffee Socials were sponsored by [Dance](#).



[Full-Sized Photos](#)

Project Mexico Group— June 11-17, 2026

We're excited again to offer a group to go down to Project Mexico to build a house for those in need, stationed out of St. Innocent Orphanage. Please let Fr. Alexander know if you're interested! Open to High School and above who are able to do manual labor.



Andidoron

Blessed, leavened bread offered at the end of Divine Liturgy.



January 25, 2026

St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

Submitted by Rita Papaspyrou

stnectoriosphx@gmail.com

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

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Commemorated on February 2



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

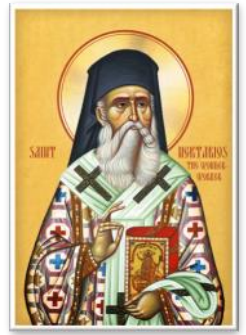
The story of the Presentation is

told in Luke 2:22-29. Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews and observed their religious customs. An important custom was for the couple to take their first-born son to the Temple. The baby was taken to the Temple forty days after his birth and was dedicated to God. In addition, if the parents were wealthy, they were to bring a lamb and a young pigeon or a turtle dove to be offered as a sacrifice at the Temple. The custom provided that if the parents were poor, they were to offer two pigeons or two turtle doves for the sacrifice.

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

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

praying he heard the voice of God. God promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah.



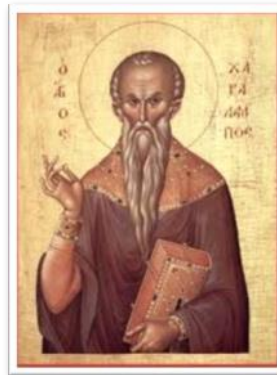
When Simeon saw Jesus, he took the baby in his arms and blessed the Lord and said: "Lord, now let Your servant go in peace according to Your promise, because my eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory to your people Israel."

Haralambos (Charalampus)

the Hieromartyr

Commemorated on February 10

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



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

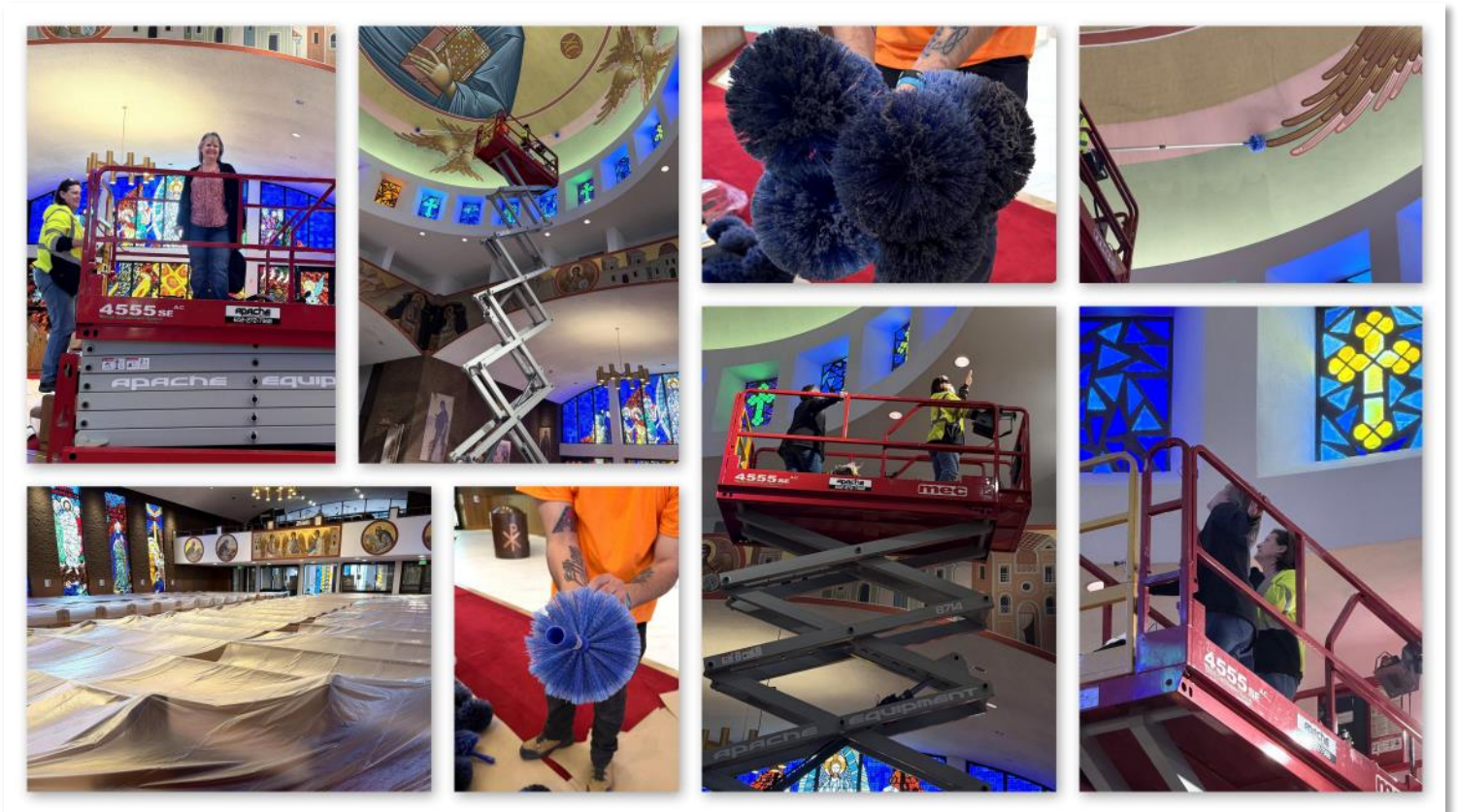
Lucius, enraged, seized the instruments of torture and began to torture Haralambos himself, but suddenly his forearms were cut off as if by a sword. The governor Lucian then spat in the face of the saint, and immediately Lucian's head was turned around so that he faced backwards. Then Lucius entreated the Saint to show mercy on him, and both torturers were healed through the prayers of Saint

St. Nectarios Bookstore Message continued on page 14

Desert Springs February 2026

Pantocrator/ Ceiling Cleaning

Week of 01/26/2026



Bible Study

Join us **Wednesdays** after Paraklesis for Bible Study on the Book of Romans with Fr. Alexander in the Chapel and on Zoom. Open to all.

Learning to Live an Orthodox Life

The Spring semester of catechism is held on **Saturdays from 3:30-4:30pm**. This year's theme is "Learning to live an Orthodox life" with an emphasis on the practical application of the Orthodox faith to our daily lives. Class is open to all Cathedral members. Contact Fr. Apostolos to register.

Bookstore article, continued.

Haralambos. During this a multitude of witnesses came to believe in Christ. Among them also was Lucius, who fell at the feet of the holy bishop, asking to be baptized.

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

Our Church Family

40 Day Blessing

“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



01/18/2026

Kallisti, daughter of Vasiliki and Micah Thomas
God's Blessings be upon her.

Baptism

“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”
Galatians 3:27



1/24/2026

Markella Katherine, daughter of Presbytera Laura and Father Alexander Eliades
Sponsors: Presbytera Demi and Father Nicholas Manuel
God's Blessings be upon her.

Funeral

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever.”
Psalm 23:6



1/04/2026

Marilyn Maroulakos
May her memory be eternal.



Retired Men's Coffee

Calling all retired gentlemen! Join us for a weekly coffee group beginning Thursday, June 12th at 10:00 am in the church office conference room.



Meet us each Thursday morning for a cup of coffee and some fellowship. No agenda, just an opportunity for some fellowship and good conversation. Hope to see you there!

FOCUS

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve
<https://focusphoenix.org>
<https://focusnorthamerica.org>

Link to Nativity article.



February Donation Drive

FOCUS Phoenix will be serving our neighbors in need at Maricopa StandDown 2026, a large community outreach providing vital support to veterans and individuals experiencing homelessness. We are asking parishes across our community to help us prepare by donating essential items that will be distributed directly from the FOCUS Phoenix table.

Please contact a local parish FOCUS representative to facilitate donation drop offs/pick ups, or simply bring items to the FOCUS Phoenix office at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral: 1973 E Maryland Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85016 (Mon.- Fri. 9am-3pm)

Requested Donation Items:

- P-38 can openers
- Men's boots (sizes 8-12)
- New socks and undergarments
- Boonie hats
- Sleeping bags
- Blankets
- Deodorant sticks
- Protein or granola bars
- Gatorade or Powerade

Or scan to make a financial gift to support our work

Celebration Committee



On the first Sunday of each month, the Celebration Committee organizes a luncheon during the Coffee Social to celebrate all the special events in parishioners' lives and birthdays that take place in that month. Please join us every month to celebrate!

In January, the Celebration Committee celebrated the 40-day blessing of Markella Eliades and all January birthdays. The hall was

with decorated with gold, blue, and white in celebration of the new year with a fun 2026 banner. Philoptochos partnered with the Celebration Committee with the hall décor and provided baskets of vasilopita for the table centerpieces.

If you want to join the committee, please email htcphxevents@gmail.com and/or talk to Terri Alexon or Mary Pardhe!



[Click for Full-Sized Photos](#)

Monthly Communal Cooking Event

For the January Celebration Sunday, the Communal Cooking crew led by Phillip Panagiotoglou served roasted chicken, lemon potatoes, Greek salad, various appetizers, and cake. If you are interested in helping out or joining us for future cooking events, please email htcphxevents@gmail.com.

February Birthdays

Wish them a Happy Birthday!



Living Orthodox

March 6 and 7, 2026

“Rediscovering an Orthodox View of Reality” Retreat: March 6-7

The registration for the upcoming retreat with Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick is open! Visit <https://bit.ly/LOretreat26> to sign up for this special series of talks. Part of the event will be open to the public, with the rest of the event reserved for those in our young adult (18-29) and adult (30-45) ministry.

Living Orthodox is seeking 5-6 volunteers to assist with providing rides for Fr. Damick and event support. Registration will be covered for volunteers!

Email livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com if you're interested.

Eight Dates—Family Wellness Thursdays

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

Our parish Oratorical Festival is scheduled for **March 8**. **All participants will receive \$50** and those who move onto the District Level will receive \$100 for their efforts. This program allows our youth to learn more about their faith and express it in their own words while giving them confidence in public speaking! You will be coached by Chris Francis, Dan Valenzuela, Nick Petsas, and Fr. Alexander! If your child is interested (Grades 7-12), email Fr. Alexander for more info and topics the speakers can choose from!



The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Family Wellness Ministry and the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries invite you to journey with us through

Eight Dates

Essential Conversations for a Lifetime of Love
by John and Julie Gottman, Ph.D.

Join us Thursday evenings on Zoom

Our 2026 series will be held
Thursdays at 6:30 pm PT via Zoom

January 8	March 5
January 22	March 12
February 12	March 19
February 19	March 26

January 1 You'll receive welcome materials

Each session is designed by our Family Wellness Ministry team to engage couples in essential conversations. **Topics include:**

Trust & Commitment	Family
Addressing Conflict	Fun & Adventure
Sex & Intimacy	Growth & Spirituality
Work & Money	Dreams

"This series transformed our marriage and got us talking and connecting again."
— JENN & STAVROS

"Over the last four years, over 800 couples participated in our Eight Dates program and we've received countless positive comments of how this experience strengthened their relationships."
— PRESBYTERA PAT TSAAGALAKIS

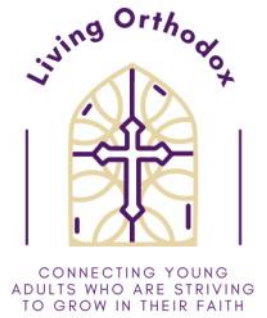
Learn more & register here

presented by

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry

Living Orthodox is a national, pan-Orthodox ministry that is building a community of young adults (18-29) and adults (30-45) who are striving to grow in and connect with their faith. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/LOconnect> for our email/SMS lists!



January Event

In January, the adult ministry (30-45) hosted a hike along Piestewa Peak Nature Trail. It was a beautiful fellowship event with excellent weather. To hear about future events, please sign up for our newsletter!

Living Orthodox Retreat

We are excited to announce our upcoming retreat with Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick, Chief Content Officer, at Ancient Faith Radio! The retreat will be held on March 6-7 at Holy Trinity Cathedral. Three talks will be presented around the theme: “Rediscovering an Orthodox View of Reality”. Please register at <https://bit.ly/LOretreat26> to sign up for this special event.

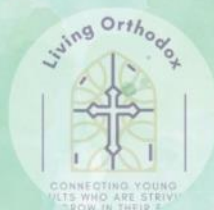
Part of the event will be open to the public, with the rest of the event reserved for those in our young adult (18-29) and adult (30-45) ministry. Living Orthodox is seeking 5-6 volunteers to assist with providing rides for Fr. Damick and event support. Registration will be covered for volunteers. Email livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com if you're interested.

Living Orthodox Adult Ministry

Do you want to get more involved
in the Orthodox Community?

- We are seeking adults between 30 and 45 years of age
- This is an opportunity to build and participate in a community of fellowship for adults in this age group across the Orthodox parishes
- Our mission: prayer, fellowship, and service
- We are recruiting: singles, couples, and married couples*

*If interested, reach out to **Amanda** at
602-384-4460
for more information*



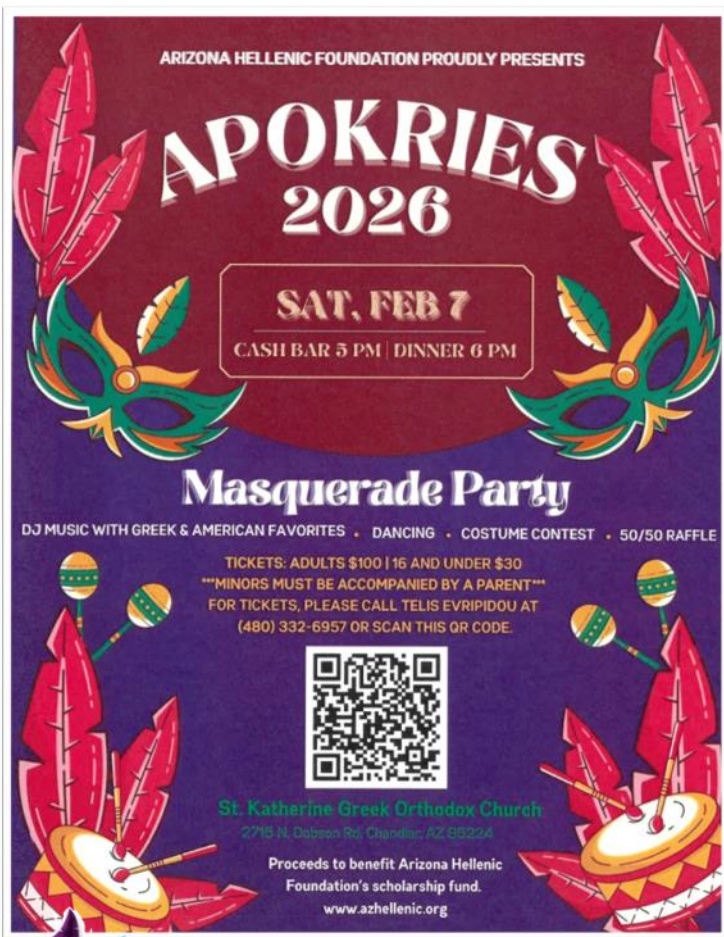
To be informed of upcoming events in the young adult or adult ministries, please follow us on Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/living_orthodox_ministry/) or sign up for our email newsletter (<https://bit.ly/LOconnect>).

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Living Orthodox, please email us at livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com! You can also visit <https://linktr.ee/livingorthodox> for links to our social media.

The Arizona Hellenic Foundation Scholarships

The Arizona Hellenic Foundation has a scholarship program, which was established

to promote, encourage, induce and advance education at the college and university level for students of Hellenic descent with at least one parent or guardian residing in Central Arizona. For eligibility requirements and applications please visit www.Azhellenic.org. **Applications due on April 1, 2026.**



CrossRoad

Submitted by Phoebe Orlando



CROSSROAD
INSTITUTE

CrossRoad is a 10 day theological institute for high school Juniors and seniors wanting to learn more about their faith. This age group faces a multitude of decisions regarding life, vocation, school, and faith. CrossRoad is a program designed to teach the true definition of vocation and encourage the participants to ask the hard questions they have.


This program is set up to guide its participants through this theological exploration by breaking up its structure into 3 distinct parts: Who am I, Who is God, Who is my neighbor. "Who am I?" asks us to look at the distinct strengths and talents God has given us. How do we use them in our lives for ourselves, how do we offer these gifts back to God? "Who is God" focuses on exploring and understanding Orthodox Theology, they invite professors on Theology and Scripture for these classes. "Who is my neighbor" focuses on the understanding that everyone in creation is your neighbor and explores how we are called to love and serve one another.

But it's not just all work and no play, the staff take the participants out on church excursions, a ropes course, sightseeing, a beach day, and more depending on where they are. CrossRoad summer has sessions in Boston, New York, and Southern California. Parents encourage your children to apply, even if it seems like it may not be their thing. Juniors and seniors, please apply for this once in a lifetime experience. You can find more information and the link to apply on their website CrossRoad_institute.org, (CrossRoad, not CrossRoad"s"), because they are on the road to the cross. Final applications **are due February 20th**, and the sooner you apply, the sooner you will hear back.

AHEPA Chapter 219

AHEPA Chapter 219

Scholarship Winners



TOP ROW: Educational & Cultural Foundation Board: Nicholas Petsas, Scholarship Chairman, Andrew Touvannas, Vice President, Tim Floor, President, Todd Schiller, Treasurer, Ed Weiss, Scholarship Committee
BOTTOM ROW: Margaret Johnson, Grand Benefactor, Eleni Economopoulos, Winner, Sophia Philippis, Winner, Stylianos Regas, Winner, Jana Johnson, Grand Benefactor


Next Meeting

Come Celebrate as we present our Chapter awards. Dress code is Sport Coat with Open Collared shirt. This is a Brother's Only event.

Thursday, February 12, 2026
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
James A Speros Community Center

6:00pm - Social Hour
7:00pm - Dinner

Interested in Becoming a Member?
Contact Pete Marudas 602-284-1638



Dance Practice

January 11 and February 1, 2026



Parent-provided chicken tenders and snacks at dance practice.



FDF Practice
Sunday, January 11, 2026



Dance-Hosted Soup & Salad Buffet & Dress Rehearsal

January 25, 2026



[More Photos](#)



100 Years—Foundation for the Future

SAVE *the* DATE

100^{years}

FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

A Centennial Celebration

Please join us for this momentous occasion as we celebrate 100 years
of our beloved Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral.



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2026

FORMAL ATTIRE

NO-HOST COCKTAILS

DINNER

PROGRAM/PRESENTATIONS

Tickets \$150 per person

FOR TICKETS CONTACT:

Caroline Economopoulos - cjecomom@gmail.com

FOR SPONSORSHIPS:

Anna Ellis - anna@lifemanaged.com

