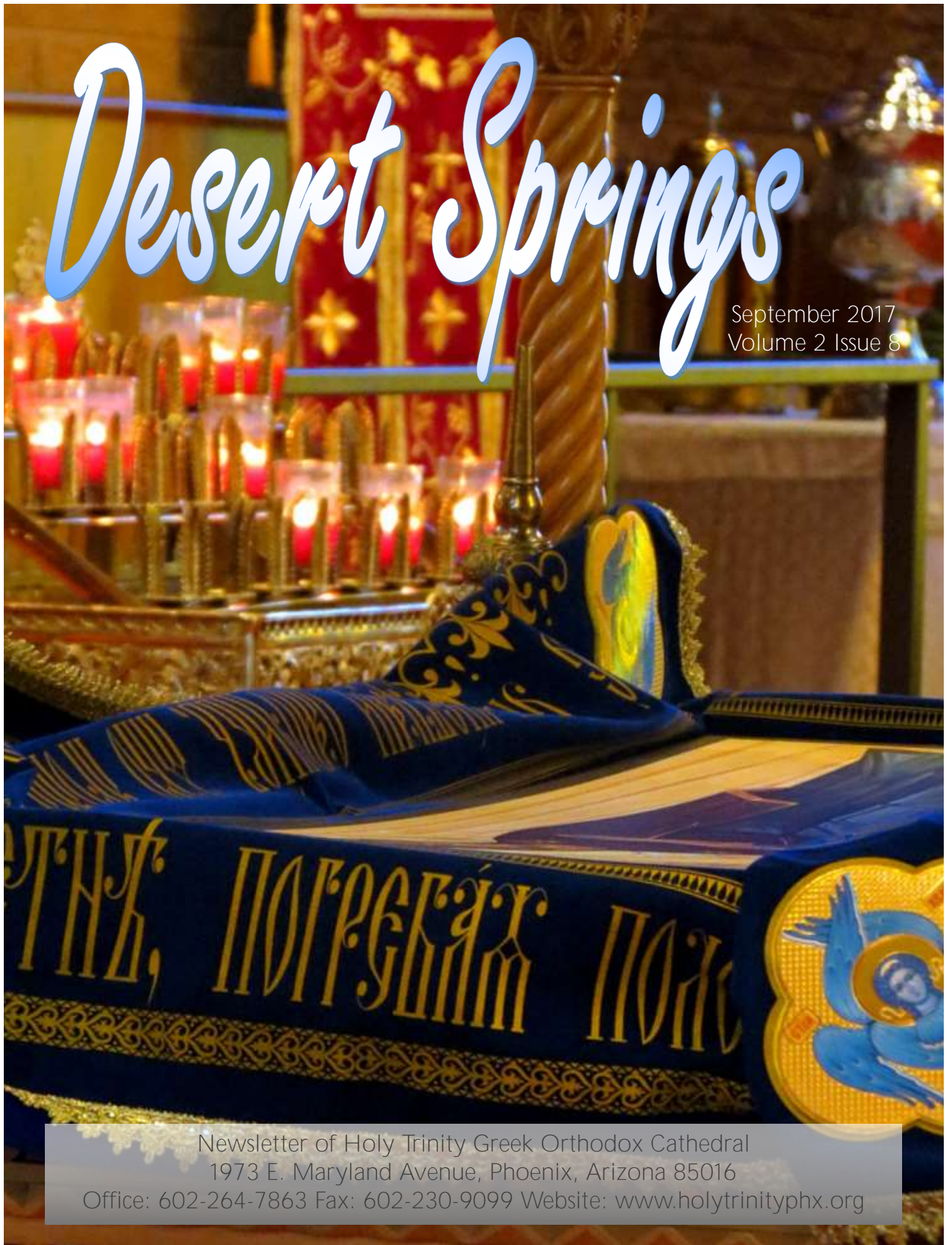


# Desert Springs

September 2017  
Volume 2 Issue 8



Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85016  
Office: 602-264-7863 Fax: 602-230-9099 Website: [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)

Rev. Economos Apostolos Hill  
Rev. Deacon John Thrasher

**Office Hours:**  
Monday–Thursday, 9:00am–3:00pm

**Sunday Worship**  
Cathedral  
8:00am Orthros  
9:30am Divine Liturgy

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**Desert Springs Deadline**  
The 25th of each month

**Sunday Bulletin Deadline**  
Wednesdays, 12 noon

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Terry, Paul, and Dimitri Valonis

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**2017 Parish Council Members**  
Connie Contes—President  
Sandy Meris—Vice President  
Dina Anagnopoulos—Treasurer  
Tiffani Bichekas—Assistant Treasurer  
Angela Raup—Secretary  
Charles DeMoss, Andi Fourlis, Joe Goard,  
Tony Nicoluzakis,  
Alexi Panagiotakopoulos,  
Socrates Papadopoulos

**Holy Trinity Cathedral Website**  
[www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)

**Metropolis of San Francisco Website**  
[www.SanFran.goarch.org](http://www.SanFran.goarch.org)

**Archdiocese Website**  
[www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

## Organization Contacts

AHEPA — John Kostaros  
All Saints Camp — Evan Tsagaris  
Altar Servers — Deacon John Thrasher, David Haag, Chris Francis  
Bible Study — Anthony Arger  
Bookstore — Patsy Harris  
Choir — Terri Alexon  
Dance — Niko Panagiotakopoulos  
Daughters of Penelope — Connie Panagiotakopoulos  
Desert Diamonds (50+) — Nikolette Tavlarides, Sheila Asala  
Feed the Homeless — Christine Stamatis  
Greek Festival — Nick Kretsedemas, Angelo Pestrivas, Kristen Vasilarakos  
Greek School — Irene Mackos  
Holy Trinity Academy Parochial School — TeAnn Philippis, Juli Pritsos  
HOPE & JOY — Karla DeLord, Alexia Haugen  
Koinonia — Dan Valenzuela, Sophie Miller-Martinez  
Little Lambs — Jennifer Kourouglos  
Maids of Athena — Gabriella Papatzimas  
Museum — Bessie Hotis  
Myrrhbearers — Diakonissa Mary Thrasher  
OPA — Cindy Kyprianou  
One Spirit+One Vision — Charlie DeMoss  
Parish Council — Connie Contes  
Philoptochos — Alex Anagnopoulos  
Sons of Pericles — Nick Petsas, Ted Fourlis  
Jr. & Sr. GOYA — Evan Tsagaris, Chris Fredericksen, Paulina Watson  
Stewardship — Sandy Meris  
Sunday School — Kalli Schneider, Kay Ehrick  
Wedding Coordinator — Terri Alexon  
YAL — Stephanie Venetis

If you are reading this publication electronically (on your computer or on your phone), click on the

[More Photos](#)

button within an article to link to an album in Google Photos to see more pictures of the events profiled on the page.

Email links, website links, Facebook links, and document links will work too, directly from this publication.

Check them out!

# Message from Father Apostolos

## The Way Of The Cross



It's such a little thing.

A small gesture performed quietly and overlooked by nearly everyone present, that moment in the Baptismal service when the priest dips the infant's cross in the font and utters the words of Jesus as recorded in St. Matthew and St. Luke's Gospel; *"If any many would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."*

In the flurry of activity as the newly born Orthodox Christian is anointed with oil, immersed in the font, chrismated with holy myrrh, and tonsured, this small act appears as an afterthought. But these few spare words contain the very essence of the path set before each of us who would follow Jesus Christ.

The baptism of a child is an occasion of great joy as the newest family member is initiated into the Holy Mysteries of the family of God. A festive air fills the church as the wee guest of honor is plunged (literally and figuratively!) into a whirlwind of excitement and laughter, none of which in any way diminishes the inescapable truth that the child is being fitted for a cross.

Such thoughts are dismissed out-of-hand as needlessly maudlin and grim. But among the more insightful with whom I have conversed - those who came into the Orthodox Faith as adults or who awoke to the treasure they were given at birth - the truth of the matter is expressed; that this spiritual warfare into which we have been thrust is a challenge more daunting than any catechism can foretell.

In the middle of September we will celebrate the great Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross of Christ with services held to honor the Divine Implement by which God stabbed death in the heart and overthrew the kingdom of darkness. By means of the Cross, Jesus "trampled down death by (His own) death," a refrain we belt out each Pascha with great joy!

And since this feast is date-specific, always falling on the 14th of the month regardless of the day of the week, it is but scarcely attended in our workaday world. But the feast gives us the opportunity to demonstrate our awareness of what we are celebrating for it is a strict fast day when no animal products may be consumed by the faithful. For although the ultimate victory in this spiritual warfare is assured, there are many battles yet to be faced by each of us.

Generations of would-be Christians have entertained themselves with the pleasant fiction that the way of the Cross need not interfere with *our* plans, that being a little religious is sufficient. Therein lies the path to frustration and disillusionment, for the New Life in Christ cannot be apprehended save by way of the Cross.

But coming to embrace this truth over the long slog of life unlocks for us the inner meaning of our Faith which, so forged, can withstand all the challenges thrown in our way. The way of the Cross is not a primrose path. It leads through the valley of the shadow of death, the death of my old self, into that bright land promised to the overcomers!

As we celebrate the Exaltation of the Cross this month let us commit ourselves to taking up our own with the help of the One who first carried it for us, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Handwritten signature of Fr. Apostolos Nihil

# Stewardship 2017

By Sandy Meris

## E ducate - P articipate - E levate

*As the Father has sent me, so I send you.*

John 20:21

### GETTING INVOLVED – GETTING COMMITTED

Our Stewardship 2017 campaign has been a success, and by no means is it over! As we transition from the relaxed days of summer, we gear back up for all of our Church ministries as they regroup in the Fall and new Ecclesiastical Year. School is back in session and that regular routine takes shape again in our lives.

**And if you still haven't filled out your Stewardship 2017 Pledge Card** – now is the time to do it. The new Ecclesiastical Year is a perfect time to re-establish one's commitments to our Church and all of its wonderful ministries. Go to [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org), click on the blue "Stewardship 2017" button on the right, fill out your pledge card and consider signing up for Parish Pay for easy, on-line automated monthly payments.

And we are proud to say that Stewardship 2017 continues to reach new heights. Currently, 329 parishioners have pledged \$374,047.

But Stewardship is not just about financial giving. It also encompasses our spiritual and social commitments to our Church as well. Have you signed your kids up for Sunday School, Greek School and Greek Dance? Have you re-committed yourself to the ministry where you volunteer your time? Perhaps you will consider expanding your horizons and joining a new ministry? Would you like to participate in the Divine Liturgy by singing in the choir? Do you want your kids to become more active in the youth programs? Consider committing yourself to helping with OPA. Are you called to help the less fortunate? The amazing ladies of **Philoptochos are the dedicated "right hand of the church" that do just that. One thing is for sure, Holy Trinity is not lacking for fellowship!**

So as Fall begins to take shape, there will be a few new changes coming to Stewardship. Parish Pay has been purchased by a new company called LPI, a Catholic stewardship and communications company. They will transition all of our Parish Pay customers to their on-line payment company called WeShare. We are told this transition will be seamless and simple.

This transition will be happening in early October, so as of right now, there is no action needed. But as this transition takes shape, we will keep everyone informed and assist in completing this transition. One other exciting new addition we will be making to Stewardship are in-home "small group" gatherings. **This give us the opportunity to come together in fellowship while gaining new insight into stewardship.** Our goals, our needs and how we can work together to make necessary change will be addressed.

Various parishioners will be opening their homes for small coffee socials or cocktail parties. Father Apostolos and one member of the Stewardship Committee will be on hand to answer questions and share information. **Are you interested in hosting a small gathering in your home with your "parea?" Please let Father or Sandy Meris know.** And if you are invited to one of these gatherings, we do hope you will attend.

Online giving is now available. Simply go to the Cathedral's website at [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org), click on the Stewardship 2017 button on the right, and fill out your Stewardship Pledge Card. Then, if you so choose, you can automate your payments by selecting Parish Pay. In a few easy steps you can become a Steward and keep current on your contributions.

# Message from the Parish Council



On August 17, Socrates Papadopoulos and Joe Goard were sworn in as the newest Parish Council members.

Photo by Sandy Meris

# New Epitaphion

The generosity of the Holy Trinity faithful provided the means to acquire this beautiful Epitaphion of the Theotokos.



It was first featured at the Great Vespers Service on the eve of the Feast of the Dormition.

# Dormition Service

August 14, 2017



# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

By Alex Anagnopoulos



**"FRIENDS OF THE POOR"**

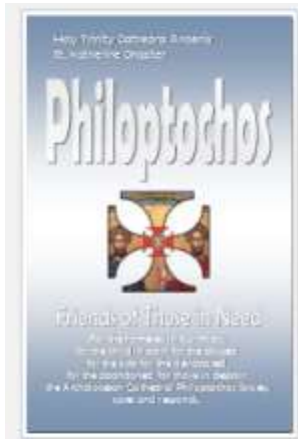
An organization where membership is an honor & a privilege.  
JOIN & ENRICH YOUR LIFE!



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



Philoptochos Board Members met on August 23 to discuss upcoming projects and events for 2017-2018.



Next general Philoptochos meeting is on Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 6:30pm. Meet in the St. George Chapel for the annual Blessing for the New Year.

## JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS 2017

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

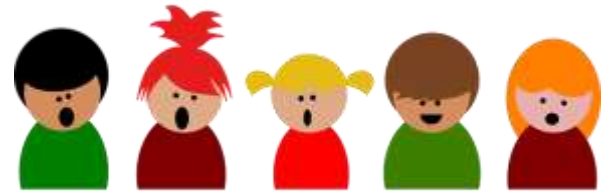
\$15 will be sent to the Archdiocese and \$15 to the Metropolis. Any amount over \$30 will be retained for our chapter charities and obligations.

Mail your membership to:

St. Katherine's Philoptochos of HTC Membership 2017, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016

# Music Ministry “Notes”

By Terri Alexon, Choir Director



*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual song, singing grace in your hearts to the Lord.”*

Colossians 3:16

A new Ecclesiastical Year is upon us and the Holy Trinity Cathedral Choir and the Byzantine Choir look forward to leading the congregation once again in song!

Whether it’s from the pews, chanter stand or choir loft, singing from the heart is what God expects from His faithful. It’s not a “spectator sport” but a very personal way of praising the Lord. With all the spiritual benefits of singing as an expressing of our love and gratitude to God, shouldn’t we train our children in the worshipful act of singing? Proverbs 22:6 says, “Train up your child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

Now is the time to encourage your child or grandchild (7 years or older) to participate in the Youth Choir. There’s no cost to join, but only a willingness to regularly attend practices that are held from September through May. Youth Choir rehearsals officially have recently begun and are held immediately following Liturgy or Sunday School in the community center “piano corner.” Adult Choir rehearsals are held most Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30pm.

Contact Choir Director Terri Alexon at 480-233-2416 or [hphxmusicdirector@gmail.com](mailto:hphxmusicdirector@gmail.com) for more information.



Curious how the Choir moves so quickly between Greek and English? Choir Director Terri holds up paddles reminding the singers what language to sing in!

For your continued edification, there are weekly video tapings of the Matins, Liturgy and special services posted by Joshua Pardhe on YouTube and Facebook. Subscribe and like us today

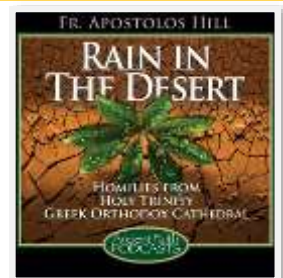


<https://www.facebook.com/holytrinityphx.org/>

## Rain In The Desert

Link to recordings of Father’s sermons: <http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/rain>

Sermons can also be found on the Cathedral website at [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org).



# Visions & Traditions Gala One Year Later – A Reflective Glance



September 10th, 2017 marks the one-year anniversary of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral's *Visions & Traditions Gala*. It is with great joy in my heart that I write to you, my fellow Orthodox Christians and Stewards, in remembrance of this special occasion.

I am reflecting on the impact of walking into the Speros Center that so many of you graciously shared with me and my fellow organizers. The hall was **adorned with crystals, a symbol of God's true light, beautiful fresh flowers, a gift of nature to all of us here on earth from God above; large monitors depicting historical pictures of the individuals and families that made commitments and personal sacrifices which facilitated the building of our holy Cathedral, indeed our spiritual home; the Speros Center for our use in cultivating community among us as well as reaching out to others; the Historical Library and so much more!** Those images also reflected photos of current events, fundraisers and celebrations of many different types, all in an **effort to support communion with our fellow parishioners in God's name.**



**The central theme of the evening was "Visions supported by the Traditions that have brought us here today," with emphasis on building off of those very "Visions & Traditions" moving forward. A renewal of our commitment and dedication to God and our one true faith. Our mission statement, if you will, was not only a gesture of appreciation to all those, past and present, who have done so much out of love and faithfulness to God and for our Church. It was intended to serve as a spark to light our path, in God's name, going forward. Most importantly, a celebration of our true faith, God's grace and a renewed commitment to work together as a spiritual family for the ultimate good of the Church.**

Kristen, editor of the *Desert Springs*, has graciously asked me to author a monthly column that focuses on related topics ranging from planning, theme development, behind-the-scenes **glimpses (never told before), to our collective commitment to define and execute our "vision" going forward.** In the course of submitting these columns I will be asking Co-Chair Vicki Bichekas to share her comments as well as others who served alongside me. Without their talents, commitment and support I most definitely would not have pulled this off! I will be reaching out, in due course, to many of you, members of my Orthodox family, to share your personal thoughts and reflections as well.

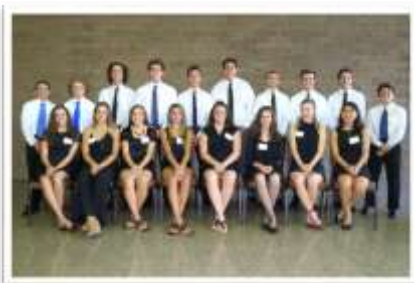


Thank you, Kristen, for your creativity and innovative ideas aimed at unifying our community. It is an honor **to be asked to support this worthwhile endeavor and truly do God's work.**

Until next time...

In Christ,

Angela Raup





# Koinonia, a New Ministry Under YAL

By Sophia Miller-Martinez

When I became a member at Holy Trinity, I was striving to find a parish that would become my home. More than anything, I wanted to be challenged to grow in my faith and my relationship with Christ. Koinonia came about when recently my friend Dan and I met for coffee one afternoon and confided that we both wanted to see more from the young adult community at Holy Trinity. Although there is a good number of young adults at the parish, we wanted to bring about a sense of unity. That's where the idea of Koinonia began. Both of us wanted to learn more about our faith and we decided to start a book club for the Orthodox young adults that would not only serve as a means of education and spiritual fulfillment but also fellowship with other young adults within the community. **"Koinonia" stands** for community and fellowship and it provides just that. The book chosen for this month is called Mount Athos: The Highest Place on Earth by Metropolitan Nikolas. This book tells the story of Metropolitan Nikolas' journey to Mount Athos and the people he encounters.


Since the book club began, it has evolved into a family, where now the group meets beyond the book club. I am incredibly grateful for the friendships I have made and I am proud to call Holy Trinity home! My prayer is that this club reaches more young adults within the community so that it continues to grow in the future.

For more information or to let us know you'll be joining in, email Daniel Valenzuela at [danvalenzuela15@gmail.com](mailto:danvalenzuela15@gmail.com) or text Sophia Miller-Martinez at [\(574\) 326-6362](tel:5743266362).




First book to start off the club:  
*Mount Athos: The Highest Place on Earth* by Nikolaos Mesogaia

## AHEPA 219



**AHEPA Chapter 219**

Please join us for our 4th Annual  
**Bowling Tournament**



**Saturday, October 21, 2017 2pm–4pm**  
Open to AHEPAN's and Non-AHEPAN's.

Contact Tim Floor for details:  
**602.616.1989**

**Next AHEPA 219 Meeting:**  
**Thursday**  
**September 21,**  
**2017**  
**6:30pm**  
**Holy Trinity**  
**Greek Orthodox**  
**Church**

Membership Info:  
Contact  
Pete Marudas  
602-284-1638

## AHEPA Chapter 219 2017/18 Scholarship Application

The 2017-2018 AHEPA Chapter 219 Scholarship Application is now available. All high school Seniors and current higher-learning students are encouraged to apply. Application deadline is October 28th, 2017, and the winners will be announced at our annual Christmas Gala on December 9th, 2017. Applications can be found at the Church office, on the website [AHEPA219.com](http://AHEPA219.com), or by contacting Ed Weiss, [ewpwrqly@gmail.com](mailto:ewpwrqly@gmail.com)

# Sunday School



Kay Ehrick makes delicious Frappes during Sunday School's Coffee Hour.



Evan Alexon collects paperwork for Sunday School registrations.



Sunday School Directors:  
Kalli Schneider at 602.568.3139  
or at [kpsgeeks@yahoo.com](mailto:kpsgeeks@yahoo.com) or  
Kay Ehrick at 602.628.8962  
or at [kehrick@yahoo.com](mailto:kehrick@yahoo.com)

# Back-To-School Blessing



# Altar Service

Interested in learning more about serving on the altar?

Contact Chris Francis  
[battersbox7@yahoo.com](mailto:battersbox7@yahoo.com),

David Haag  
[davidmhaag@yahoo.com](mailto:davidmhaag@yahoo.com)

or  
Deacon John Thrasher  
[thrasheraz@cox.net](mailto:thrasheraz@cox.net)



# Holy Trinity Academy

By Juli Pritsos

## HTA Is Celebrating All Things First!

As we embark on the new Ecclesiastical Year I am reminded that this is my favorite time of year. It is filled with all of my favorite things, Autumn, feeling relaxed and rejuvenated from the summer, and my favorite thing of all – the first days of school!



I have always loved school – the excitement of seeing friends, meeting teachers, learning new things, playing sports, the change of weather and a more structured routine. This is my twelfth year at HTA and that means that this is my twelfth first day of school with the Littles!

I know what a privilege it is to work in an environment that allows us to teach Orthodoxy all day long. Our entire academic ministry is a labor of love to help our Littles develop into wonderful



Bigs! This does not happen overnight or by accident. With our gardening and fine arts programs married with our overall curricula we know that we have an incredibly well-rounded program that creates memories and learning experiences coupled with small class sizes that are key **to our students' success** from the first day to the last. It is so rewarding to partner with our parents to be a part of that! To be trusted with their most



prized possession is such an amazing gift and I am grateful to every family that chooses HTA as the school that their child will have their first day of **school at. That doesn't get to happen twice and we love celebrating all of their firsts!**



Just as HTA partners with parents for **their children's** success our parents partner with us for ours. We all work together for

the greater good of this wonderful and caring school. We are excited for the opportunity to



share parent information about HTA at our upcoming Greek Festival and we are looking forward to being a part of Raising Arizona Kids Education Conference at the Squaw Peak Hilton, where we will showcase our school all while networking with other educators and support systems. Look for information

later in the fall for our Spring fundraiser, *A Toast to the Future*, where we will join hands with another philanthropic organization that benefits children. Over the years we have been very blessed with the success of this event to continue the growth and beautification of HTA and it feels great to be in a position to share a platform to help others.



With all of these wonderful things in store for this new school year **it's no wonder that I am excited for the first day of school! I've got my bag packed, pencils**

**sharpened, I'm ready to make new friends, try new things, and learn so much more than I teach.** For more information please call, 602-248-3881, or email [julipritsos@holyltrinityacademyphx.org](mailto:julipritsos@holyltrinityacademyphx.org).

### HTA Staff:

Mercy Peña-Alevizos – Preschool Teacher Extraordinaire

Costa Pritsos – After Care Aficionado

Juli Pritsos – Director and Humble Servant

# St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

By Patsy Harris

I recently read a mostly-biographical story about John Newton, the man who wrote the hymn “Amazing Grace” in 1773, one of the very few non-Orthodox hymns accepted in the Church, since it quotes Holy Scripture in several places. I was surprised to find that John Newton was so far from being “saintly” that he continually mocked God and those who believed in Him before accepting that He existed at all! Before Newton accepted that God is real, he was a sailor and later a captain very much involved with the African slave trade on England’s (and his own!) behalf. Yet after Newton became a pastor of the Church of England, as an older man, he was also very instrumental in helping to change opinion and laws against slavery. The point the author made was what impressed me enough to want to share this with you:



**“Experiencing God’s grace is only the beginning of the journey. God doesn’t expect us to be perfect. And He can in fact use our imperfections to make an impact, sometimes even world-changing impacts. But most of all, I hope [this story] reminds you that there is a God Who loves you. Unconditionally. No matter where you’ve been. Or what you’ve done. He will always love you and welcome you home.” (Jody Hedlund, Newton & Polly)**

My prayer for all of us is that, as we begin again our Liturgical Journey to Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, we take these words to heart. God is real, and loves us unconditionally. He does use our imperfections and human sufferings to make an impact on us, or on those around us, when He chooses us to be examples of His Grace!

## September Holy Days:

**September 8:** Nativity of the Theotokos – It is appropriate that the first great feast of the liturgical year brings us into the presence of the Blessed Mother of God, the highest example of human holiness!

**September 14:** Exaltation of the Holy Cross – At this second of the great feasts we encounter the Holy Cross, which reminds us that Christ suffered His Passion and was crucified for our salvation because of His love for us. **We are reminded to “bear our own Cross [the ones He gives us, our human trials, which are one of the aspects of the Cross of Christ] and follow Him.” Yet the Orthodox Church focuses upon the empty Cross, rather than a crucifix, because although Christ allowed Himself to be crucified for our sakes He also Resurrected Himself to remind us of His promise of Life Everlasting through Him.**

**September 26:** Falling Asleep of St. John the Theologian (Evangelist) – St. John authored his Gospel in Ephesus and wrote Revelations while exiled in Patmos. Tradition has it that he died in Ephesus around 104 A.D., at over the age of 100 years. He is also remembered on May 8.

Have a very blessed month! Come visit and reflect on what you must personally do to follow Christ!

If St. Nectarios Books and Beyond can assist in any way, please contact us at:

[www.stnectariosbooksandbeyond.org](http://www.stnectariosbooksandbeyond.org) or [patsy@stnectariosphx.org](mailto:patsy@stnectariosphx.org)

Patsy Harris – (480) 239-5270

# Desert Diamonds



Senior Parishioners  
and their guests

## 2017-2018 Desert Diamonds Schedule

September 30, 2017, Saturday

St. Katherine Festival 10:30am-1:30pm

2716 N. Dobson Rd. Chandler, AZ 85224

Van pick up at Holy Trinity to St. Katherine  
10:30am

Van return from St. Katherine to Holy Trinity  
1:30pm

October 18, 2017, Wednesday, 10:00am

Uptown Farmers Market

North Phoenix Baptist Church:

5757 N. Central Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85012

SE Corner of Bethany Home/Central in Phoenix

November 16, 2017, Thursday, 10:30am

Picnic in the park 10:30am – Park TBD

November 28, 2017, Tuesday, 10:00am

Christmas Trees at Scottsdale Mall

View the decorated Christmas trees

7014 E. Camelback Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Meet in the food court at 10:00am

December 21, 2017, Thursday, 10:30am

HT Christmas Party

At Holy Trinity Speros Community Center

Potluck and Gift exchange

January \_\_, 10:30am

Lunch at The Orchard at Lucy's

7100 N. 12th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85020

February 14, 2018, Wednesday, 9:30am

Light Rail ride and lunch

Meet at Light Rail station at Central and  
Camelback

Get off Light Rail and eat lunch

March 8, 2018, Thursday

Picnic in the park – Park TBD

April 19, 2018, Thursday, 11:00am

Lunch and games at Spaghetti Factory

Spaghetti Factory address: 1418 N. Central Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85004

Meet at Spaghetti Factory at 11:00am

May 17, 2018, Thursday, 10:30am

Potluck and games

At Holy Trinity Speros Community Center

Contact Nickolette Tavlarides at 602-725-8653 or  
Sheila Asala at 623-680-8676 for more information  
or to R.S.V.P.

# Epistle Readers

To all youth and young adults: we continue our rotation of readers of the Epistle each Sunday Liturgy! Please contact Fr. Apostolos if you would like to get involved. Even if you might be uncomfortable reading, Father and others have offered to help you prepare. This is a beautiful ministry and way to participate in the life of the Church, so please consider taking part!



Not pictured: Mary Pardhe

## “Let Us Love One Another...”



## Follow Us on Facebook

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

<https://www.facebook.com/holytrinityphx.org/>



# Greek School and Cultural Program

By Irene Dartooszos-Mackos  
[airinie@gmail.com](mailto:airinie@gmail.com)



Register Today! Classes begin Wednesday, September 13th, 5-7pm  
 Students must be 3 and potty-trained.  
 Ages 3-12 years.

Registration will be closing on September 6th at 6pm to finalize the classrooms.

## Greek School Curriculum

Preschool: Songs, basic vocabulary

Level I (K /1): Introduces the Greek Alphabet, basic vocabulary, grammar

Level II: **Continues the student's vocabulary grammar and reading**

Level III: More complex grammar, including the future tense.



## 2017-2018 Greek School Calendar

Greek School Classes Wednesday 5-7pm

Cultural Greek School every 3rd Wednesday 6-7pm

2017

Wednesday, September 13 1st day of Greek School  
 Wednesday, September 20  
 Wednesday, September 27 Culture School/Greek Flag/ Map of Greece  
 Wednesday, October 4  
 Wednesday, October 11 **NO SCHOOL (GREEK FESTIVAL)**  
 Wednesday, October 18 Culture School/ OXI day (October 28)  
 Wednesday, October 25  
 Wednesday, November 1  
 Wednesday, November 8  
 Wednesday, November 15 Cultural School/ Koulourakia (fundraiser)  
 Wednesday, November 22 **NO SCHOOL (THANKSGIVING)**  
 Wednesday, November 29  
 Wednesday, December 6  
 Wednesday, December 13  
 Wednesday, December 20 **NO SCHOOL (CHRISTMAS)**  
 Wednesday, December 28 **NO SCHOOL (CHRISTMAS)**

2018

Wednesday, January 3 **NO SCHOOL (WINTER BREAK)**  
 Wednesday, January 10  
 Wednesday, January 17 Cultural School/Vasilopita baking/Blessing  
 Wednesday, January 24  
 Wednesday, January 31  
 Wednesday, February 7  
 Wednesday, February 14  
 Wednesday, February 21 Cultural School/ Lenten Cake  
 Wednesday, February 28  
 Wednesday, March 7  
 Wednesday, March 14  
 Wednesday, March 21 Cultural School/ 25th of March  
 Wednesday, March 28  
 Wednesday, April 4 **NO SCHOOL (GOOD WEDNESDAY)**  
 Wednesday, April 11  
 Wednesday, April 18 Cultural School  
 Wednesday, April 25  
 Wednesday, May 2  
 Wednesday May 8 Cultural School/Graduation  
 Greek Proficiency Exam

### Special Dates:

November 5-12 Presale Koulourakia (fundraiser)  
 November 19 Delivery of Koulourakia by the Greek School  
 December 24 Greek School Christmas Performance after Divine Liturgy  
 February 10 Apokries Celebration (Dinner/Dance)  
 March 25 Independence Day Celebration and Lenten Luncheon

# Tell Us Something Good

To all my friends  
and sisters in  
Philochochos,

I want to thank every  
one of you for your good  
wishes, phone calls, and cards.

Love, Argyro Vasquez



# Our Church Family

## Baptism

“For as many of you  
as were baptized  
into Christ have put  
on Christ.”

Galatians 3:27



8/5/2017

Isaiah, son of Angela & Ken Walker

Godparents are Rachel & James Tavlarides

# Lost & Found



There are a lot of items in the Lost & Found!  
Do you recognize any of these? Contact the  
Church Office for more information.



# Your Desert Springs Subscription

## Desert Springs Subscription

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

\$3 per issue

There are 11 issues for 2017 (June and July is one combined issue), \$12 for 4 remaining issues

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

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

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

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

Return this form to the Church Office or contact Kristen at 602-332-8809 or  
[kvasilarakos@cox.net](mailto:kvasilarakos@cox.net) for more information.

Office use: Payment received on (date) \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_

# Original Phoenix Greek Festival

October 13, 14, & 15

By Kristen Vasilarakos, Nick Kretsedemas, and Angelo Pestrivas



We have sent out *five* weekly Festival Hot List emails so far. Thank you to all of you who have responded! We have had many of the listed items partially or fully completed by our generous parishioners. Keep checking the weekly list for ways you can participate.

We received this note from two of our parishioners:

Fellow Stewards,

We would like to share with our fellow Stewards one way in which we make a contribution toward increasing the number of people who attend the Festival. We buy tickets in bulk to pass out to others when inviting them to come... even strangers who become excited when we mention to them "THE" Greek Festival is steadily approaching. It is a way to make a meaningful donation to the Festival/Church which carries with it potential to exponentially increase "the bottom line." At \$3/ticket, which, on average translates into \$28 of additional revenue, it is a bargain with potential for a big reward! We have experienced the joy of seeing strangers at the event, who might not have otherwise attended, who are very appreciative of the gesture and who, miraculously, show interest in and curiosity about our faith!

In Christ,

Angela & Cal Raup

Great idea! Admission Tickets and Gift Certificates go on sale during Coffee Hour beginning Sunday, September 10, 2017 and through the Church Office the following Monday.

## Koulourakia

August 17, 2017



Photos by Sheila Asala

## Weekend Baking!

For the first time in many years, we are offering a Saturday date to make the Tsoureki (the braided bread).

Saturday, September 30, 2017  
9am  
Lunch provided

This is a great opportunity to join the baking teams, whether you are an experienced baker or are a novice!

No need to r.s.v.p.—we'd love to see you there!



# OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

By Cindy Kyprianou, President



Newborn-Pre K of age youth group.  
For information contact Jennifer Kourouglos:  
[jennifer@azluxuryhomegroup.com](mailto:jennifer@azluxuryhomegroup.com)



Grades K-2nd  
For information contact Evan Tsagaris: [etsagaris89@gmail.com](mailto:etsagaris89@gmail.com)



Grades 3rd-5th  
For information contact Evan Tsagaris: [etsagaris89@gmail.com](mailto:etsagaris89@gmail.com)



Grades 6th-8th  
For information contact Jacque Petroulakis: [cpetroulakis@cox.net](mailto:cpetroulakis@cox.net)



High School 9th-12th grades  
For information contact Paulina Watson: [watsonapoulos@yahoo.com](mailto:watsonapoulos@yahoo.com)

**\*NEW THIS YEAR\*** Sr. GOYA Youth Forum  
Meeting every first Wednesday of the month at 6pm in the GOYA room beginning September 6.

## Back to School Bootcamp

for YOUTH groups K-12th:

Friday, September 22nd at 5:00pm

Saturday, September 23rd at 10:00am

## Little Lambs

Sunday, August 6, 2017



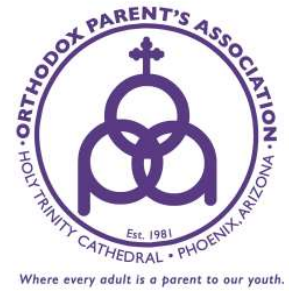
## Do you get OPA emails?

OPA communicates primarily through email via our e-newsletter. To stay informed of all of the youth, parent, and family happenings at Holy Trinity, make sure you are receiving these emailed newsletters. It's easy, just email your information to [Cjecomom@gmail.com](mailto:Cjecomom@gmail.com) or [cwkyprrianou@hotmail.com](mailto:cwkyprrianou@hotmail.com) and we'll get you added to the list.

# Dance

By Niko Panagiotakopoulos

Dance Season is back upon us!



We're very excited to have so many new dancers and teachers with us as we kick off our Festival preparation! We have almost 100 dancers in our program this year ranging from 4-25 years old and love seeing the program grow more and more. We're holding practices every Sunday (other than Labor Day Weekend), through the Festival and we look forward to all the support we'll get on the dance floor!

We have some big changes in store for FDF this year as it is being held over Martin Luther King Weekend in January to accommodate for an early Lent/Easter. If you are interested in attending, we are planning on taking at least two groups up to the Bay Area for the first time in almost twenty years! For more information, please reach out to Niko Panagiotakopoulos!

If you are not receiving emails from the dance program and want to be added to the list, please reach out to [npanos01@yahoo.com](mailto:npanos01@yahoo.com).

## Practices:

### NO PRACTICE 9/3 - Labor Day weekend

Wednesday, 9/6 - 7:00pm

Sunday, 9/10 - 12:15pm

Wednesday, 9/13 - 7:00pm

Sunday, 9/17 - 12:15pm

Wednesday, 9/20 - 7:00pm

Sunday, 9/24 - 12:15pm

Wednesday, 9/27 - 7:00pm

Sunday, 10/1 - 12:15pm

Wednesday, 10/4 - 7:00pm

**DRESS REHEARSAL - Sunday, 10/8 at 12:15pm**

**Slab Rehearsal - Wednesday, 10/11 at 6:00pm**



The 8th-11th grade dancers

# Congratulatory and Happy Ads!

In each issue, Desert Springs will offer the opportunity for our community to share good news with others! Ads will be a standard 1/8" of a page (horizontal).



Sample Size

This is the place to recognize your family, friends and fellow parishioners for anniversaries, birthdays, graduations, get wells, awards, special accomplishments, good deeds, above-and-beyond volunteering—anything that is positive, endearing and thoughtful.

Cost is \$20 per ad for one issue. Photos are acceptable.

Fill out the form and include an optional photo and full payment (cash or check) and drop in the boxes in the Narthex and Church Office or mail to Kristen Vasilarakos c/o Holy Trinity Cathedral, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, 85016. Checks payable to Holy Trinity Cathedral. Or contact Kristen at [kvasilarakos@cox.net](mailto:kvasilarakos@cox.net) for more information.

Ads will be designed by the Desert Springs staff. Submitter will be contacted prior to publishing if editing of the content of the wording is needed.



Congratulatory and Happy Ads for the *Desert Springs* monthly publication:

Wording: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I understand the staff will design the ad at their discretion and will contact me if content changes are needed. \_\_\_\_ (initial)

I need the included photo returned to me.  Yes  No \_\_\_\_ (initial)

I am including \$20 by cash or check (checks payable to Holy Trinity Cathedral). \_\_\_\_ (initial)

I wish to remain anonymous.  Yes  No \_\_\_\_ (initial)

Submitter's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitter's Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**~ September 2017 ~**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>Coffee Hour – OPA</b>	<b>1</b> <b>BEGINNING OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR</b> 6:00pm- Youth & Young Adult Paraklesis	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 8:00am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy Youth Choir Sunday Kompos Memorial	<b>4</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>5</b> HTA First Day of School	<b>6</b> 6pm - Sr. GOYA Youth Forum (GOYA Room) 7pm- Dance Practice (CC/ Ed. Bldg.) 7pm-8:30pm – Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm – OCF at ASU	<b>7</b> 6:30pm – Blessing of the Waters & Oath of Office (Chapel) 7pm – Philoptochos Meeting (Lounge)	<b>8</b> <b>NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS</b> 8:00am- Matins 9:00am- Liturgy 6:00pm- Youth & Young Adult Paraklesis	9 9:00am Sunday School Teachers Training  5pm – OCF Bar-B-que
<b>10</b> <b>SUNDAY BEFORE HOLY CROSS</b> 8:00am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy OPA Luncheon 1 <sup>st</sup> Day of Sunday School Youth Choir Rehearsal (CC at “Piano Corner”) 12:15pm- Dance Practice (CC/Ed. Bldg.)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 5-7pm –First Day of Greek School (Ed Bldg.) 6pm - HTA Board Meeting (Ed. Bldg. Café) 7pm- Dance Practice (CC/ Ed. Bldg.) 7:00pm – Vespers for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross 8:00pm – OCF at ASU	<b>14</b> <b>EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> 8:00am- Matins 9:00am- Liturgy  6pm - Parish Council meeting (Conference Room)	<b>15</b>  6:00pm- Youth & Young Adult Paraklesis	<b>16</b> 9:00am Sunday School Teachers Training
<b>17</b> <b>SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS</b> 8:00am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy Philoptochos Tray Youth Choir Rehearsal (CC at “Piano Corner”) 12:15pm- Dance Practice (CC/Ed. Bldg.)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9am Baking (Tsoureki)	<b>20</b> 9am – Baking (Baklava) 10am – Bible Study (Ed. Bldg. Café) 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg.) 7pm- Dance Practice (CC/ Ed. Bldg.) 8:00pm – OCF at ASU	<b>21</b> 9am – Baking (Baklava) 6pm – AHEPA (Small Hall)	<b>22</b> 5:00pm- Back to School Bootcamp 6:00pm- Youth & Young Adult Paraklesis	<b>23</b> <b>CONCEPTION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST</b> <b>8:00am- Matins</b> <b>9:00am- Teaching Liturgy</b> 9am - Festival Set-Up 10:00am- Back to School Bootcamp
<b>24</b> 8:00am –Matins 9:30am – Liturgy 12:15pm- Dance Practice (CC/Ed. Bldg.)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>FALLING ASLEEP OF ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN</b> 8:00am- Matins 9:00am- Liturgy	<b>27</b> 9am – Baking (Baklava) 10am – Bible Study 5pm-7pm – Cultural Greek School 7pm- Dance Practice (CC/ Ed. Bldg.) 7pm-8:30pm – Choir Rehearsal 8:00pm – OCF at ASU	<b>28</b> 9am – Baking (Baklava)	<b>29</b>  6:00pm- Youth & Young Adult Paraklesis	30 9am - Festival Set-Up 9am – Baking (Tsoureki) Desert Diamonds Ride to St. Katherine’s Festival (Meet at Holy Trinity for Pick-Up)

Calendar is subject to change.