

Desert Springs

October 2017
Volume 2 Issue 9



Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85016
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Rev. Deacon John Thrasher

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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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www.holytrinityphx.org

Metropolis of San Francisco Website
www.SanFran.goarch.org

Archdiocese Website
www.goarch.org

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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
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Philoptochos — Alex Anagnopoulos
Sons of Pericles — David Salzetti, 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



A Taste of Home

Every year since we arrived in Phoenix I have received a smattering of phone calls from neighbors and others inquiring about the dates of our annual parish festival even weeks before it begins. We must really have made an impression on our former guests and patrons to account for such persistence! The sights, sounds, and smells of home draw us and our neighbors irresistibly to our campus, even those who have never visited Greece!

Other cultural groups celebrate their heritage as well in Scottish-Irish festivals, Cinco de Mayo celebrations, Juneteenth remembrances, and Dragon Boat races across the nation. And at each of these festive occasions, all are invited to participate whether culturally akin to the host group or not. What accounts for such homesickness that we yearn to reconnect to the lands of our birth or origin?

Humanity is hard-wired for community and for personal connection, a principle so well-established among ancient Greeks that those who remained aloof from the community were referred to as "idiots." This yearning is reinforced by the atomized nature of modern life with self-check kiosks in department and grocery stores and at the gas station. For the truly anti-social, online shopping brings the world to our doors! But underlying this "nation of strangers" we have become there remains a hunger for connection.

This heartfelt desire for our homeland is poignantly expressed in the 137th Psalm written by those who were carried into captivity in Babylon, miles from Jerusalem; *"By the waters of Babylon we set down and wept when we remembered Zion, where we hung our lyres on the willow branches. For our captors required songs of us and our tormentors laughed, saying; 'Sing us a song of Zion!' But how can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?"*

This sentiment is easily understood by those who migrated abroad and who left a piece of themselves behind in their native lands. Elderly Greeks will frequently "forget" their English language skills and revert to Greek at the end of their days, for though they seemed to settle into American life they remained Hellenes at heart!

In like manner, each of us as Orthodox Christians "remember Zion" in our hearts and though we may strive to settle into daily life in the Babylon of America we can never feel completely at home. "How," or where, "can we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land?" We do so at every celebration of the Divine Liturgy when we invoke the Kingdom of God and gather around His banquet table.

In the Divine Liturgy we breathe the atmosphere of Zion in prayer. There we enjoy the music of the heavenly kingdom and are surrounded by "so great a cloud of witnesses" (Heb. 12:1) in a celestial "family reunion" with the Saints of God. And there we taste the Heavenly Food of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ offered to citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem!

As we celebrate our annual parish festival again this year, let us be mindful to share not only the joy of our Greek and Hellenic culture in the music, dances, and foods of our earthly homeland, but also the grace, peace, mercy, and *philotimo* (grateful indebtedness) of our Heavenly Homeland as citizens of the Kingdom of God with each precious soul God draws onto our Holy Trinity Cathedral campus!

Stewardship 2017

By Sandy Meris

E ducate - P articipate - E levate

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

John 20:21

Online giving is now available. Simply go to the Cathedral's website at 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.

Altar Service



Interested in learning more about serving on the altar?

Contact Chris Francis at battersbox7@yahoo.com, David Haag at davidmhaag@yahoo.com or Deacon John Thrasher at thrasheraz@cox.net

I've also included a bulletin insert. Please encourage people to register on our website - as we appreciate knowing how many materials to prepare and we can give you a best estimate for food.

The website tab under conferences: www.familywellnessministry.org/conferences

Music Ministry “Notes”

By Terri Alexon, Choir Director



National Church Music Sunday

Each year on the first Sunday in October, Orthodox parishes across America celebrate National Church Music Sunday. This is a day we set aside to honor the contributions of clergy, chanters, choir directors, choir members, and other musicians, educators, and composers who serve or who have served in a parish music ministry. This commemoration was inaugurated in 1982 by His Eminence, Archbishop Iakovos, and has been re-affirmed by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios.

One of the most prolific and respected hymnographers of the Orthodox Church is St. Romanos the Melodist who is the patron saint of church musicians. He is credited with composing thousands of hymns that have enriched our worship services. The most well-known work of St. Romanos is the Kontakion **hymn celebrating the Nativity of the Lord, “I Parthenos Simeron,” and the Akathist Hymn, which we still sing during Salutations to the Virgin Mary services of Great Lent.**

St. Romanos was a Syrian Christian of Jewish ancestry who lived in the sixth century. He was ordained a deacon and served in the Church of Beirut. Unlike other hymnographers, St. Romanos wrote his hymns in simple language and produced a pleasant meter in the verse by the way he accented words, appealing to **the hearts of the people. As a result, he was called “Glykofonos” or “Sweet Singer.” St. Romanos died on October 1st in 510 A.D.**

As Orthodox Christians, we are thankful for the profound work of St. Romanos, who deserves to be recognized by all who sing and by all who listen to the beautiful and inspiring hymnology of our services.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral Church Musicians

Clergy: Rev. Ekonomos Apostolos Hill, Proistamenos
Deacon John Thrasher

Byzantine Choir: George Duvall, Protopsaltis
Samuel Herron Elizabeth Pardhe
David Haig Joshua Pardhe
Mary Pardhe

Cathedral Choir: Terri Alexon, Director
Terry Seretis, Organist

Evan Alexon	Emily Kruljac
Monica Ashton	Greg Lizanich
Tiffani Bichekas	Joanna Mastorakos
Zoe Cartier	Susie Papadopoulos
Sharon Daniolos	Irene Pappas
Basil Davis	Billy Tavlarides
Doree Drakos	Mary Louise Theodoropoulos
Christina Gardner	Ari Vardalos
Patsy Harris	Peter Vardalos
Marianna Kaneris	Grace Wombacher
Roula Kaneris	Alexa Wood
Tina Zannis	

Music Ministry "Notes" continued from page 7

In Memoriam

"The choir of saints has found the source of life and the gateway to paradise..." Psalm 119

Jim Devolites
George Dimitropoulos
Helen Goodfriend
Elena Haita
Nick Harris
Faye King
Kally Kyriazis
Maria Mitchell
Despina Mistovich
Anna Nikolatos
Marika Zorbas

Zachary Panagos
Gabriel Papagalos
Helen Papagalos
Albert Pavasil
Dorothy Pavasil
Trifon Petrouleas
Michael Stakias
Kalliope Stavrou
Greg Synodis
Virginia Synodis



May their memory be eternal!

National Church Music Sunday Speros Center Performance



Sunday School and Youth Choir sing "When I Sing to the Lord" by Steve Cardiasmenos



Cathedral Choir sings "Amazing Grace" accompanied by Terry Seretis



New Catechism Series

"What Every Christian Should Know."

Every new home or commercial building requires a firm foundation if it is to stand the test of time. The Christian Faith has endured and flourished because of the bedrock doctrine upon which it was established. St. Paul encourages the first believers of Ephesus in Asia minor "But you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow **citizens of the saints and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone.**"



And our growth in the Christian Faith is predicated upon mastering the basics as St. Paul also wrote to the Ephesians; "as we mature to the full measure of the stature of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed about by the waves and carried around by every wind of teaching and by the clever cunning of men in their deceitful scheming."

Join your Holy Trinity Cathedral family beginning Wednesday, October 4th at 6:00PM in the St. George Chapel for the first in a 7-week series on "What Every Christian Should Know." Units in the series are;

- God in Three Persons
- God in Creation
- God in Redemption
- God among His People
- God in my Daily Life
- God in His eternal Kingdom
- God in the Hedges

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

By Alex Anagnopoulos

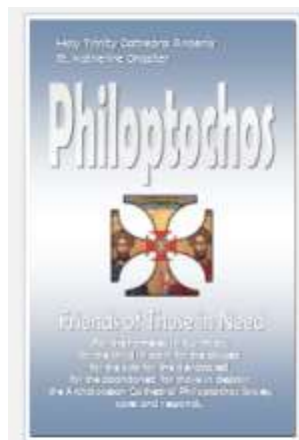


St. Katherine faceted glass icon in the south wing of the Narthex.



"FRIENDS OF THE POOR"

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



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

Koinonia, Young Adult Book Club

AHEPA 219

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, or by contacting Ed Weiss, ewpwrqly@gmail.com

Sunday School



Sunday School Directors:
Kalli Schneider at 602.568.3139
or at kpsgeeks@yahoo.com or
Kay Ehrick at 602.628.8962
or at kehrick@yahoo.com

Holy Trinity Academy

By Juli Pritsos

Why Parents Choose HTA

It is becoming clearer that early childhood **education is a key component to a child's school success.** The knowledge and independence that is gained and encouraged are instrumental life skills that will last a lifetime. It means a great deal when you combine that with the security of knowing that your preschooler or kindergartner is in a loving and caring environment.

Yvette Sherman works in the early education field and is mom to kindergartner Emery. She knows all too well how much HTA means to their whole family. **"This is our daughter's 3rd year at HTA and we are sad it's going to be her last. We are forever grateful to HTA and their incredible teachers for their continued support, knowledge, and love they've given. We have been fortunate to find a school with such a rich, nurturing curriculum and environment that has significantly impacted our daughters social, emotional and cognitive growth. Thank you, HTA!"**



Our preschool and kindergarten curriculum emphasizes a strong academic foundation. We also teach Modern Greek and have a fine art and gardening program that develops curiosity and a love of **learning, but there's no**

question that having Orthodoxy as part of our curriculum is what sets us apart, not just in the local area but in all of Arizona. Our families are witness to its rich **doctrine and Christ's deep love for us. Each child who walks through our doors knows that we have love in our hearts because Christ lives there. It's a concept that is continually reinforced and parents love it!** Marko Knezevic, member of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church totally gets it! He **recently told me, "HTA is my school of choice because it promotes a fun and relaxed**

environment and makes my 3-year old son Oliver comfortable without much anxiety. It also introduces kids to the Traditional Christian Orthodox faith which I feel is very important to early child **development."** Maria Piatt agrees, **"This year is my daughters first year at Holy Trinity Academy and we are enjoying it very much. Father Apostolos makes us feel at home and genuinely cares about the children. We are very blessed to be apart of HTA!"**



So many schools are bursting at the seams with students and some would say that that is success, but I disagree. Quantity is not always quality. Our small class sizes and one-on-one attention coupled with our expertise and knowledge creates an atmosphere that **fosters a child's success. That**

success translates to children having the confidence and ability to do and be whatever they dream of becoming!

Lucas is a student in our Pre-K3 class and started HTA without knowing any English. His parents are Romanian and members of St. John the Baptist Romanian Orthodox church. Preschool was important, but finding an Orthodox school was **absolutely perfect! We catered to Lucas's needs from his first day and that attention did not go unnoticed. "We love the school because of its small environment, its Christian focus and the attention and love our son receives. I also like the great communication between teachers and parents."** Now, **less than a year later, Lucas is communicating with us in English, learning how to say different things in Greek, and is able to tell us how his day was!** Lucas is not the exception. We **strive to meet every child's needs** – to build their strengths, recognize their weaknesses and get them to believe that with God all things are possible!

For more information on HTA call Juli Pritsos, director at 602-248-3881 or email julipritsos@holytrinityacademyphx.org.

St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

By Patsy Harris

While October is a very busy month for all of us as we prepare and hold our Festival, please let's try to take some time to remember to pray, not only for a good Festival, but for a Good Accounting of our faith when the time comes for us to be held accountable. Too often in these busy days I have found myself forgetting that being Orthodox is a privilege for which many have paid with their very lives. As Father Apostolos has reminded us, WE are the Church, and for the Church to survive in this world ruled by Satan requires that each of us be ACTIVELY living and sharing our faith in our God!

Many of you may know of the “Voice of the Martyrs” organization and their publications, but for me, this is new. It astounds me to learn from first-hand accounts of the torture and killings of Christians around the world. I know rationally that this exists, of course, but reading the stories as told by those who are actually experiencing these evils is almost beyond my comprehension. I recently received a free copy of the book Hearts of Fire, a collection of stories of eight women from around the world who are active members of the “Underground Church.” **These women sacrifice much daily to provide their testimonies of Who our Great God is to those who would not, indeed could not, otherwise know of Him.** What impressed me the most in this book is that these martyrs and missionaries of the Faith are all *recent!* The dates of their stories range from 1945 to 2000!! They are not Saints that we think of only as having existed in the past but are **living** Saints, today, now!

How much we here in the United States, myself included, take our ability to learn about and to practice our **Orthodoxy as a “given” and not as an “earned” right!** **May we all be humbled by these examples, and may we grow in our faith, and in our expression of it. Let's use the Festival for its most important purpose – sharing and modeling our Orthodoxy!**

October Holy Days:

October 1: St. Romanos/Orthodox Music Sunday – St. Romanos was a Syrian Jew who became a priest at Constantinople. He is the greatest of the Greek hymnographers, and Patron of Choirs!

October 6: Thomas the Apostle

October 18: Luke the Evangelist

October 18: Marinos the Martyr – he was from Cilicia (Asia Minor) and for his confession of faith in Christ, he was subjected to fierce beatings and then killed during the reign of the Emperor Diocletian (284-305).

October 26: St. Demetrios of Thessalonica, the Myrrh-Streamer – as a Roman Imperial Soldier, Demetrios preached Christianity (although his Emperor charged him to persecute and kill Christians!) and converted many of his fellow soldiers. This angered the Emperor Maximianus, who ordered him imprisoned. While in prison, Demetrios told his friend Nestor to challenge the giant Gladiator Lyaecus, in order to show the power of Christian prayer. Nestor did this, and defeated the gladiator. The Emperor was so enraged that he ordered the immediate death of both Demetrios and Nestor. After Christians buried St. Demetrios, his relics began to produce healing fragrant myrrh!

Interestingly, the name “Demetrios” has no English translation. The many “Jimmys” who have adopted this Saint as their Name's Day Saint is believed to have come from the often used nickname “Mimi.” In English this nickname comes from “James,” but this name is “Iakovos” in Greek!

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 or patsy@stnectariosphx.org

Patsy Harris – (480) 239-5270

Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners
and their guests

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!

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

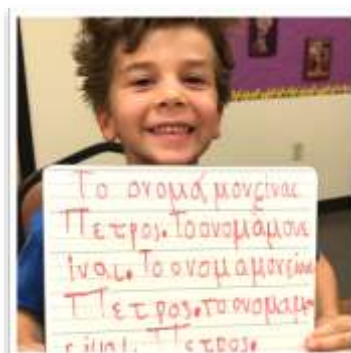
By Irene Dartoozos-Mackos
airinie@gmail.com



Holy Trinity Greek and Heritage School of Phoenix has started.

We are committed to teaching the Greek language and culture as a unique concept and we actively promote in students a sense of cultural identity and ethos.

Our school is a vibrant, small language school that is enjoyed fully by students, teachers and parents.



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

Our Church Family

Baptism



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), \$9 for 3 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 for more information.

Office use: Payment received on (date) ___ / ___ / ___

Original Phoenix Greek Festival

October 13, 14, & 15



Photos by Sheila Asala

OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

Cindy Kyprianou, President



OPA Board members

Back to School Bootcamp

for YOUTH groups K-12th:

Friday, September 22nd at 5:00pm

Saturday, September 23rd at 10:00am

OPA, continued

NEW THIS YEAR

Sr. GOYA Round Table with Evan
This Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 6pm.

Meet in the New & Improved GOYA Room.

NOTE: please wear comfortable clothing that you can paint in and get messy!
Any questions, please contact Evan at etsagaris89@gmail.com.

GOYA Room Remodel Photos



HOPE & JOY

A Night of Fun!

Friday, October 20th, 2017
from 6:00 - 8:30pm

Meet at Holy Trinity's Speros Center Large Hall
(Parents feel free to drop off your
HOPE & JOY kids for this event)

For more information,
contact Evan at etsagaris89@gmail.com

Calling all Parents!

Drop off the kids
(like at the HOPE & JOY event),
and come join us for a fun night out!
Parents of all age levels welcome!

Parent's Night Out

Friday, October 20th, 2017
6:00pm - you decide when to leave

George's Kitchen
6102 North 16th Street, Suite 1
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Dance

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.



Festival Practices:

Wednesday, 10/4 - 7:00pm

Dress Rehearsal—Sunday, 10/8 at 12:15pm

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

Dance Costumes



Try on all Costumes asap!

All Dancers should wear their full dance costume on Sunday, 10/8. Costumes **MUST** be returned immediately after Grand Finale Sunday, 10/15.

If you have any costume related questions, contact Sandy Annos at sannos@cox.net

Gold Canyon Candles

ATTN: All Dancers selling candles

Your candle order forms/sales are due this Sunday, 10/8. Please turn in all your paperwork to Paulina Watson.

Any questions, contact Paulina Watson at watsonapoulos@yahoo.com



(left top and bottom)
High school boys from Pyrkagia dance with the youngest group Petra Asterakia.



(right top)
Multiple groups practicing the Grand Finale.



(right bottom)
The Omilos group poses during a break.



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 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: _____

Calendar is subject to change.