



# Desert Springs

October 2016  
Volume I Issue 7



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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The 25th of each month

**Sunday Bulletin Deadline**  
Wednesdays, 12 noon

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Dina Anagnopoulos—Treasurer  
Tiffani Bichakas—Secretary  
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Sandy Meris, Tony Nicoluzakis,  
Chris Pritsos, Angela Raup, Jim Thomas

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Dance — Niko Panagiotakopoulos  
Daughters of Penelope — Connie Panagiotakopoulos  
Desert Diamonds (50+) — Doree Drakos, Diana Harris, Nikolette Tavlarides  
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  
Jr. GOYA — Sandy Annos, Donna Manelis  
Little Lambs — OPEN  
Maids of Athena — Gabriella Papatzimas  
Museum — Bessie Hotis  
Myrrhbearers — Diakonissa Mary Thrasher  
OPA — Sandy Meris  
One Spirit+One Vision — Charlie DeMoss  
Parish Council — Pete Choukalas  
Philoptochos — Alex Anagnopoulos  
Sons of Pericles — Dean Bilitsis  
Sr. GOYA — Evan Tsagaris, Chris Fredericksen, Paulina Watson  
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YAL — Stephanie Venetis

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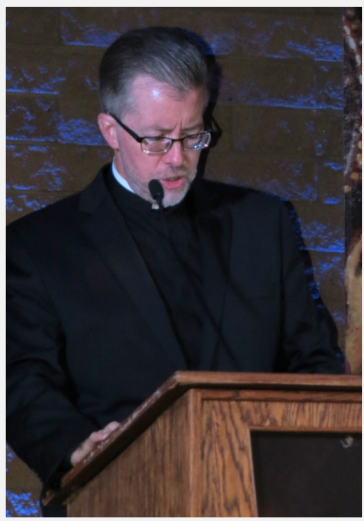
**More Photos**

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



Father Apostolos' words to our community at the Visions & Traditions Gala, September 10, 2016:

Your Eminence, my Esteemed Brother Clergy, Presbyteras and Diakonissas, Beloved in Christ and Honored Guests; Good Evening!

I believe I'd like to lodge a complaint against the chap whose job it was years ago to assign names to the flora of the Sonora Desert because the "teddy bear" cactus is anything but cuddly. My first voyage into Arizona occurred about 25 years ago when I flew into Tucson for a Byzantine music seminar sponsored by the Holy Resurrection Antiochian Orthodox Church.

And after a long day of sitting very still, I went for an evening run with my dear friend and longtime running buddy Fr. Stephan Close, fascinated that I could run outdoors in a t-shirt in December. As we ran along a busy street the sidewalk began to narrow a bit so I moved off the pavement and into the scrub, blissfully unaware of what I was doing!

Fr. Stephan, a Tucson native, saved me when he said; *"There's really nothing over there you want to touch!"* As I looked at the ground I noticed that everything was pointy! Having only lived in more northerly climes this takes some getting used to! There is an austere beauty to the desert where life is tenacious but she doesn't yield up her treasures without a fight.

We may only imagine the reaction of the first known Greek immigrants to arrive in Phoenix to this breathtaking but unforgiving landscape. The brothers Charles & Chris Sanichas are listed in the 1908 city directory four years before Arizona achieved statehood. Those intrepid Hellenes again! I doubt there is a corner of the globe, no matter how remote, where we haven't left a footprint to mark our passage! Our roots as Hellenes and as Greek Orthodox believers run as deep as the state itself!

Those hearty pioneers who came to these lands arrived with no advantages; often with no change of clothes or even shoes, families huddled together on iron steamships making do with what little food they had to share with others dispersed from their native lands. And yet despite the obstacles our Orthodox forebears not only survived but thrived in America, driven by a vision for a better future for themselves and their families and imbued with the determination to make that vision a reality.

On the morning of March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1923 nine men met in the home of John Georgouses just off 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Roosevelt and committed the (then) princely sum of \$50.00 each to acquire incorporation papers to create the community we celebrate this evening. And in the 93 years since that seminal moment our beloved community has surmounted numerous challenges, always marching forward so that the message of the Gospel of universal salvation in Jesus Christ might be proclaimed here in the American Southwest.

In the life of so dynamic a parish as ours there have been many milestones along the path of salvation we have walked together. And we are gathered here this evening to celebrate 40 years of divine worship in the beautiful Cathedral edifice we call home. Holy Trinity Cathedral grew within and alongside the city of Phoenix and when it became obvious that our accommodations could no longer serve the needs of the parish God anointed leaders who took up the challenge to build a new house of worship.

Now, he will not like it when I say nice things about him (so, Fr. James, you may want to plug your ears for a brief moment) but Fr. James Tavlarides, standing in the line of dedicated and gifted servants of Christ who have served the Altar at Holy Trinity over the years, led the charge to turn the dream of a new Cathedral home into a reality. St. Paul wrote to the Church in Rome *"Pay your obligations to everyone... respect to those you owe respect, and honor to those you owe honor."* And in lauding our sacred forebears whose valiant efforts and visionary leadership brought about this monumental achievement we are merely fulfilling a debt of honor.

And yet, even as we do so an essential pivot is required of us. Solomon the Wise reminds us that *"where there is no vision, the people perish,"* and if we would render *due* honor

Continued on page 4

to our history this evening we must also rise to the challenge of the future.

The Christian faith is never one of paralyzed immobility, never a minimalist adherence to a few vague rules of conduct; never content to rest upon one's laurels or the laurels of others. As the Children of Israel gathered at the foot of Mt. Sinai to enter into a covenant relationship with God, He made them the following promise;

*"You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary; I am the LORD. If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments so as to carry them out, then I shall give you rains in their season, so that the land will yield its produce and the trees of the field will bear their fruit. Indeed, your threshing will last for you until grape gathering, and grape gathering will last until sowing time. You will thus eat your food to the full and live securely in your land. You will eat the old supply and clear out the old because of the new." (Lev. 26)*

The last verse is highly significant, for here we read that the faithful people of God would have no need even of laying up stores of food for lean times; for if the faithful fulfilled their side of the bargain they would never know want. God had long since demonstrated his benevolence to his chosen people when He rained down manna upon them but only enough for the day, their "daily bread," with a strict admonition to not attempt to store any for the morrow.

You have heard me preach more than once that God is not a fan of our comfort zones. About the time we begin to feel we have everything arranged just the way we like it a fresh wave of change comes along to keep us from getting stagnant, to keep us moving, and to remind us that we are pilgrims; in but not of the world.

The Apostle Paul enjoyed a close relationship with the faithful of Philippi, and in the thank you note he wrote to the Philippians while he was imprisoned in Rome he recounts the sacrifices he had made and the trials he had endured; reminding his friends that the aim of his life is *"know Him (Jesus) and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death."*

And then this powerful line; *"but one thing I know: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."* In their time, those to whom we render due honor this evening pressed toward the goal for the prize as the Holy Spirit poured out upon them the grace and energy required to fulfill the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

It is now our hour upon the stage, beloved; and just as God inspired our forebears of sacred memory to heroic action and monumental sacrifice He inspires us as well. The challenges of faith in our time are different from those encountered 40 years ago for the world has changed, but the essential task remains the same; to pull as many as desire salvation into the vessel God has provided, His One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

We do not work alone in this endeavor but synergetically with God, co-laboring with Him despite our feelings of inadequacy. He is "the same, yesterday, today and forever," as available to us in the opportunities we face as with those we celebrate this evening. It wasn't on the basis of his own abilities that St. Paul wrote "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," but on the confidence that comes with working with God.

That this thrice-blessed Cathedral community is adorned with people of faith, of vision and of deep commitment is readily apparent to even the casual observer. Ours is a parish pregnant with potential, equipped for the work, and up to the challenge. In the end, the only thing standing between us and the future God intends for us is the decision to pursue it. I love you, beloved, and I look forward to our future together!

May we then, my beloved brothers and sisters, co-laborers in the vineyard of Christ, take up the challenge and the opportunity to advance the legacy bequeathed to us as inheritors of the grace of God and so acquit ourselves in the hour we have upon this stage so that like those who have gone before us we too will hear our Lord and Master say to us "Well done, good and faithful servant!"



# Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

## What Does Stewardship Mean To You?

*Stewardship (n) – The responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.*

Ponder that definition for a moment...”to protect and oversee something worth caring for and preserving.”

What a beautiful definition! It evokes feelings of love, kindness, caring, nurturing. Isn't this exactly what God calls upon us to do in regards to our church?

This reminds me of being a parent. The choice to become a parent is the decision to care for and nurture what we have created. To protect, guide, love and nurture our children. Just as we created our children, it is we who also created and must care for/parent our beloved Holy Trinity Cathedral.

We are the ones who laid the foundation, built up the walls, installed the stained glass and planted the trees. And now, still, it is our responsibility to continue that love, nurturing and protection.

The best way we can do that is through Stewardship. Meeting the financial needs of our Cathedral is not a goal to strive for. Rather, it is our most basic responsibility as Stewards.

And Stewardship requires more of us than just writing a check or placing cash in the offering tray on Sundays. While this is extremely important, it is equally important that we are involved in the life and structure of the church. Being involved in the various ministries and giving of our time and talents connects us to one another, to our church and to Christ.

I lovingly ask you to prayerfully consider your stewardship in all its aspects – time, talent and treasure. Let us all continue to be good stewards – that is, those responsible for the overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving – our beloved Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Haven't filled out your Stewardship 2016 Pledge Card? It's never too late.  
Contact the Church Office today.

### Meet your Stewardship Team:

Sandy Meris – Chairperson  
Alexi Panagiotakopoulos  
Adam Venetis

Charles DeMoss  
Thanasi Panagiotakopoulos  
Paulina Watson

Angela Koumontzis  
Costa Tzavaras

# One Spirit + One Vision

By Charles DeMoss

## OS+OV—The Foundation of Our Ongoing Building Fund Program

We are very thankful for those 248 individuals and families in our community who have come forward to build our beautiful Educational and Cultural Center. These generous donors have pledged \$3,295,819 of which \$2,991,711 (about 90%) has been paid to date. The monies contributed to OS+OV are used to pay down our mortgage loan. Reducing the mortgage helps eliminate the amount of annual interest we pay and reduces the burden we will pass on to future generations.

If you are in a position to give above and beyond your Stewardship commitment, please consider initiating or increasing your pledge to this program. In addition to the typical monetary gifts, we have also received gifts in the form of stocks and real property. By donating assets held more than a year and worth more than their original cost, you can avoid paying capital gain taxes. This is a tax efficient way to help the Cathedral. For those over the age of 70½, a portion of your IRA mandatory distribution may be given directly to a charitable institution, such as Holy Trinity, to avoid income tax on that distribution.

In addition to OS+OV, we also have the Holy Trinity Endowment program. Seventeen forward-thinking families have in years past donated \$460,000 to Holy Trinity's Endowment program. These accounts have grown to \$710,000. The growth and earnings (over \$250,000) from these Endowment accounts have been used by the Cathedral to fund ministries, pay operating expenses, and reduce the mortgage loan debt from \$995,000 to \$740,000.

Holy Trinity parishioners have for years expressed their love for God through his Church, by, among other things, their financial sacrifices. Please join with those who have put their legacy in Holy Trinity Cathedral's past accomplishments and witness the Joy of giving. Help us reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the mortgage loan by giving to OS+OV. Also, please help provide a steady stream of future earnings to the Cathedral, by participating in the Holy Trinity Endowment program with your donation of cash, stocks, or real estate.

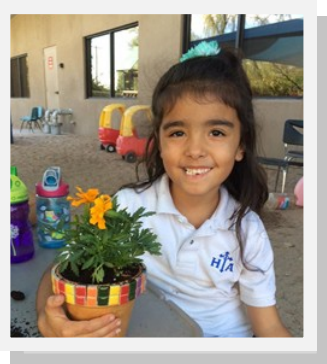
If you can give above and beyond your annual Stewardship pledge, please call: Charlie DeMoss at 480-419-2007 for more information about the OS+OV or Holy Trinity Endowment programs.



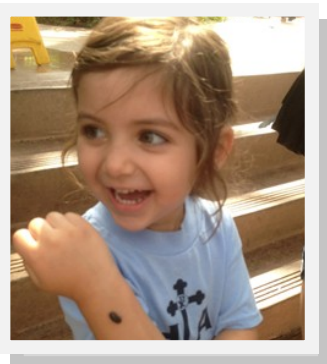
**+REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL+**

## Let's Go Fishing!

The gospel reading recently was about Peter and his fishermen. They were having a bad fishing experience until Jesus told them to go back out and cast their net to the other side of the boat, after which they caught so many fish that the net was about to break! After this eventful and bountiful fishing excursion, Jesus had Peter lay down his fishing net to become a fisher of men, which translated to him and the other disciples casting their gospel nets in the public forum by spreading the Good Word to create more followers of Jesus. This got me thinking. How can we continue to be fishers of men in the world today where there is so much cynicism and apathy?

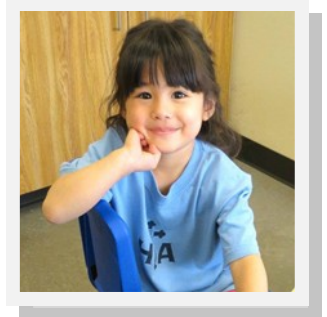


I have the privilege of working in an environment that allows me to teach and be Orthodox all day long. We can say prayers, say the Pledge of Allegiance, wish people a Merry Christmas, all without scorn or ridicule. Our entire academic ministry is built on the Fruits of the Spirit to help our Littles develop into wonderful Bigs who will hopefully contribute to society in a loving and kind manner. This, of course, does not happen overnight or by accident. We work very hard to instill the fruits and really teach our students what they mean, not to mention that it is how Jesus wants us to behave. I believe that we are all born with them, but as we get older and our innocence is challenged, we forget the easy things we were taught as children: “Honesty is the best policy”; “Sharing is caring”; “Love one another” – just to name a few. Thank goodness that this low-hanging fruit does not fall on the deaf ears of children! They hear and see everything and then want to practice everything they’ve learned! And let’s not forget that children want to please – despite those moments when you think they are being defiant but are really just stretching their independence skills!



HTA is an open school that caters to all kinds of families, not just Orthodox ones. Over the years we have had the privilege of having families from many different cultures and faiths from Muslims to Mormons. When I interview potential families outside our faith, the one thing that I am very clear about is that they understand and accept that their child will be exposed to Orthodoxy all day, every day! And you know what? I have never had a family not attend because of that. As a matter of fact, it is to the contrary. Parents love our values, the rich culture, and there really is no argument about faith. How do they know? Because their children are going home and talking about it! They love it and want more and more! So much so that over the years we have had a number of children, and even entire families, who have been baptized into Orthodoxy!

While I love teaching, I think my greatest reward on this HTA journey has been to cast out my net just by being me. It has been a tremendous blessing to be a conduit to so many people from different walks of life that make the decision to walk beside me on my Orthodox path. It really makes me happy to see a child from our school get baptized because they want to and that they understand what it means because of what they have been taught. The profound pride and joy on their faces is such a great takeaway and let’s me know that, wow, I have had a hand in this! I like my fishing hole. It’s well stocked and, best of all, there are no cynics and everyone is empathetic.



I hope that you, too, find your special fishing hole and maybe one day we can go fishing together.

# Visions & Traditions Gala

September 10 and 11, 2016



Metropolitan Gerasimos with Parish Council President Pete Choukalas



Father Apostolos, Kathryn Dye, Anastasia Pickett, Nikki Kyprianou, Metropolitan Gerasimos, Sophia Walsh, Genevieve Speros



Visions & Traditions Chair Angela Raup (center) with committee leaders Vicki Bichekas and Tiffani Bichekas. Not pictured: Estelle Speros McDonald



[More Photos](#)

[More Photos](#)

[More Photos](#)



(above left) Teens from our community were ambassadors of the Gala, greeting and guiding guests.

(left) Metropolitan Gerasimos leads the Hierarchal Liturgy and offered a memorial that included the victims of 9/11.

(above right) Guests enjoyed a tasty brunch after the Hierarchal Liturgy.

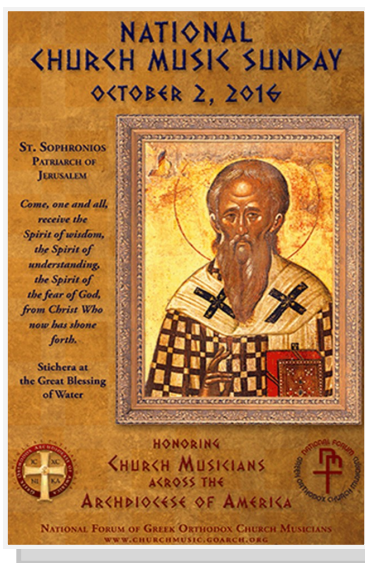
(right) Included with the many desserts was this pastry re-creation of the Cathedral.





# Music Ministry

October 2, 2016



Each year on the first Sunday in October, 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 Herestismi services of Great Lent.

St. Romanos was a Syrian Christian who lived in the sixth century and was a convert to Orthodoxy from Judaism. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

Chanters—George Duvall, Protoypsaltis and Sharon Daniolos

Choir—Terri Alexon, Director, Terry Seretis, Organist

Evan Alexon, Monica Ashton, Tiffani Bichakas, Zoe Cartier, Sharon Daniolos, Basil Davis, Doree Drakos, Christina Gardner, Patsy Harris, Marianna Kaneris, Roula Kaneris, Greg Lizanich, Kathy New, Susie Papadopoulos, Irene Pappas, Billy Tavlarides, Mary Louise Theodoropoulos, Jim Thomas, Grace Wombacher, Alexa Wood, Tina Zannis

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

May their memory be eternal.



# Sunday School



**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)



Metropolitan Gerasimos' visit to Holy Trinity coincided with the first day of Sunday School. The students were dismissed after Communion and decorated icons in their classrooms before returning to the Cathedral at the conclusion of the Hierarchal Liturgy. Metropolitan Gerasimos then spoke directly to the children before all were gathered on the altar for a group photo.



# Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners 50+



## Upcoming Activities:

OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am (doors open at 9:30am)

Free Admission

Violin Concert, ASU Kerr Cultural Center, 6110 N. Scottsdale Road

October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 4-6pm

Free Admission

Antique Car Show, Pavilions Mall, 9180 E. Indian Bend Road

## Mark Your Calendars!

NOVEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am

All Pan Orthodox Church Picnic

McCormick Railroad Park, 7301 E. Indian Bend Road

DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am

Christmas Party Pot Luck & Gift Exchange

James A. Speros Community Center

JANUARY 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 10:00am

Desert Botanical Gardens, 1201 N. Galvin Parkway

FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 11:00am

Valentine's Lunch

Matt's Big Breakfast, 32<sup>nd</sup> Street & Camelback Road

MARCH 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 11:00am

All Pan Orthodox Church Picnic

Chaparral Park, 5401 N. Hayden Road

APRIL 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 10:30am

Trolley Ride and Lunch, Scottsdale Mall



Desert Diamonds joke during their group photo at the September luncheon.

For more information on attending Desert Diamonds upcoming events, contact

Diana Harris at 602-996-0113,

Doree Drakos at 602-993-0659 or

Nickolette Tavlarides at 602-725-8653

# St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

By Patsy Harris

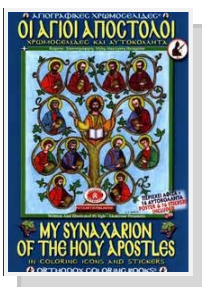
October is a very important Ministry month for St. Nectarios Books and Beyond. While the entire parish community celebrates our Orthodoxy and Greek heritage at the Festival, we in the Bookstore experience our greatest chance to share our Faith during the three days of the Festival. Many ask us questions about our beliefs, our worship, our icons and saints, and our interactions with other religions. Since this article is written before that weekend, we hope that we will prove to be good ambassadors of the Greek Orthodox Holy Trinity Cathedral parish!

On October 6 we commemorate St. Thomas the Apostle. His name in Hebrew means “twin.” He is the Apostle who doubted Christ’s Resurrection until he could see and touch our Resurrected Lord himself. He then proclaimed, “My Lord and my God!” proving his belief that Christ IS God. He went on to preach in India, and was martyred on Mount St. Thomas near Madras.

On October 18 we commemorate St. Luke the Evangelist. A Greek physician from Antioch, St. Luke became a follow worker of St. Paul and was with him until his martyrdom. St. Paul referred to St. Luke as the “dear and glorious physician.” There are two icons of St. Luke, one as the Evangelist, and one as the Physician.

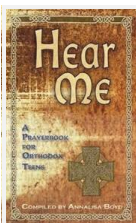
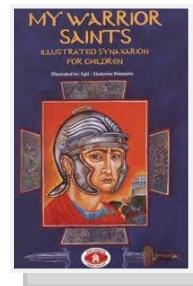
On October 26 we commemorate St. Demetrios the Myrrh-Streamer. He was a Roman soldier who preached Christianity to the soldiers and converted hundreds. When the emperor Maximianus visited Thessalonika, he imprisoned St. Demetrios for his Christian belief and activities. St. Demetrios’ friend, Nestor, used to visit him. St. Demetrios told Nestor to challenge the renowned Roman gladiator Lyaeus. St. Demetrios told Nestor not to be afraid, but that he would win by the power of Christian prayer. When Nestor did defeat Lyaeus, Maximianus had both Nestor and St. Demetrios put to death immediately.

St. Nectarios Books and Beyond is featuring three children’s books in honor of this month’s Saints:



[My Synxarion of the Holy Apostles](#) is a bilingual coloring book which includes all Twelve Apostles and 12 other icons! We carry the Greek-English version, but other languages are available by special order. We carry other coloring books, too!

[My Warrior Saints](#) is a beautifully illustrated book introducing children to the lives of twelve Warrior Saints. Although written for grades 4-8, this is truly a book for *all* ages!



[Hear Me](#) is subtitled “A Prayerbook for Orthodox Teens” and is authored by Annalisa Boyd, whom many of us know! It includes morning, midday, evening and anytime prayers, as well as prayers for relationships, circumstances, confession, the “Witness Stand,” and concludes with prayers of some Saints who pray for us! (Note: we also carry her book for middle grades, [Special Agents of Christ!](#))

Have a blessed month and please visit us soon! If St. Nectarios Books and Beyond can assist in any way, please contact us at:

[www.stnectariosbooksandbeyond.org](http://www.stnectariosbooksandbeyond.org)

[patsy@stnectariosphx.org](mailto:patsy@stnectariosphx.org)

Patsy Harris – (480) 239-5270

# Orthodox Outreach & Evangelism Retreat

hosted by Holy Trinity Cathedral

Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>

**Retreat Master: Fr. Demetrius Nicoloudakis** pastors St. Matthew Parish (GOA) in Blandon (near Reading), PA. Married to his wife Despina (25 years), they have 5 children aged 23–7. Originally set to study law, Fr Demetrius shifted to graduate studies in Scripture and Church History (Fordham University, Aristoteli Scholl of Theology, Butler University) with an eye towards teaching. A graduate of St Vladimir's, he was ordained in 1995. Father Demetrius, having worked as a substance abuse counselor and great interest in family systems theory, and Presbytera Despina are both involved in St. Matthew's ministries to the Prison and homeless in Reading.



## Retreat Theme: The Local Parish as the Embassy of the Kingdom to the World!

What is the “Good News” and how is Israel re-born and invading the world in Christ by the Spirit lived out within and as the Church? Orthodox Christians see the local Eucharistic Community being the environment where the whole (catholic) of the risen Jesus, known and proclaimed by the Apostles and their Communities through the Spirit, inhabits and is lived by the people who deliberately/intentionally claim to “sacrificially offer/surrender ourselves, one another and our whole life to Christ, our God.”

“The local Eucharistic Community, where the risen Jesus lives and rules, is the embassy and base from which we, in partnership with Him, continue the process of redeeming the world, integrating them into the life of the Kingdom. The Parish is more than a place where religious services and activities take place. It is to be a relational environment that, first of all, includes the Lord and all (not just a “pocket” of those) whose major priority is to synergize with the Gospel and share its healing grace wherever that community is located.”

## Key Elements: *Why You Should Make Plans to Attend!*

What is the Gospel message & to whom is it given?

Is the Orthodox Church inwardly or outwardly focused?

How do we begin to manifest the presence of Christ by reaching outside of our walls to bring others into the Kingdom of God?

How do we create an environment for repentance and healing?

## Retreat Format:

**Friday evening:** Paraklesis service will begin at 6:30 PM and will be followed by social time and opening remarks.

**Saturday morning:** Matins will begin at 9:30 AM followed by Brunch and workshops; we will enjoy a working lunch and wrap-up by 3:00 PM.

**Sunday morning:** Fr. Demetrius will also serve with Fr. Apostolos on Sunday and will deliver the homily.

*A suggested donation of \$10.00 is kindly requested to help defray expenses.*

# Our Church Family

## Baptisms

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



9/17/2016

Nicholas Gregory, son of Nicole & Peter Kamboukos. Godparents are Katie Gonzales and Heather Perez.

*God's Blessings be upon him.*

9/18/2016

Savana and Sierra, daughters of Timea & John Bekiou. Godparent is Georgia Bekiou.

*God's Blessings be upon them.*

## Funeral

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

Psalms 23:6



9/24/2016

Lampros Kompos

*May his memory be eternal.*

# Daughters of Penelope Charity Walk for UMOM

Saturday, September 24



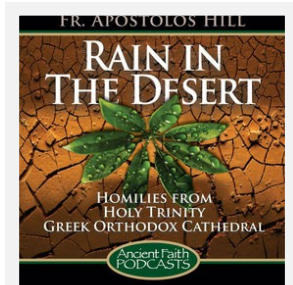
# Happy Re-Retirement!



Best wishes to Lynn Graham as she retires again after having been called back into service in 2014 after her first retirement. She insists this one will stick!

# Rain In The Desert

Recordings of Father's homilies from Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral



From the link:

“Fr. Apostolos Hill, Dean of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Phoenix, AZ, delivers a

timely message in a humorous and straightforward preaching style as he draws from his various life adventures to underscore the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to save and to heal broken humanity. Sprinkled liberally throughout with passages from Holy Scripture, Fr. Apostolos' homilies challenge the spiritual ethos of postmodernity that seeks to limit the transforming impact of the life in Christ and convince us that “being a good person” is good enough.”

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).

# Festival Dance Memories



George Sgouros lifts a table with his teeth during a 2002 dance performance.



The Sailor Dance in 1976 with Andrea Katsenes, Terri Hotis, and Toula Limber



Who remembers when Festival dancers performed INSIDE the Speros Center's Large Hall?

## Set-Up Work Day

Saturday, September 24

Many hands make light work.

Member of ASU's Sigma Chi Fraternity joined parish volunteers to quickly unload Festival items from under the Education Building.



## Baking Production

June—September

Many hands make light work.

Over 60 volunteer parishioners worked through the summer to create delicious pastries, tsoureki, and dolmades.



# 2016 Phoenix Greek Festival Meetings and Preparation Schedule—Final Countdown!

	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
Sep 2016	25 •Admission Ticket and Gift Certificate Sale •Volunteer Sign-Up	26	27	28 •9am Kourambiethes and Crescent production •Volunteer lunch	29 •9am Kourambiethes and Crescent production •Volunteer lunch	30 •Shamrock del.	1 •8:30am Live in-studio on Channel 15 Morning Show •9am Site Set-Up w/volunteers •Volunteer lunch
Oct 2016	2 •Admission Ticket and Gift Certificate Sale •Volunteer Sign-Up •Parking Passes distribution to Booth Leaders	3 •Pro-Em del. •Haji Baba del. •Pastry Packaging •9am Tzatziki Production •Volunteer lunch	4 •Shamrock del. -truck stays •JKC del. -gyros, pita •Food Prep and Packaging •Whole lamb p/u from Rest. Depot •Olympia/ Kontos del. -pastitsio and mousaka •Volunteer lunch	5 •9am Lamb Prep •9am Food Prep and Packaging •AZ Rep Ad in Food/AZ Living and story in and Comm. Section •Volunteer lunch	6 •Hensley del. •p/u from Sparta -souvlaki •Food Prep and Packaging •Final tent and booth set-up •Bashas' truck arrives •p/u from Schreiner's - loukaniko •Volunteer lunch	7 <b>Festival</b> •All booths need to be ready to begin by 3:30pm! •4:30am Channel 12 on property •7am On Air 99.9FM KEZ Barguments w/ Beth McDonald •8:30am Channel 3 on property	8 <b>Festival</b>
	9 <b>Festival</b> •After Festival Booth Break-Down	10 •Break-Down •Inmate Labor on Property •Kitchen Clean-Up	11 •Break-Down •Inmate Labor on Property •Kitchen Clean-Up	12 •Overall Clean-Up •Inventory	13 •Overall Clean-Up •Inventory	14 •Final put-away •Sale and lunch set-up	15
	16 •Leftovers Sale and lunch	17	18	19	20	21	22
	23	24	25	26	27	29 •Final Invoices Due	31

10/3-10/7 - Radio ads leading in and out of traffic reports on: KESZ, KMXF, KMLE, KOOL, KYOT, KZZP. Plus iHeartRadio streaming and family fun pack giveaways of food & beverage gift certificates and free admission and free kid-zone wristbands.

10/7 - Barguments with Beth McDonald at 7:30 am on KESZ

10/3-10/8 - KJZZ/K-BACH

10/1-10/5 - Republic Media (Arizona Republic & AZCentral) Ads in the community sections, Things to do section, pushdown on AZCentral and digital banner ads on AZCentral

Phoenix New Times - 1/4 page ad in 9/29 edition which is will be inserted in the annual Best of Phoenix edition. And 50,000 web impressions on www.phoenixnewtimes.com

Facebook - Various promotions running from 9/25 - 10/9



Dates and times are subject to change.



# Attention: Photographers!

We're looking for more photos to add to our Festival collection. Can you help?

- Festival grounds overview
- Guests eating
- Guests shopping
- Dancers in action

Contact Kristen at [kvasilarakos@cox.net](mailto:kvasilarakos@cox.net) for more information.



Still need a spot?  
Look here!

## OCTOBER 7-9, 2016

GREEK FOOD, MUSIC, DANCING & MORE

— THE ORIGINAL PHOENIX —

# GREEK<sup>®</sup> Festival

56TH ANNUAL

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral - 1973 E. Maryland, Phoenix

[phoenixgreekfestival.org](http://phoenixgreekfestival.org) • (602) 264-2791 • [f](#)

FRIDAY:  
5PM - 10PM

SATURDAY:  
11AM - 10PM

SUNDAY:  
11AM - 8PM

Authentic Greek Food • Homemade Pastries • Taverna with Greek Beer & Wines  
 Greek Dancing • Live Greek Music • Art, Jewelry & More • Village Market  
 Hellenic Museum of Phoenix • Cathedral Tours • Children's Rides & Activities

**ADMISSION**  
 \$3.00 - for an entire day of fun  
 Children under 12 free  
 Seniors over 60:  
 FREE Saturday from  
 11:00am - 3:00pm

**PARKING**  
 Free Parking at Charles  
 Schwab - 24th St. & Lincoln.  
 Shuttles every 15 minutes  
 \$5.00 to park in church  
 parking lot

\*No pets permitted (service dogs excluded)

THE LONGEST-RUNNING AND LARGEST ORIGINAL GREEK FESTIVAL IN THE VALLEY.

## NEW Volunteers! The Original Phoenix Greek Festival 2016 Celebrating 56 Years!

Please place a check mark in the boxes you wish to donate your time and talents and return to the Church Office, at Coffee Social, or fax to 602.230.9099.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

	Before Festival Set-Up				Festival Weekend			Tear Down
	Oct. 3 Monday	Oct. 4 Tuesday	Oct. 5 Wednesday	Oct. 6 Thursday	Oct. 7 Friday	Oct. 8 Saturday	Oct. 9 Sunday	Oct. 10 Monday
Auxiliary/Garage Kitchen								
Baked Goods								
Bank								
Bar* (*must be 21 years old)								
Calamari/Smelt/Octopus Booth								
Counting Room								
Dancer Support								
Gate								
Greek Fries								
Gyro and Pita Booth								
Indoor Food Prep/Packaging								
Indoor Food Lines								
Indoor Kitchen								
Indoor Salad Prep								
Information Booth								
Kafeneo/Coffee/Sundaes								
Lamb Booth								
Loukoumades Booth								
Name Tags								
Plaka/Greek Store								
Saganaki/Souvlaki/Salad Booth								
Site Set-Up and Tear Down								
Supplies Distribution								
Tee-Shirts								

17

Desert Springs October 2016

# OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

By Sandy Meris, President



## 35 Years of OPA!

The year was 1981, Ronald Reagan was president, IBM unveiled the first personal computer, and MTV debuted on television introducing America to 24-hour music videos. And right here at Holy Trinity a group of parents created the Orthodox Parents Association.

A lot has changed since then. We have our first African-American president, computers are in every home, and 24-hour television programming is the norm. But one thing remains the same – the Orthodox Parents Association is still going strong and is better than ever!

It's hard to believe that it's been 35 years since OPA was established as a ministry right here at Holy Trinity. And over those 35 years, so many dedicated parents, priests and youth advisors have contributed to its ongoing success. We feel its time to celebrate and acknowledge everyone who has been a part of OPA's success. We will do so with a **35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**. All parishioners and families are invited to help us celebrate. You won't want to miss out on this momentous occasion. So please, mark your calendars, dust off your dancing shoes (ladies – pack a pair of flip flops for some serious dancing), and get ready for a great party!

### OPA 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday, November 12, 2016

James A. Speros Community Center

Cocktail Reception – Dinner – Special Presentations – Dancing  
(Tickets go on sale after the festival)

### Youth Calendar

October 15<sup>th</sup> – Youth Groups (Hope & Joy, Jr. GOYA, Sr. GOYA)

November 19<sup>th</sup> – Youth Groups (Hope & Joy, Jr. GOYA, Sr. GOYA)

December 4<sup>th</sup> – Day of Christmas Cheer (Little Lambs, Hope & Joy)

December 4<sup>th</sup> – GOYA Christmas Party (Jr. & Sr. GOYA)

### Thank You!!!

Special thank you to our moms who hosted coffee hour on behalf of OPA in September:

Sandy Annos, Karla Delord, Denise Dye, Caroline Economopoulos, Donna Manelis, and Paulina Watson

### Youth Kick Off

Saturday, September 17

HOPE & JOY and Jr. & Sr. GOYA

The youth came together for dinner and prayer,



and then split into their respective groups for activities, discussion, and “hang out” time with Father Apostolos.

# Little Lambs Meet-and-Greet

Sunday, September 18

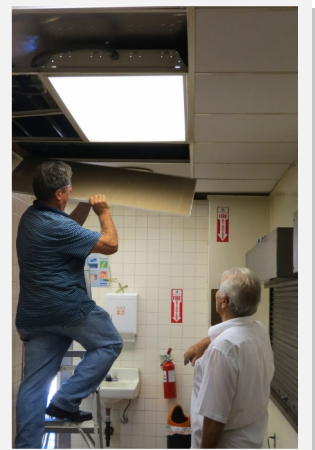
New Little Lambs advisor Jennifer Kourouglos (second from left) poses with some of the moms that stopped by the special Coffee Hour.



Photo Credit: Sandy Meris

# New Kitchen Ceiling Panels

Holy Trinity's **St. Katherine Philoptochos** donated the funds to replace the old and damaged panels in the main kitchen in the Speros Center.



Installers were Peter Bilitsis, Ted Fourlis, Tom Fourlis, Angelo Pestrivas, Andy Stamatis, and Dimitri Zannis.

Thank you to our Philoptochos and to our dedicated parishioners!

## 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 [sandymeris@yahoo.com](mailto:sandymeris@yahoo.com) and we'll get you added to the list.

## College Students at UofA

Any college students that are attending U of A or Pima College are invited to join Tucson OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship). We are excited to continue this archdiocese ministry to keep Orthodox college kids that are away from home connected to each other through OCF activities. Please contact Jackie Goodson at [OCF@StDemTucson.org](mailto:OCF@StDemTucson.org) or 520-247-1053. We're also on [facebook.com/OCFTucson](https://www.facebook.com/OCFTucson).

# AHEPA 219



## AHEPA Chapter 219 Upcoming 2016 Events

AHEPA 219 hosts Coffee Hour at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church—Sunday, October 16

2016/2017 Scholarship Applications are due Wednesday, November 9. Contact Ed Weiss for more information: 602.321.4314 or download application at [www.ahepa219.com](http://www.ahepa219.com)

Christmas Gala: Saturday, December 10  
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
Ticket Sales begin in November

Interested in becoming an AHEPA member?  
Contact Pete Marudas 602.284.1638

**Next AHEPA 219  
Meeting:**

**Thursday  
October 20, 2016  
6:30pm**

**Mike Salzetti's  
Home**

**RSVP to  
Mike Salzetti  
480.213.4192**

## New Golf Cart

We have a new golf cart! Thank you to John Tzaninos, owner of **Golf Cart Parts Company**, for offering a cart at half-price to our community. Ted Fourlis took him up on the offer and arranged for a new battery. Then our **Sons of Pericles Chapter 283** contributed the **\$1,000 balance** for a free-and-clear cart for our Cathedral use! This cart will be very helpful to our annual Festival and will also be used year-round for general maintenance and operations on the Cathedral grounds. *Thank you* to all involved!



## Lost & Found

Please check the Lost & Found in the Church Office for items that might be yours.



# 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).



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.

## Sample Size

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**~ October 2016 ~**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>Coffee Hour - CHOIR</b>	<b>1</b> 9am – Festival Set-up Crew
<b>2</b> 10:00am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy Church Musician Sunday (tray)  12:15pm-3pm –Dance practice	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7pm – Vesperal Liturgy  6pm-10pm – Dance dress rehearsal  8pm –OCF (ASU)	<b>6</b> <b>APOSTLE THOMAS</b>  No HTA	<b>7</b> Festival No HTA	<b>8</b> Festival
<b>9</b> 8:00am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy  Festival	<b>10</b> No HTA (prisoners here 8am-1pm)	<b>11</b> No HTA (prisoners here 8am-1pm)	<b>12</b> No HTA  <b>6pm – Paraklesis</b> 7pm – HTA Board meeting 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice 8pm – OCF (ASU)	<b>13</b> 6PM –Philoptochos Blessing of the Board (Chapel)  7pm – Philoptochos meeting (Lounge)	<b>14</b> HTA Field Trip	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> ECUMENICAL COUNCIL</b> 8:00am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy  Festival Leftovers Sale & Buffet	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>LUKE THE EVANGELIST</b> 8am – Matins 9am – Liturgy	<b>19</b> <b>6pm – Paraklesis</b> 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice 8pm – OCF (ASU)	<b>20</b> 6pm –PC meeting (Conference Room)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:00am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7pm – Vesperal Liturgy	<b>26</b> <b>DEMETRIOS THE MYRRH-STREAMER</b> 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice 8pm – OCF (ASU)	<b>27</b> 4pm-9pm – Police using parking lot	<b>28</b> <b>OXI DAY</b> 6:30 – HTA Open House (Ed Bldg. & Courtyard)	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:00am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy	<b>31</b>					

Calendar is subject to change.