

# Desert Springs

March 2016  
Volume I Issue 1



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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Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00am–3:00pm

**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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Charles DeMoss  
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Chris Pritsos  
Angela Raup  
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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

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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 — Terri Vaughn  
Daughters of Penelope — Connie Panagiotakopoulos  
Desert Diamonds (50+) — Doree Drakos, Diana Harris, Nikolette Tavlarides  
Feed the Homeless — Andrew Stamatias  
Greek Festival — Nick Kretsedemas, Angela Pestrivas, Kristen Vasilarakos  
Greek School — Irene Mackos  
Hall Rental —  
Holy Trinity Academy Parochial School — TeAnn Philipppis, Juli Pritsos  
HOPE & JOY — Karla DeLord, Alexia Haugen  
Jr. GOYA — Sandy Annos, Donna Manelis  
Library — Call Church Office for appointment  
Little Lambs — OPEN  
Maids of Athena — Gabriella Papatzimas  
Museum — Bessie Hotis  
Myrrh Bearers — Deaconessa 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  
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 Family Lenten Survival Plan

Ask any harried mother of school-aged children as she's packing lunches during Great Lent and she will affirm that raising Orthodox Christian children in our decidedly heterodox world is not easy. The simplest things like school lunches and planning weekly activities can suddenly become quite complex; there is only *so much* peanut butter and jelly a child can be expected to eat, after all!

And then there's the "extra" services of Great Lent and the emphasis on things like repentance and confession when everyone else is basking in the sun while it can still be done safely. It feels very much as if we Orthodox folk are badly out of sync with the world around us! Time stubbornly marches on and our hoped-for Lenten menu selection looks less and less appealing well before Holy Week. "Maybe next year it'll be better" we think to ourselves as the lament of enforced veganism reaches a fever pitch!

As another Great Lent begins, many may quietly ask themselves "What's so great about it?" And if our experience of this seasonal opportunity to repent and to go deeper in Christ is confined to arguments over meal planning then this is a valid question. Is Great Lent really *only* or even *primarily* about abstaining from animal products? Clearly not, but organizing one's family Lenten journey will take careful planning if one is ever to move beyond such basic considerations.

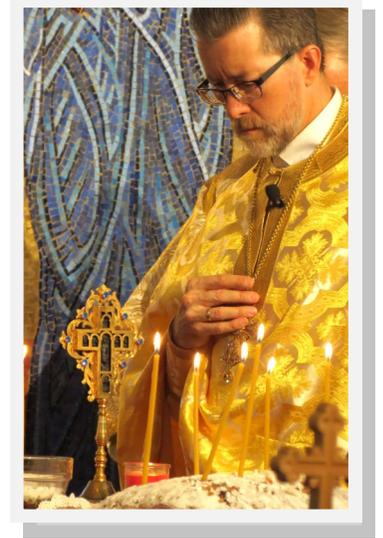
Where to begin? Start with the family calendar and plug in the Lenten services of each week; Monday Great Compline, Wednesday Pre-sanctified Liturgies, Friday Akathist Hymn services, and Sunday evening Pan-Orthodox Vespers services. Is it likely that your family will make *every* service? Nope! But without sufficient planning you'll likely not make *any* and it is appropriate to move other appointments and time commitments in order to attend as many Lenten services as possible.

Do your children (or do you for that matter) know the Lenten Prayer of St. Ephraim? Can you carve out the time each evening to lead your children in evening prayers before tucking them into bed? Do you have a collection box from one of our Archdiocese national ministries for the poor? Do your teens have the "Daily Readings" app from the Archdiocese on their phones? Have they registered yet for the Desert GOYA Lenten Retreat?

Feeling overwhelmed? If so, great! This is frankly overwhelming... but staring down into the eyes of our little grandson recently reminded me all over again just how important it is for Orthodox parents to lead their young into the fullness of the Faith. Nobody's perfect, and parenting is more art than science anyway, but even a *little* planning can go a long way toward refocusing our attention off of "how many things can I make with rice and beans?" to more important things like prayer, forgiveness, and growing in Christ.

Soon enough another Great Lent will have come and gone, but our goal should be greater than merely to *survive* another fasting period. And with the right planning we and our children can experience the true joy of new life in Jesus Christ. May the Holy Mother of our Lord give us strength and inspiration to take our little ones by the hand and lead them through the "gates of repentance" in this beautiful Lenten Spring!

May it be blessed!



# Your Parish Council

The 2016 Parish Council took their oaths of office on January 10, 2016



# Vasilopita Cutting

January 10, 2016



# Stewardship

Our sincere thanks to all who have turned in their 2016 Stewardship Card and an extra thanks to those who have increased their pledge this year. We ask those who have not yet filled out their pledge card to pick one up as you come into Church Sunday, and hand in your completed pledge as soon as possible. We plan the operation of the Church facility based on the income from pledges and try not to rely on the uncertainty of festival income.

This year the youth (our future leaders) at Holy Trinity have come forward with their own personal envelopes, and it is refreshing to see how they understand that it up to all of us to give one's fair share for God's glory.

Your stewardship commitment is more than giving some money to run the Church. It is your personal statement about what you consider important in the allocation of whatever income you may have. Your stewardship pledge says, "This is how important God's work on this earth is to me".

Our thanks to all again,

*Your Stewardship committee*



# New Church Directory

## HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN FOR OUR NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

During Coffee Hour in the Community Center, sign up to have your free portrait taken for our new Lifetouch Church Pictorial Directory. Appointments are available for March 17, 18, 19 and 20 on a first-come basis.  
Info: Eleanna Mitchell at 480-797-9264



# Wednesday Bible Study

## SPRING BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

Please make plans to join our weekly Bible Study beginning March 9, 2016 as Fr. Apostolos begins a survey of the Wisdom Books of the Old Testament. This study will examine their liturgical presence in our various services, how the Psalms are used as a prayer book in Orthodoxy, and the Wisdom Books found in the Septuagint (Orthodox) Old Testament but excluded from later Protestant translations. The study meets Wednesday mornings at 10am in the Ed Building Café and will run through May.

# Tuesday Liturgical Study

7pm, Chapel

Topic: A Year of Our Lord

Instructor Anthony Arger  
[anthony.arger1951@gmail.com](mailto:anthony.arger1951@gmail.com)

# Altar Service

Chris Francis [battersbox7@yahoo.com](mailto:battersbox7@yahoo.com)  
David Haag [davidmhaag@yahoo.com](mailto:davidmhaag@yahoo.com)  
Deacon John Thrasher [thrasheraz@cox.net](mailto:thrasheraz@cox.net)



# Metropolitan Visit

February 21, 2016



[More Photos](#)

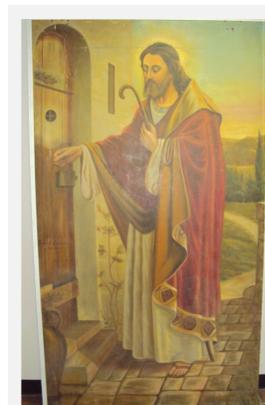
## Historical Museum

Located in the northeast section of the James A. Speros Community Center, the Museum displays vintage photographs and other historic artifacts related to pioneer Greek families in Phoenix from the early 1900s, the founding in 1930 of the first Hellenic Orthodox Church in Arizona, and the relocation in 1973 to the present site of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

Open the first Sunday of each month after Divine Liturgy.

Contact Bessie Hotis [bhotis@cox.net](mailto:bhotis@cox.net)

Altar door from Virginia Avenue. Door is displayed in the Historical Museum.



# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Greetings from Philoptochos!

The Ladies of Philoptochos have been very busy this year!

Beginning in December 2015, the **Annual Christmas Bake Sale** was held. Delicious homemade baked items made their way into our homes to be enjoyed by our families. Our Koulourakia and Tsourekia sold out as always.



[More Photos](#)



We also held a Mini Boutique with Christmas items in addition to the bake sale.

Our **Circle of Angels** distributed goodies to many in our community.

On January 10<sup>th</sup> we held our annual **Vasilopita Cutting and Auction**. The auction winners shared the beautifully baked and wrapped Vasilopitas with friends and family. Traditionally an additional tray is passed following Divine Liturgy as a fundraiser in support of St. Basil's Academy. All funds collected are forwarded to St. Basil's.



[More Photos](#)



On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the annual **Agape Ball** was held in the Speros Community Center. A good time was had by all who attended. It was an evening spent with friends and family with dinner and dancing to music provided by Nick Bafaloukas. What a better way to

[More Photos](#)

raise funds in support of our **Kids 'n Cancer Camp** held in Prescott annually. The camp provides a fun getaway for the children and their families, completely funded by Philoptochos.

The **Annual Valentine Champagne Brunch** was held February 7<sup>th</sup>, in the Community Center. This is always a fun event in our Community. The event was catered by our own chef, John Mitchell. Along with Treasure Chest gifts for children, a 50-50 Raffle was held for the adults.



[More Photos](#)

On February 27<sup>th</sup>, the ladies enjoyed a **Tea at the FireSky Resort**. We had sixty in attendance. Along with promoting membership in Philoptochos, a brief overview was given of our projects. These include National obligations, Metropolis obligations, and involvement in our local community and city.



Watch for more to come, including new challenges and fun.

[More Photos](#)

We reach out to many charities and are involved in many programs to help the less fortunate. **WE ARE PROUD OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS!**

**WON'T YOU JOIN US?**  
Call Mary Louise at  
602-943-5080 for more info.



# Sunday School

Sunday School at Holy Trinity Cathedral has been very busy this year!

We are blessed with a strong staff returning from last year:

**Pamela Maydanis** and **Sharon Daniolos** teach our preK/Kindergarteners

**Cindy Kyprianou** teaches our 1st & 2nd graders

**Diakonesa Mary Thrasher** and **Evan Alexon** teach our 3rd & 4th graders

**Paulina Watson** and **Elliot Staikos** teach 5th & 6th grade

**Kay Ehrick** and **John Schneider** teach 7th & 8th grade

and **Evan Tsagaris** teaches our Youth Forum (high school group)



**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)

We welcome **Nicole Pyle** as our snack Chair! She has done a wonderful job making sure the children have a snack and water every Sunday.



Our highlight this year was our **Christmas pageant** that involved all of our Sunday school students!

The pageant was narrated by students from 5th grade to Youth Forum. The remaining students from 5th-12th grades were up in the choir loft singing Christmas carols to accompany our pageant participants on the solea in front of the congregation at the end of Liturgy. The pageant script was beautifully prepared by **Terri Alexon**. All of our pageant participants were in costume and ranged from preschool to 4th grade. They did a wonderful job

and it was beautiful to see them playing out the Nativity of our Lord.

Our older students from 7th grade to High school students are now busy preparing themselves for the **St. John Chrysostom Oratorical** on March 20th. With the help of **Chris Francis** they are preparing their speeches on their topic chosen from a list from the Archdiocese. This is a wonderful way for our Orthodox children to connect with their faith on a deeper level and to hone their public speaking talents. The winners of the Junior and Senior levels will move on to the District level Oratorical on April 9th. We wish them all the best!

We love teaching your children! Their bright faces bring all of us such joy every Sunday morning. It is a true blessing to watch our youth grow and mature as beautiful young Orthodox Christians!

[More Photos](#)

# Holy Trinity Academy

## Building Communities and a Sense of Self One Child at a Time

By Juli Pritsos, HTA Director



Vasiliki Karambinaki, Pre-K4 teacher,  
and Juli Pritsos

HTA is one of 25 Greek Orthodox parochial day schools across the United States that comprise the Archdiocesan School System and operate under the auspices of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. All day schools adhere to local and state mandated

curricula and offer a program of studies that includes the teaching of Modern Greek language, Greek history and culture, as well as elements of the Greek Orthodox faith. In addition, HTA offers Fine Arts and their newest program, Παιδική Κήπος (Children's Garden), that teaches children how to plant, grow, and care for a garden.

It is amazing to be part of such an elite group responsible in part for the spiritual and academic growth of the children who attend their schools and a role that HTA takes very seriously. We know that the first five years in a child's life are the most important for their development. The bond that is created between their parents and what they learn over those first five years is astounding and while what they learn is incredible, the most important things are the bonds they develop with their caretakers.

The HTA staff are all early childhood educators and know that preschool is usually the child's first step away from home. From teaching children how to appropriately express themselves to developing independent thinkers, we cover a lot of ground. We also know that while our bond with the children is important, the bond we make with the family is too. Our students have amazing families who are engaged and participate in their child's lives and we are so proud to partner with



The Chronis Family: Mom Dina, Yiayia Nikki, Gabby (4), Adri (3), Anthony (5), and Michael (1)

them and help raise a kind, good, loving, and caring person. We have dialogues on a daily basis about their child's progress and we believe that this communication is key to their success, and ours.

HTA, like the other Greek Orthodox day schools across the United States, provides a healthy community for the families that go there and healthy communities are important. They keep us grounded and help give us a sense of self. From our spiritual leaders to our teachers, our children belong to and are shaped by community, whether that is the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, the Metropolis of San Francisco, or our own community at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Who wouldn't want that for their child?



"I Am a Work of Art!"  
Katie

If you would like more information on how you and your child can be a part of Holy Trinity Academy and its community, call Juli Pritsos to schedule a tour at 602.248.3881.



On Facebook at [Holy Trinity Academy](#)

It's the 10<sup>th</sup> annual

# A Toast to the Future



Saturday, May 21, 2016

6:30 pm to 10 pm

Campus of Holy Trinity Cathedral

**\$50 Donation Per Person**

Join HTA in celebrating their “I Am a Work of Art” campaign and enjoy hand selected wine and micro-brew samplings paired with specialty tasting dishes by Yianni’s Catering, an evening filled with musical entertainment, and the opportunity to be lucky recipients of exquisite raffle items!

To purchase event and raffle tickets, or to become a sponsor for this event please contact Juli Pritsos at 602-248-3881 or e-mail [julipritsos@holytrinityacademyphx.org](mailto:julipritsos@holytrinityacademyphx.org)

Proceeds will build a new state of the art playground along with HTA’s academic programs.

## St. Nectarios Bookstore

Have you had a chance to visit our **ST. NECTARIOS BOOKS AND BEYOND** recently? If not, please come visit us soon to experience the changes we have made!

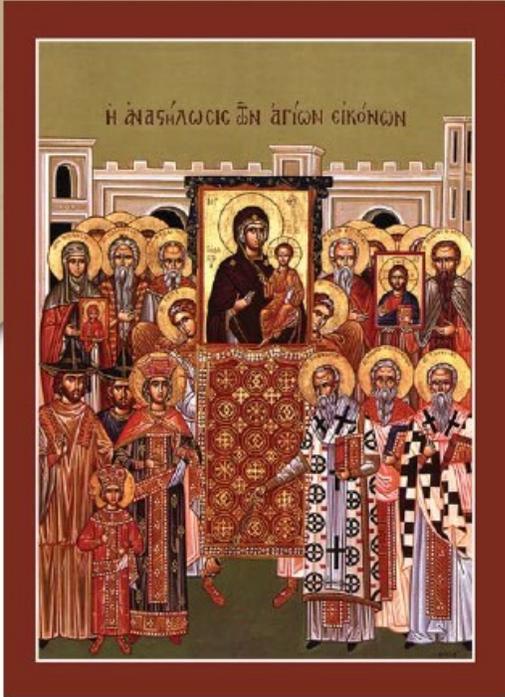
We still carry a large selection of icons, books, incense, prayer ropes, and crosses. But we also carry a variety of incense burners, CDs, wall plaques, and greeting cards. Ask to see what is available by special order for baptisms and weddings. We are always ready to help you, but don't hesitate to browse a bit as there may be something else that you hadn't thought about before but is just right for the occasion!

**St. Nectarios Books and Beyond is now online:** [www.stnectariosbooksandbeyond.org](http://www.stnectariosbooksandbeyond.org). Can't find what you want? Please email us at [info@stnectariosphx.org](mailto:info@stnectariosphx.org). Let us know what you wish to order, or let us help you decide. Orders can often be mailed to your home, or can be picked up at the Bookstore. We will always get back to you with all the particulars to verify before we actually complete your order and we accept cash, checks, or credit cards as payment.

Please send us your email address. We will periodically send you a notice of specialty or sale items. Be assured that we do not share your information with anyone else. During Great Lent, all Paschal items—books, icons, cards—will be on sale.

We look forward to providing everything necessary to add to your worship, practice, and understanding of our Orthodox Faith!

**Patsy Harris 480-239-5270, [patsy@stnectariosphx.org](mailto:patsy@stnectariosphx.org)**



JOIN OUR  
COMMUNITY ON THE  
*Sunday of Orthodoxy*  
FOR  
*Pan-Orthodox Vespers*



LENTEN MEAL AND IOCC  
PRESENTATION TO FOLLOW

March 20, 2016 • 6:00 p.m.

HOSTED BY

*Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral*

1973 E. Maryland Avenue • Phoenix, AZ 85016

*Following the service, join us for a  
Lenten meal, fellowship, and a presentation by  
IOCC Gift Officer, Nick Kasemeotes*

Questions? Contact Holy Trinity at 602-264-7863

[iocc.org/phoenix](http://iocc.org/phoenix)



INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

## 2016 Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers

Please join our Brothers & Sisters at the host parishes for these Sunday Evening Lenten Vesper Services

All Vesper Services begin at **6:00 pm**

### The Sunday of Orthodoxy

March 20, 2016

Host Parish:

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix 902-264-7863



### The Second Sunday of Lent

March 27, 2016

Host Parish:

St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church  
4436 E. McKinley Street, Phoenix 602-275-7360



### The Third Sunday of Lent

April 3, 2016

Host Parish:

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church  
8202 E. Cactus Road, Scottsdale 480-991-3009



### The Fourth Sunday of Lent

April 10, 2016

Host Parish:

SS. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church  
1614 E. Monte Vista Road, Phoenix 602-253-9515



### The Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 17, 2016

Host Parish:

Exultation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church  
10030 N. 32nd Street, Phoenix 602-867-6025



More information at  
[www.azorthodox.org](http://www.azorthodox.org)

## MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES



Psalm 95:1

*Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.*

The Holy Trinity Cathedral Choir is pleased to announce the following members who were elected officers for 2016:

President — **Tina Zannis**

Vice President — **Evan Alexon**

Treasurer — **Tiffani Bichakas**

Secretary — **Patsy Harris**

After a unanimous vote by their fellow choir members, the board approved the purchase of a nearly new, state-of-the-art Rodgers organ, which fills the church with beautiful music played by our Cathedral organist, **Terry Seretis**. Director **Terri Alexon** said the instrument purchase was made possible as a result of an endowment specified for the choir from **Gabriel and Helen Papagalos**, community participation in our Palm Sunday luncheon over the years, as well as contributions from choir members and multiple Holy Trinity parishioners. "My heartfelt gratitude goes out to each individual who offered their moral and financial support for the vital music ministry of our church," Terri said.

Another important addition to the choir are some young ladies with a passion for singing. Ranging in age from about 7 to 16 years old are **Zoe Cartier, Christina Gardner, Susie Papadopoulos,** and **Alexa Wood**. Besides glorifying the Lord, their vocal presence has sparked a renewed enthusiasm and hope for the future of the church's music ministry.

For more information on how you can join the choir, contact Terri by email at [htchoirdirector@holytrinityphx.org](mailto:htchoirdirector@holytrinityphx.org) or by telephone at 480-233-2416.

# Our Church Family

## 40-Day Blessing

“One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.”

Psalm 27:4

1/24/2016

Evyenia, daughter of Eleni (Lane) & Niko Vamianakis

*God's Blessings be upon her.*

## Baptism

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

Galations 3:27

1/13/2016

Elijah Seraphim Venetis, son of Leah & Adam Venetis, Godparents are

Kim & Pete Choukalas

*God's Blessings be upon him.*

1/30/2016

Kaithlyn Maria Perisan, daughter of Mihaela Perisan, Godparents are

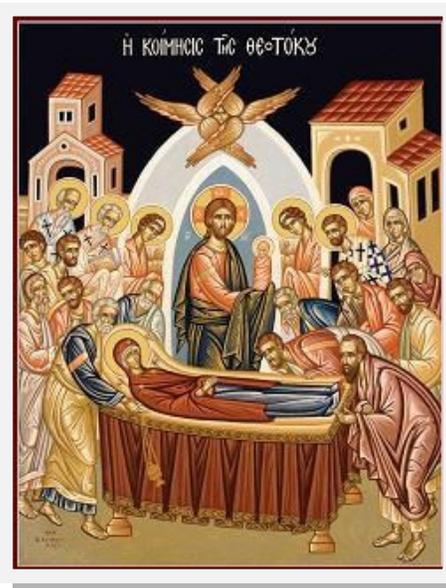
Laura & Gabriel Tinca

*God's Blessings be upon her.*

## Funerals

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

Psalm 23:6



1/5/16  
Ethyl Georgas  
*May her memory be eternal.*

1/16/16  
Charles Speros  
*May his memory be eternal.*

2/11/16  
Chris Veremis  
*May his memory be eternal.*

3/7/16  
Eva Speros  
*May her memory be eternal.*

✝ 40-Day Blessings

✝ Baptisms

✝ Weddings

✝ Funerals



will be announced each month in *Desert Springs*.

Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.

Proverbs 4:23

# Desert Diamonds



## Senior Parishioners March Activity

Join us on Thursday, March 17, 2016

11:30 am

for a Lenten **Pot Luck Picnic** at Squaw Peak Park. The directions are: from Holy Trinity Cathedral parking lot take a **RIGHT** on Lincoln Drive to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street red light. Make a **LEFT** on Squaw Peak Drive, follow the drive all the way to the end circle and park near the "APACHE" Ramada. You may bring any one of your favorite Lenten dishes:

Salads, Vegetables, Tuna Fish, Potato Salad, Fruit, Cheese & Crackers, Bread, Soups, Desserts and Beverages.

Coffee and Paper Goods will be provided.

R.S.V.P. for Suggestions or Questions to Diana Harris: 602-996-0113, Doree Drakos: 602-993-0659 or Nickolette Tavlarides: 602-725-8653



In February, Desert Diamonds gathered at George's Kitchen, 6102 N 16th St. #1, Phoenix, AZ 85016, for delicious Greek food. They followed up dinner by carpooling to a free concert by the Phoenix Boys Choir at the historic Memorial Hall at Steele Indian School Park.

## Lost & Found

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



## Interested in *Desert Springs* Home Delivery?

Contact Kristen Vasilarakos at 602-332-8809 or [kvasilarakos@cox.net](mailto:kvasilarakos@cox.net) for information.

# Greek School

“Yiasas!” Irene Dartoozos-Mackos (Kyria Eirini) announces cheerfully and her class of Level 1 students responds, “Yiasou!”



“Ti lei ee koukouvayia seemera,” she asks her class. The kids shout their answers.

At St. Cosmas Aitolos Greek School at Holy Trinity, students are learning Greek at every grade level, year after year, beginning in preschool when they’re still perfecting their ABCs and learning to read basic sentences in English.

Kyria Eirini, Kyria Georgiana and Kyria Eleanna meet 2 hours per week. By the time they leave St. Cosmas Aitolos Greek School at Holy Trinity, students are expected to speak, write stories and answer questions in Greek, she said.



Giving all kids at Holy Trinity an early taste of a world language can spark them to learn more. If they opt to take Greek every year in middle and high school, they will have been exposed to 13 years of instruction before graduation. Adults feel more proficient to talk to family and friends.



The cultural program appreciates the culture, traditions, history and geography of Greece. They are learning key-terms such as Filotimo, Filoxenia, Axioprepia and Ypohreosi.

The mission of St. Cosmas Aitolos Greek School at Holy Trinity Greek is to provide education and instruction of the Greek language, culture, and heritage, to enhance bi-cultural and bilingual awareness, and to promote the moral and ethical values of the Greek Orthodox families.



## Greek Language & Culture School

\$350 per year/ per child

Includes a \$40 non-refundable book fee, adults buy their own books

## Culture School only

\$30 per year/ per child \$50 per year/ family non-refundable

There is a 20% discount for the 2nd child and 10% more for the 3rd child for Greek Language School.

Greek School meets every Wednesday or Friday night from 5-7pm.

Culture School meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday from 6-7pm.

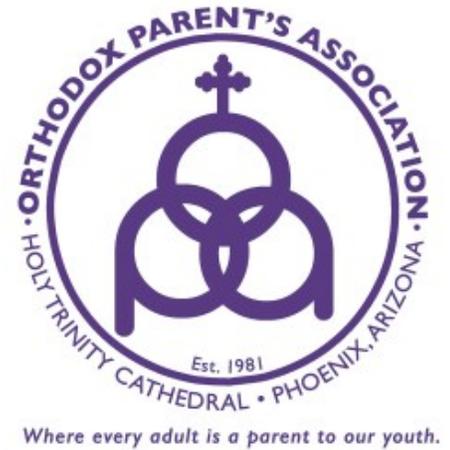
Both meet in the Education Building at Holy Trinity

Further information or questions please contact Irene Dartoozos-Mackos at [airinie@gmail.com](mailto:airinie@gmail.com).

# OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

Sandy Meris, President

Welcome back to the OPA Page of Holy Trinity's monthly newsletter. We are so excited to have this opportunity to invite you to what is coming up and share with you what we have accomplished. Every month on this page, we will let you know about all of the youth, parent and family activities coming up so you can get your kids involved in youth group ministry as well as getting involved yourself as a parent. We communicate about activities primarily through email. If you do not currently receive our email blasts but would like to, please email: [sandymeris@yahoo.com](mailto:sandymeris@yahoo.com) to be added to the list of recipients.



## Calendar of Events

### March

- 19<sup>th</sup> – Hope & Joy Event (watch for details in our email blast)
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Jr. & Sr. GOYA Event (watch for details in our email blast)
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Adult/Parent Night Out to see My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2

### April

- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> – Jr. & Sr. GOYA Lenten Retreat
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Parent Lenten Workshop
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Hope & Joy Activity

### May

- 6<sup>th</sup> – End of the Year Celebration! Family Movie Night & Picnic on the Lawn of Holy Trinity
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Graduation Luncheon
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Leave for All Saints Camp

### June

- May 29<sup>th</sup> – June 3<sup>rd</sup> – All Saints Camp at Pine Summit in Prescott
- 5<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> – Vacation Church School (Session I)
- 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> – Vacation Church School (Session II)

## YOUTH GROUPS

Our youth groups typically meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. Here is the age breakdown of the groups and their advisers.



**Hope & Joy** – Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Advisers: **Karla Delord** [kpdelord@msn.com](mailto:kpdelord@msn.com)  
**Alexia Haugen** [haugens4@cox.net](mailto:haugens4@cox.net)



**Jr. GOYA** – 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades  
Advisers: **Sandy Annos** [sannos@cox.net](mailto:sannos@cox.net)  
**Donna Manelis** [donnamanelis@aol.com](mailto:donnamanelis@aol.com)



**Sr. GOYA** – High School  
Advisers: **Chris Fredericksen** [c.fredericksen@yahoo.com](mailto:c.fredericksen@yahoo.com)  
**Evan Tsagaris** [etsagaris89@gmail.com](mailto:etsagaris89@gmail.com)  
Parent Adviser: **Paulina Watson** [watsonapoulos@yahoo.com](mailto:watsonapoulos@yahoo.com)

## Family Wellness Ministry

OPA is proud to be bringing a brand **new ministry** to Holy Trinity Cathedral. It is called the Family Wellness Ministry. This ministry is under the direction and leadership of the Metropolis of San Francisco and is being led by **Fr. Timothy Pavlatos** on behalf of the Diocese.

According to the Diocese, “the Family Wellness Ministry is committed to providing resources, training, support and information, seminars and workshops to church communities, individuals, families, clergy and all those who desire healthier relationships and want to create deeper connections.”

OPA is honored to have our own **Andi Furlis** and **Nikki Forman** join the OPA board to bring this ministry to Holy Trinity and act as liaisons to the Diocese.

The current and upcoming ministry programs the Diocese will provide are:

- “PREPARE” Pre-Marital Preparation
- Marriage Enrichment
- Divorce Care and Divorce Care 4 Kids
- Parenting Workshops
- Clergy Couples’ Retreats
- Reclaiming The Family Dinner Challenge

Check out the website for more information and to take the “**Reclaiming The Family Dinner Challenge**” [www.familywellnessministry.org](http://www.familywellnessministry.org)

OPA will begin to explore this ministry by focusing on offering more Parenting Workshops & Activities. We will kick off on **Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> with our Lenten Parent Workshop**. This ministry is brand new to the Diocese as it only began in January 2016. Watch for more information to become available as this ministry grows and develops at Holy Trinity and throughout the Diocese.

## OPA Links

Facebook link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/holytrinityphxgoya/>

Email contact: please email us if you'd like to be added to our weekly newsletter:

[HolyTrinityPhoenixOPA@gmail.com](mailto:HolyTrinityPhoenixOPA@gmail.com)

## Desert GOYA Lenten Retreat



DESERT GOYA LENTEN RETREAT II APRIL 1-2, 2016

THE **BEATITUDES** LIVING CHRIST'S WAY



REGISTRATION OPEN - SIGN UP NOW  
<http://goo.gl/forms/oK86HUCtrz>

Friday 6:00 pm - Saturday 2:00 pm (Lock-In)  
Grades 6 - 12

Holy Trinity Cathedral II 1973 E. Maryland Ave., Phoenix 85016  
\$10 suggested donation

 Follow us on Facebook:  
HOLY TRINITY PHOENIX YOUTH & OPA

For more info contact: [HolyTrinityPhoenixOPA@gmail.com](mailto:HolyTrinityPhoenixOPA@gmail.com)

# Dance



## CONGRATULATIONS DANCERS!

Our dance groups came home from FDF 2016 big winners!

**Pyrkagia** (our middle school group) won a Founder's Achievement Award for their semi-final round performance in the Advanced Junior category.

**Voanerges** (our high school group & college group) received a Choral Award and the Silver Place medal in the Senior Category. And a very exciting and unexpected, but very deserving, recognition went to our own **Evan Goodson** who received the Instrumental Award for the entire Division I for his amazing musical talents!

We are so proud of how the kids connected with each other, performed and conducted themselves throughout the weekend. They attended practices and workshops during the day and Glendis until the wee hours of the morning. But they were all there to cheer each other on in their performances, as well as cheer on the dance group of our sister church in Chandler - St. Katherine. We are so proud of all of you!

A huge thank you to our instructors for all their time and dedication: **Niko Panagiotakopoulos & Gabby Papatzimas** - instructors of Pyrkagia. And, **Chris Fredericksen** and **Evan Tsagaris** - instructors of Voanerges.



Dancers receive Blessings from Fr. Apostolos upon their return from FDF.



Dance Queen **Terri Vaughn** and Costume Guru **Sandy Annos** were honored on t-shirt backs for the Opening Ceremonies for their years of service to the Dance Program.

[More Photos](#)



Soup & Salad Luncheon  
Dress Rehearsal

[More Photos](#)



The Musicians

[More Photos](#)

## All Saints Camp

May 29 - June 3

Registration is open!

[https://app.campdoc.com/!/home/auth/  
email?r=allsaints](https://app.campdoc.com/!/home/auth/email?r=allsaints)

Staff applications: Apply today!

<http://goo.gl/forms/5PtLlaeQ93>

For information:

[allsaintscamparizona.org](http://allsaintscamparizona.org)

[allsaintscamparizona@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintscamparizona@gmail.com)

# NEW!

## Congratulatory and Happy Ads!

Beginning with the April 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Daughters of Penelope Picnic

## "Family Panigiri"

Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 3:00 – 8:00 pm

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

Bring your Blankets \* Fun for all Ages!

(Some picnic seating will also be available)

Kite Flying, Inflatable Jumper, Dodgeball,

Basketball, Tavli, Cornhole

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Pasta Dinner, Salad, Loukoumades,

Ice Cream Sundae & Frappe Station!

\$15 Adults - \$10 children 4-10

No host Beer & Wine

Greek Dancing after dinner under Bistro Lights

For Tickets, Call (602) 931-5737