



# Desert Springs

May 2016  
Volume I Issue 3



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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Connie Contes—Vice President  
Dina Anagnopoulos—Treasurer  
Tiffani Bichakas—Secretary  
Barbara Cope, Charles DeMoss,  
Sandy Meris, Tony Nicoluzakis,  
Angelo Pestrivas, Chris Pritsos,  
Angela Raup, Jim Thomas

**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)

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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, Angelo Pestrivas, Kristen Vasilarakos  
Greek School — Irene Mackos  
Hall Rental —  
Holy Trinity Academy Parochial School — TeAnn Philippis, 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  
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  
Sunday School — Kalli Schneider, Kay Ehrick  
Wedding Coordinator — Terri Alexon  
YAL — Stephanie Venetis

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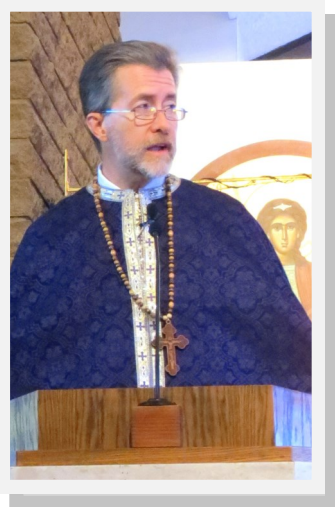
**More Photos**

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



## The Orthodox Church: The Path to True Peace

Every year the Greek Archdiocese promotes the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival and invites the youth in our parish to select one of the topics provided by the staff of Holy Cross Seminary and to write an essay or deliver an oration based upon their own views and insights. Over the years I have been astounded by the genuine spirituality and the wisdom revealed in the numerous orations and essays I have heard and read.

In order to showcase just one of the entrants in this year's Festival, I am gladly relinquishing my lead article spot in this edition of the Desert Springs to our own **Joshua Pardhe**, son of Daniel and Anna Pardhe, as I commend to you his excellent essay; "The Orthodox Church: The Path to True Peace." Enjoy!

*Topic 1: In the Old Testament we read that there is "a time to keep silence and a time to speak" (Ecclesiastes 3:7). What is the value of silence and quiet in a time when we are always "plugged in"?*

Peace and silence is something that is very elusive in today's culture. Our smartphones, televisions, and social media accounts give us a non-stop flow of international news and events regardless of our preference. We are inundated with a constant stream of unwanted information whenever we switch on our television or browse the Internet. We are also pressured to give our own opinions through social media, such as Facebook and Twitter. With information coming from all directions, how can an Orthodox Christian "turn off" this flow of information and simply calm themselves?

One of the oldest methods for a Christian to escape from the world is to retreat into the wilderness and become a monastic. Many saints lived in the desert, practiced asceticism, and waged great spiritual battles with demons. Other saints, such as St. Symeon the Stylite, practiced asceticism by living on pillars for many years. Men and women from the cities who wanted to live a quiet, godly life soon joined the monastics in the desert and formed monasteries. Orthodox monasteries still thrive all over the world and are harbors of tranquility. Even a simple visit to one of these monasteries can calm the soul of one who longs for a respite from the turmoil of the world.

While becoming a monastic might be the best way to pray to God in silence, it might not always be the most feasible. Orthodox Christians with responsibilities such as family and work can find peace and silence in their parish church. Attending church services is a good way for Christians to "unplug" themselves from the world. The parish church offers a tranquil sanctuary and is easily accessible. In addition, the parish priest is always available for prayer. The Sunday and weekday services can provide a quiet time from the hustle of the world. If Christians apply their "...heart to instruction and [their] ear to [the] words of knowledge" (Proverbs 23:12 ESV) they receive by attending services and by talking to their priest, they can reap many spiritual benefits from their local church.

While some try to temporarily find peace and tranquility through hobbies, vacations, and other methods, only the Orthodox Church has the ability to provide eternal peace. The various churches and monasteries throughout the world are the most spiritually relaxing and peaceful places that a Christian can find. Also, the services of the Orthodox Church provide the only true means of escape for those who wish to flee from the turmoil of the world. In John 4:14 (NLT), the Lord says that "...those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life." Our Lord Jesus Himself provides this "water" freely to all through the prayers and services of the Orthodox Church. A Christian needs only to accept this bountiful gift to be refreshed in both soul and body. Indeed, true peace and tranquility in the world can only be obtained if the Prince of Peace lives in your heart.

*Fr. Apostolos Nihil*

# St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen!

May all our Holy Trinity family enjoy this Pascha together in worship and fellowship!

Our Lord's Resurrection is not only the most important holy day we celebrate, but indeed it is what makes us Christian. That we celebrate this glorious Paschal season sacramentally and from our hearts is what makes us Orthodox. As we have been reminded during Great Lent, being Orthodox Christians requires that we CHOOSE to follow Christ and His teachings, that we deliberately make the effort to do so. On Pascha Sunday especially, but at every Divine Liturgy, we experience a taste of our reward for making that choice.

The purpose of having St. Nectarios Books & Beyond is to make available the tools to learn our Faith, expand our knowledge of it, and to provide the religious items needed for worship. With this in mind, we are striving to find more space and a better way to expose more of our Church family to what can be found in the Bookstore. During the summer, we will be moving some of our inventory to the Community Center, so that we can be more accessible to all. We are hoping to be the recipients of the gift of a kiosk to help us display our wares during Coffee Hour. With God's help, this will come to fruition soon!

Please look for us in the Community Center, and please bear with us as we reduce our inventory and operate more by special order during this change. Our hope is that we can meet this challenge and thus more actively participate in the Ministry of sharing our Orthodox Faith and practicing Orthodox worship!

Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

The St. Nectarios Books & Beyond Staff

patsy@stnectariosphx.org

480-239-5270

## 2016 Parish Council



Back Row: (left to right) Charles DeMoss, Tony Nicoluzakis, Barbara Cope, Fr. Apostolos Hill, Dina Anagnopoulos, Sandy Meris, Chris Pritsos  
Seated: (left to right) Pete Choukalas, Angela Raup, Tiffani Bichekas, Connie Contes  
Not Pictured: Angelo Pestrivas, Jim Thomas

# Stewardship

## STEWARDSHIP – IT’S NEVER TOO LATE!

Christos Anesti! Pascha is here and it is time to celebrate and indulge! But not before we completed the sacrificial journey of Lent. Cutting out meat and dairy and eating a lean diet of grains, fruits and vegetables. More time to be spent on prayer, reading the Bible, reflecting, and attending services. Lent is a time of simplifying, preparing. And after such a time when Pascha is upon us, only then can we enjoy and bask in His resurrection. We celebrate with roasted lamb, feta and olives, eggs dyed red and rejoice, singing, “*Christos Anesti!*”

This reminds me of stewardship. Currently, Holy Trinity seems to be in a state of “fasting” as well. We have cut back in areas and maintained a lean budget/diet. We have had to make tough choices and spend carefully. We ended 2015 with a total of 360 pledged members who gave \$326,000. As of March 31, 2016, we have received 279 pledges representing \$288,000. We saw a reduction of 81 pledges and \$38,000.

I know we can do better. And the best part is, it’s not too late! It’s never too late to become a steward of the church. Lately, we have been printing the list of committed stewards in the Sunday bulletin. This is done to sincerely thank and recognize those who have taken the time to give a heartfelt financial pledge to this parish. And to serve as a reminder to those who have yet to fill out and turn in a pledge card. Since we started printing the list, we have received dozens of stewardship pledge cards. And to all those who have done so – we thank you very much!

Our church simply cannot survive without every single family’s committed giving. Our goal is to receive a stewardship commitment from no less than 100% of our Holy Trinity families. Lent is over! Let’s get ourselves out of this lean period of “Lent” and get on to the celebration! Please consider filling out a pledge card today by going on to the website: [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org), click on “stewardship” and then click on “stewardship 2016” at the bottom of the article.

## Rain In The Desert

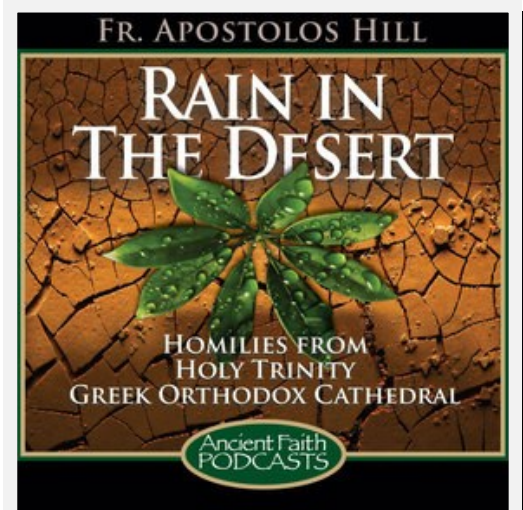
### Recordings of Father’s homilies from Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

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>

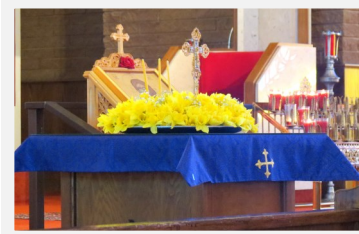


# Myrrhbearers 2016



# Sunday of the Holy Cross

April 3, 2016



# Palm Sunday

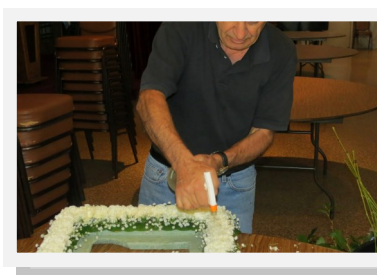
April 24, 2016



# Icon Frames



As he's done for many years, Tom Demos created floral frames for two icons for Palm Sunday's service.



# Pascha 2016

## Holy Thursday



[More Photos](#)

## Holy Friday



[More Photos](#)

## Holy Saturday



[More Photos](#)

# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

What is Philoptochos?

The translation is

Philo = Friend and Ptochos = Poor.

It is literally "Friend of the Poor."



Interested in joining  
Philoptochos? Call Mary  
Louise at 602-943-5080  
for more info.

## Baking Tsourekia and Koulourakia

April 22, 2016



[More Photos](#)

## Bake Sale

Palm Sunday, April 24, 2016





# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

## Scholarship Opportunity

Attention College students – or recent graduates on their way to college! Beginning March 27<sup>th</sup>, scholarship forms will be available in the Church Narthex. Philoptochos will give two \$1,000 scholarships to Holy Trinity students enrolled in college in the fall of 2016. Requirements are on the form. Application deadline for a scholarship is June 5<sup>th</sup>. If you would like an electronic copy, please call 602-300-0016.



## Desert Diamonds



Senior Parishioners  
50+

May Activity  
Save the date!

May 14, 2016  
Details coming soon!

For more information on attending Desert Diamonds events, contact  
Diana Harris at 602-996-0113,  
Doree Drakos at 602-993-0659 or  
Nicolette Tavlarides at 602-725-8653

## Music Ministry Notes

Psalm 104:33

*I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.*

This year, a record number of more than 300 people attended the annual Palm Sunday luncheon hosted by the Holy Trinity Cathedral Choir!

A special “evharisto” goes out to **Alexi’s Grill** who provided and prepared the food at cost, featuring grilled salmon with lemon-dill sauce, green beans, pasta marinara, tossed salad, and rolls. Another special thanks go out to the anonymous parishioner who donated the wine offered at each table. Delicious Lenten cakes and fruit cobbler were provided by the “little bake shop” of chanter/choir member, **Sharon Daniolos**. Adding flair and ambiance to the event were **Vicki Bichakas** who assembled the colorful floral centerpieces and **Terry Seretis**, Cathedral organist, who played a selection of beautiful piano music.

Besides the choir members who set-up and helped clean up, the Cathedral caretaker team (**Paul, Dimitri** and their mother, **Theresa**) aided by **Cleo**, worked diligently before and after the event.

Also, there were some helpful parishioners who donated their time and effort to make the luncheon go smoothly:

**Tom Demos**  
**Athena Davis**  
**Homer Drakos**  
**Tony Nicoluzakis**  
**Joann Mackos**  
**Andy Stamatis**  
**Becky Tavlarides**  
**Kenneth and Angela Walker**  
**Dimitri Zannis**  
**George Zannis**

And to all those who continue to support the music ministry of the Cathedral by attending the event each year—GOD BLESS YOU!!

Photos of the event are on page 10.

# Palm Sunday Brunch

Hosted by the Choir Ministry  
April 24, 2016



Choir Director  
Terri Alexon



[More Photos](#)

# Lazarus Saturday Pancake Breakfast

Hosted by Sunday School  
April 23, 2016



# Sunday School

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival  
District Level

Junior Division:

**Anna Ehrick**

**Dean Papadopoulos**

Senior Division:

**Loza Brook**

**Peter Schneider**

Congratulations to Peter for earning Senior Division Alternate!

*Great job, All!*



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)

## Palm Cross Folding

Lazarus Saturday  
April 23, 2016



Fr. Apostolos challenged some of the boys to see who could make the SMALLEST cross. The contest was on!

[More Photos](#)



Anna Pardhe making traditional-sized crosses.

# Holy Trinity Academy



Juli Pritsos,  
Director of HTA and  
Chairperson for  
A Toast to the Future

It is amazing that 10 years ago we had the first annual “A Toast to the Future”! Costa was 6-years old and in first grade. Blink with me and now 10 years later he is 16, driving, and working at his alma mater!

Costa is one of many children who benefitted from the academic foundation from HTA.

Over the years my husband and I spoke many times about how great HTA was for Costa and that solid academic foundation that was built, and just recently Costa was speaking to me about



Former students—and  
always Greek boys—  
Costa Pritsos and Theo  
Schneider

how he recognizes it and appreciates it as well.

All of the families and students that I have had the privilege of staying in touch over the years feel the same way. They are so glad to have found and chosen HTA and they recognize that our school really helped form their children into the young adults they are today. These kids are

actively involved in school and their communities, get great grades, and have their sights set on some pretty major college aspirations.

On Saturday, May 21, HTA will host their 10<sup>th</sup> annual, “A Toast to the Future.” We are excited to celebrate all of our students and families past, present and future and ask you to join us in that celebration. Honestly, if these young men and women are any indication of who will be running our country in the future I am confident that we are in good hands!

For more information on how you can support or take a tour of Holy Trinity Academy, please call or email, Juli Pritsos, Director, at 602-248-3881, or [julipritsos@holyltrinityacademyphx.org](mailto:julipritsos@holyltrinityacademyphx.org).



On [Facebook](#) at Holy Trinity Academy

## Do You Have Photos or Videos of the 2015 Phoenix Greek Festival?

We'd like to see them!

Photo discs or flash drives are the preferable method to transport the photos or videos or contact Kristen Vasilarakos at [kvasilarakos@cox.net](mailto:kvasilarakos@cox.net) for more information.



## Mark Your Calendars!

The dates of the 2016 Original Phoenix Greek Festival are October 7, 8, and 9.

Your Festival Chairs,  
Nick Kretsedemas  
Angelo Pestrivas  
Kristen Vasilarakos

# Celebrating Holy Trinity Academy's 10th Annual



Saturday, May 21, 6:30-10:00pm  
Campus of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
1973 E. Maryland Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85016

Cocktail Attire | RSVP by Saturday, May 7, 2016 | [htaphx.org](http://htaphx.org)

\$50 Donation Per Person

Join us for a fun-filled night of reminiscing, reuniting, and reconnecting with friends. Enjoy an evening of libations paired with delicious food, musical entertainment and the opportunity to be a lucky recipient of outstanding raffle packages.

With the purchase of two event tickets you will be entered in a drawing for a weekend get-away in wine country! Includes a two-night stay and a \$200 VISA gift card. Travel not included. Restrictions may apply.

**Raffle Tickets: \$20 each or 6 for \$100.** To purchase event and raffle tickets, or to become a sponsor of this event, please contact Juli Pritsos at 602-248-3881 or e-mail [julipritsos@holytrinityacademyphx.org](mailto:julipritsos@holytrinityacademyphx.org). All proceeds go towards a new playground and to benefit the continued growth of HTA's Preschool and Kindergarten program.

#### Event Sponsors:

- Abiouness Wines
- Baskin Robbins
- Yianni's Catering
- Summation Design
- Prisma Graphic



# Hellenic Historical Museum

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

As you know, the Museum has pictures displayed that depicts the beginning of Holy Trinity in Phoenix from the 1900's until we moved into the Cathedral in 1973.

We have been in the process of expanding our Museum with pictures from 1973 when we moved into our Community Center.

If you have pictures of any of the events from 1973 to the present that we would be able to display in the Museum, please contact Bessie Hotis at 602-953-1913.

We thank Homer and Doree Drakos for giving us their copy of the bound book of the Consecration of our Cathedral on February 27, 1983.

Any monetary donation to our Museum would be greatly appreciated since the Museum exists only through the donations of individuals.

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) for more information,

## Our Church Family

### Baptism

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

April 16, 2016

Calvin Raup, husband of Parish Council member Angela Raup,

Godparents are Vicki & Dan Bichekas

*God's Blessings be upon him.*



## Lost & Found

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



# OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

Sandy Meris, President



## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT – UNDER THE STARS!

Join us for a FREE, good old-fashioned outdoor movie night. Bring your own lawn chairs and picnic blankets and get ready to enjoy a family friendly movie – drive-in style. A huge screen will be set up out on the big field on the cement slab.

**Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm (dinner will be available via a food truck)

Sunset – Our Feature Presentation...

### *Minions* (Rated PG)

Buzznbeez Chicken and Waffles for the People food truck will be on hand selling dinner.

A few highlights from the menu include:

Chicken and Waffles, Chicken and Rice Bowls, Macaroni and Cheese, Fish-n-Chips, Summer Salads, and Amazing Desserts!

(Buzznbeez are the same owners as Lolo's Chicken and Waffles and Mrs. White's Golden Rule Café).

A snack bar will offer movie candy, popcorn and drinks.

Feel free to bring your own ice chest with snacks and drinks.

Pack up the kids and Yia-Yia and don't miss out on OPA's final youth and family event of the year!

## OPA GRADUATION CELEBRATION

May is a busy and exciting time for families as their kids finish one school year looking forward to the next. And for families with an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, high school or college senior or even an older child finishing graduate school – this time of year is especially thrilling.

If you have a child graduating this year, we want to include them in our annual OPA Graduation Celebration!

**Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Luncheon and Program will follow Divine Liturgy in the Large Hall.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our entire community to recognize and honor our young people and celebrate their accomplishments.

The Graduate Recognition Form is on the following page. Fill it out and email it to:

[sandymeris@yahoo.com](mailto:sandymeris@yahoo.com). The form must be received no later than Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Forms received after that day may not be included in the written program but will be recognized at the luncheon.

## 2016 GRADUATE RECOGNITION FORM

If you or your child is graduating from 8<sup>th</sup> grade, high school, college or graduate school, please fill out the form below to be recognized at OPA's Graduation Celebration. Please scan & email this form to Sandy Meris by **Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**. Email to [sandymeris@yahoo.com](mailto:sandymeris@yahoo.com). *Please note that forms received after May 16<sup>th</sup> may not be included in the written program.*

Name:

Grade graduating from:

School you are graduating from:

What are your school colors and mascot:

List any special awards, achievements or accolades:

List extra-curricular activities:

What school will you be attending in the fall?

If graduating from college/graduate school, what are your job/career plans?

What are your future goals?

Please tell us a little bit about yourself. For example:

What is the most important thing you have learned at this point in your life? What are your proudest accomplishments? Or, you may give your favorite famous quote or Bible verse.



# OPA

## LENTEN RETREAT WRAP UP

Our 2nd Annual Lenten Retreat was a HUGE success! We hosted 80 GOYAns, 15 Hope & Joy kids, 50 parents, and seven priests from throughout the Metropolis, including His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, Father Timothy Pavlatos from



Oregon, and Father Nicholas Andruchow from St. Innocent Orphanage and Project Mexico.

The theme for the weekend long retreat was "Living the Beatitudes" where the kids learned about Christ's Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes He set forth for us. They participated in workshops, games, and activities all surrounding the topic. Father Apostolos even broke out his guitar and sang with the Hope & Joy kids!

The adults enjoyed a parent retreat led by Fr. Timothy about the challenges of parenting our Orthodox children in today's society and what our children are facing in their daily lives. He also encouraged us all to participate in his "Reclaiming the Family Dinner Challenge." [www.familywellnessministry.org](http://www.familywellnessministry.org)

The weekend was spiritually edifying for all who participated and couldn't have happened without the following people who were instrumental in putting the myriad details together: Father Apostolos, Evan Tsagaris, Chris Fredericksen, Jacob Saylor, Laurie Stamas, Jacob Corbin, Kathy Clarke, Sandy Annos, Donna Manelis, Paulina Watson, Andi Furlis, Denise Dye, Caroline Economopoulos, Juli Pritsos and John Mitchell.

[More Photos](#)

## ALL SAINTS CAMP

All Saints Orthodox Summer Camp, building upon the generations before us, is gearing its 30<sup>TH</sup> YEAR! Get ready for the Southwest's best summer camp experience! The camp session will run from Sunday, May 29th through Friday, June 3rd at Pine Summit in Prescott, Arizona.

**REGULAR REGISTRATION ENDS IN TWO DAYS! ACT NOW TO GET THE CURRENT RATE!**

Follow the link to our website for all registration information:  
[www.AllSaintsCampArizona.org](http://www.AllSaintsCampArizona.org)

# All Saints Camp



# ALL SAINTS CAMP

2016 Registration  
MAY 29 - JUNE 3

Early (through April 5): \$375  
Regular (through May 5): \$400  
Late (through May 27): \$425

 **Follow us on Facebook:**  
[www.facebook.com/AllSaintsOrthodoxCampAZ/](http://www.facebook.com/AllSaintsOrthodoxCampAZ/)

[www.AllSaintsCampArizona.com](http://www.AllSaintsCampArizona.com)

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

# Phoenix Area Young Adult League (YAL)

## YAL (Young Adult League) Mission

Available to all college students and young professionals (18-35), the mission of the Phoenix Area Young Adult League is to integrate all Orthodox young adults into the life of our many parishes, and the Church as a whole, through prayer and church events.

For any young adult looking to engage their faith for the first time, or desiring to press forward in the development of their life in Christ, this ministry offers such programs as [Fr Phil's Bible Study](#) (@ St. Katherine in Chandler), the [Orthodox Forum](#) (@ Assumption in Scottsdale), [regional Metropolis young adult retreats](#), [missions trips](#), and numerous other fun and informing [outings and activities](#).

Besides this, the Phoenix Area Young Adult League further offers for those looking for the ability to give back to the Church and surrounding communities, various ongoing volunteer opportunities such as [serving on their church's Parish Council](#), [teaching a Sunday School class](#), [coaching a basketball or volleyball team](#), [Summer Camp counseling](#), [K-12th grade mentoring](#), and [participation in other annual area philanthropic events](#).

Recognizing the importance of simply engaging in and enjoying real fellowship, connection, and community, this ministry also offers plenty of opportunities for that too!

If interested, or know someone who should be, contact Stephanie Venetis at [stephanie.venetis@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie.venetis@gmail.com)

## American Hellenic Institute Foundation College Student Foreign Policy Study Trip to Greece and Cyprus

June 15 – July 1, 2016

To stand in a place where, for generations, Christians stood in awe and reverence of the Creator of all, where incense and psalmody once rose from earth to Heaven in praise of the God who became man; but now stands abandoned and desecrated, with no respect or honor given to things of the earth or of Heaven, is truly a powerful and moving experience.

– Manoli Anagnostiadis, University of Maryland, upon viewing a desecrated Church in occupied Cyprus in 2012.

The AHIF Foreign Policy trip to Cyprus and Greece was an invaluable experience. Through briefings with prominent government officials, and experiences like visiting the occupied territory of Cyprus, I gained an understanding why it is important to lobby for Greek and Cypriot issues in the United States. The study trip made me a better-informed Greek American and has put me in a position where I can make a difference and advocate for Greek and Cypriot issues in America.

– Michael Savvas, University of San Diego (2010 trip)

The AHIF trip is something I will never forget. I am returning to the United States with new friends, amazing memories, and as a more learned person because of this foreign policy trip. I wouldn't trade those two weeks for anything.

– Lia Seremetis, University of Cincinnati (2009 trip)

For more information on how to apply, visit:

<http://aheworld.org/for-students/policy-trip.html>  
or email Yola Pakhchanian at [yolap@aheworld.org](mailto:yolap@aheworld.org)

Photos, from top:  
The students at the Acropolis (2009).  
Students aboard the H5 Papandriou submarine with Lieutenant Commander Georgios Katsigaris, Commanding Officer (2014).  
At the old Nicosia International Airport with a member of the UN Peace keeping forces (2010).  
Student delegation with the President of Greece, Karolos Papoulias (2011).  
Students aboard the H5 Salamis frigate (2013).  
Students at the House of Representatives in Cyprus (2012).  
Students visit Anagnostis Monastery (2015).



**Choir,  
Great job on the Palm Sunday  
Lunch! The room was beautiful,  
the food was delicious, and the  
company was wonderful.  
Your hard work showed!**



**Congratulations,  
Philoptochos, on your  
successful Bake Sale. Since  
you sold out, clearly I was not  
the only one looking forward to the  
tasty bread! Good work!**

# Happy and Congratulatory Ads



Thank you,  
Chanters. It  
is a joy to  
listen to you.



Thank you, Choir!

## Interested in *Desert Springs* Home Delivery?

### *Desert Springs* Subscription

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

\_\_\_\_\_ \$24 if received by April 1, 2016 (8 issues)

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

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

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

# NEW!

## Congratulatory and Happy Ads!

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



Sample Size

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**AHEPA Chapter 219**

**8TH ANNUAL**

**MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH**

**SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2016**

**Immediately Following Divine Liturgy**

**Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral**

**James A. Speros Community Center**

**1973 E. Maryland Avenue ~ Phoenix**

**Adult: \$30 (21+)**  
**Student: \$20 (14-20)**  
**Child: \$10 (8 - 13)**  
**7 & Under Free**

**Contact**

**Pete Marudas**  
**602.284.1638**

**John Kostaras**  
**480.318.1935**

***Limited Seating Event!***

**Purchase Your Tickets Today!**

~ May 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>GREAT &amp; HOLY PASCHA</b> 12am - Paschal Liturgy Mayeritsa Meal  No Sunday School  1pm - Agape Vespers	<b>2</b> <b>BRIGHT MONDAY</b> No HTA	<b>3</b> <b>BRIGHT TUESDAY</b>	<b>4</b> <b>BRIGHT WEDNESDAY</b> 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg)  7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	<b>5</b> <b>BRIGHT THURSDAY</b> 7pm – Philoptochos meeting	<b>6</b> <b>BRIGHT FRIDAY LIFE-GIVING FONT</b> 8am - Orthros 9am - Liturgy  5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg)  6:30pm – Family Movie Night (Field)	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY OF THOMAS</b> 8am - Orthros 9:30am - Liturgy No Sunday School AHEPA Mother's Day Brunch	<b>9</b> <b>ISAIAH THE PROPHET</b> 6pm – Festival meeting (SH)	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10am – Bible Study (Ed Bldg lunchroom)  5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg)  6:30pm – HTA Board meeting  7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	<b>12</b> 6pm – Parish Council meeting	<b>13</b> 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg)	<b>14</b> Time TBD Dance Workshop (CC)  9am – Desert Diamonds trip to Singh Farms
<b>15</b> <b>MYRRHBEARER SUNDAY</b> 8am - Orthros 9:30am - Liturgy 12:15pm – Dance practice	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10am – Bible Study (Ed Bldg lunchroom)  5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg)  7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	<b>19</b> 9am – Desert Diamonds Boat Ride & Picnic (Lake Pleasant)  6pm – AHEPA (CC)	<b>20</b> 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg)  6pm-7pm – Greek Cultural School (Ed Bldg)	<b>21</b> <b>CONSTANTINE &amp; HELEN</b> 8am - Orthros 9am – Liturgy  6:30pm - HTA Toast to the Future
<b>22</b> <b>SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC</b> 8am - Orthros 9:30am - Liturgy Last Day of Sunday School Graduation Luncheon	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10am – Bible Study (Ed Bldg lunchroom)  HTA Fine Art Expo (Ed Bldg)  5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg)  7:00pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> HTA – Last Day of School	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN</b> 8am - Orthros 9:30am - Liturgy  All Saints Camp	<b>30</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> (Office closed)  All Saints Camp	<b>31</b>  All Saints Camp				Coffee Hour – OPA

Schedule is subject to change.