

Desert Springs

January 2017
Volume 2 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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Sunday Worship
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8:00am Orthros
9:30am Divine Liturgy

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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 — Jennifer Kourouglos
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 — Nick Petsas, Ted Fourlis
Sr. GOYA — Evan Tsagaris, Chris Fredericksen, Paulina Watson
Sunday School — Kalli Schneider, Kay Ehrick
Wedding Coordinator — Georgia Kanelos
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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



On a beautiful August afternoon in 2007 I received an urgent phone call from the wife of my friend Fr. Nick who had just suffered a series of heart attacks. Stunned, I raced north from Denver to Lakewood to be with him before he passed away, praying that I would make it in time.

As it happened, God spared Fr. Nick's life until September of the next year when Nick went to bed to take a nap and fell asleep in the Lord at home. Another dash to Lakewood ensued, this time less urgently, as I thanked God for giving those of us who loved him another year to profit by his ministry.

Fr. Nick was as straightforward as a cinder block through a window; if it needed saying and salvation was on the line then brace yourself! He once phoned me to harangue me over some liturgical nuance and in the middle of his diatribe I started laughing into the phone. Flustered, he asked me what was so funny and so I told him, "You must really love me to chew me out like this!"

What he said next was... golden; "I do love you, Apostole, and I will always tell you what I think!" Nine years gone and I miss Fr. Nick as much as ever but there are many lessons he gave me that still bear fruit in my life; simple lessons like setting out my vestments and preparing the Prothesis (Table of Preparation) before every Divine Liturgy.

One evening after I went to Confession with Fr. Nick in his Boulder parish, I noticed how his vestments were neatly prepared in the vestry and so I asked him about it. "I always do this. Apostole, so I can focus on prayer when I arrive for service." And now that I've learned the value of this lesson I couldn't imagine doing otherwise.

For me, preparation for worship begins long before the opening invocation. From my car keys, to service books, to prosphoro, to vestments, to bulletins... everything required is pre-arranged so that I can focus on prayer and not on minutia as I enter the church. These preparatory steps create within me an attitude of expectation as I become attenuated toward the rhythm of worship.

A New Year beckons us as the Holiday Season ends and as the rhythm of everyday life reemerges. The Christmas break ended, our kids are back in school and our resolve to effect positive changes in our lives will be sorely tested. But where on our list of annual resolutions will we find a desire to grow and mature in our Orthodox Christian faith?

We understand that resolutions not energetically pursued are really only wishful -if not wistful- thinking. Substantive changes are accomplished by active engagement as we apply ourselves to the task of replacing bad habits with goods ones; as surely for spiritual goals as for our physical, vocational, or financial goals.

The lessons I learned from my friend Fr. Nick, now passed into the heavens, still guide my priestly life today. And knowing that I've already made preparations to serve the Liturgy for the faithful, my vestments laid out, the Holy Table prepared, the Gospel book already marked, creates an atmosphere of keen anticipation for divine worship within me.

Our spiritual resolutions for the New Year will not be self-actualized but will be realized only as we apply ourselves to them. We mustn't overlook the small steps that will get us there. Even the simple preparations we can make for ourselves and our children required to arrive in a timely and unhurried way for divine worship can reap dividends in our spiritual development.

Fr. Apostolos Neil

Stewardship 2017

By Sandy Meris

Educate - Participate - Elevate

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

New Year – New Goals

A new year is upon us, bringing a fresh start and clean slate. This is always the time to set new goals in our personal lives. It is also important that we set goals as a Cathedral. Where do we want to go from here? What do we want to achieve? How can we improve and grow? These are important questions that keep our Cathedral moving in a forward and upward direction.

The Stewardship Committee has set—what we believe—are *attainable* goals for 2017. But these goals can only be reached if every parishioner works together and each family does their part.

Our goal is to increase our stewardship pledges by \$150,000 for 2017. This can be achieved if each family increases their 2017 pledge by \$450 over their 2016 pledge. That is only an increase by \$1.25 per day.

So why the big push to increase our stewardship? The reason is simple... currently our stewardship contributions do not bring in enough money to cover our expenses. The monthly bills of the Cathedral run approximately \$50,000 per month. Stewardship brings in about \$25,000 per month. But with the \$450 increase per year, per family, we will be one step closer to closing that gap.

When we reach a point where our Stewardship Pledges match our expenses we will be in a position to make amazing changes and wonderful improvements to our Cathedral ministries, outreach programs, and repairs and maintenance to our physical campus that are long overdue.

So, while each of us takes a moment to reflect on the past and plan for the future – please include the Cathedral in those future plans and goals.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee, we wish each of you a healthy, happy and prosperous 2017!

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

www.holytrinityphx.org,

click on the **Stewardship 2017** button on the right,
and fill out your **Stewardship Pledge Card**.

Then, if you so choose,
you can automate your payments by selecting **Parish Pay**.

In a few easy steps you can become a Steward
and keep current on your contributions.

+REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL+

Stewardship Envelopes

Pre-printed Stewardship envelopes are available for pick up after services or from the Church Office.



Stewardship Luncheon

December 4, 2016



Parishioners enjoyed a tasty complimentary lunch prepared by John Mitchell and crew and sponsored by the Parish Council.

Thank you to our Philoptochos members who supplied the fruits and sweets for dessert.



Parish Assembly Meeting

December 4, 2016

The 2017 budget was presented at the Parish Assembly meeting following the luncheon.

Thank you to our parishioners who make a commitment to attend this vital part of our Holy Trinity Cathedral ministry.

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

By Alex Anagnopoulos

What is Philoptochos?

The translation is Philo = Friend and Ptochos = Poor.

It is literally "Friend of the Poor."

"In a full heart there is room for everything, and in an empty heart there is room for nothing." - Antonio Porchia



December's Meeting and Gift Exchange



WE HAVE A FEW DATES FOR YOU TO SAVE:

January 8, 2017 – Philoptochos Annual Vasilopita Cutting and Auction

Come join us in our Annual Vasilopita Cutting. There will be an abundance of Vasilopita to share with our Community. We will then have a Silent Auction to see who are the lucky winners of our beautiful and tasty Vasilopitas baked by the culinary experts of the Philoptochos Ladies. Do not miss out on taking one home to share with your family.

January 28, 2017 – Annual Agape Ball Kids 'n Cancer Camp Fundraiser

Come and most importantly support this very worthy cause. The Agape Ball is the primary fundraiser to send children suffering from cancer to a fun-filled camp with their families. The children are not the only ones who suffer, but their families as well. This is the opportunity for the less fortunate to get away from the grueling treatments and enjoy themselves. This is also a way to enjoy a fun-filled evening.

February 12, 2017 - Annual Philoptochos St. Valentines Champagne Brunch

Bring your family and friends to an early St. Valentine's Day Celebration following Divine Liturgy. What a better way to celebrate and remember our family and express our love for one another. This is Philoptochos' annual fundraiser to support their many Philanthropic causes. You are not only supporting Philoptochos, you are also supporting those in need.

These functions are all held at our own Speros Community Center. You do not have to drive any further than that to have fun, enjoy, and help a worthy cause. HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!

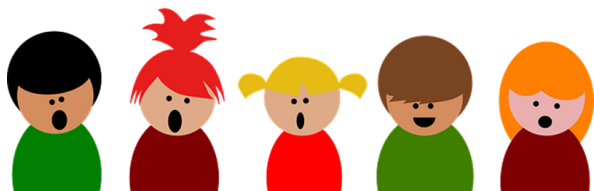
Interested in joining Philoptochos? Call Mary Louise at 602-943-5080 for more info.

Thank you to December hostesses Patti Davis, Georgi Friehe and Connie Venetis.



Music Ministry

Music Ministry “Notes”



It was a busy nativity season for our music ministry! Besides the Christmas pageant replete with carols and hymns, the choir members were present to sing for the Divine Liturgy on Christmas Day. During the recessional, the choir sang a selection of traditional Christmas carols, including “KALI ESPERAN ARHONTES” that featured a bell solo by [Evan Alexon](#) and a vocal solo by [Terri Alexon](#).

Now, it’s a new year! This brings a renewed commitment to singing praises to the Lord with the sweet and innocent sounds emanating from our youth choir. Recently joining is 8-year-old [Joanna Mastorakos](#). Joanna’s presence adds to a growing number of youth choir members who bring an ample supply of enthusiasm and energy to the loft on Sunday mornings:

- [Rio Bekiou](#)
- [Savanna Bekiou](#)
- [Sierra Bekiou](#)
- [Sedona Bekiou](#)
- [Zoe Cartier](#)
- [Christina Gardner](#)
- [Aleena Haugen](#)
- [Susie Papadopoulos](#)
- [Ari Vardalos](#)
- [Alexis Venetis](#)
- [Grace Wombacher](#)

Answers to **Christmas** Carol Quiz:

1. Loyal Followers Advance—*O Come All Ye Faithful*
2. Far Off in a Feeder—*Away in a Manger*
3. Righteous Darkness—*Silent Night*
4. Jehovah Deactivate Blithe Cavaliers—*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*
5. Proceed and Enlighten on the Pinnacle—*Go Tell It on the Mountain*
6. Query regarding Identity of Descendent—*What Child is This?*
7. Delight on this Planet—*Joy to the World*
8. Give Attention to the Melodious Celestial Beings—*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*
9. Monarchical Triad—*We Three Kings*
10. Small Municipality of the Birthplace of Jesus—*O Little Town of Bethlehem*



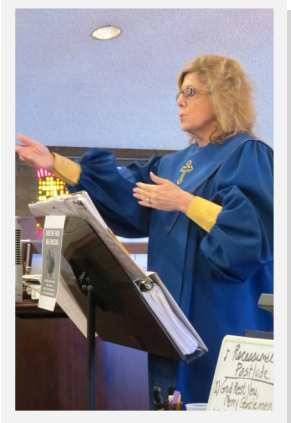
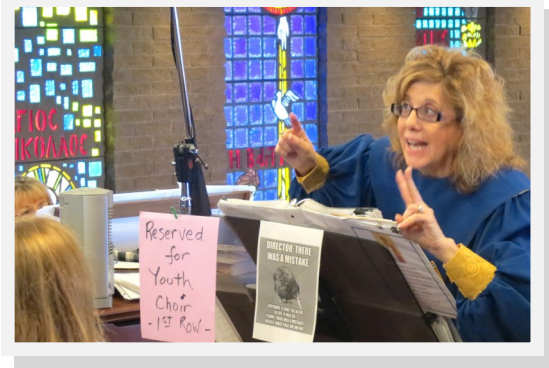
Rehearsals for youth choir start up again on **January 8, 2017** immediately following Sunday School, but before dance practice in the Community Center “piano corner.” The goal is to have the children sing more hymns and responses during liturgy. If your child is interested in becoming involved in this rewarding musical effort, please contact Choir Director [Terri Alexon](#) at hphxmusicdirector@gmail.com or **480-233-2416**.



Have a Blessed New Year!

Choir

December 4, 2016



Philoptochos Bake Sale

December 11, 2016

Philoptochos held their annual Christmas Bake Sale offering tsoureki, koulouria, and a variety of cakes, cookies and muffins.

Even with increased product—it was a near sell-out! Thanks to our community for supporting this sale.



Sunday School

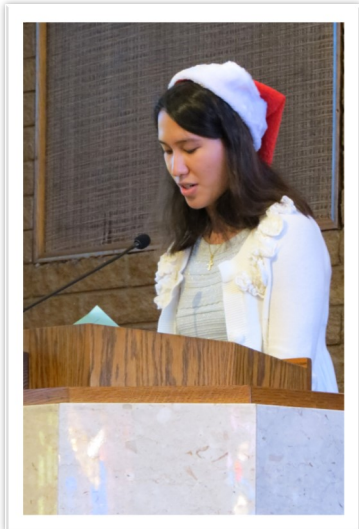


The Sunday School children presented a Nativity Pageant on Sunday, December 18, following Divine Liturgy.



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

[More Photos](#)



Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners 50+



January's Activity:

Desert Diamonds Seniors & Guests Activity
A Visit to the Beautiful Desert Botanical Gardens,
1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix
Thursday, January 10th, 2017,
Meet at the Gardens at **10:00am**

Free Admission!

Lunch at a restaurant to be announced.

Car Pooling is encouraged and necessary for accommodations.

Please R.S.V.P. for reservation.

Thank You,

Diana Harris: 602-996-0113, Doree Drakos: 602-993-0659, or Nicolette Tavlarides: 602-725-8653.



2016 Christmas Potluck and Party

Mark Your Calendars!

FEBRUARY 14th, 2017, 11:00am

Valentine's Lunch

Matt's Big Breakfast, 32nd Street & Camelback Road

For more information on attending Desert Diamonds upcoming events, contact:

Diana Harris at 602-996-0113,
Doree Drakos at 602-993-0659 or
Nicolette Tavlarides at 602-725-8653



Before the meal, the Desert Diamonds were treated to the rehearsal for Holy Trinity Academy's upcoming Christmas Pageant later that evening.



Men of Desert Diamonds enjoy conversation after the meal and before the gift exchange.



A large variety of delicious lunch items was available to the guests.

St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

By Patsy Harris

[A Blessed 2017 to All!](#)

When Fr. Apostolos first asked the Ministry Leaders to meet and formalize a Vision for Holy Trinity, I expressed a goal to expand the Bookstore and was prepared to more aptly name it “The Church Store.” A dear friend suggested the name “St. Nectarios Books and Beyond.” I must confess that I had some doubts about this new name at first, so I prayed about it. I now understand what this name really expresses and I wish to share this with all of you so that we may begin 2017 understanding *why* we use this name.

We truly do start our Ministry with books, particularly with the Holy Bible and the writings of the Holy Fathers and Saints. Then we must move beyond knowing about Christianity into actively participating in the life Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ desires for us. The other items in the bookstore provide the tools we need for worship and the daily life skills needed to follow Him. Hence, we literally and figuratively ARE “books and beyond!” Please do visit us, and become a more active part of this Ministry. We encourage our parishioners to share their thoughts and ideas with us, so that we may serve you better.

A new feature of this communication will be to share a review of one of our offerings.

This month we offer a review of the book, The Path to Salvation, by St. Theophan, sent in by Chris DeMoss:

In his book, the Saint gives good advice for everyday living. What is interesting is that his writings apply to today’s society even though they were written about 130 years ago in Russia! Technology changes but people are the same throughout the centuries. A good read! (Thank you, Chris!)

January 1st—St. Basil the Great; Circumcision of the Lord: “Basil” means “kingly” and St. Basil is greatly respected in the Orthodox Church for establishing and setting rules for monasticism, formalizing the Divine Liturgy, establishing hospitals, orphanages, and homes for the aged.

Christ’s circumcision is very rich in spiritual context, as in submitting to the law of circumcision Our Lord “... wants both to humiliate Himself in His flesh and to mark that He is the fullness and completion of the Old Covenant.” (from The Year of Grace of the Lord by a Monk of the Eastern Church)

January 6th—Holy Theophany: After Pascha and Pentecost, this is the greatest Feast of our Church. Commemorating Christ’s Baptism in the Jordan, in this Feast, as the Troparion of the day tells us, “the worship of the Trinity was made manifest” with the voice of God the Father, Christ, the Son in the flesh, and the Holy Spirit in the form of the dove confirming for us Christ’s Divinity and His humanity.

January 7th—St. John the Baptist: the name means “God is gracious.” There are more than fifty saints who bear this name! St. John the Baptist was “sent to prepare the way of the Lord.” He is memorialized several times throughout the year, but especially on this the day after Holy Theophany.

January 17th—St. Anthony the Great: Although the meaning of the name is uncertain, it is generally held to mean “beyond praise.” St. Anthony the Great (250-356) is renowned as the “Patriarch of Monastic Life.”

January 18th—Athanasios & Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria: Athanasios means ‘immortal.’ St. Athanasios (293-373) was a participant in the Council of Nicaea (325) and Patriarch of Alexandria. Cyril means “lordly.” There are several Cyrils who are saints, but this Cyril is an Egyptian who was a great writer, teacher, and later Patriarch of Alexandria.

January 25th—Gregory the Theologian: The name means “watchful, vigilant.” St. Gregory the Theologian is one of the four great doctors of the Church, who fought against paganism and heresy, became Patriarch of Constantinople and unified the Church so it could withstand all assaults.

January 30th—Three Hierarchs: These three are St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom. “Their teaching and their lives constitute very sure standards of ‘orthodoxy’ [and] ...express the Byzantine tradition at its most accessible.” (The Year of Grace of the Lord)

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

www.stnectariosbooksandbeyond.org or patsy@stnectariosphx.org

Patsy Harris – 480-239-5270

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

1/1/2017

Christo Alexander Panagiotakopoulos, son of Alexia & Alexi Panagiotakopoulos

God's Blessings be upon him.



Baptisms

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

12/3/2016

Calan Michael Pritsos, son of Michael & Jennifer Pritsos, Godfather is Constantinos Pritsos

God's Blessings be upon him.

12/11/2016

Corabella Brooksan Antoniadis, daughter of Theodore J. Antoniadis & Tanya Antoniadis (Borg), Godparents are Theo Antoniadis, Erika Borg and Lawrence Stinson

God's Blessings be upon her.

Everett John-Paul Antoniadis, son of Theodore J. Antoniadis & Tanya Antoniadis (Borg), Godparents are Paul Antoniadis, Stephanie Antoniadis & Melissa Stinson

God's Blessings be upon him.

Weddings

“Oh Lord our God, crown them with glory and honour.”

12/31/2016

Andres Ortega Galvis & Katerina Sophia Froumis

God's Blessings be upon them.

Cory Wayne Schwab & Kathryn Persephone Pritsos

Sponsor: Annie Knezevic

God's Blessings be upon them.



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

12/9/2016

Georgia G. Hall

May her memory be eternal.

12/16/2016

Georgia H. Poulos

May her memory be eternal.

Your Desert Springs Subscription—Time to Renew!

Desert Springs Subscription

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

\$3 per issue

There are 11 issues for 2017 (June and July is one combined issue)

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Return this form to the Church Office or contact Kristen at 602-332-8809 or kvasilarakos@cox.net for more information.

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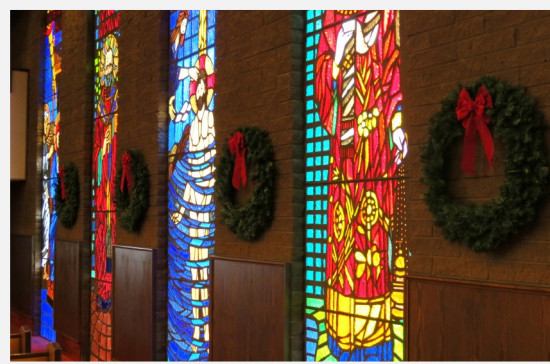
Epistle Readers

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



Our Decorated Cathedral

Merry Christmas 2016!



[More Photos](#)

Hellenic Historical Museum

Ready for Phase 2!

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 up to the relocation in 1973 at the present site of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

Now, the Museum is looking for photos taken after 1973. That covers a lot, we know. So to start, we are looking for **organization group photos**, such as committee, membership, and board pictures.

Do you have any that you would like to share? The photos could be the originals—or we can accept scanned photos. Contact Bessie Hotis at bhotis@cox.net for more information.

The Museum is open the first Sunday of each month after Divine Liturgy.



Holy Trinity Academy

On [Facebook](#) at Holy Trinity Academy

By Juli Pritsos

Gearing Up for the New School Year!

Finding the perfect school for your little one can seem such a daunting task. Wouldn't it be easier to just know that you have the perfect school right in your own community – a school that develops a love of learning from the very beginning and reinforces the kinds of religious morals and values that are important to you – not to mention a fun environment and loving staff that feels like an extension of your own family?

HTA has been a successful early education school for over a decade and prides itself with a stellar staff, an accelerated curriculum, a nurturing and caring environment, and best of all—Orthodoxy on a daily basis! In addition, our curriculum includes a fine arts program that includes music and art, Greek as a second language, weekly prayer services with our principal, Father Apostolos, gardening, and so much more! It really is a unique program that can't be found elsewhere. So, end your search and come and see HTA for yourself!

On Wednesday, January 18, from 6:00pm to 7:00pm, HTA will host its annual Open House. Come and meet the staff, board members, and parents of existing students and witness first hand what a gem of a school that Holy Trinity Academy really is! Take advantage of the evening by enrolling your little one that night and save \$50 on the annual registration fee! You will see the hands-on activities that our students do on a daily basis and receive educated answers to all of your important questions from our staff and board members. We currently have openings in all three classes: Pre-K3, Pre-K4, and Kindergarten. Register now and apply for scholarships through one of our scholarship organizations.

Even if you don't have children the age to attend HTA you can still make a difference to an attending student by making a tax-deductible tax credit donation to [ACSTO.org](#). Simply list Holy Trinity Academy as your school of choice and we will make sure that a child benefits.

Education is power and teaching a child to love learning is what we do best!



Holy Trinity Academy

Where kids learn, play, and grow!

1973 E. Maryland Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85016

Wednesday, January 18
6:00pm to 7:00pm

Now enrolling preschoolers and kindergarteners for 2017-2018.
Tour the school, learn about the program, and meet our staff and HTA Board!

For more information call

602-248-3881

or visit htaphx.org

Bring a friend and help us grow together!

Visit us on  Facebook Holy Trinity Academy

Greek School

By Irene Dartoozos-Mackos eirinie@gmail.com



Holy Trinity Greek
&
Heritage School of Phoenix

Happy New Year
from the Greek & Heritage School of Phoenix

December was a busy month of our Greek & Heritage School

On December 14th, the Greek & Heritage School of Phoenix made Greek Christmas Cards for each ministry of our Church and rosemary wreaths, sang Greek Christmas carols, and learned about Greek customs including and enjoying Xristoposmo (Christ bread).



Xristopsomo is a Greek Christmas tradition. The bread of Christ is served on Christmas Eve. Since it is a sweet bread, it's also called Christ's birthday bread. **Thank you to Joanna Mackos** who made the Xristopsomo for the Greek & Heritage School.



The Greek & Heritage School of Phoenix is now a testing site for the **Certificate of Attainment in Modern Greek**. Students can receive high school and college credit with this certificate.



January 1st—Happy Name Day to those named Bill, Basil, Vasiliki, Vasos, Vasili and more!

January 7th—Happy Name Day to student **Joanna Mastorakos** and to those named John, Yianni, Yiannis, Ioanna, Joanna and more!

January 11th—Yiayia's Test Kitchen, Vasilopita

January 18th—Yiayia's Test Kitchen, Prosforo

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Elizabeth Anderson who donated to the Greek & Heritage School.

OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

By Sandy Meris, President

Wishing all of our OPA Families a happy and healthy 2017! We hope to see all of you at our youth and family events in the new year!



Where every adult is a parent to our youth.

JANUARY EVENTS

Little Lambs New Year Pot Luck
Saturday, January 7th, 4:00pm

At the home of Angela Scopelianos
1750 W. San Tan Street
Chandler, AZ 85224

Join us for Little Lambs New Year Pot Luck celebration. Come enjoy an evening of food, music and dancing. All Little Lambs families are welcome.

Please RSVP to:
Angela @ 913-638-5991 or
Jennifer @ 949-259-3352



Hope & Joy

Save the Date for Saturday, January 21st for our monthly activity.
Additional information to follow

Jr./Sr. GOYA *Let's Play Ball!*

Join us as we spend a morning volunteering at Miracle League of Arizona. (MLAZ is a baseball league for physically and mentally challenged children). Our GOYAnS will be paired with players to help them hit, run, catch, and have fun!

Saturday, January 21st, 10:00am
Meet at the MLAZ fields
11130 E. Cholla Street
Scottsdale, 85259
RSVP to Sandy Meris @ 602-525-0345 or sandymeris@yahoo.com

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 and we'll get you added to the list.

New OPA Board

OPA is looking for new board members!

Elections will be held soon, and we need new fresh faces who are ready to get involved. The board consists of president, vice president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and treasurer.

If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact:
Sandy Meris at sandymeris@yahoo.com



Day of Christmas Cheer

December 3, 2016



Father Apostolos read to the children and led them in carols.



The decorated tree.



Hot chocolate for everyone!



A visit from St. Nick.



Playing in six tons of snow!

Jr. & Sr. Valley GOYA Christmas Event

December 3, 2016



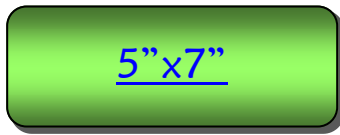
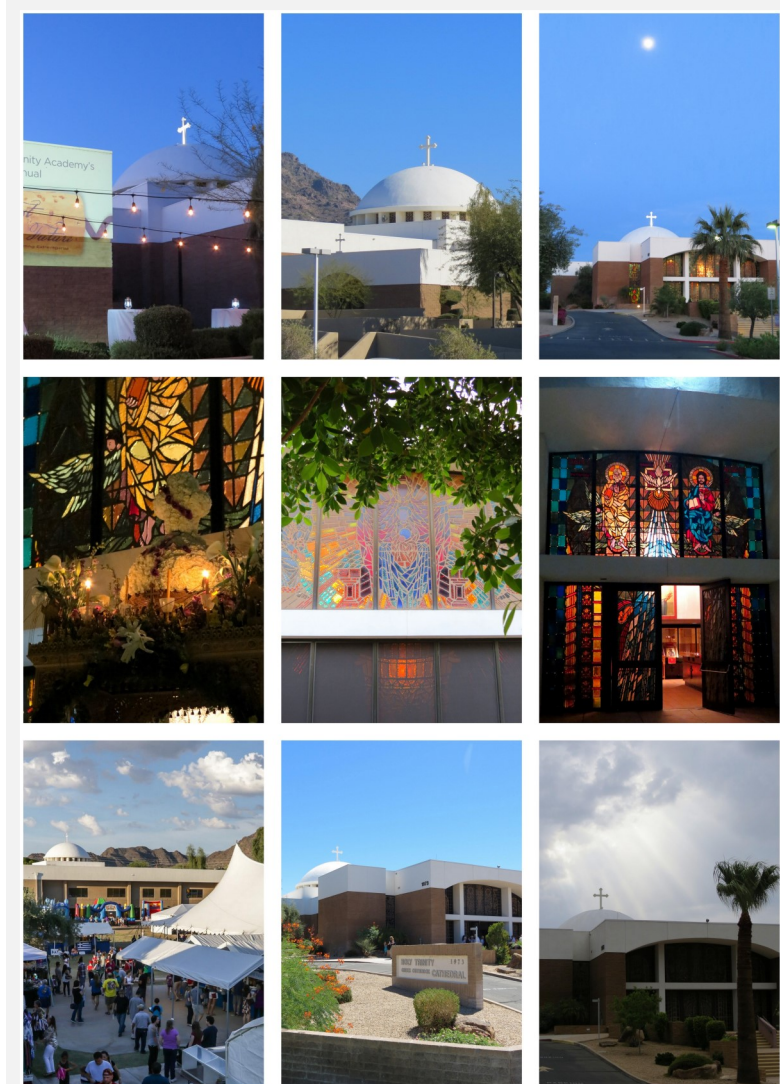
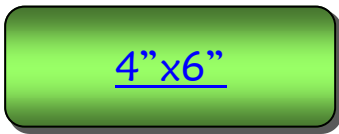
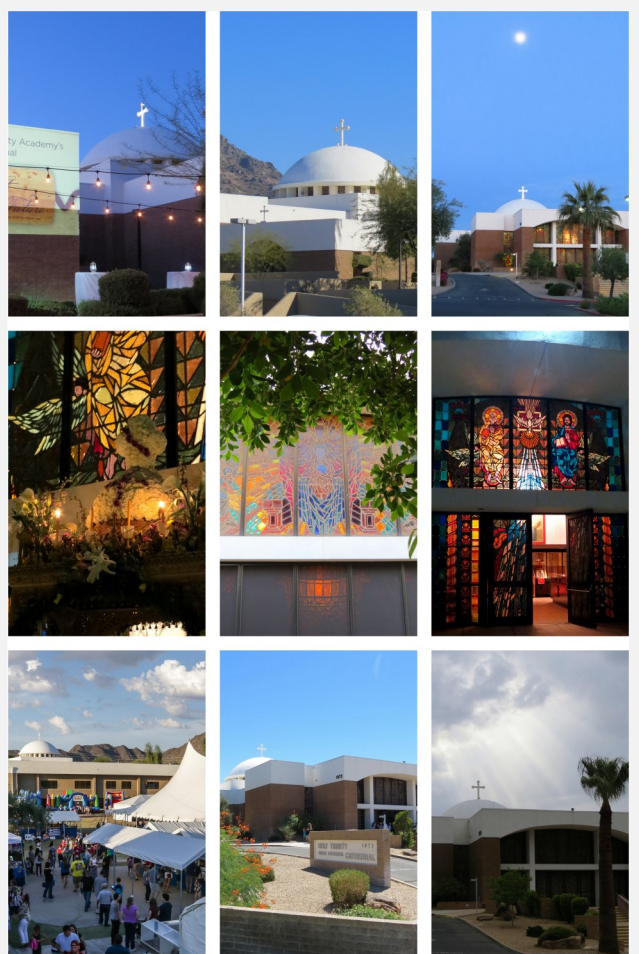
"Ugly", festive, and fun Christmas Sweater Photos!



Desert Springs January 2017

The 2016 *Desert Springs* Covers

All nine 2016 *Desert Springs* covers highlighting various views of the external Cathedral are here. Click on the green button below each photo to open Google Photos to keep or share a copy in either 4"x6" or 5"x7" format.



All photos by Kristen Vasilarakos except for the lower left photo by www.spartaphoto.com

Dance

Just a couple small announcements as we enter 2017:

Please mark your calendars for our [Dance Program Garage Sale](#) THIS SATURDAY, January 7th from 8:00am to 3:00pm at Bessie Hotis' house at 3520 E Beryl Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85028. We need any and all donations dropped off this week before the sale and we need volunteers to help set up Friday night and work Saturday morning! Please contact Niko Panagiotakopoulos for more information at 602-469-2039.

Please don't forget, our first Wednesday practice is THIS WEDNESDAY, January 4th at 7:00pm! We will continue all the way through FDF with practices every Wednesday.

We look forward to seeing the rest of the community when we perform at the Soup and Salad Luncheon on January 22nd!

Daughters of Penelope

Mark your calendars for the Daughters of Penelope annual picnic on **Saturday, March 4th.**

Fun for the whole family!

More info to follow.



AHEPA Chapter 219



Phoenix Chapter 219



Congratulations to our 2016 Scholarship Winners

High School: Nikolas Deffigos (Grand Prize), Nichole Kyprianou, Alyssa Lemere, Demos Fotias, and Gianni Ristagno

College: Maria Lewandowski (Grand Prize), and Michael Ristagno

NEXT MEETING

Thursday
January 19, 2017
6:30pm

Holy Trinity Greek
Orthodox Cathedral
James A. Speros
Community Center

RSVP

ahepa219@gmail.com
Or call
Ted Foulis
602.625.8835

Maids of Athena

Aphrodite Irene Chapter

Ronald McDonald House Fundraiser

<https://www.gofundme.com/RMHGreeksDivision>



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 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: _____

~ January 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						Coffee Hour – DANCE
1 NEW YEAR'S DAY ST. BASIL CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST 8am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy No Sunday School	2 No HTA	3	4 10am – Bible Study (Ed Bldg. Café) 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg) 6pm – Paraklesis 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice 7pm-9pm – Dance practice	5 8am - Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil & Small Blessing of the Waters 7pm – Philoptochos meeting (Lounge)	6 HOLY THEOPHANY 8am - Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy & Great Blessing of the Waters	7 SYNAXIS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST 8am – Matins 9am – Liturgy 11am – Moore Baptism
8 8am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy David Spieth- 3Yr Memorial Philoptochos Trex Vesilopita Cutting (CC) Vesilopita Auction (CC) Youth Choir Pizza Party & Rehearsal (Immediately following Sunday School in CC at "Piano Corner") 12:15pm-3pm – Dance practice	9	10 10am – Deseret Diamonds (Desert Botanical Gardens)	11 10am – Bible Study (Ed Bldg. Café) 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg) 6pm – Paraklesis 7pm – HTA Board meeting 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice 7pm-9pm – Dance practice	12 6pm – PC meeting (Conference room)	13	14 10am-4pm – Dance Workshop (LH)
15 8am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy Georgia Hall-40 Day Memorial PC Oath of Office Youth Choir Rehearsal (Immediately following Sunday School in CC at "Piano Corner") 12:15pm-3pm – Dance practice	16 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY No HTA	17 ST. ANTHONY 8am - Matins 9am - Divine Liturgy	18 10am – Bible Study (Ed Bldg. Café) 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg) 6pm – Paraklesis 6:30pm – HTA Open House 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice 7pm-9pm – Dance practice	19 6pm – AHEPA (Small Hall)	20	21 6-9pm Hope & Joy Jr/Sr GOYA (CC) 9:30am-11:30am Narthex Ministry Team Seminar
22 8am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy Georgia Poulos-40 Day Memorial Youth Choir Rehearsal (Immediately following Sunday School in CC at "Piano Corner") 12:15pm – Dance Soup & Saled luncheon	23	24	25 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg) 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice 7pm-9pm – Dance practice	26	27 10am – Agape Ball Set-up	28 Philoptochos Agape Ball (LH) 2pm-4pm – Teslay Wedding
29 8:00am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy Youth Choir Rehearsal (Immediately following Sunday School in CC at "Piano Corner") 12:15pm-3pm – Dance practice	30 THREE HIERARCHS	31				

Calendar is subject to change.

12/29/16