

#### Rev. Economos Apostolos Hill Rev. Deacon John Thrasher

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-3:00pm

Sunday Worship
Cathedral
8:00am Orthros
9:30am Divine Liturgy

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**Desert Springs Deadline**The 25th of each month

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Holy Trinity Cathedral Website www.holytrinityphx.org

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

Archdiocese Website www.goarch.org

#### **Organization Contacts**

AHEPA — John Kostaros

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 — Niko Panagiotakopoulos

Daughters of Penelope — Connie Panagiotakopoulos

Desert Diamonds (50+) — Doree Drakos, Diana Harris, Nikolette

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Greek Festival — Nick Kretsedemas, Angelo Pestrivas, Kristen

Vasilarakos

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Jr. GOYA — Sandy Annos, Donna Manelis

Little Lambs — Jennifer Kourouglos

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Museum — Bessie Hotis

Myrrhbearers — Diakonissa Mary Thrasher

OPA — Sandy Meris

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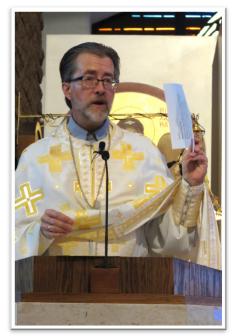
button within an article to link to an album in Google Photos to see more pictures of the events profiled on the page.

Email links, website links, Facebook links, and document links will work too, directly from this publication.

Check them out!

# Message from Father Apostolos

#### The Middle Distances



On a typical Sunday morning as I am driving to the Cathedral I pass one or more early-morning joggers pounding out their miles as the sun begins to rise. Some have great form and impressive speed while others... well, God bless them for their effort! But having long surrendered my last pair of running shoes some years back I am envious of them all.

Distance running was my "go-to" fitness regimen for thirty years, a monument to my rank stubbornness in overcoming childhood asthma and the annual onslaught of debilitating allergies. Some of my best memories involve crazy runs I've taken in tough conditions; like the 10-miler in deep snow in central lowa while on a business trip, or into the foothills that ring Palm Springs as the sun was setting... until my friend and I had to race down the hillside after we realized we'd be stuck there once darkness fell.

Never a sprinter, I still participated in a good many 5K and 10K races, the worst of which was the 1989 Zayne Pancake Breakfast 10K up the side of Mount Hermon in Felton, CA on a sandy horse trail... utterly grueling!

Races were fun at the starting and finish lines but the lonely middle distances were as much a mental as a physical trial. It was here that my running form would fall apart and my attention would wander.

As we begin the Lenten journey of 2017 we are supported at the beginning by Clean Week and at the end by Holy Week, each of which offers nightly services throughout. And like eager racers we may hit our stride easily enough when the Great Fast is new and when Pascha is in sight. But it is the middle distance between the Sunday of Orthodoxy and Palm Sunday that will tax us the most.

St. Paul encouraged the Hebrews to run strong when he wrote: "Seeing then that we are surrounded by so great a Cloud of Witnesses let us run with patience the race that is set before, looking to Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith." Soon enough, the drudgery of keeping the fast, of attending the midweek services, of stepping up our daily Rule of Prayer (or at least contending with the gnawing sense that we ought to be) will assert itself.

Like athletes in competition, discipline will be required of us to complete the course, again, as St. Paul described to the Corinthians; "Everyone who competes in the games trains with strict discipline. They do it for a crown that is perishable but we for an imperishable one." And in the weeks ahead our perseverance and attention will be sorely tested as we are tempted to forego the fast, avoid the services, mumble our prayers, and ignore the poor. Anyone who suggests to you that Great Lent is anything but arduous is gravely misled.

Pay attention to the middle distance of the fast when our neighbors are grilling steaks and days are warming and lengthening and we'd rather be anywhere but in another Lenten service. As a runner it was here that I could make the most progress on improving my final time and it is here that the race will be won for us this Great Lent.

Kali Saracosti!

Tr. Geostolos Viel

# Stewardship 2017

By Sandy Meris

# Educate - Participate - Elevate

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

Online giving is now available. Simply go to the Cathedral's website at <a href="https://www.holytrinityphx.org">www.holytrinityphx.org</a>,
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+

# 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!

Reader Sophia Walsh

#### Altar Service

Interested in learning more about serving on the altar? Contact Chris Francis <a href="mailto:battersbox7@yahoo.com">battersbox7@yahoo.com</a>, David Haag <a href="mailto:davidmhaag@yahoo.com">davidmhaag@yahoo.com</a> or Deacon John Thrasher <a href="mailto:thrasheraz@cox.net">thrasheraz@cox.net</a>



Brothers Nathaniel and Dominic Tropea with Deacon John Thrasher



# Shrimp Fest for the Fast!

# SUNDAY, MARCH 26 FOLLOWING LITURGY

Adults: \$15 (\$20 at the door until sold out) 5-12 years: \$10, Under 5: Free

Tickets sold on Sundays during coffee hour. Limited seating.

Shrimp & Pasta, Salad & Assorted Lenten Desserts



Sandy Meris: 602-525-0345 Connie Contes: 480-200-9772

Shrimp generously donated by Christos and Connie Panagiotakopoulos.

#### **Endowment Fund**

#### + THE HOLY TRINITY ENDOWMENT FUND +

The Holy Trinity Endowment Fund was established in 1992 with an initial deposit of two thousand dollars. The goal was to build the fund whereby the interest and appreciation would one day provide sufficient income for the Church, to no longer be <u>totally dependent</u> on an annual Festival to supplement Stewardship income.

The Endowment Fund is obligated to preserve the donors' deposits, and those deposits (the principal), will remain **inviolate** and **in perpetuity** (forever) by the Church. The only withdrawals allowed from the fund (for the benefit of the Church) will be the income and appreciation of the donors' original deposit (the principal).

Over the course of the past twenty-five years, the Church has held steadfast to this, and thus, generous donors from our Church, desiring to leave a legacy in perpetuity of their family, loved ones, etc., have made (principal) deposits (over the years) of \$535,000. Those original deposits have grown to the current value of \$770,000.

The Endowment Fund has, over the past few years, returned to the Church over \$50,000 in dividends, and has applied over \$150,000 of appreciated value towards reduction (from \$998,000 to \$838,000) of the loan the Church had with JP Morgan Chase Bank. The loan had been carried by the bank at an interest rate of 7.25%, however, by transferring (in April 2012) the Endowment Funds assets to Chase Bank as collateral (security), the bank reduced the interest rate to 2.45%. This resulted in an interest savings of over \$50,000 per year while at Chase Bank. The loan is now at The American Bank and Trust.

The Endowment Fund is prudently managed by the Investment Committee of the Church. The Committee has directed the bank to apply some of the collateral's appreciation towards the reduction of the loan and for gifts that donors have directed towards special needs of the Church.

#### This is your opportunity to put your lifetime thumbprint in the history of Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Please take this moment to become, like others, a part of this legacy by pledging your gift to Holy Trinity Cathedral's perpetual Endowment Fund. Gifts of \$10,000 or more will be separately listed along with others who have reached that level. Your pledge can be made over as many as three years.

Any gift, no matter the amount, will be combined into the General Endowment Fund, and will be greatly appreciated.

#### + Gifts over \$10,000.00 +

Faye Boukas, Dr. Nicholas Baziotes, Koula & George Cheros, Connie & Jim Contes, Anastasia & Dennis DeBerry, the DeMoss Families, Mary Montague, Helen H. & Gabriel N. Papagallos, Tasia Pritchard, Dina Sakellarakis, Ann & George Souvall, John George Thomas, Joan & Steve Vrahas, Judith & Steve Vrahas, John G. Zannaras and four General Endowment Fund donations In Memory Of: Stacy Hotis, Danny Speros, Mark Sprintz, Milton Sioles

· CITT FORM ·						
+ GIFT FORM +						
Please list my/our endowment gift as follows:						
Here is my/our one time General Endowment gift, which I/we may add to, of: \$						
I/we wish to make a gift of \$ 10,000.00 or more payable, now, or over a three year period.						
With this form \$						
Year Two \$						
Year Three \$						
By:Dated:20						
Donor, please sign and keep a copy for your records.						
All gifts will be preserved in the archives of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 1973 E. Maryland						
Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016						
+ We Thank You and may God Bless You for your generosity. +						

#### 2017 Stewards as of 2/28/2017

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Kavouris, Jim & Poppy Kechajias, Fanny

Keyser, Quentin & Catherine Kidd, Ronald & Virginia Kokalis, Matina

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Kosta, Stella

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Zannis, Zella Zikos, Evangelia

Zistatsis, Michael & Christina

Zoukis, Ann

# 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

To our fellow Holy Trinity Cathedral parishioners:

The St. Katherine Philoptochos Chapter of Holy Trinity Cathedral sends a big THANK YOU to each and every one in our fantastic community for all the support you have given us in all of our endeavors. Our Christmas 2016 Bake Sale, the Vasilopita Cutting and Auction, Agape Ball (Kids 'n Cancer Camp Fundraiser) and our Annual St. Valentine's Champagne Brunch have been a joy to host because of all your support. We sincerely appreciate your generosity in donating to the trays we pass following Divine Liturgy on Sundays for the Patriarchate, St. Nicholas Ranch, Holy Cross Seminary and St. Basil's Academy. Without your support, we would not be able to support our charitable causes nationally, throughout the Metropolis, and locally. THANK YOU.... THANK YOU.... THANK YOU!

We welcome all who would like to join us in working to assist those in need. In giving of yourselves you receive so much more. Our MEMBERSHIP YEAR begins in January. We begin collecting stewardship for membership at that time. However, our Ecclesiastical Year begins the first Thursday of September every year. We have a \$15.00 commitment to the Metropolis and a \$15.00 commitment to National Philoptochos for each member. Anything over and above stays with our Chapter to meet our commitments. If you would like to join us, please pick up a membership form in the Narthex or call one of our Membership Committee members Patty Davis, Georgi Frieh or Connie Venetis. Their phone numbers are listed in the Cathedral directory.

Please save the date for our Pascha Bake Sale on Palm Sunday. Come get your Tsourekia and Koulourakia to share with your family.

#### KALI SARAKOSTI



#### 2017 Sweetheart Brunch







Congratulations to 50/50 raffle winner Angie Lambrou (pictured far right)!

More Photos

# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos



Members of Holy Trinity Cathedral's St. Katherine Chapter with Father Apostolos



Wearing red for Women's Heart Health Awareness, one of Philoptochos' many endeavors, at the annual Philoptochos Sweetheart Brunch.

Photo credit for both photos: Caroline Economopoulos

## Lost & Found

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



#### **JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS 2017**

#### We are the right hand of the Church!

We would like you to know that membership to Philoptochos *IS IMPORTANT* for our community, the Archdiocese and Diocese.

Invitation to Philoptoch	ios below. 	
YOUR INVITATION TO	D PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017	
NAME:		
ADDRESS:		
PHONE:		
CHECK #	AMOUNT:	
\$15 will be sent to the A chapter charities and ob	Archdiocese and \$15 to the Diocese. <b>Any amou Digations.</b>	nt over \$30 will be retained for our

Mail your membership to: St. Katherine's Philoptochos of HTC Membership 2015 1973 E. Maryland Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85016

#### Mochas for Missions

#### **MOCHAS for MISSIONS** has begun!

Be a STAR this Great Lent and offer your BUCKS to Missions!

The **Mochas for Missions** campaign, formerly known as Pennies and Prayers, funds **C.O.M.E.**, our Metropolis' Missions & Evangelism ministry.

Curb your coffee purchases during Lent and give that extra cash to support Mission & Evangelism efforts in our Metropolis. We are challenging all families to give a minimum of \$20 towards this wonderful program. If coffee is not your thing, then choose something else to give up out of love for God.

**Save** money you would normally use on coffee purchases or another treat.

**Place** checks and cash in the canister every Sunday!

Watch as our parish advances each week towards our \$2,000 goal.

Together we can easily reach our goal by Pentecost Sunday, June 4, 2017!

C.O.M.E. = Commission for Orthodox Missions & Evangelism www.come-sf.org



# St. Katherine's Philoptochos of HTC 2017 Scholarship Application

The Holy Trinity Cathedral Philoptochos Society will be offering **two** one thousand dollar (\$1000) scholarships to Holy Trinity Cathedral students attending college in the fall of 2017. Listed below are the eligibility requirements:

- Student and/or family must be a steward of Holy Trinity Cathedral
- High School students must have graduated in the spring of 2017 and attending college in the fall of 2017

College students may also apply as continuing students or in graduate programs in the Fall of 2017

Applicants must submit:

- A copy of 2016-2017 transcripts
- College acceptance letter
- · A resume including school, church and community activities

APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 27, 2017

If you have any questions or would like to contribute to the Scholarship Fund, please contact a member of the Scholarship Committee or Philoptochos.

Georgana Frieh 480-945-0800 or Mary Louise Theodoropoulos 602-943-5080

Name:	<del></del> -			
Address:				
City & Zip:				
Phone:				
High School or College presently attending:				
College(s) Accepted to:				
GPA:				

## Music Ministry

#### Music Ministry "Notes"











Sing unto Him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise. Psalms 33:3

The Lenten season is upon us which means a "musical marathon" for the Choir! It also marks the second anniversary of our Cathedral's organist, Terry Seretis. Terry re-joined the music ministry at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in March of 2015 when it was a busy time musically. As a talented musician, Terry accepted the challenge of playing a voluminous amount of music with passion and efficiency. She tackled learning the workings of a complex organ very quickly. We're grateful to God that Terry continues to provide beautiful sounds to facilitate our worship.



Terry is also a talented baker who regularly brings Lenten treats to rehearsal for all to enjoy. Yum! This year, she has taken the lead in baking the Lenten desserts as well as playing the piano for the upcoming Palm Sunday Luncheon on April 9, 2017. Please take "note" and mark your calendars for a beautiful, family event hosted each year by the choir. Food will be catered by Alexi's Grill and Christo's Ristorante. Ticket sales begin on March 5th after Divine Liturgy in the Speros Community Center.

Sharing music and chevron stripes are Organist Terry Seretis and Youth Choir Member Alexis Venetis

# Stewardship Envelopes

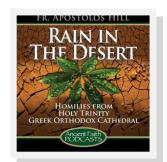
Pre-printed Stewardship envelopes are available for pick up after services in the Narthex or from the Church Office.

#### 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: <a href="http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/rain">http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/rain</a>

Sermons can also be found on the Cathedral website at www.holytrinityphx.org.

#### Myrrhbearers Myrrhbearers Needed for Holy Week and Pascha

We are seeking eight to twelve young girls to serve as Myrrhbearers for Good Friday evening, April 14th at 7:00pm and Pascha, April 15th at 11:00pm.

Girls in the 6th grade through twelfth grade, ages 11-18, serve as the Myrrhbearers that were present at Christ's tomb.

To prepare for these services, we will practice on March 5th, the Sunday of Orthodoxy, following Divine Liturgy (11:45am). We will also meet on Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt, April 2nd, after Divine Liturgy (11:45am) and Lazarus Saturday, April 8th after Divine Liturgy.

Girls should wear a white or light colored modest dress. A white choir robe will be provided.

It is a blessing to serve as a Myrrhbearer and this experience will encourage the young girls to continue to participate in their faith and Church life.

If you desire to serve on Good Friday evening and Pascha this year, please contact Diakonissa Mary Thrasher at <a href="mailto:thrashermary@cox.net">thrashermary@cox.net</a> and/or at 602-867-2827.



Holy Friday 2015

I am also seeking assistance with this ministry and working with the girls this Pascha. In addition, I hope to eventually hand this ministry over to a new and dedicated soul.

The hope is to expand this ministry at Holy Trinity Cathedral to include all young girls and young women to become service orientated throughout the year, to participate in the liturgical life of the Church through various opportunities related to Church and to maintain and preserve the teachings of the Orthodox faith. Thank you.

Diakonissa Mary Thrasher

## Parish Assembly Meeting

# Parish Assembly

# Sunday, March 26

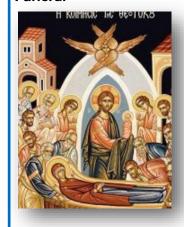


Following Divine Liturgy and the Shrimp Fest for the Fast

Speros Center

# Our Church Family

#### **Funeral**



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

Psalm 23:6

2/10/2017
Maria Linaris
May her memory be eternal.



# Annual Luncheon April 9, 2017

Speros Community Center Hosted by the Holy Trinity Cathedral Choir

immediately following Church Services

Lenten buffet includes:
Grilled salmon with lemon-dill sauce,
pasta with marinara sauce,
green beans, salad, roll, dessert, and wine
Catered by Alexi's Grill and Christo's Ristorante

~Tables reservations require parties of 10~

Adults—\$25.00 Children ages 6-12—\$12.00

For reservations, contact Tina Zannis at 602-996-9297

#### Narthex Ministry



Narthex Ministry volunteers Cal Raup and Charlie DeMoss greet visitor Louis Burgdorf.



This Ministry Team, led by Juli Pritsos, will serve the first Sunday of every month. (I to r) Paulina Watson, Irene Mackos, Kathy Clarke, Kristen Vasilarakos, Kalli Schneider, Juli Pritsos, Dawn Cartier, Angelo Scopelianos, and Melissa Panagiotakopoulos

## Catechism Class

New Catechism Series with Father Apostolos

"How To Be An Orthodox Christian" catechism series will commence on Friday evenings of Great Lent at 6:00pm in the Cathedral. This 6-week series will provide practical steps believers can take to deepen their walk with Christ and broaden their functional knowledge of how Holy Orthodoxy can be lived out in daily life.

# Cover Photo: Where Is This Faceted-Glass Image of St. Katherine?



Do you know where she can be found on our Parish campus?

If you know, text your answer to Kristen at 602-332-8809 or email her at kvasilarakos@cox.net.

#### **Desert Diamonds**

Senior Parishioners 50+ and their guests



#### Pan-Orthodox Picnic

Thursday, March 16th 11:30am McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park 7301 E. Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale

Lenten Food will be provided. Please R.S.V.P. for an accurate head count. In case of rain, we will instead picnic in the Speros Center.

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

# Sunday of Orthodoxy

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, March 5th, so that the children can participate in the Icon Procession.

Children, please bring an icon.



## St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

By Patsy Harris

#### Kali Saracosti!

"The time has come – the start of our spiritual contests, the victory over demons, the full armor of self-control, the angels' dignity, the confidence before God." (Sunday Matins 2/26/17) Great Lent is upon us! St. Nectarios Books and Beyond will make every effort to be available to you at the many services scheduled for this holy season. Please do visit us and perhaps share your Lenten traditions/concerns with us so that we may better minister to Holy Trinity's family.

As no one has submitted a book or other item review for March, I will mention some of the titles available with a Lenten theme:

<u>Great Lent Journey to Pascha</u> is a highly-recommended book for the entire family, <u>Journey Through Great Lent</u>, <u>Meditations for Great Lent</u>, <u>The Lenten Spring</u>, <u>The Lenten Triodion</u>

And for the children, we have the following:

<u>Feasts of Christ and the Theotokos, Coloring book- Journey to Pascha, Miracle of the Red Egg (in Greek or English), My Book of Holy Week/Great Lent, Path to Confession, Rejoice, Panagia: Offering Children the Akathist Hymn, The Legend of the Cross, To Plant a Cross, Twelve Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church</u>

I have deliberately not included a summary of these selections, as I greatly encourage you to come and explore them in person! I look forward to visiting with you all!

February 27 – Great Lent begins, following Forgiveness (also Cheesefare) Sunday. Lent is a time of preparing for the Passion and Pascha. It is a time for penitence, spiritual growth and illumination, fighting against temptation, and fasting. The 'forty' days commemorate the forty years of Israel's wandering in the wilderness and the forty days Jesus spent in the desert being tempted by Satan.

March 5 – Sunday of Orthodoxy is the first of the Sundays of Great Lent. The Liturgy of these Sundays is usually the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil rather than that of St. John Chrysotom, so you might notice a few changes in prayers, responses or hymns. Instituted in 842, the Sunday of Orthodoxy marks the defeat of Iconoclasm (disbelief in the use of icons or other images of Christ or His Saints) and proclaimed the legitimacy of the veneration of icons.

March12 – Sunday of St. Gregory of Palamas: this Saint expounded and defended the theological doctrine of "divine light." While we honor this saint in the Matins for the day, the main theme of this second Sunday is that healing and forgiveness of sins cannot be separated. Listen closely to the Holy Gospel!

March 19 – Sunday of Adoration of the Holy Cross: this mid-point in Great Lent sets the Cross of Christ before us to remind us of our faith and reverence for the Cross in the history of salvation while it focuses us on the Cross to come of Holy Friday. The Cross is carried on a tray with flowers around the Church to the middle of the Church, where it is on display for all to see and venerate during the service.

March 26 – Sunday of St. John Climacus: this Saint lived in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and his life realized the ideal of fasting and penitence just as we should focus on these during Great Lent especially.

April 2 – Sunday of Mary of Egypt: this is the fifth and final Sunday in Great Lent. St. Mary of Egypt is a symbol of conversion, contrition, and austerity. She is expresses the last most urgent call of the Church to prepare ourselves for the coming Passion and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Have a very blessed month! If St. Nectarios Books and Beyond can assist in any way, please contact us at: <a href="mailto:www.stnectariosbooksandbeyond.org">www.stnectariosbooksandbeyond.org</a> or <a href="mailto:patsy@stnectariosphx.org">patsy@stnectariosphx.org</a> Patsy Harris – (480) 239-5270

# Tell Us Something Good

We welcomed Father Janko Trbovich two Sundays in a row while Father **Apostolos Hill** travelled to see his new grandson. Thank you, Father



Janko, for celebrating with us.

# College Students at UofA

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

# Your Desert Springs Subscription—Time to Renew!

Desert Springs Subscription
Enjoy color copies of Holy Trinity Cathedral's <i>Desert Springs</i> delivered to you!
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There are 11 issues for 2017 (June and July is one combined issue)    \$27 for 9 remaining issues
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17 Desert Springs March 2017

# Holy Trinity Academy

By Juli Pritsos

Community Celebrates HTA's New Playground with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



I recently saw a pillow that said, "It takes a χωριό." and I thought first, how adorable it was, and instantly after how true it is. We witness this all of the time in our community at youth events, OPA events, and recently FDF. I also

witness this daily with the parents and supporters of HTA and on February 26th, when we hosted our ribbon cutting luncheon, I definitely thought of the words on that pillow and how blessed I am to be a part of something truly special.



More than 100 people attended HTA's luncheon to celebrate their new playground funded

from money raised at last year's A Toast to the Future. To see all of these people from our community show their support and celebrate the fruits of our labor was simply magical. The weather was perfect, the food



delicious, the company superb, and we had a special winner, Anastasia Kompos, who won two tickets to our upcoming A Toast to the Future, on May 6, where we will continue to celebrate HTA's proud past and promising future.



HTA's χωριό is made up of the most amazing people and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for adding to HTA's joyful atmosphere on Sunday! AnnMarie Nieblas (Juliza), Carissa Magoulas

(Alexa), Tom Stern (Skylar), Katy and Alex Hamilton (George), Dina and Christos Chronis (Adriana and Gabriella), Adriana and Remus Moldovan (Lucas), Nicole and Stelios Samaradellis (Elena), Gabe Laborin (Gianna and Luciana), Mercy Peña-Alevizos (Marina), may God continue to bless your hands! The food was delicious and all of our guests had their fill!

While every parent played a part in this event, there are a number of parents and friends who deserve

some special recognition for going above and beyond. Gabe Laborin, Carissa and Alexa



Magoulas, Nicole Samaradellis, Katy and Alex Hamilton, Dina and Christos Chronis, Tom Stern, Peter Bilitsis, Steve Mastorakos, Gus and David Pyle and TeAnn Philippis – whether it was for set-up, break -down, clean-up, food replenishing, taking pictures, mingling with guests or a combination of everything, your ongoing support and contribution to the success of this event was insurmountable and we couldn't have done it without you!



To my wonderful staff, Mercy Peña-Alevizos, Jordan Normoyle, and Costa Pritsos, and of course my leader, Father Apostolos, you always make me look good and I

appreciate each of you more than you know.

And last, but certainly not least, to my husband Chris – I am truly blessed to have a partner that is always willing to step up and do whatever it takes to help me out on whatever endeavor I take on. You



know that HTA is a passion of love and I have no words to express my gratitude for all you have done over the years to be my sounding board, second set of hands, and creative pow-wow partner for every event HTA has had since my start 12 years ago! Thank you so very much.

So yes, it does take a village and we are all in this together with the same end goal in mind – to continue to build our community to be better and stronger, and to raise our children and help them to grow into the beautiful human beings that God intends them to be. I love my village. I can't think of a better place to be.

Would you like to be part of my xwpió? Contact me at <u>julipritsos@holytrinityacademyphx.org</u> and ask me how! HTA is enrolling now for preschool and kindergarten. Call now for a tour, 602-248-3881.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS!**

Celebrate HTA's proud past and promising future on Saturday, May 6, from



7pm to 10pm. Tickets on sale now!

#### Greek School

By Irene Dartoozos-Mackos eirinie@gmail.com



Greek School's
Greek Independence Day
March 25th Luncheon

Sunday, March 19

\$8 Adults \$5 Children under 12







The Byzantine Empire fell to the Turks in 1453 and the Greeks remained under the Ottoman rule for nearly 400 years.

During this time, their language, their religion, and their sense of identity remained strong. On March 25, 1821 the bishop Germanos of Patras raised the Greek flag at the Monastery of Agia Lavra in Peloponnese and one more revolution started against the Turks. The people of Greece shouted "Freedom or Death" and they fought the War of Independence for 9 years (1821-1829) until a small part of modern Greece was finally liberated and it was declared an independent nation.

The struggle for the liberation of all the lands inhabited by Greeks continued. In 1864, the Ionian islands were added to Greece; in 1881 parts of Epirus and Thessaly. Crete, the islands of the Eastern Aegean and Macedonia were added in 1913 and Western Thrace in 1919. After World War II the Dodecanese islands were also returned to Greece.

March 25th is both a national (revolution against the Turks) and religious holiday (Annunciation).

March 25th is the Name Day for Vangelis, Evangelos, Vangelio, Evangelia, Eva and more.

Greek Easter Candles Lambathes, Preorder yours today at eirinie@gmail.com



#### **OPA**—Orthodox Parents Association

By Sandy Meris, President

GOYA Lenten Retreat
"New Self, True Self" Colossians 3

Friday, March 31 – Saturday, April 1



The topic of this Lenten journey allows us to "shed off" all those things that are not truly us, allowing us to discover who we truly are.

The weekend will include a "lock-in" for the Jr. & Sr. GOYAns, a mini-retreat for the Hope & Joy kids, and a Parent Workshop. Something the entire family can come together for, in fellowship and worship.

#### Schedule:

Friday, March 31, 6pm Dinner, Vespers, Retreat Intro, Overnight Lock-In in the Cathedral Saturday, April 1 Breakfast, Matins, Session I Lunch, Session II

Friday, March 31, 6-9pm Parent Retreat

George Papageorge, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with the San Francisco Diocesan Family Wellness Ministry, will join us for a parent workshop.

#### Raising Kids with Emotional Intelligence

#### George Papageorge M.A., MFT

"We are facing a generation of youth that manage to accomplish their goals but are left feeling empty and anxious. Many are high performing but low coping. With their inner life in question, they are vulnerable to developing addictive personalities and attracted to toxic relationships. Research shows that parents operate in one of two broad categories: Those who guide their children in the world of emotion and those who don't. This parent education workshop offers insights into the emotional needs of children and the parenting styles that most effectively help us connect with our kids, cultivating closeness and confidence. Communication tools will also be discussed."

# Hope & Joy Mini-Retreat Saturday, April 1, 10am-1pm

Activities include: Lenten lessons, games, activities & lunch

Registration is required for the GOYA Retreat, Parent Retreat, and Hope & Joy Mini-Retreat. Watch for details and registration information in the OPA emails and church bulletins.

For questions or to help facilitate please contact: Sandy Meris – <u>sandymeris@yahoo.com</u> or 602-525-0345 Evan Tsagaris – <u>etsagaris@gmail.com</u> or 650-333-4057

#### 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

#### **OPA FDF Report**

By Peter Vardalos





# Holy Trinity Dancers and Family Members Enjoy FDF Weekend of Faith, Dance and Fellowship



Holy Trinity Cathedral group photo (with and without the T-Rex horde)



ALL FOR SHOWING THE PARTY OF TH

Above, Omilos on stage. Below, Voanerges on stage.

Making the journey from the deserts of Phoenix to the Pacific coast of San Diego were approximately 100 Holy Trinity dancers, family members and instructors for the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Folk Dance and Choral Festival known as FDF.

This year's FDF filled the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center in San Diego, February 16th-19th. The "All For One" theme showcased and highlighted our Orthodox faith and Hellenic culture, bringing together 4,000 attendees from throughout the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco.

Our Holy Trinity Cathedral sent two dance groups with Division II participants Omilos and Division I participants Voanerges.
Omilos competed in the Advanced Primary Category and Voanerges competed in the Senior Category.

"I join my fellow dance instructors in sharing how very proud we are of this year's Holy Trinity FDF dancers for their participation, enthusiasm and dedication," noted Niko Panagiotakopoulos. "Thank you also to all of the parents, siblings and family members who provided support and making the All For One FDF weekend an incredible experience."

In addition to semi-final and final rounds of dance competitions, both Holy Trinity dancers and family members participated in opening ceremonies, dance practice, photo sessions, visiting exhibits and vendors, attending workshops, more dancing at nightly Glendis and ending the weekend at the FDF Awards Ceremony.

At the Awards Ceremony, Voanerges captured the Founder's Special

Achievement Award in the Senior Category. Congratulations to both Holy Trinity dance groups for their participation in the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual FDF.

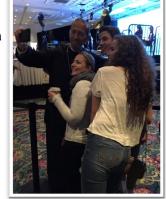
Fr. Apostolos attended and provided prayerful

support to the Holy Trinity dance groups at the semifinal rounds on Friday and also served Divine Liturgy on Saturday of the Souls at the onsite Chapel.



Additional FDF highlights included workshops for students, young adults and parents with insightful topics about living one's faith in today's society. Other Church services included Paraklesis to the Theotokos, Great Vespers and Sunday's Orthros and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.

Looking ahead, the dancers, parents and instructors will take a break and then gear up for dancing at the 2017 Greek Festival in October and make plans for next year's FDF.



# **OPA GOYA February Activity**



Our Jr. & Sr. GOYAns had a great time at their February event when they tried to "Escape the Room," an interactive, team building, group activity where the kids had to work together to solve clues to unlock doors and get out of their rooms. They followed up this activity with a Mexican food dinner and a group discussion with Fr. Apostolos.

# All Saints Camp

#### All Saints Orthodox Summer Camp

# ASC is pleased to announce that REGISTRATION FOR 2017 IS OPEN!

For those who have participated in the past—you know what a beautiful, fun, and transformative experience this can be. For those who haven't—ask someone who has been to see what you've been missing out on! Also, the first five campers to register will receive a discount!

For more information about registration and staff applications, please visit our website:

AllSaintsCampArizona.org.

See you this summer!





#### Festival 2017

#### Are You Good At Searching Out A Bargain?

Baklava Sundaes sold at the Kafeneo are a popular item. A sundae consists of soft-serve vanilla ice cream, chunks of baklava, chocolate syrup, and a cherry—yum!

But did you know that we *rent* the soft-serve machine each year for about \$650? *Every year* for *many years* now. That's a lot of renting when NEW machines are about \$2,400 to \$3,200.

We are looking for a used machine in very good condition (or a new machine at a reduced price.) If you enjoy searching through sites such as EBay, Craig's List, Amazon, PennySaver, PhoenixUsedRestaurantEquipment.com, etc., please consider searching for a bargain soft-serve machine to benefit the Original Phoenix Greek Festival and our Parish community. We're willing to spend up to \$1,800—but hoping to spend less.

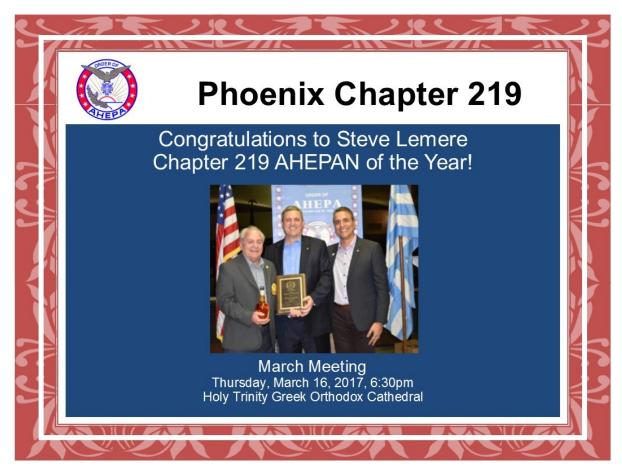
If you have a line on a good value, contact Angelo at 480-206-7693 or angelopestrivas@msn.com.

We know there are good shoppers out there that can search for us! Thank you!



An example of a single flavor soft-serve machine.

## AHEPA Chapter 219



#### Maids of Athena

By Gabriella Papatzimas

The Maids of Athena is an international philanthropic and fraternal organization. Founded in 1930, the sisterhood quickly grew among young Greek women and today claims chapters across the US, Canada and Greece. The Maids strive to achieve the ideas of Athena, as well as promote the Principles of our Order: Sisterhood, Service, Citizenship, Hellenism, Family and Arete.

From March 1st - March 31st, the Maids of Athena chapter will be holding a book drive, and those books will go to The Salvation Army, which provides reading materials for Salvation Army's homeless shelters. Please look for the boxes in the church hall, and bring any new or gently used books (all ages welcome).

In addition, this year, the Maids of Athena are raising funds and awareness for the Ronald McDonald Charities. The Ronald McDonald House New York's Greek Division provides support services for families from Greece and Cyprus, as well as for Greek-Americans staying in New York City while battling cancer. In existence for more than 30 years, the Greek Division has helped to provide a support system for families from Greece and Cyprus seeking treatment for pediatric cancer while in New York City. The support of the local Greek community within the tri-state area has been an integral part of the Division's ability to provide the financial resources, as well as awareness of the devastating effects of cancer. Please help us in reaching our own personal chapter goal of raising \$500.00 towards this amazing organization!

If you are between the ages of 14-29 and are interested in Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy and Friendship, checkout the many opportunities the Maids of Athena has in store for you. Please contact Gabriella Papatzimas (602) 810-9522 or <a href="mailto:mograndgovernor@gmail.com">mograndgovernor@gmail.com</a> for more information. You an even checkout our Facebook page <a href="https://www.facebook.com/">https://www.facebook.com/</a> MOAAphroditelrene

## Daughters of Penelope











Desert Springs March 2017

Congratulatory and Happy Ads!							
In each issue, Desert Springs will offer the oppowith others! Ads will be a standard 1/8" of a pag	<del>_</del>						
	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 the boxes in the Narthex and Church Office or r Cathedral, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, Cathedral. Or contact Kristen at kvasilarakos@co.  Ads will be designed by the Desert Springs staff.	mail to Kristen Vasilarakos c/o Holy Trinity 85016. Checks payable to Holy Trinity ox.net for more information. Submitter will be contacted prior to publishing						
if editing of the content of the wording is neede	d.						
Congratulatory and Happy Ads for the <i>Desc</i>	ert Springs monthly publication:						
Wording:							
I understand the staff will design the ad at their disc needed (initial)							
I need the included photo returned to me.	Yes No (initial)						
I am including \$20 by cash or check (checks payabl	e to Holy Trinity Cathedral) (initial)						
I wish to remain anonymous.   Yes  No	_ (initial)						
Submitter's Name:							
Submitter's Contact Phone: Co	ontact Email:						

~ March 2017 ~							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	Coffee Hour – GREEK SCHOOL		1 10am – Bible Study (Ed Bldg. Café) 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg) 5:30pm – 9 <sup>th</sup> Hour & Presanctified Liturgy 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice 8pm-OCF (ASU)	2 6pm – Compline 7pm – Philoptochos meeting (Lounge)	3 6pm –Catechism 7pm – 1st Akathist (Cathedral)	4 3rd SATURDAY OF THE SOULS 8am - Matins 9am - Liturgy 3pm - Daughters of Penelope Picnic (CC Kitchen/Patios)	
5 SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY 8am - Matins 9:30am - Liturgy Icon Procession - no Sunday School Alexon Memorial Kompos Memorial Pritsos Memorial 6pm - Pan-Orthodox Vespers	6 6pm – Compline (Chapel)		8 10am – Bible Study (Ed Bldg. Café) 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg) 5:30pm – 9 <sup>th</sup> Hour & Presanctified Liturgy 7pm – HTA Board meeting 8pm-OCF (ASU)		10 6pm –Catechism 7pm – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Akathist	11	
12 SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS 8am - Matins 9:30am - Liturgy Parish Oratorical 6pm - Pan-Orthodox Vespers	13 6pm – Compline (Chapel)	14	15  10am – Bible Study (Ed Bldg. Café) 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg) 5:30pm – 9th Hour & Presanctified Liturgy 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice 8pm-OCF (ASU)	16 11am – Desert Diamonds Picnic (Railroad Park/CC LH if Rain) 6pm – AHEPA (Small Hall)	17 6pm –Catechism 7pm – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Akathist	18	
HOLY CROSS 8am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy 6pm - Pan-Orthodox Vespers	(Chapel) No HTA		22		/ pm = 4 <sup>aa</sup> Akathist	25 ANNUNCIATION 8am – Matins 9am – Liturgy	
26 SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS 8am - Matins 9:30am - Liturgy GA Meeting Shrimp Fest 6pm - Pan-Orthodox Vespers	27 6pm – Compline (Chapel)	28	29 10am – Bible Study (Ed Bldg. Café) 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg) 5:30pm - 9 <sup>th</sup> Hour & Presanctified Liturgy 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice 8pm-OCF (ASU)	30	31 Hope & Joy Jr/Sr GOYA (Lenten Retreat) Lenten Parent Retreat 6pm -Catechism 7pm - 5th Akathist		

2/27/17