

Desert Springs

May 2017
Volume 2 Issue 5



Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85016

Office: 602-264-7863 🔹 Fax: 602-230-9099 🔹 Website: www.holytrinityphx.org

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

Desert Springs Staff
Rev. Apostolos Hill,
Theological Advisor/Editor-In-Chief
Kristen Vasilarakos, Layout/Composition
602-332-8809, kvasilarakos@cox.net

Desert Springs Deadline
The 25th of each month

Sunday Bulletin Deadline
Wednesdays, 12 noon

Church Office Email Addresses
Rev. Apostolos Hill
htpriest@holyltrinityphx.org
papoulihill@gmail.com

Diana Camacho, Office Manager
AdminAssist@holyltrinityphx.org

Church Front Desk
htfrontoffice@holyltrinityphx.org

Church Caretakers
Terry, Paul, and Dimitri Valonis

Holy Trinity Bookstore
info@stnectoriosphx.org

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Connie Contes—Vice President
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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
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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
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Philoptochos — Alex Anagnopoulos
Sons of Pericles — Nick Petsas, Ted Furlis
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

Our own Joshua Pardhe and Nichole (Niki) Kyprianou advanced to the Metropolis Finals with their stunning entries in our parish and regional Oratorical contests! I asked them to submit their entries here to present to our community. We will update you as Joshua and Niki progress to Regionals at St. Nicholas Ranch.



St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival



Each entrant chose a topic from a given list. Nichole chose *Psalms are an integral part of Matins, Vespers, and many other Church services. Talk about a Psalm that impacts or influences your life.*

Nichole's entry:

Attending a STEM focused charter school which holds no religious affiliation, I find my faith continually being tested. I am the only Orthodox Christian in my graduating class of 70 students where all of my close friends have a wide range of religious affiliations from being Hindus to Buddhists to Atheists. One can imagine that under these circumstances, I find myself continually challenged both directly and indirectly about my beliefs. The psalm that I will be discussing is Psalm 73, A Psalm for Asaph. Psalm 73 is about a crisis in faith and has been largely influential in guiding and re-affirming my Orthodox Christian faith.

The 73rd Psalm is ascribed to Asaph who is said to be a Gershonite Levite given charge by King David of the song service in the tabernacle. This Psalm is a Thanksgiving psalm, starting out with a praise to God, declaring "How good God is to Israel/to the upright in heart." After this reassurance, the psalmist describes how he had almost given up on his faith when stating, "But as for me, my feet were almost shaken;/ My steps had nearly slipped." How had this calamity come to be? Continuing, the psalmist explains, "For I was jealous of the lawless/When I beheld the peace of sinners./ For there is no upward gaze at their death/ Nor steadfastness in their chastening./ They are not in difficulties as other men."

When I first read this, I felt the distress of the psalmist because it voiced my exact same doubts that I've felt time and time again. As Christians, we are told that we must deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow God (Luke 9:23). When I saw many of my classmates deny Christianity in the name of science, I, like the psalmist, started to doubt my faith. The so-called sinners outwardly were peaceful, didn't seem to have any spiritual worries and led materially satisfying lives. When looking at this prosperity, the temptation to deny a godly life and doubt any sense of righteousness in God's sovereignty grew.

So far astray was the psalmist from his faith that he says, "Behold, I am breaking covenant with the generation of your children", meaning that he considered publicly renouncing his relationship with God. However, he continues, saying, "It was difficult in my safe,/ Until I came into God's holy place/ And understood their end." This is the turning point in the psalm, the enlightened moment that restored the psalmist's faith in God. By being surrounded by a community of faithful believers, the psalmist was able to turn himself around and regain his spiritual balance. By coming to Church regularly and immersing myself in the Orthodox Christian Youth Community, I've grow stronger in my faith and my doubts in God have faded away. Rather than looking at what people have in the real world, the context of God's rewards also encompasses the spiritual world. Through this revelation, I, like the psalmist, have to view life in God's eyes instead of my own.

Fr. Apostolos' Message continued on page 4

To look at the world through this lens, time has to be viewed as eternity rather than temporally, which is difficult to do because we live in a temporal world. The psalm states, "You cast them down in their exaltation./ Oh, how they came into desolation suddenly!/ They ceased to be; they perished in their lawlessness." The psalmist comes to the conclusion that when God judges sinners, it isn't always in the life that we lead in the moment, but in life after death. I think my doubts about God stemmed from looking at my own and other's situations solely based on outward appearances. Though outward appearances may seem perfect for people who seem to get it all in life(perfect car, amazing career, etc.), the security of this life is founded on making the path of God, rather than appearances, a reality.

At the end of the Psalm, the speaker states, "For behold, those who keep themselves far away from You shall perish;/ You destroy away from You all who act unfaithfully. But as for me, it is good to cling to God, to put my hope in the Lord." In these two sentences, Psalm 73 helps guide me in what attitude I should approach God with and what path needs to be followed to achieve eternal union with God. By transitioning from an individual lament to a passage of confidence, this psalm pushes me to continue following God's path, no matter how hard the road is.

Joshua chose Jesus said, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21). When no political party represents genuine Christian teaching, how does an Orthodox Christian navigate political conversations and make political judgments?

Joshua's entry:

During and after every election, we find strong political and social divisions in America. Orthodox Christians face special consternation since none of the major political parties or candidates accurately display Orthodox values, and we know that the major political parties of America are not necessarily consistent in their political stances. In the face of such choices at an election, how do we vote? In addition, we can find ourselves drawn into political debates with our fellow citizens. How can we effectively communicate our political views in these situations? Finally, we are called by Jesus to be "not of this world." Therefore, should we as Christians even take the time to vote?

First, we must remember that while we are citizens of this earthly kingdom and are governed by those we elect, we must first honor God in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Jesus said to "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." The Psalmist also exhorts us to "trust not in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation." We must strive to live the Christian life that Jesus and the Church Fathers have laid out for us and become model citizens of our country. While we physically live *in* this world, we do not have to live by its secular values. Instead, we can and should continually display our Christian virtues and show others how we live. Then, as we converse with our fellow citizens about politics, our virtuous Christian life will persuade them to listen to our Orthodox perspective on it.

But how should we make our own political judgements? We cannot categorize our Orthodox faith as either "liberal" or "conservative," since Jesus and the Church cannot be labeled by worldly standards. As Christians, our concern during an election should not be about liberalism or conservatism; it should be about preserving our Orthodox faith. Therefore, we should carefully choose the candidate that supports the most Orthodox values. We must holistically and impartially consider all the parties and candidates running for election by comparing their positions on important contemporary topics like human rights, education, abortion, and euthanasia to the Church's position on such topics. We must select at each election which party and candidate best supports the representation of Christian life as explained by the Bible and witnessed by the Church Fathers. However, we may encounter elections where there is no candidate that advocates Christian values. In these cases, we should use the resources we have in the Church (such as the Church Fathers' writings and their interpretation of the Bible) as a

Fr. Apostolos' Message continued from page 4

moral compass to help us make the correct decision. If possible, we *ourselves* should try to run for election. If we are elected, we can live our Christian life in a prominent position and proclaim the message of Christ to all our fellow citizens, and we can promote our Orthodox values through public policy and other legislations. Whether we elect a candidate or run for election, we should remember that no one can become a leader in any form without God's permission. In Romans 13:1, the Apostle Paul teaches us that all authorities are established by God, so regardless of who wins an election, they are part of God's divine plan. This is why the Orthodox Church prays for the "president and for all in public service" in each Great Litany.

In conclusion, Orthodox Christians should remember that we are called to be a light in the world, and this worldview should reflect in our life, political decisions, and discussions. We should use the Church's teachings as a guide to critically examine each candidate and party so we can pick the right candidate that will stand up for the most Orthodox Christian values, and if possible, we should try to run for election ourselves. Finally, we must remember that when Jesus said, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's," Caesar was the emperor of nearly the entire known world, and most of his subjects lived their entire lives without having a say in the political system of the empire. We, however, live in a time and place where each one of us has the power to choose who makes and enforces the laws of our nation, and we can even run as candidates ourselves. As Orthodox Christians in America, we have an opportunity to both witness our Christian life and use the electoral and political system to make our voices heard. Let us not take these liberties for granted, but instead, let us use it to the glory of God! Thank you.

Congratulations to these impressive youth and to all who participated in and contributed to the 2017 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival!

In Christ,

Fr. Apostolos Niel

Holy Unction Service

Led by Chancellor
Bishop Apostolos,
Wednesday,
April 12, 2017

[More Photos](#)



Stewardship 2017

By Sandy Meris

Educate - Participate - Elevate

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

John 20:21

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE – CLOSING IN ON OUR GOAL!

Our Stewardship numbers continue to climb and we are getting closer to reaching our goal! Thanks to all our Holy Trinity families who have filled out and made contributions toward your 2017 Stewardship. This is wonderful news!

But for those who have yet to fill out a card, simply go to: www.holytrinityphx.org. Click on the “Stewardship 2017” blue button on the right. Fill out your Pledge Card and click “Submit.” Then you can select Parish Pay for automatic monthly payments or pay via check or cash. Join us and become a Steward today and help us reach our goal!

Here are the latest Stewardship numbers as of:

March 26th \$282,809 pledged 249 Pledged Stewards

April 5th \$319,416 pledged 271 Pledged Stewards

April 12th \$331,997 pledged 279 Pledged Stewards

April 27th **\$349,647 pledged 294 Pledged Stewards**

STEWARDSHIP GOAL FOR 2017 \$360,000

Important Facts to remember:

Holy Trinity’s expenses are approximately \$50,000 per month. But Stewardship only brings in about \$25,000 per month. Stewardship should (at the very least) cover the Church’s monthly expenses. The definition of Stewardship is “the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.” It is our job as stewards to take care of and pay for the expenses of our Church just as we do our own homes.

Did you know that in order to vote at a Parish Assembly meeting you must be a Member in Good Standing?

Did you know that in order to be a Member in Good Standing you must fill out a new Pledge Card every single year and make a payment toward your pledge? These are not Holy Trinity’s rules, rather these are the guidelines set forth by the Archdiocese that all Greek Orthodox churches are required to follow.

We are only \$11,000 shy of reaching our stewardship goal for 2017. Let’s all pull together and make this happen! If you’ve already made your 2017 pledge but feel you can do more, are you willing to raise your pledge? If so, It’s not too late.

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**.

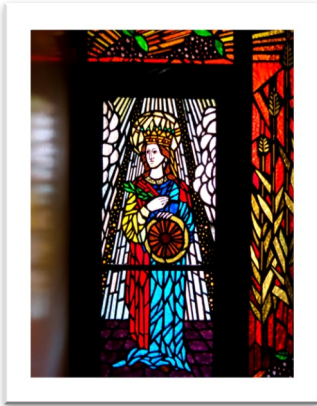
In a few easy steps you can become a Steward and keep current on your contributions.

House of Stewards

Agelakos, Panagjota
Alexon, Evan & Terri
Alexon, Lula-Deceased
Anagnopoulos, Dina
Anagnopoulos, Mike & Alex
Anest, Nikki
Anest, Vasso
Angelos, Bettina
Annos, John & Sandy
Apostle, Elaine
Arger, Anthony & Betty
Asala, Sheila
Asimou, Frances
Athens, Chris & Angie
Balanis, Constantine & Helen
Barabatis, Ted & Rebecca
Bard, Shannon & Elise
Baziotes, Nicholas
Beaty, Scott & Stacey
Benetos, Stamatios
Bichekas, Dan & Vicki
Bichekas, Tiffani
Billitsis, Peter & Jennifer
Bitzas, Angelo
Boukas, Dionysia
Boyle, Bill & Maria
Brusalis, Chris & Georgia
Bruskas, Chris & Rita
Bruskas, Kristen
Camp, Charles & Irene
Carras, Kathy
Carris, Frank & Alice
Carter-Keenan, Melinda
Cartier, Casey & Dawn
Charnas, Laurel & Schiller, Todd
Chondropoulos, George & Alexandra
Chotras, Harriet
Choukalas, Athena
Choukalas, Pete & Kim
Contes, James & Connie
Cosmakos, Kiki
Dandelles, Cynthia
Danielek, Michael & Chrissy
Daniolos, Nick & Sharon
Daniolos, Stefanos & Tiffany
Davis, Patty
Delord, Patrick & Karla
Demas, Tom & Irene
Demetropoulos, John & Mary
DeMoss, Bill
DeMoss, Charles
DeMoss, Chris
DeMoss, John & Marjorie
Denaxas, Basil & Ruth
Drakos, Homer & Doree
Dresp, Mathew
Drozd, Stan & Fran
Ducas, Amanthis Mae
Dye, Denise
Economopoulos, Christos & Dena
Economopoulos, Kostas & Caroline
Economopoulos, Peter & Ginny
Evans, Samantha
Farr, Jeff & Judy
Fernandez, Greg
Fisher, Mary
Flambouras, Andrew & Laurie
Forman, Zachary & Nikki
Fourlis, Athanase & Georgia
Fourlis, Ted & Andi
Fraenkel, Tim & Antonette
Francis, Chris & Celeste
Frieh, Georgi
Froumis, George & Julie
Gardner, Semos
Gavras, Chris & Anne
Georgiou, Thomas & Christina
Giannopoulos, John
Glitsos, Stella
Goard, Joe & Diane
Goodman, Eva
Graham, Bill & Lynn
Graham, Gina
Haidos, Mary
Hall, Donald
Haggood, Angela
Harper, Terry
Harris, Courtney & Niki
Harris, Diana
Harris, Patricia
Hasiotis, George & Georgette
Hill, Father Apostolos & Presbyteria Denise
Hill, Michael & Veronica
Hotis, Anthony & Ruth
Hotis, Bessie
Johnson, Nicole
Joynson, June
Kairis, Pavlos
Kalivas, James & Linda
Kanelos, Ted & Georgia
Kaneris, Basile & Roula
Kantaras, Jean & King, William
Kantaras, Nick & Dena
Kapolas, William & Harriet
Karegeannes, Virginia
Karoutas, Julie
Karras, James & Joann
Katrakis, Leonidas & Fotini
Katsanos, Christos & Kelley
Katsaros, George & Niki
Katsenes, Andrea
Katsenes, John & Mary
Katsenes, Paul & Mann, Lori C.
Katsufakis, Helen
Kavouris, Jim & Poppy
Kechajias, Fanny
Keyser, Quentin & Catherine
Kidd, Ronald & Virginia
Kimmell, Emily
Kokalis, Matina
Kompos, Maria
Kontakis, Spiros & Maria
Kosta, Stella
Kostouros, Kostadinos & Anatoli
Koumoutzis, Dean & Angela
Kretsedemas, Nick & Marina
Kretsedemas, Tammy
Krujac, James & JoAnne
Kyprianou, Andreas & Cindy
Ladas, Tassie
Laitsas, Anastasia
Lambrou, John & Angie
Lamond, Bruce & Judith
Lamos, Elias & Mary
Linaris, Maria-Deceased
Linaris, Mike & Lea
Linaris, Peter
Linos, Elizabeth
Lipnos, Luke & Maria
Lizanich, Gregory
Lourias, Efterpi
Machas, James & Stephanie
Maciejewski, Martin & Maria
Mackos, Stephan & Irene
Macrodimitis, Aris & Evelyne
Makridis, Marika
Makridis, Tony & Susan
Makris, Margo
Manelis, Jim & Donna
Maniatis, Bette
Maniatis, Maria
Maniatis, Mary
Manos, Anna
Marinakos, Bill & Rina
Marudas, Pete & Carroll, Rosalie
Mastorakos, Leonard & Mary Lou
Mastorakos, Stephanie
Maydanis, Pamela
Maydanis, Peter & Chriss
Melas, Stephen
Meris, Joanne
Meris, Will & Sandy
Miaoulis, Anthony & Tania
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Miller, Robert & Angie
Miller, Bill & Jean
Mitchell, Andrew
Mitchell, Philip & Helen
Moore, Mike & Lauren
Moschovitis, Dino
Mousses, Spyro & Effie
Neumann, Matthew & Sophia
New, Jerry & Kathy
Nicely, Edna & Michas, Peter
Nicholas, John & Maria
Nickalew, Evelyn
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Ntatsos, Angelo & Marta
Olsen, Whitney & Olga
Oxley, Jeremy & Anastasia
Paletsos, Alexander & Else
Palmer, Peter & Elizabeth
Panagiotakopoulos, Alexi & Alexia
Panagiotakopoulos, Thanasi & Melissa
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Papadopoulos, George & Chrysoula
Papadopoulos, Socrates & Stephanie
Papamatheakis, Alex & Olga
Papas, Nick
Papaspyrou, Spyros & Rita
Papatzimas, Gabriella
Pappas, Ange
Pappas, Harry & Fannie
Pappas, Irene
Pappas, John
Pardhe, Daniel & Anna
Parmenter, Athena
Pedersen, Kai-Henning & Katherine
Pesognelli, John & Dina
Pestivas, Dean & Fotini
Pestivas, Zoe
Petroulakis, Chris & Jacque
Petsas, Bill & Kathy
Petsas, Nicholas
Philippis, Michael & TeAnn
Pickett, Brian & Athena
Pikulak, Mary Ann
Poulakidas, Andreas & Mary
Poulos, George & Kay
Poulos, Tracy
Prato, Paul & Barbara
Pries, Panagiotos & Anthipe
Pritsos, Chris & Juli
Pritsos, Michael & Jennifer
Pyle, David & Nicole
Quinn, Bertha
Rabbitt, Lyda
Raup, Calvin & Angela
Rentzis, Milton & Voula
Sackos, Gregory
Sakkas, Lois
Samaradellis, Stellios & Nicole
Sampson, James & Dimitra
Sarantes, Paul
Schneider, Warren & Kalliopi
Scopelianos, George & Angela
Sedlacek, George & Diane
Sgouros, John & Jean
Siavelis, John
Sioles, Robert & Donna
Skintzis, George & Evi
Skoubis, Angelo
Skoubis, Elias & Phyllis
Skoubis, George
Smirniotis, John & Toni
Solomon, Jim & Pam
Sowers, Carol
Spanos, Angelo & Marie
Speliopoulos, Leo & Rachel
Speros II, Danny & Helga
Speros, James A. & Christina
Speros Jr, James & Melanie
Speros, Jim & Kim
Speros, Louis & Bessie
Speros, Olympia
Staikos, Elias & Theodora
Stamadianos, Jim & Kathryn
Stamatelatos, Gerry & Nitsa
Stamatis, Andrew & Christine
Stamatis, Jonathan & Kristine
Stathakis, John
Tavlarides, Billy & Becky
Terpos, Kathy
Theodoropoulos, Gus & Mary Louise
Thomas, Jim G.
Thomas, John & Teresa
Thrasher, Father Deacon John & Diakonissa Mary
Tripsas, Trifon & Georgia
Tropea, Thaddeus & Katherine
Tsaninos, Sophocles & Wendy
Tsantilas, Dean & Stella
Tsantilas, Stacy & Gerri
Tseunis, Christine
Tsiotsioupoulos, Dimitri
Tzavaras, Costa & Koko
Vardalos, Peter & Lindsay
Van Kampen, Pamela
Vargas, Tiffany
Vasquez, Argyro
Vassiliou, Katherine
Vaughn, Scott & Terri
Venetis, Adam & Leah
Venetis, George & Connie
Venetis, Stephanie
Veremis, Dorothy
Vlahos, Peter & Maria
Vlahoulis, Andrew & Sandy
Vrahas, Steve & Mary
Walker, Ken & Angela
Wallerich, Catherine
Walsh, Colin & Paula
Watson, Douglas & Paulina
Wilson, William & Anne
Wombacher, Michael & Christina
Wood, Richard & Katina
Yannimaras, Vassilios
Zafirakis, George & Niki
Zaman, Anthony & Karen
Zannis, Dimitris & Eugenia
Zannis, George & Katherine
Zannis, Zella
Zikos, Evangelia
Zistatsis, Michael & Christina
Zoukis, Ann

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

By Alex Anagnopoulos



St. Katherine faceted glass icon in the south wing of the Narthex.

Dear Parishioners: **Christos Anesti!**

This is a reminder for all High School graduates. Please complete your application for a Philoptochos Scholarship. The scholarships are for students continuing their education with either college or university studies. The application form is on page 9 and also can be found in the Narthex of Holy Trinity Cathedral. The deadline for applications is June 1, 2017. Philoptochos feels that it is our honor to assist our local students with scholarships to assist them in striving for their continued education.

As a member of our local Philoptochos you are part of a National organization (27,000 women strong). Philoptochos members work together and in doing so we bond with one another in an organization striving to fulfil the goals of Philoptochos. We receive so much more than we give. Not only are lifelong friendships made we are part of a much larger picture. Millions of dollars have been raised and given to the many charities and projects funded by Philoptochos. Just ask any Philoptochos member. If you are not a member and would like to join, we posted the

membership application below. It can also be found in the Narthex. Our meetings are held in the Speros Community Center at 7pm on the first Thursday of the month starting in September through June. We do not have formal meetings in July or August. Also, if you are currently a member and have forgotten your current Stewardship to Philoptochos for 2017, please mail it to St. Katherine Philoptochos, c/o Holy Trinity Cathedral. Please be sure to include St. Katherine Philoptochos so that it will be directed to us.

We also ask for your help in notifying us of anyone who is ill, been hospitalized, lost a loved one, or is homebound. Please call the Church Office or Circle of Angels chairs Lois Sakkas or Mary Poulakidas. We like to reach out to them or their family members. Many times we are not aware of their situation. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

We THANK ALL OF OUR PARISHIONERS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF PHILOPTOCHOS and its philanthropic endeavors. We support local, metropolis, and national charities, those in need, and our local parish.

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 Philoptochos:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: (____) _____ CHECK # _____ AMOUNT: _____

\$15 will be sent to the Archdiocese and \$15 to the Diocese. **Any amount over \$30 will be retained for our chapter charities and obligations.**

Mail your membership to:

St. Katherine's Philoptochos of HTC Membership 2015, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016

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 be 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: _____

Address: _____

City & Zip: _____

Phone: _____

High School or College presently attending:

College(s) Accepted to: _____

GPA: _____

Mochas for Missions

MOCHAS for **MISSIONS** is here! 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 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 in the Narthex 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



Philoptochos April Hostesses



Julie Karoutas and
Edna Nicely

Philoptochos Baking Production and Bake Sale

Sunday, April 9, 2017

Thank you to all who supported this annual sale in support of Philoptochos' missions.

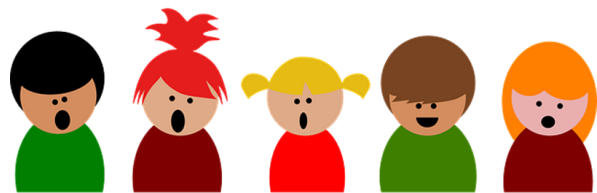


Dimitri Zannis (left) buys bread from (left to right) Georgia Furlis, Alex Anagnopoulos, and Bessie Hotis

[More Photos](#)

(collage at left) Many women came together over two days to prep, make, and bake the koulourakia and tsoureki for the annual Philoptochos Easter sale. Gift bags were also put together and then distributed to the homebound.

Music Ministry



Music Ministry “Notes”



“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

-Colossians 3:16

The music ministry at Holy Trinity Cathedral is blessed to have some gifted musicians who dedicate their time and talent to facilitate our worship services. For the past year, Monica Ashton—or Monica Katerini, as she likes to be called—has made the long sojourn from Dewey (just south of Prescott) to regularly worship at our church. As a result, she’s already worn out a set of tires!



Monica is a full-time musician up in Prescott and the surrounding area. Besides singing alto and serving as our substitute organist, Monica is a composer, producer, arranger, pianist and piano teacher. She was thrilled to find our church community in Phoenix because of the depth and breadth of music that the choir sings. “I feel blessed to be a part of the music ministry here in Phoenix,” she says. “I’m very much at home singing up in the ‘heavens’—I mean the choir loft, that is.”

Monica began her journey to the Greek Orthodox faith back in the late 1980s in New York. She was putting herself through law school and needed extra income, so she took a job as an organist with the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Staten Island, New York then ended up staying for 10 years! Upon moving to California, Monica found herself drawn to the Greek Orthodox Church wherever she moved.

As the associate organist at the Oakland Greek Orthodox Cathedral from 2003 to 2007, Monica has sung with several churches in both Northern and Southern California. She finally converted to Orthodoxy in 2009 when she lived in Los Angeles while attending St. Anthony’s in Pasadena, CA. Also, Monica has participated in the music ministry at St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in Los Angeles.

Besides her love for Orthodox music, Monica is a professional jazz musician who has performed around the United States, including WestPoint Military Academy. She has a compact disc out of her music that was recorded at Skywalker Ranch. You can learn more about Monica Ashton and her music at www.monicaashton.com.

Palm Sunday Luncheon

Sunday, April 9, 2017

Director Terri Alexon and the Choir set a beautiful room for their annual Palm Sunday Luncheon. The delicious grilled salmon meal was catered by Alexi’s Grill and Christo’s Ristorante .



Sunday School's Palm Cross Pancake Breakfast

Lazarus Saturday, April 8, 2017



(L to r) Evan Tsagaris, Cindy Kyprianou, Kay Ehrick, Evan Alexon, Nicole Pyle, Paulina Watson, Pamela Maydanis, John Schneider and Kalli Schneider set up and served a wonderful breakfast prior to the Palm Cross-making event on the Speros Center patio.

Chris Francis and Nick Kantaros (not shown) prepared the tasty and fluffy Lenten pancakes.

Palm Cross-Making on Lazarus Saturday



Father A's challenge for the SMALLEST palm cross continues!

[More Photos](#)

Palm Sunday

April 9, 2017



[More Photos](#)

Holy Trinity Academy

Parents, Past and Present, Give Accolades On HTA's Program

By Juli Pritsos

Many parents have said that HTA is a hidden gem that once discovered allowed them to bask in the delight of this found treasure for their children. That is music to my ears because we have worked very hard to build and solidify a complete and challenging curriculum to encompass academics and Orthodoxy in everything we do. HTA really is a treasure that we have in our own front yard just waiting to be discovered by more wonderful families that we can bring into our wonderful Orthodox family and community.

While I know that we have a unique and stellar program, I know that there is always room for improvement, so we asked parents from the past three years to the present to rate their experience and offer ways on how we can improve our program. The ratings we received are remarkable and the testimonials are outstanding!

"What we liked the best about HTA is the caring and nurturing environment our children were exposed to. We also loved that the curriculum includes Greek and Orthodoxy. We loved having our girls at HTA. We couldn't have asked for a better foundation for them – both academically and in life. Thank you for all that you've done for us and our girls."

– Former Parents

"Small class sizes; Music and Art program; focus on students strength with flexibility on approach for their weakness(s); individual attention; integration of religion/church; building and establishing a relationship with Fr. Apostolos; extension of home/family with loving and nurturing and safe environment. Our child is very happy while attending HTA!" – Kindergarten Parent

"I like the small class numbers, I love that Alexa likes going there. I like that Juli is level-headed, great with the kids, doesn't crack under stress, and genuinely loves my kid. HTA couldn't have a better director. I also like how Alexa's teacher actually knows what's going on with her learning and what areas she needs to be challenged in or that she needs to work on."

– Kindergarten Parent

There are many things that I like about HTA, however, the best thing is how the teachers challenge the children but still are loving and caring. I really feel both my children are getting what they need both academically and emotionally out of HTA. I am very happy about the education they are receiving there."

– Preschool and Kindergarten Parent

"I like the religious education they teach. I would like to thank Juli and all of the staff for the love, kindness and support given to me and my daughter during the last two years. I wish it went beyond kindergarten."

– Kindergarten Parent

"We love the warm and fun atmosphere. We love the caring teachers. We love the curriculum and creative activities. We love the extra activities the school provides for the families to be involved/included. We are excited for next year and to see the further growth both academically and socially." – Preschool Parent



Happy girls! From left: Luciana Laborin, Emery Sherman, Alexa Magoulas, Gabriella Chronis, Juliza Cervantes

"I think HTA is a friendly environment and the teachers are amazing. I can't think about anything that I don't like. I think they are doing a great job and really don't know what to suggest for improvement. I thank you HTA for the excellent job."

– Preschool Parent

"I like that the school has a low student to teacher ratio. I like the Christian education my son is getting. I appreciate the patience all of the teachers have with my son, who is just learning to speak English. I wish it was open all year round! I think everyone

is doing a great job!" – Preschool Parent

"We are beyond happy with HTA – the community, teachers, classrooms, activities, curriculum and field trips. My favorite part of HTA is the focus on learning and growth little by little thanks to repetition and patience. We are so thankful to have HTA in our lives!"

– Preschool Parent

"What do I like about HTA? The expert teachers... they truly have a grasp on early childhood education and while the students learning is very academic it is implemented in a way that is age appropriate and emotionally appropriate making their teaching highly individualized and completely student centered. The ongoing, meaningful communication with parents in an organized fashion (i.e. newsletters/calendars), are excellent!" – Preschool Parent

Contact me at julipritsos@holyltrinityacademyphx.org for more information. HTA is enrolling now for preschool and kindergarten for the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. Call now for a tour at 602-248-3881.

Holy Trinity Academy

AHEPA Chapter 219

Celebrating Holy Trinity Academy's
Proud Past. Promising Future.



Saturday, May 6, 7:00-10:00pm
Campus of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
1973 E. Maryland Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85016
RSVP by Saturday, April 21, 2017 | htaphx.org
\$50 Donation Per Person

Please join us as we celebrate HTA's past, present, and future and raise a glass to Orthodox education! You will enjoy an evening of wine and micro-brew samplings paired with a specialty tasting dish and musical entertainment, as well as the opportunity to be lucky recipients of exquisite raffle items.

Raffle Tickets: \$20 each or 6 for \$100. To purchase event and raffle tickets, or to become a sponsor of this event, please contact the school office at 602-248-3881 or e-mail juliprintsos@holytrinityacademyphx.org. Proceeds benefit HTA's Children's Garden and the continued growth of HTA's Preschool and Kindergarten programs.



Holy Trinity Academy
Accelerated learning in a nurturing environment



AHEPA Chapter 219
9th Annual
Mother's Day Brunch
Sunday, May 14, 2017

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
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Limited Seating Event!
Purchase Your Tickets Today!

AHEPA Chapter 219

Next Meeting
Thursday, May 18, at 6:30pm
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

Rain In The Desert

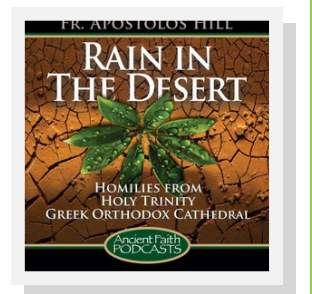
Recordings of Father's homilies from Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

From the link:

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

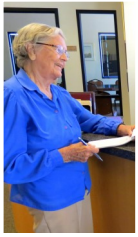
Link to recordings of Father's sermons: <http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/rain>

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



Tell Us Something Good

From Barbara Cope's nephew Mark:



*"My family and I would like to thank Holy Trinity for the beautiful service you provided for my Aunt Barbara. I was glad to see the many people that she had brought smiles to over the years at Holy Trinity. Your kindness and the thoughtfulness you showed me will be in my thoughts and prayers forever."
Sincerely, Mark Blevins*

Epistle Readers

To all youth and young adults – we continue 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!

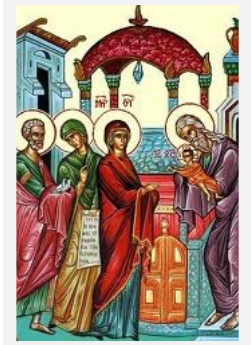


Our Church Family

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



4/8/2017

Emilia R. Lipnos, daughter of Luke & Maria Lipnos

God's Blessings be upon her.

Baptism

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

Galatians 3:27



4/23/2017

Christo Panagiotakopoulos, son of Alexia & Alexander Panagiotakopoulos.

Godfather is Nikolas Panagiotakopoulos
God's Blessings be upon him.

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

4/22/2017

Presvytera Catherine Tavlarides

May her memory be eternal.

Holy Thursday

April 13, 2017



[More Photos](#)

Letter of Intent from Tesseract Parish Assembly

April 23, 2017



Steve Mastorakos and the Parish Council presented information to our Parish community about a potential tenant for the Education Building and our parishioners turned out in large numbers to ask questions, make comments, and to vote on going forward.

Holy Friday Un-nailing

April 14, 2017



[More Photos](#)

Holy Friday Evening

April 14, 2017



[More Photos](#)

Holy Saturday

April 15, 2017

Led by Chancellor Bishop Apostolos



Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners
and their guests



Look for information soon on the May activity.

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

Altar Service

Interested in learning more about serving on the altar?

Contact Chris Francis battersbox7@yahoo.com,
David Haag davidmhaag@yahoo.com or
Deacon John Thrasher thrasheraz@cox.net



St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

By Patsy Harris

Christ Is Risen! Christos Anesti!

By now many of you have learned that St. Nectarios Books and Beyond is moving to our new location in the Speros Community Center. While not really looking forward to the actual move, we are trusting that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has something in mind for us and for the Holy Trinity parish with the rental of the Education Building facilities. Therefore, we are entering into this new phase of our ministry with full faith that He will guide us to His purpose! To that end, I ask that you please forgive the seemingly mercenary flavor of this month's article.

St. Nectarios Books and Beyond has a very large inventory! Will you help us decrease the amount of what must be moved and temporarily stored elsewhere? From April 30 to June 4 inclusive, we are having a MOVING SALE unlike any sale we have had before! Now is the time for you to think ahead to graduations, weddings, Baptisms, names' days and of course upcoming Holy Days and, if possible make your selections from our existing stock! (Note: we will still accept Special Orders but these will be billed at regular prices.)

On all EXISTING stock the following will apply:

Icons=\$10 discount or 50% off icons priced under \$10;

books, CDs, ceramics, nightlights, prayer ropes/bracelets, suncatchers, pins, Crosses, visor clips, icon stands, etc.=10-20% discount!

EVERYTHING in stock will be reduced!

May Holy and Celebratory Days:

May 10—Mid-Pentecost

May 14—Mothers' Day

May 21—SS. Constantine & Helen, Equal to the Apostles

May 25—Holy Ascension

May 30—Memorial Day

THANK YOU for all your support of the Bookstore over the years, and for helping us out now, too! If anyone is available, we will be needing some physical efforts to move things. Please call Patsy for details. Have a very blessed month! 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

Truly He is Risen! Alithos Anesti!

Greek School

By Irene Dartoozos-Mackos
eirinie@gmail.com



Holy Trinity Greek
&
Heritage School of Phoenix



Thank you
to the amazing staff, children, and parents
who made this year a success!



Και του χρόνου

Decorating the Epitaphio

Holy Friday, April 14, 2017



OCF Recognition

Arizona State University, April 25, 2017



The Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) chapter was recognized for its outstanding community engagement and student leadership development. Congratulations!

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)

_____ \$21 for 7 remaining issues

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, ST, Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____

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

Office use: Payment received on (date) ___ / ___ / ___

OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

By Sandy Meris, President



End of the Year OPA & Youth Celebrations

Please join us for a night of family fun at our

End of the Year Celebration

Friday, May 19th

6-9pm

Pot Luck Dinner

Speros Community Center Hall and Patio

Fun for the whole family! Games & Activities for all groups including the *Little Lambs, Hope & Joy, and Jr. & Sr. GOYA*

Each age group will be separated to do their own youth group activities. Watch for more details to come in our OPA emails and the Church bulletin.

Graduation Celebration

Please join us as we honor our graduates!

Sunday, May 21st

Luncheon and Ceremony to follow Divine Liturgy



2017 Graduate Recognition Form

If you or your child is graduating from 8th 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 15th**. Email to sandymeris@yahoo.com. *Please note that forms received after May 16th 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.

All Saints Camp



JUNE 21-26

Registration Open

Early (April 1): \$400 • Regular (May 15): \$425 • Late (June 15): \$450

Grades 3-12

Pine Summit, Prescott, AZ

allsaintscamparizona.org

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!



Project Mexico



Local Orthodox churches are joining forces and sending a team to Project Mexico.



(l to r) Evan Tsagaris, John Schneider, and Matthew Walsh



Let's "taco bout" Project Mexico!

To donate or for more information, contact Evan Tsagaris at etsagaris@gmail.com or 650-333-4057.

Little Lambs

If you have a baby or toddler, please join us for our Little Lambs coffee on **Sunday, May 7th**. We will meet in the Small Hall of the Speros Center immediately following Divine Liturgy. Refreshments are provided or feel free to bring along something to share. We will all catch up and let our little ones run together and play! This is a great way to get to know one another and make some summer playdates!



Questions? Please contact: Angela Scopelianos at 913-638-5991

Hope & JOY Lenten Cupcake Sale



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.

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

Lost & Found

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



Stewardship Envelopes

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

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 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: _____

~ May 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Coffee Hour – OPA	1	2	3	4 7pm – Philoptochos meeting (Lounge)	5	6 6:30pm – HTA “A Toast to the Future”
7 SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC 8am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy 12:15pm-2:15pm – Dance Practice	8	9	10 HTA Field Trip 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg) 7pm – HTA Board meeting 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	11 6pm – PC meeting (Conference room)	12	13
14 MOTHER’S DAY SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN 8am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy AHEPA Mother’s Day Luncheon	15	16	17 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg) 6pm – HTA Fine Art Expo 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	18 6pm – AHEPA (SH)	19 6-9pm –Hope & Joy and Jr/Sr GOYA End of Year Celebration (CC)	20
21 SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN 8am – Matins 9:30am – Liturgy Last day of Church School Graduation Luncheon OPA Graduation Luncheon	22	23	24 5pm-7pm – Greek School (Ed Bldg) 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice	25 HOLY ASCENSION 8am – Matins 9am – Liturgy	26 Last day of HTA	27
28	29 MEMORIAL DAY	30	31 7pm-8:30pm – Choir practice			

Calendar is subject to change.