

Desert Springs

December 2018
Volume 3 Issue 11



Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
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Rev. Deacon John Thrasher

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

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Desert Springs Deadline
The 25th of each month

Sunday Bulletin Deadline
Wednesdays, 12 noon

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Connie Contes—President
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Dina Anagnopoulos—Treasurer
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Charlie De Moss, Tony Nicoluzakis,
Socrates Papadopoulos,
Angela Raup, Adam Venetis

Holy Trinity Cathedral Website
www.holytrinityphx.org — NEW!

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

Archdiocese Website
www.goarch.org

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Bookstore — Patsy Harris
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Desert Diamonds (50+) — Julie Karoutas
(PC Liaison: Angela Raup)

Feed the Homeless — Christine Stamatis
(PC Liaison: Connie Contes)

Greek Festival — Nick Kretsedemas, Angelo Pestrivas
(PC Liaison: Dina Anagnopoulos)

Greek School — Irene Mackos
(PC Liaisons: Socrates Papadopoulos and Angela Raup)

Hellenic Museum — Bessie Hotis
(PC Liaison: Connie Contes)

Holy Trinity Academy Parochial School — Juli Pritsos
(PC Liaison: Andi Fourlis)

HOPE & JOY — Karla DeLord, Alexia Haugen
(PC Liaison: All OPA — Sandy Meris)

Koinonia (Book Club) — Dan Valenzuela
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Little Lambs — Angela Scopelianos
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Maid of Athena — Gabriella Papatzimas
(PC Liaison: Andi Fourlis)

Myrrhbearers — Stacey Beaty, Kathy Choukalas Tropea
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(PC Liaison:)

OPA — Cindy Kyprianou
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One Spirit+One Vision — Charlie DeMoss
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(PC Liaison: Connie Contes)

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(PC Liaison: Angela Raup)

Sons of Pericles — Greg Vassiliou, Ted Fourlis
(PC Liaison: Tony Nicoluzakis)

Jr. & Sr. GOYA — Evan Tsagaris, Paulina Watson
(PC Liaison: All OPA — Sandy Meris)

Stewardship — Sandy Meris
(PC Liaison: Sandy Meris)

Sunday School — Kalli Schneider, Kay Ehrick
(PC Liaison: Andi Fourlis)

Wedding Coordinator — Terri Alexon
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Message from Father Apostolos

The Vision Thing



One bright autumn morning years ago, I found myself in Houston with my newest commercial sales rep on a training excursion at one of our firm's largest national accounts. After grabbing our visitors' badges and taking the elevator to our offices, I asked our client's representative, "So, what do you guys do around here?"

Oddly enough, no one I encountered could provide a clear answer. "If it can be sold, we can sell it!" was the standard reply. The smirks and sideways glances suggested an inside joke I wasn't getting. For my part, I felt that a straightforward question about the company's core product offering and mission should be easily articulated. I wasn't at all surprised, then, to learn that the company ceased operations months later.

The book titled "Oriented Leadership" warns of the dangers of what the author calls "Sorta-vision," an organizational dysfunction which sows confusion and disorder wherever it appears. Sorta-vision persists wherever the aim and mission of an organization is dimly understood. Scott Adams, the creator of the Dilbert comic strip, has made his fortune lampooning this affliction among others.

Without a clearly articulated vision of why a corporation, a non-profit, or even an Orthodox parish exists, listlessness ensues. The Bible says it best; *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."* (Prov. 29:18) In the business world, sorta-vision results in loss of earnings, poor performance, and disappointed investors. But in parish life, the stakes are much higher.

A coherent and unifying vision is an essential component of developing an *esprit de corps* within a workforce. One of the most heady experiences of my business career before entering the priesthood involved building my departments and rallying them around our mission; imbuing them with a vision of what we could achieve together!

Applying these precepts to our Cathedral experience, we begin to see both the risk and the opportunity. How many differing replies might we anticipate to the question: "What do we do around here?" Divine worship, learning, outreach, and Christian fellowship are key elements, but one also finds meetings, investments, festivals, and rentals. Which aspects have priority and which are of secondary importance?

What aspect of our unifying vision is indispensable, without which we could lay no claim to the title "Church?" In the end, The Vision which every Orthodox parish is called to embrace is *Theoria*, the Vision of God. And in the hierarchy of parish activities only those which support *Theoria*, and the building up of the Kingdom of God in our midst are worthy of our support, all others are open to scrutiny.

Imagine this issue as the wheel of a bicycle; the Vision is the axle and we as members of the parish are the spokes on the wheel while the tire is the progress we achieve together. As each of us draws nearer the Vision we simultaneously draw nearer to one another and accelerate as we work together!

It is difficult even to imagine how a wheel with multiple axles could be crafted, in which direction the spokes would run, and how such a wheel could possibly turn. Sorta-vision parishes are like that too! Resources are tight, insularity persists, participation is nominal, and a dreary going-through-the-motions sameness dampens enthusiasm and inhibits growth.

Sorta-vision is near-sighted, tactical, concerned only with the crisis of the moment; revenue shortfalls,

Fr. Apostolos' Message continued on page 5

Stewardship 2019

By Sandy Meris

Educate - Participate - Elevate

STEWARDS OF THE FAITH: *All Things are Possible to the One Who Believes in Christ*

Holy Trinity Cathedral 2019 Stewardship Program

Dear Beloved Holy Trinity Parishioner,

In the Gospel of Mark, a father brings his epileptic son to Jesus in desperation, saying, “...if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus replies to the father’s lack of faith, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” The father’s response is a prayer we can pray every day: “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

When we believe, stewardship follows. Stewardship is faith in action; action motivated by humble gratitude to God for His blessings in our life.

As we embark on our Stewardship 2019 campaign, we are grateful to our parishioners, past and present for dedicating time, talent and treasure to Holy Trinity Cathedral. Looking forward and planning for our future we ask with open and humble hearts for each of you to reflect and pray upon your financial commitment.

This year we are asking for each family to increase your stewardship by an additional \$1 per week. With your additional giving we will be able to fund our growing ministries, expand our outreach to help those in need, and support our parish which offers so much for us spiritually, educationally, socially, and culturally. **For those who are giving all that you are truly able to give, we thank you! And to those who believe you are able to raise your pledge, we are truly grateful.**

Please fill out the 2019 Pledge Card you received in the mail and bring it with you to **Stewardship Sunday on Sunday, December 9th.** You may leave your completed card in the Narthex, in the offering trays, or better yet, bring it to the *free* Stewardship Gratitude Luncheon following Liturgy in the Speros Center’s Large Hall where we will break bread together in celebration of our continued commitment to Holy Trinity Cathedral.

We offer you our thanks for your dedication to our parish and your participation in Christ’s work of salvation.

Yours in Christ,
Stewardship Committee

Sandy Meris

Kristen Bruskaas

Charles DeMoss

Parish Assembly, Sunday, December 2nd

Please join us for the **Fall Parish Assembly** meeting on Sunday, December 2nd. This will also be the budget meeting where the Parish Council will present the 2019 budget to the Parish Assembly for approval. Parish Council elections will also be held on this day.

Parish Council President's Report

Connie Contes, President

Beloved in Christ,

As we near the end of 2018, your Parish Council members and many tireless volunteers are working diligently to improve the overall outlook for the Cathedral community. We're almost finished with the first year of our long-term lease agreement with our preschool tenant, Little Big Minds. We have developed a solid relationship. We explored the possibility of expanding LBM's space into the lower level of the Education Building, but LBM stalled that progress due to costs. We continue to talk about all options.

As for this year's Festival, we struggled valiantly against Saturday's horrible weather. Great leadership and teamwork helped us turn this hardship into success, albeit not as profitable as we had budgeted for 2018.

By year's end, our mortgage balance will be paid down to \$630,000. We are budgeting funds in a capital account for many necessary projects including replacing the Cathedral's chiller as well as more a/c units around the campus, repairing the Cathedral's faceted glass windows, and resurfacing our asphalt parking lot.

I alert you to significant progress with maintenance and improvements around our Cathedral home. Soon, we will have Wi-Fi throughout the campus. We have enhanced security and safety of our people and property, and we have increased business rentals of our Speros Community Center. And by next summer 2019, we gratefully look forward to the welcome addition of our Pastoral Assistant Alexander Eliades and his wife Laura.

By addressing these responsibilities, we are striving to strengthen our ministries and outreach. Our financial posture is not rosy but, with the effort and support of many, we can continue to make positive progress.

Blessings during this Nativity season.

Respectfully,
Connie Contes,
Parish Council President on behalf of your 2018 Parish Council

Fr. Apostolos' Message continued from page 3

deferred maintenance, lagging attendance, whereas *Theoria* is far-sighted, future-oriented, strategic, concerned with spiritual growth, outreach, beginning new ministries, willing to take risks.

This is a parish conversation worth having! Until we can confidently give a unified reply to the question "What do we do around here?" and replace Sorta-vision with *Theoria* we cannot accelerate toward the goals God has for us. I am convinced we can coalesce around the Vision of God as the Holy Trinity Cathedral family!

As we do so, we will find that our revenue challenges will dissipate, new volunteers and ministry leaders will sign-on to the work of the parish, our pews will begin to fill, and a wave of positive energy will sweep through our ranks! This conversation is square one of any serious stewardship undertaking.

Let's get to work.



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

December 9th

Please join us for the **Stewardship Sunday Luncheon** after Divine Liturgy on December 9, 2018.

A free lunch will be offered to all our Holy Trinity families. Let's come together to break bread and forge ahead as a parish family in our 2019 Stewardship commitments. Each family will receive a Stewardship Pledge Card in the mail and we ask that you prayerfully consider this monetary commitment to the Cathedral. Bring your filled-out Pledge Card on this day and join us for a celebration luncheon.

Stewardship—WeShare

Continue to look for **WeShare** and this image



on the updated www.holytrinityphx.org website to create your online Stewardship profile.

Coffee Hour

Thank you to **Dance** for sponsoring Coffee Hour in November.



The December Coffee Hours will be sponsored by **Philoptochos**.

“Youngsters” Over 70½ Get a Tax Break

IRA owners over 70½ can make TAX FREE charitable contributions to Holy Trinity Cathedral.

You can contribute up to \$100,000 of your required minimum distribution (RMD), but the funds must be transferred directly from your IRA to Holy Trinity.

Simply ask the institution holding your IRA to issue a check from your IRA to the Church.

You can do this easier by having a checking account attached to your IRA. With a checking account on your IRA, you simply write checks to the Church during the year for your donations.

Please call the Church Office with any questions at 602-264-7863.



Let us come together as a Cathedral family and help those in need this Christmas by participating in *The Giving Tree!*

You will find the tree located in the Narthex of the Cathedral. Simply bring in a gift card or cash and attach it to one of the clips on the tree. All of the gift cards and cash collected will be donated to UMOM so they can share the Christmas spirit with the homeless families they serve.

About UMOM

Founded in 1964, UMOM is located in Phoenix, Arizona and is an innovative provider of shelter, housing and services for people experiencing homelessness.

- Every night they provide safe shelter and supportive services for over 170 homeless families.
- They offer nearly 300 units of affordable housing across the Valley, each with special Program Centers for residents.
- They helped 269 parents find jobs through our employment services.
- They provide healthcare services, childcare, job training and services for veterans.



Holy Trinity Cathedral has been supporting UMOM for several years. We even have a group that goes to UMOM New Day Centers monthly to feed the homeless.

During this season of giving, let's give thanks for the blessings we have, and let's share from our abundance with those in need!

The Giving Tree



(left)
Chris DeMoss assists
Stewardship Committee
members Kristen Bruska and
Sandy Meris in setting up the
Giving Tree in the Narthex.



Donations



Thank you to our community for the generous responses to the charity appeals by our various ministries!

Sunday Greeters



Welcome to Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox Cathedral!

Holiday Baklava!



HOLIDAY BAKLAVA

Order your
Holiday Baklava
from Philoptochos
now!

\$20 per pan

Pre-paid orders will be taken in
the Large Hall during Coffee
Hour through December 9th.

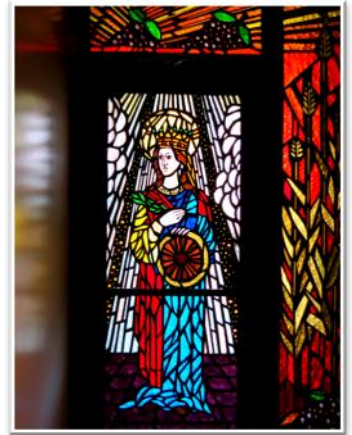
Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Mary Louise Theodoropoulos, President

"FRIENDS OF THE POOR"

An organization where membership is an honor & a privilege.

JOIN & ENRICH YOUR LIFE!



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



(left) Philoptochos sponsored an Artoklasia in honor of St. Katherine on Sunday, November 25th.



(below) Sheila Asala, Edna Nicely, and Julie Karoutas assist in passing trays for Philoptochos.



Thank you to the November Hostesses Rebecca, Marjorie, and Margaret!

JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS 2019

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 Metropolis.

Invitation to Philoptochos:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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

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

Mail your membership to:

St. Katherine's Philoptochos of HTC Membership 2018, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Mary Louise Theodoropoulos, President

Upcoming Calendar

Baking will begin for our bake sale on Thursday, November 29th, at 9:00am, in the Speros Community Center kitchen. The next baking day will be the following week. We will advise everyone on Thursday of the exact day.

Our **Christmas Gift Exchange and Meeting** is December 6th and will begin at 6:00pm. The meeting will be short, so we can have treats and exchange our \$10.00 gifts, share laughs, and have lots of fun. Please remember to bring your \$10.00 new gift.

Our **Annual Christmas Bake Sale** will be December 9th following Divine Liturgy. This also serves as a reminder to bring your baked goodies to the Speros Community Center before Divine Liturgy. Please be sure to wrap them and include a description of your baked goods (e.g. chocolate cookie, brownie, contains nuts, gluten free, etc.). We will circulate sign-up sheets at the December 6th meeting so you can tell us what you are bringing for the bake sale. Last year we had a GREAT bake sale.

Ladies, thank you, thank you, thank you!

Circle of Angels

Please let Philoptochos' **Circle of Angels** know of any parishioners who are ill, scheduled for surgery, recently moved to assisted living, or are homebound. Contact Mary Poulakidas at 602-349-6466 or Lois Sakkas at 602-717-9097.



Security Seminar

Arizona Grand, Wednesday, November 7, 2018



In the Cathedral's continuing quest to prepare for unusual and unexpected situations on our campus, four members of the community attended a day-long seminar sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security.

Much was learned!

(l to r) Socrates Papadopoulos, Paul Katsenes, Father Apostolos, and Kristen Vasilarakos

Holy Trinity Academy

By Juli Pritsos

Holy Trinity Academy
Presents

A Christmas Choral Pageant

Thursday, December 20 at 6pm

In the James A. Speros Community Center



Enjoy the sounds of the season as we prepare for the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Beautiful choral hymns and toe-tapping songs will be sung by our students, along with original poetry depicting the season from our elementary students.

*For more information,
call Juli Pritsos at
602-248-3881*

Music Ministry

by Terri Alexon, Director



He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in Him.

Psalm 40:3

In the midst of the Advent season, the Holy Trinity Cathedral Choir is blessed to have a new choir member—Anthony Boyd. As the choir was learning the Beatitudes and now preparing for the Lord's nativity, Anthony's deep, bass voice has been a welcomed addition. His journey to the choir loft at Holy Trinity began one Sunday at Coffee Hour after mentioning how he enjoyed singing. Needless to say, that statement was music to the choir's ears!

Born and raised in rural western Colorado, Anthony was baptized an Episcopalian, attending college in Connecticut and graduate school at U.C. Berkeley, where he encountered the Orthodox Christian Fellowship. Anthony began catechesis with Fr. Michael Tervo at Ascension Cathedral, in Oakland, CA. Upon relocating to Los Angeles while working on his doctorate dissertation, Anthony completed catechesis at Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral (OCA) and was received into the Orthodox Church in December of 2008. For seven years, he sang in the choir, taught Sunday School and served on the parish council.



Anthony hiking with his dog, Jane.

Anthony relocated to Arizona for a faculty position teaching English literature in the Humanities department at Arizona State University, Polytechnic. For three years, he attended Holy Archangels Russian Orthodox Church in Phoenix where he sang in the choir and served as the parish treasurer. In August of this year, seeking a larger community with more ministries, Anthony joined us at Holy Trinity where he says, "I'm thankful to have found a faithful, dynamic Orthodox community, a vibrant musical ministry, and lots of Greek warmth and hospitality!" When he's not teaching or worshipping with us, Anthony enjoys hiking with his five dogs.

In the spirit of the season, please join us in welcoming Anthony to our Holy Trinity community. Interested in adding *your* voice to the choir and deepening your understanding of the beautiful hymns of the Orthodox faith? Contact Terri by telephone at 480-233-2416 or by email,

htphxmusicdirector@gmail.com.



Anthony singing with Assistant Choir Director Greg Lizanich.

*Have a Blessed
Christmas and a
Happy New
Year!*

St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

By Patsy Harris

St. Nectarios Books and Beyond has many books, ornaments, cards, and other liturgical supplies to help with this, and most are on sale this month, so do come and visit us. PLEASE NOTE: we will NOT be open December 2, due to Parish Elections and the Parish Assembly. However, I WILL be available to anyone who asks me to stay after the meeting. Please look for me at the Elections & Sign-In table, so I can make arrangements to open the Bookstore after the meeting! Remember, you can also contact me by email or phone, and if at all possible, I will meet you during the week 12/3-12/15.



DECEMBER 9 IS THE LAST DAY TO ORDER FOR CHRISTMAS DELIVERY!!

December Holy Days:

December 6: St. Nicholas—his Apolytikion tells us “The truth of things revealed you to your flock as a rule of faith, an icon of meekness, and a teacher of temperance; for this cause, you have achieved the heights by humility, riches by poverty.” Is it any wonder that this Saint came to be known as Santa Claus?



December 12: St. Spyridon the Wonderworker—this Saint lived in the 4th century and was an illiterate shepherd. However, he memorized the entire Bible by listening to it! He was ordained a priest, then elevated to bishop, and attended the First Ecumenical Council of 325 A.D. where he defended Orthodoxy. Although he lost his right eye to persecutions, his well-preserved body is on the island of Corfu.



December 25: the Holy Nativity—the celebration of this holy event was introduced later (around 200-380 A.D.) and was first joined with the celebration of Epiphany, the first and most glorious manifestation of Christ as Lord and God. The sermons of St. Gregory of Nyssa set the date as December 25 in 380, but many Eastern Orthodox still use January 6 (Epiphany) as the date.

December 27: St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr—his name means “crown or garland.” St. Stephen was one of seven appointed by the Church to aid the Apostles by ministering to the poor. He was accused of blasphemy and stoned to death. (See Acts 7:57)

Although this month ends the calendar year, its most important holy day celebrates the beginning of Christ’s ministry here on Earth! This is another example of how our life in Christ has no beginning and no end, but always IS, if we choose Him. May each of take the time to renew our faith and belief in Christ this Christmas season!

Have a very blessed month! Come visit and reflect on what you must personally do to follow Christ! 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

Narthex Ministry

What YOU Can Do to Make Visitors Feel Welcome

Have you noticed new faces in our Narthex, Sanctuary, and Speros Center? We've had many visitors stop by lately. Some are Orthodox and visiting from other Parishes, some are returning to Orthodoxy after a long time away, and some are coming to check out Orthodoxy for the very first time. No matter how they come to us, let's make sure we say Hello!

"Welcome! I don't believe we've met yet. My name is (your name)" is a great start. Offer to walk with them down to Coffee Hour. Ask them to sit with you. A personal connection goes far!

Narthex Ministry Expansion

We are looking for adults to assist in the Narthex Ministry one Sunday every few months to help greet parishioners OUTSIDE the double doors.

Key duties:

- Welcome parishioners who drive to the upper drop-off driveway, open car doors, and walk with the parishioners to the Narthex.
- Walk with seniors—or those who are carrying items—from the bottom of the stairs up to the Narthex.

The goal is to have an *outside* presence to assist our parishioners and visitors as they approach the Cathedral.

Interested? Text Kristen Vasilarakos at 602-332-8809 or email at kvasilarakos@cox.net.

Holy Trinity Cathedral Website

Check out the NEW Holy Trinity website at www.holytrinityphx.org!

The website is **mobile-friendly** and is designed to be **your go-to site** for all things related to our Parish. Add holytrinityphx.org to your favorites!



Check out the **Calendar** for the latest updates on all services and events.

And the **links!** You will have **easy access** to information on Orthodoxy, Services, Stewardship, Media, Ministries, and more.

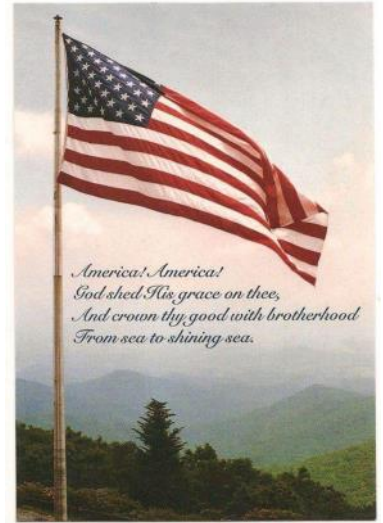
Please note, new information is continually being updated and added. Some links are waiting a "fix" and will be corrected soon.

We welcome your feedback! Email kvasilarakos@cox.net with questions, comments, or ideas of what you'd like to see included.

Give the site a try! Go to www.holytrinityphx.org today.

Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners
and their guests



Greetings to All our Desert Diamonds & Friends Ministry,

Please see upcoming event for December—mark your calendars!
(Note: the original plans had to be changed due to a scheduling conflict.)

On Thursday, December 27th at 11:00am, we will meet at The Talking Stick Casino Resort in Scottsdale for a delicious buffet luncheon and fellowship. Some may wish to try their luck with the gaming. There is much going on there that we can enjoy.

Please respond if you will be attending, and if in need of a ride, we can try to carpool. Email to juliekaroutas@gmail.com or phone Julie at 623-313-8720 or Judith at 703-819-9957, and if you see Doree, please let her know. Invite a friend, they are always welcome!

Your sister in Christ,
Julie Karoutas

November Potluck



Photos by Sheila Asala and Julie Karoutas

Adult Fellowship

New to our community?

Already a member, but looking to meet more people?

Holy Trinity is starting a **NEW** social ministry for single Orthodox adults 30-49.

The first gathering will be dinner at George's Kitchen on
Thursday, December 13, 2018

6:30pm

George's Kitchen

www.georgeskitchenphx.com

6102 N 16th St Ste 1, Phoenix, AZ 85016

602-441-3030

Respond to Nick Papas through

Text: 313-657-0176 or

Email: npapas@yahoo.com

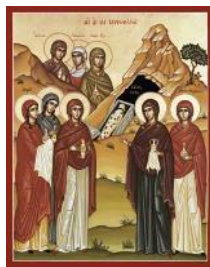


Our Church Family

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



11/6/2018

Tasia Holder

May her memory be eternal.

Hellenic Historical Museum

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

Contact Bessie Hotis 602-953-1913 for more information.

Follow Holy Trinity Cathedral on Facebook

The page offers news of our Parish Community, in addition to offering links to podcasts and videos of many of our services.



Maintenance Corner

Submitted by Ted Fourlis

September and October were very busy months for your Maintenance Committee, which included the Festival.

Here are the highlights:

- ✓Speros Center south doors resealed
- ✓“HTC Lake” was pumped two times prior and one time during the Festival
- ✓Maintenance Committee was involved in both the set up and breakdown of the Festival
- ✓New light bulbs installed in both Speros Center bathrooms
- ✓Broken hinge repaired in the Speros Center’s women’s bathroom
- ✓Toilet valve replaced in the Speros Center’s women’s bathroom
- ✓Education Building bulbs replaced in building and stairwells (Valonis Brothers)
- ✓Fencing in SW corner of basketball court/parking lot repaired from break in
- ✓Installed LED bulbs in Speros Center patio lighting
- ✓Metal caution posts installed around irrigation boxes in field by basketball courts
- ✓Sewer jetting repair to main sewer drain prior to Festival did its job (no backups this year)
- ✓Main HTC entry sign repainted
- ✓Irrigation leaks repaired
- ✓Sewer back-up and sewer pipe repaired in basement of Educational Building

Your maintenance team did a fantastic job, along with Paul and Dimitri Valonis, in completing all these projects. We are still looking for volunteers. If interested in assisting the Church and Maintenance Committee, please contact Ted Fourlis at 602-625-8835 (htcmaintenance1973@gmail.com) or Peter Bilitsis at 602-317-7780 (pkbilitsis@gmail.com.) We have much more work to do ahead of us, so we could use the help. We will be having a basement cleanup in January, with a date to follow.

Thank you,
Ted & Peter

Do you have a specific skill or do you work in an industry that
would assist our Church with maintenance needs?
We'd like to hear from you!

Sermon by Future Pastoral Assistant Alexander Eliades

November 18, 2018



Epistle Readers

To all youth and young adults: we continue our rotation of readers of 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!

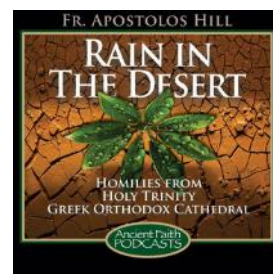
November Readers



Photos by Presvytera Denise

Rain In The Desert

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.



Videos of Services

There are weekly video tapings of the Matins, Liturgy and special services posted by Daniel and Joshua Pardhe on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) and through the links on the [website](#).

Subscribe and like us today

<https://www.facebook.com/holytrinityphx.org/>; <https://youtu.be/h-6GLW3udVo>



FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL 2018

Platinum

The DeMoss Families, In Memory of Fr. James & Presbytera Katherine Tavlarides
Stella Kosta, In Loving Memory of George Kosta
The Manelis Family, In Memory of Catherine Callaghan
The Meris Family, In Memory of Nick Meris
Else Paetsos, In Loving Memory of Alexander Paetsos
Alex & Olga Papamatheakis

Gold

The Choukalas Family
Honorable Connie Contes, In Loving Memory of Takie Tavlarides and his Beloved Parents, Fr. James & Presbytera Catherine
Tavlarides and Honorable Hercules Alexander Dellas In Loving Memory of Alexander & Margaret Dellas
Zachary & Nikki Forman
Spike & Tina Karalekas
Katsenes Insurance Family, Since 1925
The Kyprianou Family
The Petsas Family
St. Katherine Philoptochos

Silver

Mary N. Floor
GreekFest Restaurant
In Loving Memory of George "The Jof" Jouflas
In Memory of Bill Kimmell & Karen Kimmell
The Socrates Papadopoulos Family

Bronze

Anonymous (2)
Presvytera Helen Anastas
Sheila M. Asala
Camelback Coaching—Anne & Bill Wilson
Harriet Chotras
Blair & Katerina Denniston
Lynn & Bill Graham
Courtney & Niki Harris
In Loving Memory of Ruth A. Hotis
Irene DeBerry-Jensen & Michael Jensen
Helen Zannis Katsufraakis
Ronald & Virginia Kidd
The Lambrou Family
James & Stephanie Machas
Anna T. Manos
Joanne Meris
Philip, Helen & Andrew Mitchell
Bertha Quinn
Lyda Rabbitt
John Siavelis
Constantin Soloman
James A. & Christina Speros
Angelo & Marie Spanos
St. Nectarios Books & Beyond
John & Teresa Thomas
Dimitri Tsioutsopoulos & Rebecca Davis
Mrs. Argyro Vasquez
Terri & Scott Vaughn
Catherine Wallerich
Zella Zannis

Pewter

Dorothy Ainslie
Maria Dennis
Bessie Hotis, In Memory of Stacy J. Hotis
Stephen Melas



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROUS DONATIONS!**

Godparent Sunday Brunch

Hosted by Sunday School

Sunday, November 4, 2018



Father's Talk with the Children

Sunday, November 25, 2018



Maid of Athena

By Gabriella Papatzimas

Are you between the ages of 14 and 28 with an interest in Hellenism, education, philanthropy and friendship? Check out the many opportunities the Maids of Athena has in store for you!

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

This year our National Project is The Smile of the Child (Το Χαμόγελο του Παιδιού). "The Smile" is a voluntary non-profit organization in Greece who support children who are victims of violence, poverty, are missing, or are in poor health. They do not only raise money, but provide services for prevention, intervention, and therapy, depending on the situation. The organization understands it is not enough to help victims, but to act preemptively as to prevent violence, sickness, negligence, or poverty from afflicting a child if possible. Working together with the Sons of Pericles, we hope to raise awareness for these children and support them in every way we can.

This year, one of our goals is to strengthen our bond with our fellow Sons of Pericles chapter! Both our chapters got in the Halloween Spirit by taking a trip to Fear Farm, which gave many of our members a fright. We look forward to ending the year with a Maids of Athena and Sons of Pericles Ugly Sweater Party to get us in the Christmas Spirit.

Another goal this year is to continue to stay connected with the various ministries of our church. In October, our Maids volunteered in many different ways for the Greek Festival which included: baking with the yiayia's, helping with festival set up, assisting in various booths over the festival weekend, and performing with our dance groups (a little rain doesn't stop us!) In November, our Maids attended the Annual Daughters of Penelope picnic and volunteered running the bar. In addition, some of our Maids attended the Turkey Drive with our fellow Junior and Senior GOYAnS, which helps combat hunger. In December, we look forward to assisting with OPA's Christmas Day of Cheer, as well as helping the ladies of Philoptochos with making matts for the homeless.

If you are between the ages of 14 and 28 and interested in joining the Maids of Athena, please reach out to Gabriella Papatzimas (gabriella.papatzimas@gmail.com) with any questions!

Make sure to follow us on Facebook (Maids Of Athena 158 Aphrodite Irene) and Instagram (moaaphroditeirene) to see what we are up to next!



Daughters of Penelope Picnic

Saturday, November 10, 2018



Your 2018 Desert Springs Subscription

Desert Springs Subscription

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

\$3 per issue

There are 11 issues (June and July is one combined issue) for \$33

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) ___ / ___ / ___

All Saints Camp Fundraiser

2ND ANNUAL ASC INVITATIONAL

SATURDAY | December 8, 2018

Starfire Golf Club | Scottsdale



SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!

Fundraiser to benefit Orthodox Youth attending All Saints Camp



8:00 AM SHOT-GUN SCRAMBLE

7:00 am Check-In

Course located at 15500 N. Hayden Road, Scottsdale 85260

\$125 PER GOLFER

(If paid by Dec 1st | \$150 after deadline)

Includes lunch and goodie bags

Mulligan packages and raffle prize tickets will be available at the course

Bring a full foursome or we can add you to one!

AWARD LUNCHEON FOLLOWING TOURNAMENT

1:00 pm at Assumption Community Center | 8202 E. Cactus Road, Scottsdale

(Non-golfers encouraged to attend @ \$25/person)

RSVP by DEC 1, 2018
office@assumptionaz.org | 480-991-3009



ALL SAINTS CAMP

OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

Cindy Kyprianou, President



OPA had a busy month celebrating Thanksgiving this November! We're truly thankful for our faith, our church, our clergies, parents, children, and Fr. Apostolos.

The Little Lambs had a fun Pumpkin Patch play date in the Schnepf Farm on November 3rd. On the Friday evening of November 16th, Fr. Apostolos led a beautiful candlelight prayer service on the patio; Hope & Joy kids made a wonderful Thanksgiving project; and we invited Fr. Jacob to the OPA Parents Happy Hour and held a wonderful Family Wellness workshop. Fr. Jacob is the assistant priest in our sister parish, Assumption Church. He's been working with our youth in the retreats, All Saints Camp, Saint Nicholas Ranch summer camp, and Project Mexico for a few years now and our parents are thrilled to finally get to know him.



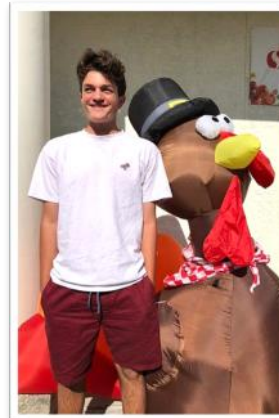
The Jr. & Sr. GOYA joined St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance's Super Saturday Turkey Drive on November 17th and they collected 152 turkeys in *three hours*.



As we prepare for Christmas, our youth will help Fr. Apostolos decorate our Cathedral on December 1st, while the little ones make gingerbread houses and await for a surprise visit from Saint Nicholas. Please follow our weekly OPA newsletter for details.

On behalf of the OPA committee, I'd like to wish everyone a

very Merry Christmas!



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 Cjecomom@gmail.com or cwkyprianou@hotmail.com and we'll get you added to the list.

OPA Christmas Party

A Holly Jolly day of Christmas Cheer
filled with crafts, activities & fellowship

THIS Saturday December 1, 2018

from 9:00am - 11:00am

at

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Speros Community Center

Activities for all ages:

•Christmas Cookie
Decorating

(Please bring 1 dozen plain
sugar cookies for decorating)

•Christmas Craft
Making

•Gingerbread House
Building

Activities for Jr. & Sr. Goya:

•Decorating the
Cathedral with Fr.
Apostolos

•Decorating the big
tree in the Speros
Center



Cookies & Hot Cocoa
will be served

•Expect a special visit
from St. Nicholas!

•Fr. Apostolos will
regale all with songs
& stories

Any Questions,
please contact
Cindy Kyprianou
at

cwkyprianou@hotmail.com
or 480-993-6437

FDF

OPA!

The Holy Trinity Greek Dance Program is back in FDF mode with two groups consisting of over 40 kids attending FDF in Ontario, California this February. With musicians joining us from Greece, we can't wait to represent our community! Please look for announcements for our Soup and Salad Luncheon in January and a possible Glendi the first week of February.



On top of dancing, our FDF Dancers will be taking part in a Diakonia service project, both helping Philoptochos make mats for the less fortunate and participating in multiple philanthropic activities. Please look for announcements if you want to get involved!

Dance is always looking for volunteers! In everything from teaching dance, assisting with costumes, or helping with fundraisers, we can always use an extra hand. If you are interested, please reach out to Niko Panagiotakopoulos at npanos01@yahoo.com.

Dance starts back up for the 2019 Festival next April. Look for emails and postings so we can get started on another successful year!

OPA Board Meeting

November 11, 2018



Parish Assembly Sunday, December 2nd

Parish Council Elections and a Budget Meeting for the 2019 Cathedral budget.

We are asking for attendance and participation of our **young families**. It is important that YOU have a voice in the future of our Cathedral.

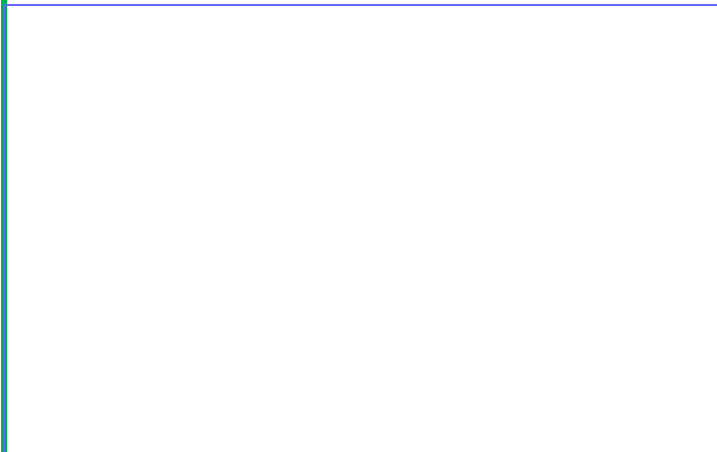


Where every adult is a parent to our youth.



Congratulatory and Happy Ads!

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



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

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

Sample Size

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

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



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

Wording: _____

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

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

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

I wish to remain anonymous. Yes No ____ (initial)

Submitter's Name: _____

Submitter's Contact Phone: _____ Contact Email: _____

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Holidays in United States

Dec 2018 (Mountain Standard Time - Phoenix)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
NATIVITY FAST						
						9am - OPA Christmas Party &
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
NATIVITY FAST						
14TH SUNDAY OF LUKE @ Holy	9am - Philoptochos Baking Prep	9am - Philoptochos Baking @	SAVAS THE SANCTIFIED @ Holy	NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER	AMBROSE OF MILAN @ Holy	
8am - Matins @ Holy Trinity	3:30pm - Junior Assembly @ Holy		9am - BNI	5:30pm - Philoptochos Meeting		
9:30am - Divine Liturgy			4pm - Junior Assembly @ Holy			
10am - Philoptochos Tray (St.			5pm - Greek School @ Holy			
10:30am - Sunday School @ Holy			6pm - Vespers @ Holy Trinity			
10:30am - Tsakiris Memorial @			7pm - Choir Practice @ Holy			
10:30am - Woerz 40 Day			7pm - Dance Practice @ Holy			
11:30am - Parish Assembly,			7pm - Divine Liturgy @ Holy			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
NATIVITY FAST						
10TH SUNDAY OF LUKE @ Holy	Fr. Apostolos out of Town			6pm - AHEPA Meeting @ Holy		9am - Dance Workshop @ Holy
8am - Matins @ Holy Trinity	3:30pm - Junior Assembly @ Holy		SPYRIDON THE WONDERWORKER	6:30pm - Adult Fellowship Social		
9:30am - Divine Liturgy			8am - HTA Field Trip @ Holy			
10am - Philoptochos Bake Sale @			9am - BNI			
10:30am - Kotselis Memorial @			7pm - Choir Practice @ Holy			
10:30am - Sunday School @ Holy			7pm - Dance Practice @ Holy			
10:30am - Tassia Holder 40 Day						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
NATIVITY FAST						
11TH SUNDAY OF LUKE @ Holy		11am - Fire Drill @ Holy Trinity	9am - BNI	6pm - HTA Christmas Program @		10am - Titus Baptism @ Holy
8am - Matins @ Holy Trinity		6pm - Nieblas-Cervantes	5pm - Cultural Greek School			
9:30am - Divine Liturgy			7pm - Choir Practice @ Holy			
10:30am - Sunday School @ Holy			7pm - Dance Practice @ Holy			
11:45am - Youth Choir Rehearsal						
12pm - Dance Practice @ Holy						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
NATIVITY FAST						
		Christmas Day	7pm - Choir Practice @ Holy	STEPHEN THE FIRST MARTYR @	4pm - Choir Christmas Party @	
SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY @	HTA Christmas Break @ Holy Trinity Academy, 1973 E Maryland Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85016, USA					
8am - Matins @ Holy Trinity	Christmas Eve	HOLY NATIVITY	7pm - No Dance Practice	10am - Desert Diamonds Meet-		
9:30am - Divine Liturgy	8am - Royal Hours of Christmas					
10:30am - No Sunday School @	9:30am - Vespers Liturgy of St.					
11:45am - Youth Choir Rehearsal	9pm - Christmas Vigil & Liturgy					
12pm - Dance Practice @ Holy						
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
HTA Christmas Break @ Holy Trinity Academy, 1973 E Maryland Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85016, USA						
8am - Matins @ Holy Trinity	New Year's Eve					
9:30am - Divine Liturgy						
10:30am - No Sunday School @						
11:45am - Youth Choir Rehearsal						
12pm - No Dance Practice (New						