



Desert Springs

November 2019
Volume 4 Issue 10

Welcome!

Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
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Sunday Bulletin Deadline
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Socrates Papadopoulos,
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www.holytrinityphx.org — NEW!

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Message from Pastoral Assistant Alexander

Let Us Give Thanks Unto the Lord!



As we approach Thanksgiving and the Christmas season, our society tries to focus on being thankful and having “an attitude of gratitude.” A cursory look online about gratitude or thankfulness brings up with *hundreds of thousands* of results which (of the few I skimmed) mostly tell you that being thankful is good for you! Yet, my wife and I were talking the other day about thankfulness and she asked me, “What do people mean when they say ‘be thankful’ or ‘live a life of gratitude’ when they don’t have God to be thankful to?”

The first thing that comes up on this Google search about thankfulness is a Harvard study entitled, “Giving Thanks Can Make You Happier.” At the end of the study, we’re given 6 ways to “cultivate gratitude” in our lives: write a thank you note, thank someone mentally, keep a gratitude journal, count your blessings, pray, and meditate.

All of these things are good but will never quite fulfil us existentially. All of these things can (and should) be applied to God. Prayer and meditation (we’ll substitute the Jesus Prayer) have made the list already! It’s fascinating to hear all this about gratitude and thankfulness because it’s what the Church has taught from the beginning and what the Church is all about! In fact, that Harvard list sounds pretty similar to Paul’s list of reminders to the Thessalonians at the end of his first letter, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thess. 5:16-18).

Every Divine Liturgy we’re given the “Eucharist,” the Greek transliteration being “Thanksgiving.” *The Eucharist* is also the title of the book on the Divine Liturgy written by the brilliant Fr. Alexander Schmemmann (d. 1983) in which, apart from going through the Divine Liturgy step by step, he speaks of how true Thanksgiving is our true calling as Christians. He says, “In thanksgiving we recognize and confess above all the divine source and divine calling of our life...that God created us as partakers of *Being*, i.e., not just something that comes from Him but something permeated by His presence, light, wisdom, and love.” Schmemmann goes so far as to say that the “ultimate source of sin is *unthankfulness*, as man’s falling away from the hymning, blessing, praising, giving thanks, and worshipping...not giving thanks is the root and driving force of pride.” By hymning, blessing, praising, giving thanks, and worshipping we are restored to what we originally are called to be, one with God. There is no greater example of all these things than in the Divine Liturgy. We are called to offer what God has given us (wheat and grapes), do what little we can with it (make it into bread and wine) and offer it back to Him in thanksgiving to bless and offer back to us as Himself. “For thanksgiving is the power that transforms desire and satisfaction, love and possession, into life, that fulfils everything in the world, given to us by God, into knowledge of God and communion with Him... Created in the image and likeness of God, who is love, man cannot cease to be love.”

Giving thanks to God makes me “happy” because it is literally what I am *created* to do. By giving thanks I can come to the realization that it this all isn’t about me, that my love for God and others shouldn’t be about *me* but about the other and Him. I can see that all that I have received is nothing without God and without my fellow human beings. The Church has seen from the beginning the importance of an attitude of gratitude but knows that we *must* direct it to God as the Source of Life and Immortality.

I will not end this with a call to remember God this Thanksgiving but to remember to give thanks at every moment *in everything*, as Paul asks of us. We are called to live a life of thanksgiving not because “the Church tells us to” but because we have been created to do so and when we do as we are created to do, we can experience God present with us as we are *meant* to always do. I ask that you read *The Eucharist* by Schmemmann to gain a greater understanding of our Divine Liturgy, and to keep an eye out in early 2020 for a class that will be open to all to learn about and discuss the Divine Liturgy! May we always give thanks to God in everything that we may truly become one with Him and those around us as we have been created to become. To God be the glory, thanksgiving, and worship, now and forever, Amen.

Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

Below is the report that will be given at the Fall Parish Assembly which will be on Sunday, November 3rd. We encourage all parishioners to attend these Parish assembly meetings to gain a better understanding and knowledge about our Cathedral. Being an active participant is an important part of Stewardship. We hope to see you there.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT Fall Parish Assembly November 2019

† Stewardship Total Budgeted for 2019	\$360,000.00
† Stewardship pledges to date (as of 10/17/19)	\$398,752.64
† Total families pledged to date	312 Families
† Increase pledged amount over budgeted amount	+\$37,801.64
† Amounted collected to date (293 families contributing to date)	\$261,628.20
† WeShare participants	67 Families

Important Stewardship Facts:

Families must fill out a new Pledge Card every calendar year (this is the guideline set forth by the Archdiocese).

In order to be a “Steward in Good Standing”, a parishioner must fill out a Pledge Card and contribute toward that pledge.

Holy Trinity’s monthly expenses average \$60,000. Stewardship brings in only about half of our monthly expenses.

If every family increased their Stewardship by \$96.00 per month, that would cover our monthly expenses allowing the Festival, rental income, and other fundraisers to be used for capital improvements.

Stewardship is not just about financial giving. Being a good Steward also means actively participating in the Liturgical services, ministries, and fellowship. Giving of one’s time, talent and treasure.

The definition of Stewardship is the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.

Great news for 70½+ year olds!

Submitted by Charles DeMoss

You can avoid paying taxes on your IRA Required Minimum Distribution.

Simply ask your IRA Custodian to send a check **directly** from your IRA to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. You can send any amount, up to \$100,000.00 per year, without paying taxes on the amount you send. You can ask the Church office to apply it to Stewardship, One Spirit+One Vision, Endowments, or any other entity of the Church.

You may also ask your IRA Custodian to issue you checks, so that next year you may use those checks for donations in your Sunday envelope. Questions? Call the Church office.

+Our sincerest thanks for your support+

One Spirit+One Vision

OS+OV, the foundation of our ongoing building fund program.

We are very thankful for those 248 individuals and families in our community who have come forward to build our beautiful Educational and Cultural Center. These generous donors have pledged \$3,302,379.00 of which \$3,031,676.00 has been paid to date. The monies contributed to OS+OV are used to pay down our remaining \$576,842.00 building loan. Paying down the bank loan reduces the financial burden we would pass on to future generations.

Please consider initiating, or if you are already a donor, increasing your existing pledge to this program. In addition to the typical monetary gifts, we have received gifts in the form of stocks and real property. By donating assets held more than a year and worth more than their original cost, you can avoid paying capital gain taxes. (Consult your tax advisor.)

Holy Trinity parishioners have for years expressed their Love for God through his Church, by, among other things, their financial sacrifices. Please join with those who have put their legacy in Holy Trinity Cathedral's past accomplishments and witness the Joy of giving. Help us reduce, and ultimately eliminate the bank loan by giving to OS+OV, with your donation of cash, stocks, or real estate.

If you can give above and beyond your annual Stewardship pledge, please call: the Church office @ 602-264-7863 for information about the One Spirit + One Vision (OS+OV) program.

Seeking Church Office Volunteers

We would like to invite you to join our Church Office Volunteer Staff. If you have general office experience and can work one day a week or more from 9:00am to 3:00pm, you are a perfect candidate. Please contact Paul Katsenes at Pkatsenes@cox.net or 602-421-7200.



Friends of the Festival

Platinum

The DeMoss Families, In Memory of Ifigenia "Jean" Sgouros
Stella Kosta, In Loving Memory of George Kosta
The Kyprianou Family
The Manelis Family, In Memory of George Jouflas
Sandy & Will Meris
Tracy Poulos, In Memory of Lou, Georgia & James Poulos
The Tzavaras Family
Stephanie Yarusinsky

Gold

The Choukalas Family
Honorable Connie Contes, In Loving Memory of Takie Tavlarides and his Beloved Parents,
Fr. James & Presv. Catherine Tavlarides
Culvers: Elias & Phyllis Skoubis
Honorable Hercules Dellas, In Loving Memory of Alexander & Margaret Dellas
Zachary & Nikki Foreman
The Petsas Family
St. Katherine Philoptochos
Laurel & Todd Schiller

Silver

The Debickero Family
GreekFest Restaurant
In Memory of Bill Kimmell & Karen Kimmell
In Memory of Peter Maniatis and John & Mary Maniatis
The Socrates & Stephanie Papadopoulos Family
Dimitri Tsioutsopoulos

Bronze

Anonymous (4)
Presvytera Helen Anastas
Mark Aronauer
Camelback Coaching - Anne & Bill Wilson
Kathrene Carras, In Memory of George T. Jouflas
Harriet Chotras
John & Jean Dal Pan
Stefanos & Tiffany Daniolos
Maria Dennis
Mr. & Mrs. Blair Denniston
Irene DeBerry-Jensen & Michael Jensen
Lynn & Bill Graham
Courtney & Niki Harris
Holy Trinity Cathedral Choir
Bessie Hotis
In Loving Memory of Tiffani N. Bichekas
In Loving Memory of Ruth A. Hotis
Peter & Nicole Kamboukos
Virginia Karegeannes
Ronald & Virginia Kidd

Tammy P. Kretsedemas
Tassie Ladas
The Lambrou Family
James & Stephanie Machas
Anna T. Manos
Stephen Mellas
Bill & Jean Miller
Mitchell Family - Philip, Helen & Andrew
Evelyn Nickalew
Bertha Quinn
Lyda Rabbitt
John Siavelis
Constantin Solomon
Angelo & Marie Spanos
James A. & Christina Speros
John & Teresa Thomas
Mrs. Argyro Vasquez
Catherine Wallerich
Athena Zannis
Zella Zannis

Pewter

Dorothy Ainslie

Friends of the Festival



We would like to thank our Phoenix Greek Festival Corporate Sponsors.
We are grateful for the support and generosity of these community leaders and partners.

Leslie's Poolmart, Inc.
Wood Partners
Reformed Pilates, LLC.
LifeManaged
Fundamental Income
Elly's Restaurant
Kansas State Bank
Happy Factory LLC
Dawn Cartier - CivTech Inc.
Renewal by Andersen
Willmeng Construction
Gen Next
BitWits LLC
Enterprise Bank and Trust

Historical Museum

By Bessie Hotis

A big thank you to Gus and Mary Louise Theodoropoulos for their generous donation to cover the cost of the repair of the historical prints. As a result of age, many of the prints needed remounting in whole or part. The repairs were completed in time for the 59th Original Phoenix Greek Festival!

Thank you also to all of the volunteers who assisted our Festival guests with their tours of our museum.



Zella and Helen, just two of the many volunteers.

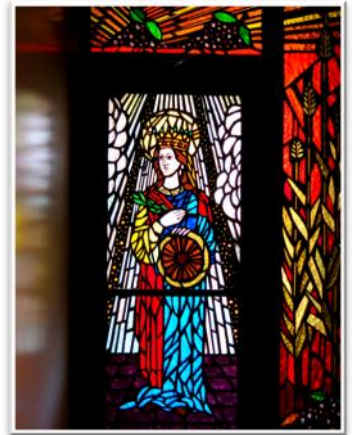
Photos by Slaven Gujic

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

"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.

November Philoptochos Meeting Day and Time

To accommodate our many parishioners, the Philoptochos chapter here at Holy Trinity is trying something NEW! We will occasionally meet on a SUNDAY instead of the usual 7:00pm on the first Thursday of the month. For the November meeting, Philoptochos will be gathering on SUNDAY, November 10, in the Lounge area of the Speros Center following Divine Liturgy. Please grab your coffee and something to eat from the usual Coffee Hour and then make your way in for an informative, interesting meeting beginning at 12noon.

November Meeting
Sunday, November 10, 2019
12:00 PM
Speros Community Center Lounge

A second tray will be passed on November 3rd for the Patriarchate.



Thank you to October's Hostesses
Georgia Fourlis
and Bessie Hotis



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 2019, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

CC & Company Adventures Presents...

Philoptochos Holiday Trip

Casino & Sightseeing Adventure, Cliff Castle Casino, Camp Verde,
and Prescott, **Arizona's Christmas City**

Thursday, December 12th

\$60 per person

Open to All

Trip includes:

- Luxury fully equipped Motor Coach with Certified Driver
- **\$25 'FREE play'** from Cliff Castle Casino voted #1 for nearly **2 decades!**
- 'SPIN to WIN' \$5 to \$200 **'FREE play'** for all **NEW** members of the Club!
 - Over 660 SLOTS, Live Blackjack and Poker & Bowling!
 - Earn a **Complimentary** Breakfast OR Lunch **BUFFET** at the Mountain Springs Buffet with only 100 points on your player's card!
 - 27th Annual **Gingerbread Village**, Prescott Resort Lobby
- **Historic Whiskey Row**, featuring the wondrously lit **Courthouse Square** for shopping, antique browsing, art galleries, restaurants & more...
 - **Enchanted Christmas Tour of Lights & Christmas Store**, an amazing Indoor display of ½ million lights, Gateway Mall
- **Valley of Lights**, a spectacular display of over one million, Prescott Valley
 - Driver's Gratuity

Please sign up & pay Julie Karoutas, 623-313-8720 by Friday, Nov. 29th.

Please make checks payable to: CC & Company

Bring your friends and family to enjoy the FUN!

Departure: 8:00am

Think Winning & Fun!!!

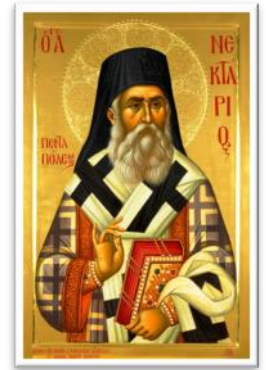
Cliff Castle Casino is owned & operated by the Yavapai-Apache Nation

MUST HAVE PHOTO ID - NO CAMERAS ALLOWED in casino - MUST be 21 to enter

St. Nektarios Books & Beyond

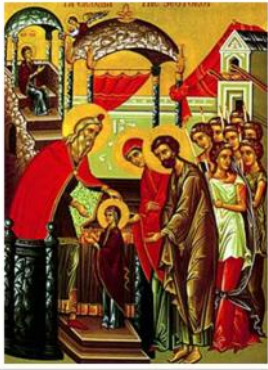
By Rita Papaspyrou

The month of November offer us the opportunity to celebrate the Feast of the Entrance into the Temple of the Theotokos, the Synaxis of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, the commemoration of Saints Cosmas and Damianos, Nektarios the Wonderworker, John Chrysostom, Philip the Apostle, Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist, Katherine the Great and Andrew the First-Called Apostle.



Entrance of the Theotokos to the Temple

Commemorated on November 21



The Feast commemorates when as a young child, the Virgin Mary entered the Temple in Jerusalem.

When Mary was three years old, Joachim and Anna decided that the time had come to fulfill their promise and to offer her to the Lord. Joachim gathered the young girls of the neighborhood to form an escort, and he made them go in front of Mary, carrying torches. Captivated by the torches, the young child followed joyfully to the Temple, not once looking back at her parents nor weeping as she was parted from them.

The holy Virgin ran toward the Temple, overtaking her attendant maidens and threw herself into the arms of the High Priest Zacharias, who was waiting for her at the gate of the Temple with the elders. Zacharias blessed her saying, "It is in you that He has glorified your name in every generation. It is in you that He will reveal the Redemption that He has prepared for His people in the last days."

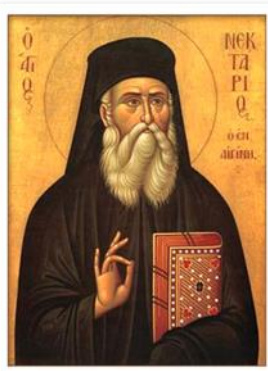
Then, Zacharias brought the child into the Holy of Holies—a place where only the High Priest was permitted to enter once a year on the Day of Atonement. He placed her on the steps of the altar, and the grace of the Lord descended upon her. She arose and expressed her joy in a dance as wonder seized all who saw this happen.

The Virgin Mary dwelt in the Temple for nine years until, reaching an age for marriage, she was taken from the Temple by the priests and elders and entrusted to Joseph as the guardian of her virginity.

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple signifies her total dedication to God and her readiness for her future vocation as the Mother of the Incarnate Lord. This is a feast of anticipation. As honor is shown to Mary, the faithful are called to look forward to the Incarnation of Christ, celebrated in a little more than a month by the Feast of the Nativity on December 25.

Saint Nektarios the Wonderworker

Commemorated on November 9



Saint Nektarios was born in Selyvria of Thrace on October 11, 1846. After putting himself through school in Constantinople with much hard labor, he became a monk on Chios in 1876, receiving the monastic name of Lazarus; because of his virtue, a year later he was ordained deacon, receiving the new name of Nektarios. Under the patronage of Patriarch Sophronius of Alexandria, Nektarios went to Athens to study in 1882; completing his theological studies in 1885, he went to Alexandria, where Patriarch Sophronius ordained him priest on March 23, 1886 in the Cathedral of Saint Sabbas, and in August of the same year, in the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo, made him Archimandrite. Archimandrite Nektarios showed much zeal both for preaching the word of God, and for the beauty of God's house. He greatly beautified the Church of Saint Nicholas in Cairo, and years later, when Nektarios was in Athens, Saint Nicholas appeared to him in a dream, embracing him and telling him he was going to exalt him very high.

On January 15, 1889, in the same Church of Saint Nicholas, Nektarios was consecrated Metropolitan of Pentapolis in eastern Libya, which was under the jurisdiction of

St. Nektarios Bookstore Message continued on page 12

Alexandria. Although Nektarios' swift ascent through the degrees of ecclesiastical office did not affect his modesty and childlike innocence, it aroused the envy of lesser men, who convinced the elderly Sophronius that Nektarios had it in his heart to become Patriarch. Since the people loved Nektarios, the Patriarch was troubled by the slanders. On May 3, 1890, Sophronius relieved Metropolitan Nektarios of his duties; in July of the same year, he commanded Nektarios to leave Egypt.

"Without seeking to avenge or even to defend himself, the innocent Metropolitan left for Athens, where he found that accusations of immorality had arrived before him. Because his good name had been soiled, he was unable to find a position worthy of a bishop, and in February of 1891 accepted the position of provincial preacher in Euboia; then, in 1894, he was appointed dean of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School in Athens. Through his eloquent sermons, his unwearying labours to educate fitting men for the priesthood, his generous alms deeds despite his own poverty, and the holiness, meekness, and fatherly love that were manifest in him, he became a shining light and a spiritual guide to many.

At the request of certain pious women, in 1904 he began the building of his convent of the Holy Trinity on the island of Aegina while yet dean of the Rizarios School; finding later that his presence there was needed, he took up his residence on Aegina in 1908, where he spent the last years of his life, devoting himself to the direction of his convent and to very intense prayer; he was sometimes seen lifted above the ground while rapt in prayer.

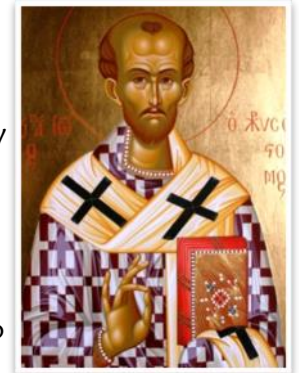
He became the protector of all Aegina, through his prayers delivering the island from drought, healing the sick, and casting out demons. Here also he endured wicked slanders with singular patience, forgiving his false accusers and not seeking to avenge himself. Although he had already worked wonders in life, an innumerable multitude of miracles have been wrought after his repose in 1920 through his holy relics, which for many years remained incorrupt. There is hardly a malady that has not been cured through his prayers; but Saint Nektarios is especially renowned for his healings of cancer for sufferers in all parts of the world.

Saint John Chrysostom the Archbishop of Constantinople

Commemorated on November 13

This greatest of Christian orators is commemorated not only on November 13, but as one of the Three Holy Hierarchs (with St Basil the Great and St Gregory the Theologian) on January 30.

He was born in Antioch to pious parents around 345. His mother was widowed at the age of twenty, and devoted herself to rearing her son in piety. He received his literary and oratorical training from the greatest pagan teachers of the day. Though an illustrious and profitable career as a secular orator was open to him, he chose instead to dedicate himself to God. He lived as a monk from 374 to 38, eventually dwelling as a hermit in a cave near Antioch.



Here his extreme ascetic practices ruined his health, so that he was forced to return to Antioch, where he was ordained to the priesthood. In Antioch his astonishing gifts of preaching first showed themselves, earning him the epithet Chrysostomos, "Golden-mouth", by which he became universally known. His gifts became so far-famed that he was chosen to succeed St Nektarios as Patriarch of Constantinople. He was taken to Constantinople secretly (some say he was actually kidnapped) to avoid the opposition of the Antiochian people to losing their beloved preacher. He was made Patriarch of Constantinople in 398.

Archbishop John shone in his sermons as always, often censuring the corrupt morals and luxurious living of the nobility. For this he incurred the anger of the Empress Eudoxia, who had him exiled to Pontus in 403. The people protested by rioting, and the following night an earthquake shook the city, so frightening the Empress that she had Chrysostom called back. The reconciliation was short-lived. Saint John did not at all moderate the intensity of his sermons, and when the Empress had a silver statue of herself erected outside the Great Church in 403, accompanied by much revelry, the Patriarch spoke out against her, earning her unforgiving anger. In 404 he was exiled to Cucusus, near Armenia. When Pope Innocent of Rome interceded on his behalf, the imperial family only exiled him further, to a town called Pityus near the Caucasus. The journey was so difficult and his guards so cruel that the frail Archbishop gave up his soul to God before reaching his final place of exile, in 407. His last words were "Glory be to God for all things."

Saint John Chrysostom is the author of more written works than any other Church Father: his works include 1,447 recorded sermons, 240 epistles, and complete commentaries on Genesis, the Gospels of Matthew and John, the Acts of the Apostles, and all the Epistles of St Paul.

His repose was on September 14, but since that is the date of the Exaltation of the Cross, his commemoration has been transferred to November 13.

Andrew the First-Called Apostle **Commemorated on November 30**

Saint Andrew was the brother of the Apostle Peter. Andrew left his fisherman's trade to become a disciple of St John the Baptist. Soon after the Forerunner had baptized Jesus, he said to Andrew and his other disciple John the Theologian, "Behold the Lamb of God!" At this, both disciples followed after Jesus. After conversing with Christ, Andrew hurried home and told his brother Simon Peter, "We have found the Messiah." For being the first to recognize Jesus as the Christ, St Andrew is called the First-Called.

After Pentecost, Andrew was appointed to preach the Gospel around various lands.

On his journeys the First-Called Apostle endured many sufferings and torments from pagans: they cast him out of their cities and they beat him. In Sinope they pelted him with stones, but remaining unharmed, the persistent disciple of Christ continued to preach to people about the Savior. Through the prayers of the Apostle, the Lord worked miracles. By the labors of the holy Apostle Andrew, Christian Churches were established, for which he provided bishops and clergy. The final city to which the Apostle came was the city of Patra, where he was destined to suffer martyrdom.

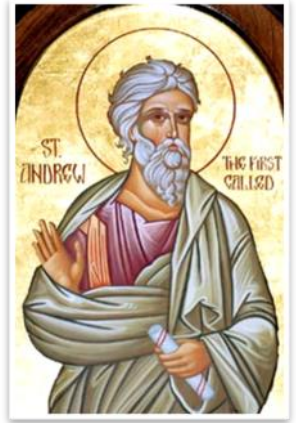
The Lord worked many miracles through His disciple in Patra. The infirm were made whole, and the blind received their sight. Through the prayers of the Apostle, the illustrious citizen Sosios recovered from serious illness; he healed Maximilla, wife of the governor of Patra, and his brother Stratokles. The miracles accomplished by the Apostle and his fiery speech enlightened almost all the citizens of the city of Patra with the true Faith.

Saint Andrew the First-Called accepted the decision of the prefect with joy and with prayer to the Lord, and went willingly to the place of execution. In order to prolong the suffering of the saint, Aegeatos gave orders not to nail the saint's hands and feet, but to tie them to the cross. For two days the apostle taught the citizens who gathered about. The people, in listening to him, with all their souls pitied him and tried to take Saint Andrew down from the cross. Fearing a riot of the people, Aegeatos gave orders to stop the execution. But the holy apostle began to pray that the Lord would grant him death on the cross. Just as the soldiers tried to take hold of the Apostle Andrew, they lost control of their hands. The crucified apostle, having given glory to God, said: "Lord Jesus Christ, receive my spirit." Then a blazing ray of divine light illumined the cross and the martyr crucified upon it. When the light faded, the holy Apostle Andrew had already given up his holy soul to the Lord. Maximilla, the wife of the prefect, had the body of the saint taken down from the cross, and buried him with honor.

A few centuries later, under the emperor Constantine the Great, the relics of the holy Apostle Andrew were solemnly transferred to Constantinople and placed in the church of the Holy Apostles beside the relics of the holy Evangelist Luke and Saint Paul's disciple Saint Timothy.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving of November 28, let's remember to give thanks to God for **everything** – the freedom to practice our faith without persecution, the roof over our heads, the food in our stomachs, the clean water to quench our thirst, the sun shining in the morning and the moon at night, the deep blue sky, the birds chirping - the list is endless and even our trials and tribulations as they allow us to grow closer to God and elevate our faith from a rudimentary level to a more profound relationship with Christ.

We sometimes get deceived by thinking that we don't need to thank God for what we have because we achieved what we have by our hard work and that God has nothing to do with it. Let's always remember that it is God who gave us the strength and the wisdom to work hard to achieve what we have. Without that, we would have nothing. Like Christ said "Without me, you are nothing". Let's always give glory to God and not to ourselves.



Holy Trinity Academy

Sowing the Seeds of Love!

By Juli Pritsos



Even though we don't experience the beautiful fall colors like other areas there are still many things that call to mind the season – school begins, my

favorite apples and squash are available, walks to the park and on occasion those cool evenings and crisp mornings – let's face it, I love fall!

Fall is also my favorite season to teach. So many fruits and vegetables are available this time of year: Varietals of squash, apples, pears, brussel sprouts, and my absolute favorite, Hatch green chili! Colors of fall harvests are so magnificent with flavors so tasty and so easy to grow in the right conditions!



Since the beginning of the year HTA has focused on types of fruits and vegetables and if they are roots, vines, or grow on trees. We are also learning about annuals and perennials and different types of herbs. All of this is to prepare them

for their field trip to Tolmachoff Farms and learn first hand from Farmer Scrappy how a working farm really works and how we can apply those tools to our small garden. We know that farming can be difficult and it takes a lot of caring for and patience. Plants must be watered and cared for just like us. It is all part of God's plan!



That said, I would be remiss to not take the opportunity to teach our Little's, *"The Parable of the Sower"*, the amazing tale about a farmer who scatters seed, which falls on four different types of ground. 1) The hard ground prevented the seed from sprouting at all, and the seed became nothing more than bird food. 2) The rocky ground provided enough soil for the seeds to germinate and begin to grow, but because it was not deep enough the plants did not take root and soon withered in the sun. 3) The



thorny ground allowed the seed to grow, but the competing thorns, like weeds, choked the life out of the beneficial plants. 4) Finally, the good, rich soil



received the seed and it produced much fruit.

Jesus' explanation of this parable highlights four different responses to the gospel. 1) The hard ground represents someone who is hardened by sin; he hears but doesn't really listen keeping his heart black and preventing God's message from getting in. 2) The stony ground is the man who is outwardly excited about God's word, however, he too, has a heart that is not ready to have the words take root. He is our



fair-weathered friend and when things don't go his way he is nowhere to be found, just like his faith. 3) The thorny ground is someone who wants to listen and follow, but he is too caught up on extravagance and a gluttonous lifestyle. His material things are

more important to him leaving no time for a relationship with God. 4) The good, rich soil portrays the man who hears, understands, and receives God's grace fully and then allows His grace to guide him to accomplish what is truly important. He is the one who celebrates the fruits of his labor because his direction is steadfast and his heart is pure. ([Matthew 3:7-8; 7:15-20](#)).

What I know for sure is that farming food and farming our hearts are not very different. Finding out what it takes to have something grow or that it takes the faith of a small mustard seed to move a mountain proves to us how amazing God is and how much He loves us by giving us everything we need as long as we take care of what He gives us. We all need the right conditions to grow – the right amount of water (**Baptism**), fresh air (**the Holy Spirit**), rich soil (**God's Word**), and sunlight (**His love**)! Now that will produce one healthy crop!



HTA is now taking applications for the 2020-2021 school year

Call 602-248-3881 to set up a private tour and find out more about our amazing program! Don't miss the opportunity for your preschooler to have an Orthodox early childhood education at the first Orthodox school in Arizona!

Sunday School

By Kalli Schneider



Fall is finally here in Phoenix and Sunday School is enjoying the outdoors in many ways. The week before and after the Festival, our Sunday School teachers from the 5th/6th, 7th/8th and Youth Forum brought a beautiful gift for the kids to learn to make: their own prayer ropes. The children were able to pick from a wide array of colors and beads. Many of our teachers spent some of their summer months at St. Nicholas Ranch as camp counselors. Now they have brought this knowledge back to Holy Trinity and our own children to teach them how to make the prayer ropes, and more importantly, how to use them and what they mean.

Sunday School again will be enjoying our amazing weather that God has granted us with our Annual Godparent Luncheon on November 3rd, to be held on our big beautiful patio at the Community Center. Please join us with your families and friends for some fellowship and a great meal! The luncheon will be held immediately following Liturgy. That means that your children's Sunday School teachers will not be in the classroom but in the kitchen getting ready for you to join us! **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on November 3rd, WE WILL RESUME THE FOLLOWING WEEK ON NOVEMBER 10th!**



Welcome, Father Tim

Celebrating in Father Apostolos' Absence
October 27, 2019



Sunday School Annual Godparent Sunday Event

November 3rd!

Celebrate Godparent Sunday

With Your Parea and Pasta on the Patio!!

WHEN: Immediately following Divine Liturgy

WHERE: Community Center-Patio

COST: \$5.00 Donation

WHAT: Pasta with Marinara or Meat Sauce
Rolls
Salad/Fruit
Dessert
Coffee/Juice

Please join us for a fabulous lunch made and served by
your children's Sunday School teachers!



***There will **NOT** be Sunday School on this day so you
can worship with your family!***

See you back on November 10th!!

Mark Your Calendars

INQUIRERS CLASS

On Mondays at 7:00pm, an Inquirers Class is being held for those looking to join Holy Trinity, those simply interested in the Orthodox Church or parishioners wanting to engage more with their faith.



ORTHODOX COLLEGE MINISTRY

Our Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) ministry on the ASU campus meets every Tuesday evening at 6:00pm at the Christian Center on 19th & Mill. Contact Fr. Apostolos or Alexander for more info.



BEATITUDES BIBLE STUDY

Our parish Bible Study, examining the Beatitudes, will resume on Tuesday mornings at 10:00am beginning on November 5 and will meet through November 26.



3RD ANNUAL ASC INVITATIONAL REGISTRATION FEES

Please note on Sunday, November 3rd, Ed McNamara will be available during Coffee Hour to receive any remaining tournament fees. All Saints Camp Golf Tournament will be held on November 9, 2019. 100% of the proceeds go directly towards camp and camp scholarships. Registration is now open at www.assumptionaz.org/ascgolf or contact Paul Katsenes 602-421-7200 or Ed McNamara 602-502-8599.

PROJECT MEXICO

We welcome Father Nicholas Andruchow on November 3, 2019 to update us on Project Mexico.

SECOND TRAY FOR THE PARIARCHATE

On Sunday, November 3, 2019, Philoptochos will be passing a second tray to benefit the Patriarchate.

Music Ministry

by Terri Alexon, Director



Psalm 135:1

Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord, give praise, O servants of the Lord.

October was a busy month for the Music Ministry at Holy Trinity Cathedral!

On Church Musician Sunday, October 6th, it was such a joy to have the children up in the loft again singing the Communion Hymn, "Praise the Lord" along with the Cathedral Choir. Going forward, the first Sunday of the month is now considered "Youth Choir Sunday" when children 7 years and up are encouraged to venture up to sing hymns as a group. The next hymn we'll be focusing on is "Truly It Is Proper," which is a hymn dedicated to the Theotokos, Mother of God. Rehearsals to learn this hymn will be from **NOON - 12:15pm** in the Community Center.

During the bustling Festival on Saturday, the Cathedral Choir members took a break and gathered up in the loft to sing a selection of five hymns during a church tour. During this mini "concert," Pastoral Assistant Alexander Eliades explained the significance of each hymn, which offered people not familiar with Orthodoxy a glimpse into the beauty of our Sunday worship.

On October 20th, we fought back our tears to sing during the one-year memorial of our dear sister in Christ, Tiffani Bichekas. In addition, we said a "farewell" to Patsy Harris who is moving to Flagstaff. The Cathedral Choir will dearly miss her presence and hopes she visits us soon!

So, do you like to sing, but feel a little self-conscious singing out by yourself in the pews? Then consider adding YOUR voice to the Cathedral Choir just in time for the Advent season beginning November 15th. Rehearsals are held most **Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30pm**. Contact Terri Alexon by email, htphxmusicdirector@gmail.com or by text/telephone, 480-233-2416.



And finally, the Cathedral Choir extends its thanks to all the parishioners who have generously directed some of their financial resources to the music ministry.



God bless you!



Little Lambs at the Festival

Saturday, October 12, 2019



A Thank You from Father Apostolos

Beloved Co-laborers in Christ,

St. Paul's famous proclamation to the faithful of Philippi *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"* was surely made evident in the herculean efforts you each put forth at this year's record-breaking Festival!

Your diligence and tirelessness was awe-inspiring throughout the entire process weeks before we opened the gates Friday evening. Only the strength of God could have kept many of you upright as you raced from task to task as our patrons streamed onto the campus.

I was particularly impressed with our young ones who found their places in the booths between their respective dance performances and by the level of creativity exhibited in making snap menu substitutions once initial offerings disappeared. I joked Sunday evening that if the crowds didn't eventually disperse, we'd be down to saltines and mayonnaise!

But beyond whatever financial windfall we gain from this, the true gift is in the cohesion that our common efforts provide for our community. I have already heard from one couple whose Chrismations into Holy Orthodoxy has not yet even been scheduled but who are so inspired, having volunteered in the booths, to become part of our parish family.

In our Cathedral tours, it was our more recently added members who gracefully volunteered to share their own newly-found love for Holy Trinity and for the Orthodox Christian faith who led our patrons through the Cathedral.

For these reasons alone, even if our festivals were revenue neutral events, it would still be worthwhile to undergo this annual marathon of joyful sacrifice. And as I have said many times, a community capable of undertaking so grand an event as this with such confidence, competence, and aplomb, is surely also capable of achieving any other goal to which it sets its mind and will.

May Gog richly bless each of you for your offering of love, soothing aching feet, backs, and legs, replenishing you with deep and peaceful sleep, and filling your hearts with joy and with the grace of His presence!

With love to you in Jesus Christ,

Rev. Father Apostolos Hill | Dean

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!

October Epistle Readers



Includes photos by Presvytera Denise

Grant Writer Needed

We might have an opportunity for a grant for Cathedral improvements. If you have grant writing experience we would enjoy discussing this with you. Contact Diana in the Church office at 602-264-7863 or Paul Katsenes at pkatsenes@cox.net or call 602-421-7200.



Coffee Hour

Thank you to **Choir** for sponsoring Coffee Hours in October.
The November Coffee Hours will be sponsored by **Dance**.



Altar Service

Interested in learning more about serving on the altar?

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



Greek School

Submitted by Gabriella Papatzimas



Holy Trinity Greek
&
Heritage School of Phoenix

Τι μαθαίνουμε σήμερα? What are we learning today?

This is a question that all our students are excited to ask at Greek School.

The month of October, we have been focusing on a national public holiday celebrated in Greece, Cyprus and by Greeks around the world on October 28th called Oxi Day. On this day 79 years ago, the Prime Minister of Greece, Ioannis Metaxas denied Benito Mussolini's request to allow Italian troops to cross the border into Greece with a simple "Oxi". Mussolini responded to the Italian ultimatum in French, the diplomatic language at the time, "*Alors, c'est la guerre!*" or "*Then it is War!*".



In the days following, the word of Metaxas' denial had spread around the capital and the Greek population took to the streets shouting "*Oxi!*". His decision made on 28th October 1940, is commemorated each year as a day that represents bravery, solidarity and heroism for millions of Greeks all around the world.

"Hence we will not say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks."



Our Greek School program is taught by Director Irene Dartoozos Mackos and Greek School alumni Gabriella Papatzimas. With classes ranging from PreK - 7th Grade, our 10 students are eager to come and learn each week. Our Greek School program covers the Greek language geography, history, music, dance, traditions & Greek recipes.

(left) Irene teaches Greek to the audience at the 2019 Original Phoenix Greek Festival.

If you're interested in learning more about our Greek School program or enrolling, please email Irene at eirinie@gmail.com

All Saints Camp Fundraiser

3RD ANNUAL ASC INVITATIONAL
SATURDAY | November 9, 2019
Stonecreek Golf Club



SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!
Fundraiser to benefit Orthodox Youth attending All Saints Camp



1:00 PM SHOT-GUN SCRAMBLE

12:00 pm Check-In

Course located at 4435 E. Paradise Village Pkwy S, Phoenix, AZ 85032

\$125 PER GOLFER

(If paid by Oct 31st | \$150 after deadline)

Includes dinner 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 DINNER FOLLOWING TOURNAMENT

6:00pm at Assumption Community Center | 8202 E. Cactus Road, Scottsdale

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

RSVP by OCT 31, 2019

www.assumptionaz.org/ascgolf | 480-991-3009



ALL SAINTS CAMP

Glendi Gala



Evening includes...

- 6:00 p.m. Cocktail Hour / Music
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner
- 8:00 p.m. Dancing

Cocktail Attire Suggested

Ticket Prices:

Until October 13th

- Adults \$50
- Students \$30
- Children 12 & under \$20

After October 13th

- Adults \$60
- Students \$40
- Children 12 & under \$20

Purchase tickets with cash or check.
Contact Sandy at sandymeris@yahoo.com
or (602) 525-0345.

CATERED BY



Thank you for supporting your church community! Funding raised benefits the dance program and OPA! for events throughout the year.

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

1973 E Maryland Ave, Phoenix

Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners
and their guests

Greetings Desert Diamonds & Friends,

Please mark your calendars and save the date for our outing on Thursday,
November 14, 2019.

We will be meeting at the

"Old Spaghetti Factory" restaurant, at 11:15am for luncheon.

1418 N Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004

602-257-0380

Warm regards,

Julie Karoutas

email: juliekaroutas@gmail.com

cell: 623-313-8720 call or text

Judith LaMond

Cell: 703-819-9957, please text only.



For the Good of the Cathedral

Planting flowers ahead of the Festival!





**Daughters
of
Penelope
Picnic**

**HOLY TRINITY GREEK
ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL**

1973 EAST MARYLAND AVE. PHOENIX, AZ

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2019
3:00PM-8:00PM**

Menu

**Chicken, Potato Salad, Nacho Bar, Corn, Sundaes & Fruit
No Host - Beer, Wine, Soda & Frappe Bar**

\$20 ADULTS ♦ \$10 CHILDREN 4-10 ♦ \$10 MAIDS & SONS

FUN & GAMES FOR ALL AGES!

FOR TICKETS CALL ANGIE - 480.540.5376

Our Church Family

Chrismation

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

Galatians 3:27

10/06/2019

Louis J. Burgdorff II, Sponsor
is George Possas

God's Blessings be upon him.

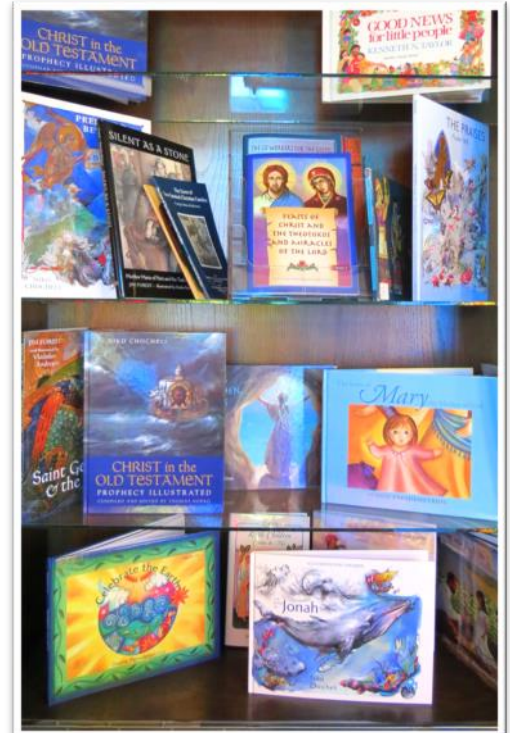


Narthex Library

Pictured below is one of **four** display cases of books that are available to check out for *free* in the Narthex.

Just follow the posted directions and enjoy.

Happy reading!



Myrrhbearer Photo Project

We will be calling for Myrrhbearer photos from over the years, with the goal to collect each year and present them chronologically in one big photo album.

Look for information soon on where to send your photo! In the meantime, begin thinking where yours are!

Attention Organizations:

Please check the Organization Contacts listings on page 2 of this issue and confirm that the information is correct. Email is the default contact type, but can be changed to texting or telephoning if preferred.

Email any changes to both Diana at AdminAssist@holytrinityphx.org and Kristen at kvasilarakos@cox.net.

It is the organization's responsibility to inform Diana and Kristen of any updates to their listing.

Thank you!



Tell Us Something Good

Orthodox man seeks roommate for a two bedroom apartment across from Paradise Valley Mall. Park and pool views. \$550.00 per month includes utilities. Call Michael (Ayman) at 480-840-4710 for more information.

Follow Holy Trinity Cathedral on Facebook

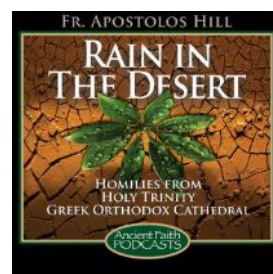
The page offers news of our Parish Community, in addition to offering links to podcasts and videos of many of our services.



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.



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!

Videos of Services and Live-Streaming!

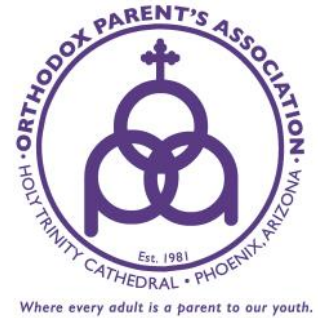
There are weekly video tapings of the Matins, Liturgy and special services posted by Daniel and Joshua Pardhe on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) and through the links on the [website](https://www.holytrinityphx.org).



Subscribe and like us today <https://www.facebook.com/holytrinityphx.org/>; <https://youtu.be/h-6GLW3udVo>

OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

Dianna Scaccia, Co-President
Paulina Watson, Co-President



In the month of October, our youth helped make this year's Greek Festival amazing! The Junior and Senior GOYA boys helped unload the trucks before the Festival even started. The Little Lambs paraded on Saturday and Sunday, and even the young Hope & JOY kids could be seen helping alongside GOYANs on the Food Lines, and booths such Loukoumades, Baklava Sundaes, Pitas, and Souvlaki.

Our youth is a part of the rich tradition and community of our Holy Trinity Cathedral. We are so blessed to have everyone come together. Thank you to all the youth who help make it wonderful!

In God's love,

Paulina Watson &
Dianna Scaccia

Paulina Watson
602-740-9350
Paulinawatson25@gmail.com

Dianna Scaccia
602-323-4615
discaccia@gmail.com



Do you get OPA emails?

OPA communicates primarily through email via our e-newsletter. To stay informed of all of the youth, parent, and family happenings at Holy Trinity, make sure you are receiving these emailed newsletters. It's easy, just email your information to Paulinawatson25@gmail.com or discaccia@gmail.com and we'll get you added to the list.

Meet your new Board!

Co-President	Paulina Watson
Co-President	Dianna Scaccia
Secretary	Donna Manelis
Treasurer	Stephanie Papadopoulos
Wellness Ministry	Lindsay Vardalos & Leah Venetis
Correspondence	Caroline Economopoulos

Greek Dance

By Gabriella Papatzimas




Thank you to every single person involved during festival weekend! A huge thank you to all our dance instructors, Pamela Maydanis, Angela Woerz, Nikki Foreman, Anna Fourlis, Athena Krestedemas, Anna Panagiotakopoulos, Tasso Annos, Athanasia Fourlis, Gabriella Papatzimas, and Niko Panagiotakopoulos who put together some great shows.

We also couldn't have done it without the help of Sandy Annos, Olga Papamatheakis, Maria Vlahos, and Gabriella Papatzimas for the costumes, to the parents for driving the kids and to the kids themselves for working hard all Festival weekend!

Now that the Greek Festival is over, its time to start preparing for the 44th Annual Greek Orthodox Folk Dance & Choral Festival (FDF) which will take place February 13-16, 2020 at the Anaheim Marriott, in Anaheim, CA. This year, we will have the honor of taking 3 groups to FDF to represent Holy Trinity in the competition and we can hardly wait for practices to start!




AHEPA Chapter 219



AHEPA Chapter 219

Historical AHEPA

Nick Maydanis Photographer



November Meeting Information

Our Next Meeting is:
Thursday, November 21st
6:30pm

Holy Trinity Greek
Orthodox Cathedral
Community Center

Interested in Becoming a Member?
Contact Pete Marudas
602-284-1638

Your 2019 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: _____

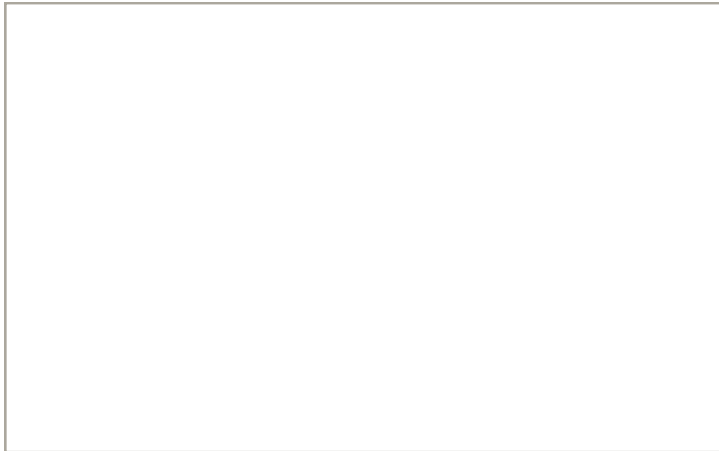
Contact Phone: _____

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) ___ / ___ / ___

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: _____