

Desert Springs

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Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

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Message from Father Apostolos

In Their Own Words



Gaining a fresh perspective from a different point of view is always a good thing. As children, we may have experienced a renewed interest in a forgotten toy after one of our siblings or friends became enamored with it. And as adults, we come to more deeply appreciate the blessings in our lives when affirmed by others.

Such is the case with the many new members we have welcomed to the Holy Trinity Cathedral family this year. Those of us who have been Orthodox Christians our entire lives may be tempted to take somewhat for granted the richness and depth of our faith we were born into. Perhaps one way to deepen our own appreciation for Holy Orthodoxy is to hear from some of our newest members and how they have embraced the Faith. Here are some of their reflections which I pray you will find inspirational!

Rebecca writes that after she attended our Divine worship, she was "smitten." *"Yes, the services are very different in style, but the Word and the overall comfort of being "at home" came very quickly. I believe I have learned and understand more of being a Christian than I ever thought there was... and there is so much more to learn! I'm thankful for all the roads, good or not so great, that led me to this part of my life. I'm truly blessed and can't believe I'm so lucky to have all of this!"*

Garrett writes that after discovering the Orthodox Church online, he *"sought out our Cathedral and made an appointment to speak with Father Apostolos. As we talked, I saw that he felt no need to pressure me to accept the truth of Orthodoxy. It seemed he knew his faith was an open book, and so he sat in comfort, unafraid of what I might find. He guided me toward books that opened the spirit of Orthodoxy to me. Much of what I had thought I understood about Christianity had been a distortion, and many things I once thought hateful were now comforting and filled with light in the fullness of truth. The genuine kindness and self-giving love I've been shown since coming to the church have also been a massive testament to the truth of Orthodoxy. I'm very grateful to God for his mercy."*

Encountering the reality of Jesus Christ, expressed in His Body, the Church is a profound moment in the life of a thirsty soul, such as Louis describes; *"I came to believe Jesus knew of the untold millions who would come after his resurrection without ever having seen his works on earth. This realization enervated me. Imagine the millions that have never seen? I was one of that multitude. John 20:29 Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."*

Often, it is the faith of a family member that serves as a catalyst, such as is the case with Leonard who writes; *"My journey began over 30 years ago when I met Elaine and her family welcomed me into their home. They of strong faith allowed me to join them at times I was available for celebrating Christmas and Easter with midnight service to be apart of Christ's passion the most celebrated event in the Orthodox faith. After all these years I decided to join the faith after being raised a Roman Catholic. My daughter Eleni was the real catalyst as she longed to make our family whole under one faith..."*

Even a connection to Holy Orthodoxy a generation removed can provide the catalyst for further exploration, as occurred with Scott and Jill who will be baptized in December. Jill writes; *"As you know I do have a little bit of history in the orthodox church. I believe my memories of attending church many years ago with my Yiayia planted a seed inside of me. Over the past few years I have been feeding and growing that seed. After reading so many books and websites trying to learn as much as I could on the Greek Orthodox Church, I felt the Lord finally calling me,*

*Fr. Apostolos' Message continued on page 4
Desert Springs December 2019*

Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

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.

Fr. Apostolos’ Message continued from page 3

telling me it was time. My study of scripture and history of Christianity all has led me to the truth of the Orthodox church.”

And each of our many parish ministries can provide a point of contact for those looking to build relationships within a community of Faith, as William writes; “I have come to think of Holy Trinity as my home and started getting more involved over the years and have prayed for guidance which has brought me to wanting to accept Christ into my life again. Nick Kantaros brought me into AHEPA a group that not only accepted me without being a member of the Church has been like an extended family. The work they do to help children in Mexico, UMOM mothers without homes in Phoenix who are abused. They are just a real caring bunch of guys I am happy to be associated with. I truly have found a home.”

By the grace of God and as we open our hearts to receive the thirsty souls He is leading to our parish home, we are growing as more and more new catechumens join our Inquirers Class, as visitors join us for worship every Sunday, and as those long associated with Holy Trinity through marriage or a family connection choose to embrace Holy Orthodoxy for themselves!

Please welcome these new members to our Holy Trinity family (as I know you will!) and join us in prayer that others seeking to know God and to find a faith community will join us in the year ahead! A Blessed and Peaceful Advent Season to you, In Jesus Christ!



The Giving Tree



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!

Note these dates!

- Stewardship Luncheon

Sunday, December 8, 2019

- Parish Assembly Budget Meeting

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Seeking Special Project Office Volunteers

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated!

A huge thanks to some of our parishioners who came in recently to help prepare not one but two huge mailers! Because we had extra hands, the mailers were assembled and stuffed quickly. The office always needs extra hands to prepare and assemble these mailers on occasion. If you are available, willing, and interested in helping, please reach out to

Diana Camacho in the Church office to let her know we can call on you when assistance is needed.

Remember: Many hands make light work!



Day Two Volunteers

Seeking Weekly 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.

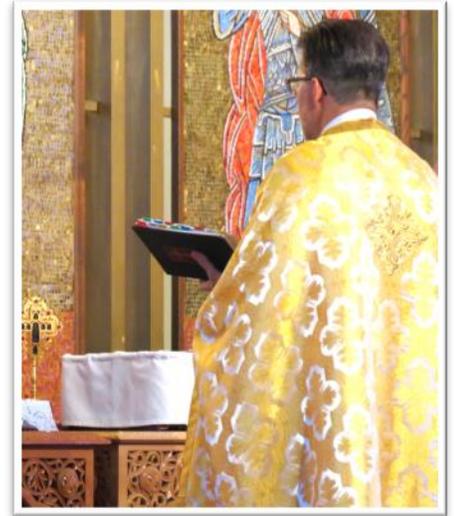


Memorials Update

Beginning in the New Year, we will aggregate memorials on the first Sunday of each month *for all memorials beyond the one year mark.*

For those who have recently reposed and whose families wish to celebrate their memorial on the nearest Sunday, we will accommodate their requests as we are now, e.g., for 40-day, 6-months, and one year memorials.

All those past the one year anniversary mark will be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month *with the usual exceptions for Major Feasts, e.g., From Lazarus Sunday through Thomas Sunday, Pentecost, etc., and other Sundays as directed by me.*



Rev. Father Apostolos Hill | Dean

Poinsettia Flowers

POINSETTIA REMEMBRANCE DONATION

Please join us in remembering our beloved family and friends while decorating the Cathedral this Christmas.

Donations of \$20 per remembered individual or married couple are appreciated.

Complete this form and return with your donation to the Church office or enclose in an offering envelope, to place in a collection tray.

Please provide your order no later than Sunday, December 15, 2019.

Donor name: _____ Donor phone #: (_____) _____

In Memory of:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Total donation: \$ _____

Questions? Please call the Cathedral office: 602-264-7863 | 1973 E. Maryland, Phoenix, AZ 85016



November Parish Assembly

November 3, 2019



Artoklasia for St. Katherine

Sponsored by Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos Chapter
November 24, 2019



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.



Gift Exchange

at the December Meeting!

December 5, 2019

6:00pm



Great Turnout for the November Meeting!

Sunday, November 10, 2019



JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS 2020

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 2020, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Philoptochos Bake Sale Pre-Orders!

ORDER YOUR HOLIDAY BAKLAVA
FROM PHILOPTOCHOS NOW!

\$20 per pan

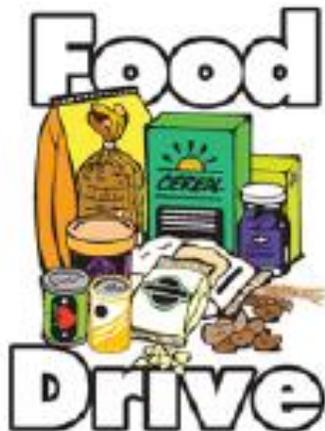
Pre-paid orders will be taken Sundays
during Coffee Hour
November 10 – December 8

Deadline to place orders is December 8

Orders may be picked up on Sunday
December 15 during Coffee Hour

For questions call: Bessie Hotis: 602-953-1913
Mary Louise Theodoropoulos: 602-943-5080

Philoptochos Food Drive



Our Food Drive has begun ! Don't forget to bring in your non-perishable food items. All items will be donated to St. Mary's Food Bank. There will be food boxes in the Narthex, Community Center and the office.

Items most needed include:

- Protein - Peanut butter
Canned light chicken
Canned ravioli
- Fruits - All varieties of fruits, packed in 100% fruit juice or no sugar added
- Vegetables - Canned vegetables, low or no sodium
Dry beans or low sodium canned beans
- Grains - Whole grain or 100% whole wheat boxed cereals, low sugar

Key words: low in saturated fat, low fat, lean, low sugar, packed in 100% juice, packed in water, low in sodium, 100% whole wheat, high fiber, whole grain.

If you have any questions, please contact Connie Venetis at 602-702-9965 or at bird_is_the_word@msn.com.

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos



Agape Ball 2020

Arizona Philoptochos Presents
Our Twelfth Annual Glendi
Supporting
Kids 'n' Cancer Camp Agape

Saturday, January 25, 2020

Holy Trinity Cathedral
1973 E Maryland Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85016

Greek & American Music

By DJ

Nick Bafaloukas

Greek Dancers

Live Cocktail Hour

Entertainment by

Bill Ypsilanti

Silent Auction

50/50 Raffle

Cocktails & Appetizers - 6:30pm

Buffet & Dancing - 7:30 pm

Featuring Homemade Greek Specialties

\$45

Cocktail Attire ~ Black Tie Optional

For Reservations or Information Contact:

Georgia Furlis - (602) 291-5911

Or

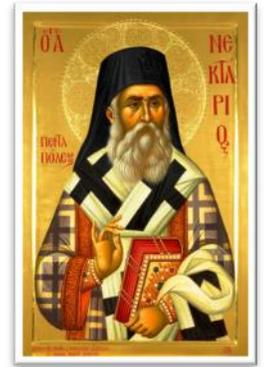
Lois Sarkas - (602) 277-5182

Give your heart to a child!

St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

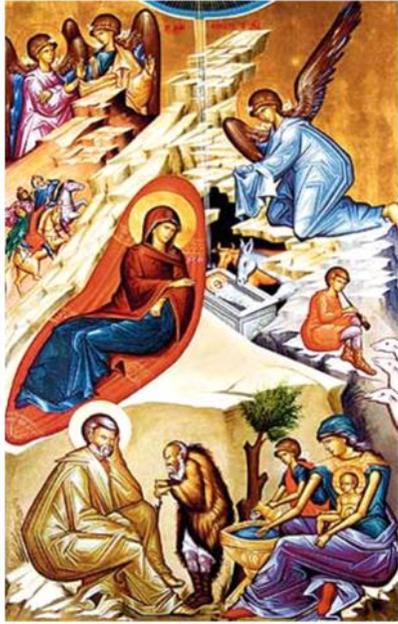
By Rita Papaspyrou

The month of December offers us the opportunity to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as well as the feast days of Sts Nicholas the Wonderworker and Spyridon the Wonderworker and bishop of Tremithus.



Nativity of our Lord

Commemorated on December 25



The Feast of the Nativity of Jesus is one of the most joyful days of the Orthodox Church. It ranks next to the greatest holiday, the Resurrection of Jesus. The Feast of the Birth of Jesus is also known as the "Incarnation of Christ." This means that Jesus became a man and came into the world to save us. We also refer to this joyous feast as Christmas.

Emperor Augustus ordered that a census be taken in all his lands. Everyone had to go to the town of their family's origin to register for the census. This meant that Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. They were descendants of King David and Bethlehem was the City of David.

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth and it was a great distance from Bethlehem. Mary was expecting the baby and it was almost time for her to give birth. Bethlehem was a small town and there were many descendants of David who had come to register for the census. By the time Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem there was no place for them to stay. Finally, Joseph found a cave-like place where they could rest. This place was used by shepherds to protect their sheep in stormy weather. It was here that Mary gave birth to Jesus. The baby was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in the straw in the manger.

Now, that night the shepherds were out in the fields guarding their sheep. Suddenly, there was a bright light which startled the shepherds. The light was so bright that it turned the night into daylight. Of course, the shepherds were frightened. Nothing such as this had ever happened. Soon an angel appeared and calmed them. The angel said: "Fear not for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior; which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:11-12).

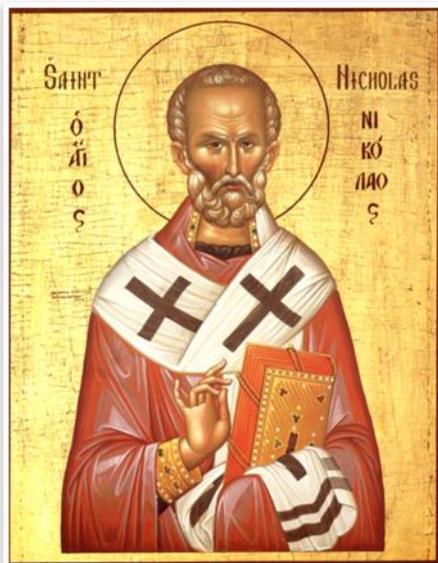
Then a larger group of angels appeared. They praised and glorified God and sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). When the angels finished singing, they disappeared and the light began to fade. It became dimmer and dimmer until it was dark again. The shepherds were awed. They didn't know what to do. Finally, they decided to leave their flocks of sheep and go to Bethlehem. They decided that they wanted to see for themselves what the angels had told them. When they got to Bethlehem, they found Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus. They fell to their knees and adored Jesus.

Some Wise Men came from the East for they knew of the coming of Jesus. They had seen a star that told them that a new king had been born to the Jews. They followed the star and were looking for the child. At this time the governor of Judea was King Herod. He was a wicked man and was feared and hated by the people. When Herod heard about the Wise Men looking for the child, he invited them to his palace. Herod asked the Wise Men to find the child so that he, too, could worship Him. But Herod was lying. He did not want anyone to take his place. The Wise Men went on to look for Jesus. The Star led them to Jesus and Mary. When the Wise Men found Jesus, they fell to their knees and worshipped Him. They gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The Wise Men left but did not return to Herod. They had a dream that warned them that Herod wanted to harm Jesus. Instead, they returned to their native country by a different route.

St. Nectarios Bookstore Message continued on page 13

Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker

Commemorated on December 6



St. Nicholas was born in Lycia (in Asia Minor) around the end of the third century, to pious Christian parents. His love of virtue, and his zeal for observing the canons of the Church, were evident from his infancy, when he would abstain from his mother's milk every Wednesday and

Friday until the evening. From early youth he was inclined to solitude and silence; in fact, not a single written or spoken word of the Saint has come down to us. Though ordained a priest by his uncle, Archbishop Nicholas, he attempted to withdraw to a hermit's life in the Holy Land; but he was told by revelation that he was to return home to serve the Church publicly and be the salvation of many souls.

When his parents died, he gave away all of his inheritance to the needy, and thereafter almsgiving was his greatest glory. He always took particular care that his charity be done in secret. Perhaps the most famous story of his open-handedness concerns a debt-ridden man who had no money to provide dowries for his daughters, or even to support them, and in despair had resolved to give them into prostitution. On three successive nights the Saint threw a bag of gold into the window of the man's house, saving him and his daughters from sin and hopelessness. The man searched relentlessly to find and thank his benefactor; when at last he discovered that it was Nicholas, the Saint made him promise not to reveal the good deed until after he had died.

God honored his faithfulness by granting him unparalleled gifts of healing and wonderworking. Several times he calmed storms by his prayers and saved the ship that he was sailing in. Through the centuries he has often done the same for sailors who call out to him, and is considered the patron of sailors and all who go to sea. His numberless miracles through the ages, on behalf of the countless Christians who have called on him, cannot be told.

He was elected Bishop of Myra not long before the great persecutions under Diocletian and Maximian (c. 305), and was put in prison, from which he continued to encourage his flock in the Faith. When the Arian heresy wracked the Church not long after Constantine came to the throne, St Nicholas was one of the 318 Bishops who gathered in Nicea in 325. There he was so incensed at the blasphemies of Arius that he struck him on the face. This put the other bishops in a quandary, since the canons require that any hierarch who strikes anyone must be deposed. Sadly, they prepared to depose the holy Nicholas; but in the night the Lord Jesus and the most Holy Theotokos appeared to them, telling them that the Saint had acted solely out of love for Truth, not from hatred or passion, and that they should not act against him.

While still in the flesh, he sometimes miraculously appeared in distant places to save the lives of the faithful. He once saved the city of Myra from famine by appearing to the captain of a ship full of grain, telling him to take his cargo to the city. He appeared in a dream to Constantine to intercede for the lives of three Roman officers who had been falsely condemned; the three grateful soldiers later became monks.

The holy bishop reposed in peace around 345. His holy relics were placed in a church built in his honor in Myra, where they were venerated by throngs of pilgrims every year. In 1087, after Myra was conquered by the Saracens, the Saint's relics were translated to Bari in southern Italy, where they are venerated today. Every year, quantities of fragrant myrrh are gathered from the casket containing his holy relics. Saint Nicholas is also commemorated on May 9 (The transfer of his relics) and on July 29 (his nativity).

Saint Spyridon the Wonderworker

Commemorated on December 12

Saint Spyridon of Tremithus was born towards the end of the third century on the island of Cyprus. He was a humble shepherd, and had a wife and a daughter, Irene.

St. Nectarios Bookstore Message continued on page 14

He used all his substance for the needs of his neighbors and the homeless, for which the Lord rewarded him with a gift of wonderworking. He healed those who were incurably sick, and cast out demons.

Though he was poor himself, his house and table were always open to travelers and those in need. He kept his money in a box which he left open and available to all, not concerning himself with who took from it or whether they were deserving or not. In time, his wife died and, with less worldly cares, he redoubled his prayers and his almsgiving.

He became so well-loved on the island that, when the bishop of the town of Tremithos died, the faithful unanimously chose Spyridon to succeed him, and he thus became a shepherd of rational sheep as well as the beasts he had tended. Despite his sudden elevation in rank, he kept to his former manner of life, traveling everywhere on foot, tending his animals as before, while fulfilling all the duties of a bishop as well. (To portray this godly humility, his icon shows him wearing bishop's vestments and a peasant's woven straw hat.)

His compassion for others was boundless. Though he was very strict with himself, he would always break a fast to give comfort to a traveler.

Pages could be filled with stories of the miracles wrought by the holy bishop for the good of his flock: through his prayers he ended a drought, turned a snake to gold to help a poor man, and even raised the dead son of a poor widow.

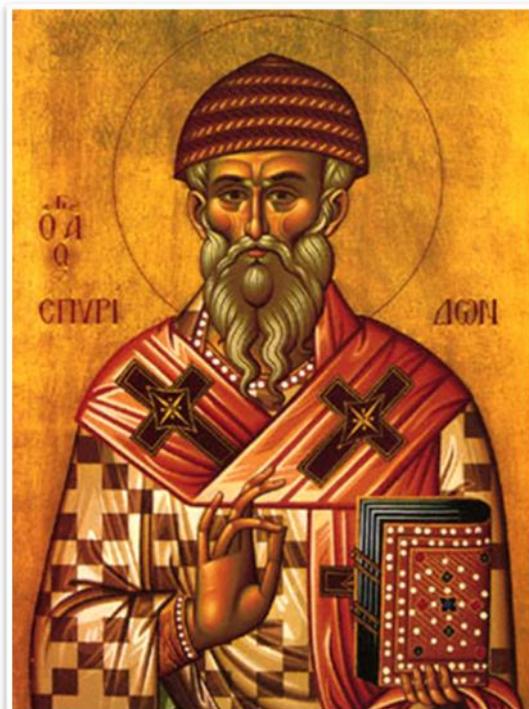
All the Lives of the saint speak of the amazing simplicity and the gift of wonderworking granted him by God. Through a word of the saint the dead were awakened, the elements of nature tamed, the idols smashed. His radiant virtue touched the consciences of those he met so that many would spontaneously fall at his feet and confess their sins.

When the Emperor Constantine summoned the First Ecumenical Council in 325, Spyridon attended, dressed in his simple peasant's garb. At one of the sessions, a proud Arian philosopher challenged the Orthodox to a debate about the Holy Trinity, and was amazed when the simple Spyridon stepped forward to accept the challenge. He and all the other bishops were far more amazed when the uneducated peasant bishop confounded all the Arian's arguments with his eloquent, Spirit-inspired words. The humbled philosopher admitted that he was convinced, embraced the Orthodox faith, and called upon the other Arians to abandon their human wisdom and embrace the true and life-giving Faith.

At that Council, Saint Spyridon displayed the unity of the Holy Trinity in a remarkable way. He took a brick in his hand and squeezed it. At that instant fire shot up from it, water dripped on the ground, and only dust remained in the hands of the wonderworker. "There was only one brick," Saint Spyridon said, "but it was composed of three elements. In the Holy Trinity there are three Persons, but only one God."

The holy bishop always celebrated the Divine Liturgy with joy. Once, serving in a remote, almost empty church, he turned to the invisible congregation and said "Peace be unto all!", and his disciple heard a choir of angels respond "And with thy spirit!"

Saint Spyridon reposed in peace in 348 at the age of seventy-eight. His incorrupt and wonder-working relics poured forth miracles for the people of Cyprus until the seventh century, when they were moved to Constantinople to escape the Arab invasion; when the City fell to the Turks, the relics were again moved to Corfu, where they are venerated to this day. Even after 1,500 years, the holy relics remain incorrupt and work many life-giving wonders. Saint Spyridon is venerated as the Patron of Corfu.



Sunday School

Kalli Schneider, Director

Article by Diaconissa Mary Thrasher



Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

Children have so much to say when they share their thoughts and questions with you! Their discoveries can be quite amazing, pure and honest. Our Orthodox faith is so rich that children become interested in all aspects of our faith when they are given the opportunity. Our Sunday school classes provide an opportunity to learn and ask questions; whether it be about the Divine Liturgy they attend each Sunday, receiving communion, a sacrament, a feast day, a saint's life story, singing hymns, or a parable or verse from Holy Scripture. We incorporate all this in our daily lives to live as our Lord has instructed us.

Having been a part of our Sunday school program for more years than I can count, children continue to amaze me with their inquisitiveness, their thoughtful questions and willingness to learn something new. It has been our challenge as Sunday school teachers to convey to our children the love we have for our Lord and our faith as well as the importance of following the Lord's commandments in our lives. This foundation is critical to our children's lives as they grow and become young adults. As teachers, we have such limited time to be with the children. Teaching Orthodoxy to our children and young adults starts at home and is enhanced through the Divine Liturgy and the Sunday school ministry.

It has been a blessing to share and teach our faith to the children that have come into my classroom over the years. It is now time for me to retire from the classroom. I am stepping away from a most rewarding and fruitful experience with your children. I will truly miss them. Teaching has provided me with the knowledge and understanding of my Orthodox faith. There is always more for us to learn!

I pray the parents and our entire community will continue to support and expand the Sunday school ministry, the teaching and sharing of the Orthodox faith and the way of life outside our classroom.

I prayerfully ask that you step forward this year and continue this valuable ministry for our children. Please consider becoming part of the Sunday school program. The blessings will be abundant! I look forward to working with and assisting new volunteers this year with transitioning them into the third/fourth grade classroom.

A blessed Nativity to all,
With love and gratitude,
Diaconissa Mary

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



Sunday School's Godparent Lunch

November 3, 201



Sunday School Christmas Pageant!

In conjunction with the Music Ministry

Sunday, December 22, 2019

following Divine Liturgy



Valley-Wide Youth Retreat



Mark Your Calendars

INQUIRERS CLASS

The Inquirers Class, for those simply interested in the Orthodox Church or parishioners wanting to engage more with their faith, will resume after Christmas. Look for information soon on the start date.



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 10th & Mill. Contact Fr. Apostolos or Alexander for more info.



OCF COLLEGE MINISTRY DONATIONS NEEDED

Our weekly OCF college ministry meetings on the ASU campus have for four years been hosted in the Campus Christian Center facility on 10th & Mill Ave in Tempe. This non-profit campus ministry relies upon donations from participating churches to support the facilities they offer free of charge. It would be appropriate for us to offer a donation to this ministry in gratitude for their hospitality to the Orthodox students of ASU. Please mark your gift "OCF" and we will get it to the Campus Christian Center.

HTA FALL 2020 ENROLLMENT

Holy Trinity Academy is now enrolling for Fall 2020, pick up a flyer in the Narthex and schedule a tour today! For more information please contact Juli Pritsos, Director at 602-248-3881 or julipritsos@holytrinityacademyphx.org.

YAL—YOUNG ADULT

Next meeting on December 5, 2019 at 7:00pm
Contact aeliades@holytrinityphx.org



PICK UP BASKETBALL

Mondays at 8:00pm at the basketball courts.
Stop on by and get in the game!



Music Ministry

by Terri Alexon, Director



Psalm 13:6

I will sing unto the Lord because He hath dealt bountifully with me.

In the midst of this glorious advent season, both the junior and senior choirs have begun rehearsing special hymns for the feast of the Nativity. Throughout the month of December, the Cathedral Choir will be singing a selection of Christmas carols during the recessional following Liturgy. Have a favorite carol? If so, please send your request to Terri at htphxmusicdirector@gmail.com. Please let us know, and we will do our best to honor your request. And of course, feel free to sing along!

Once again, the Cathedral Choir are joining the entire Sunday School to present the annual Christmas pageant at the conclusion of Liturgy on **December 21st**. We look forward to seeing the youth act out the Christmas story.

Some of the Christmas carols included in the pageant are listed below. Can you name them? Answers will be provided in the January edition of the *Desert Springs* or if you cannot wait, send an inquiry to: htphxmusicdirector@gmail.com.

1. Loyal Followers Advance
2. Far Off in a Feeder
3. Righteous Darkness
4. Jehovah Deactivate Blithe Chevaliers
5. Proceed and Enlighten on the Pinnacle
6. Query Regarding Identity of Descendent
7. Delight on this Planet
8. Give Attention to the Melodious Celestial Beings
9. Monarchical Triad
10. Small Municipality of the birthplace of Jesus



Jesus is the reason for the season. Have a blessed Christmas!

2020 *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) ___ / ___ / ___

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 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 cell 602-421-7200.



Coffee Hour

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



Myrrhbearer Photo Project

Have you been gathering your photos?

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!



Greek School

Irene Dartoozos Mackos, Director
Gabriella Papatzimas, Teacher



Holy Trinity Greek
&
Heritage School of Phoenix

Για πιο πράγμα είσαι ευγνώμων? What are you thankful for?
This is a question that all our students had multiple answers for including:

Κλιματισμός (air conditioning), οικογένεια (family) οι φίλοι μου (friends) το σπίτι μου (my house), λουλούδια (flowers), καρδιές (hearts) and Κουλουράκια (cookies):

With the focus on being around what we are thankful for, our students got to sing the infamous “Πλάθω Κουλουράκια” song while continuing the Greek School tradition of baking these amazing treats during Cultural Night.

Our next Cultural Night will consist of baking Christmas Honey Cookies (Μελομακάρονα) and singing Greek Christmas carols.

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.

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



Includes photos by Gabriella Papatzimas

Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners
and their guests



Greetings Desert Diamonds & Friends,

Please mark your calendars and save the date for our outing on Friday, December 20th.

We will be meeting at Holy Trinity's Community Center at 11:30am for our
Annual Christmas Party Potluck!

Lunch at 12:00pm followed by **Holiday Cheer!** *What???? You say?* You will have to attend to find out!

Please respond if you plan to attend with name, guest's name, and what you are bringing as soon as you can. Thanking you in advance.

Warm regards,
Julie Karoutas

Julie Karoutas, email: juliekaroutas@gmail.com or cell: 623-313-8720, call or text
Judith LaMond, cell: 703.819.9957, please text only.

Note: Respond if you wish to have a gift exchange, please; Yay or Nay.....

Maintenance Corner

Submitted by Ted Furlis



We hope you all are enjoying the brighter lighting around our campus. Peter Bilitsis retrofitted the lights on the ramps and is currently working to repair the broken fixture by the stairs. We are looking at lighting replacements for the basketball courts to brighten up the court for use by our youth. Peter also stained and waterproofed the wooden play structure in the HTA playground. The Valonis brothers had the two women's toilets in the Speros Community Center repaired and they now flush normally. We had no maintenance issues during the Festival and we are grateful for all the pre-planning done prior. Again, we request if you have any unused tools, both power or manual, we can use them. We will update you soon with our current projects in process.

Please contact Ted Furlis at 602-625-8835 and htcmaintenance1973@gmail.com or Peter Bilitsis at 602-317-7780 and pkbilitsis@gmail.com for further information.

Sister Church Event



ROARING TWENTIES
NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA
Ball Drop At Midnight

ASSUMPTION COMMUNITY CENTER BALLROOM
8202 E. Cactus Road | Scottsdale, AZ 85260
\$95 for Adults | \$15 for ages 3-12 | Free for 3 and under
December 31 At 7 PM
RSVP by December 15

Family Friendly | Cocktail Attire
20's Attire Encouraged | Hors d'oeuvres | Dinner
No Host Full Bar | DJ and Live Music

For Information, go to assumptionaz.org/nye2020
or contact 480.513.4700

Our Church Family

40 Day Blessing

“One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.” Psalm 27:4



11/10/2019

Adelaide Catherine Neal, daughter of Hannah and William Neal
God’s Blessings be upon her.

Wedding

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



11/03/2019

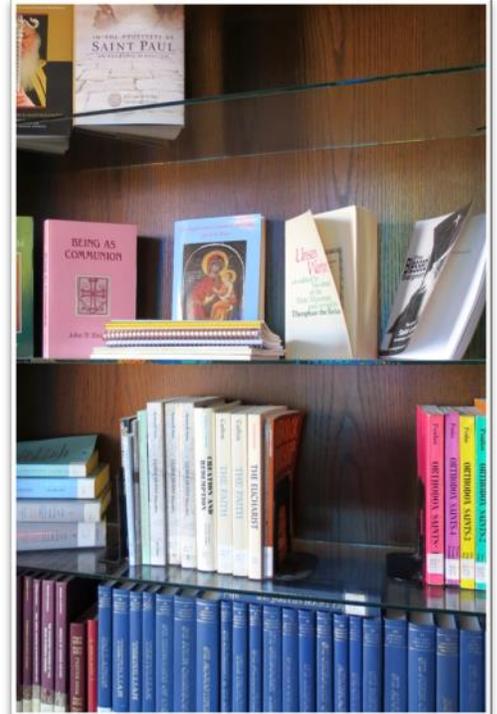
Emily Blaze & Oleg Moraz,
Sponsors are Marjorie & Glen Thorpe
God’s Blessings be upon them..

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!



Make your plans! Philoptochos Bake Sale on
December 15, 2019
following Divine Liturgy in the Speros Center

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

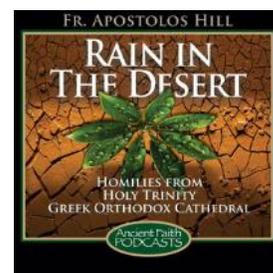
The page offers news of our Parish Community, in addition to offering links to podcasts and videos of many of our services.



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's Day of Christmas Cheer



Christmas Day of Cheer for ALL Youth Groups!

LL, HOPE, JOY, JR & SR GOYA

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

Saturday

December 7, 2019 from 10:00am-12:00pm

at

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral Speros Community Center

Activities for younger children:

**Christmas Cookie Decorating (Please bring 1 dozen plain sugar cookies for decorating)
& Christmas Craft Making
& MORE!**

Activities for JR & SR GOYA:

**Decorating the Church for the Holidays & Decorating the Tree in the Hall
& MORE!**

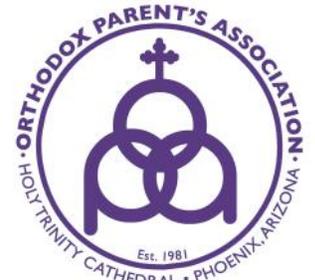
Cookies & Hot Cocoa will be served

**Expect a special visit from St. Nicholas!
Fr. Apostolos will regale all with songs & stories**

Any questions, please contact Paulina Watson at (602) 740-3950

OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

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



Where every adult is a parent to our youth.

Our youth working at St. Mary's Food Bank
Wednesday, November 27, 2019



Contact:

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

Jr. & Sr. GOYA



JR & SR GOYA
HOLIDAY PARTY
& WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
6:00PM-9:00PM

HOME OF DIANA SCACCIA
1104 W. EL CAMINO DRIVE
PHOENIX, AZ 85021

DINNER & REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE SERVED.

PARENTS WELCOME TO ATTEND,
BUT FEEL FREE TO DROP KIDS OFF FOR A
FUN EVENING OF THEIR OWN!

PLEASE BRING A GENDER NEUTRAL GIFT
UNDER \$15 FOR THE EXCHANGE!

FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT DIANA:

DISCACCIA@GMAIL.COM

Sr. GOYA Bowling

Join us on Friday, December 6th
at 7:00pm for a Bowling Night for
our Senior GOYA!

Wear your **ugly Christmas sweaters**
and RSVP to Alexander
aeliades@holyltrinityphx.org



Hope & JOY & Jr. GOYA

November 15, 2019



Good time on a Friday night
on the Cathedral campus!

Greek Dance

By Gabriella Papatzimas

Eighty-three days till 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 three groups ranging from 2nd grade to young adult. We can't wait to go to FDF to represent Holy Trinity in the competition!

Thank you to all who purchased tickets to our inaugural Glendi Gala. Not only did we sell out with 330 attendees, but many showed up afterwards to keep the kefi going with the help of Synthesis. Thank you to all our volunteers from both OPA and Dance who helped make this Glendi a success.

If you are interested in dancing, teaching, or having dancers perform at an event, please reach out to Niko Panagiotakopoulos at npanos01@yahoo.com.



Includes photos by Gabriella Papatzimas



Scholarship Opportunity

\$250,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

\$20,000 are allocated to Music and Arts Majors

20 Awards of \$10,000 each

based on academic merit and financial need

20 Awards of \$2,500 each

based solely on academic achievement



The 2019/2020 scholarship application is available and can be completed online!

Applications from eligible college students accepted through **January 31, 2020**.

The application and qualification criteria, requirements, and guidelines are available at www.panhellenicsf.org.

If you are an undergraduate of Hellenic descent, we encourage you to apply for the scholarship awards!

For any questions or inquiries:

Please email info@panhellenicsf.org or call our office at (312) 357-6432



PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation
8501 West Higgins Road • Suite 210
Chicago, Illinois 60631

312.357.6432
312.872.0090
panhellenicsf.org
info@panhellenicsf.org

OPA and Dance Glendi

Saturday, November 16, 2019



AHEPA Chapter 219

SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON



PLEASE JOIN US

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 2020

11AM - 1PM

MAGGIANO'S LITTLE ITALY SCOTTSDALE

16405 N. SCOTTSDALE RD. SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85254

\$40

Per Person
No-Host Bar

Appetizers
Assorted Entrees
Dessert

RSVP to Tim Floor 602-616-1989

By December 18, 2019

AHEPA Chapter 219



AHEPA Chapter 219

Historical AHEPA

Nick Maydanis Photographer



December Meeting Information

Our Next Meeting is:

Thursday, December 19th
6:30pm

Holy Trinity Greek
Orthodox Cathedral
Community Center

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



**AHEPA
219
BOWLING**



Photos by Nick Maydanis
Chapter 219 Photographer

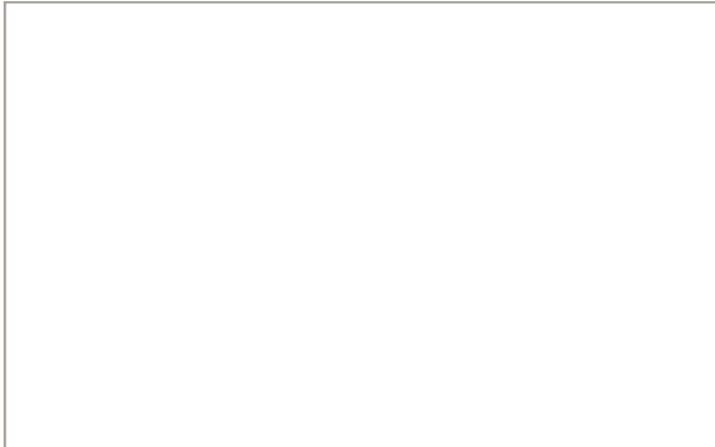
Annual Daughters of Penelope Picnic

Saturday, November 2, 2019



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: _____