

Desert Springs

December 2020
Volume 5 Issue 11



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

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Rev. Alexander Eliades
Rev. Deacon John Thrasher

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

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Desert Springs Deadline
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Sunday Bulletin Deadline
Wednesdays, 12 noon

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

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

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Message from Father Apostolos

Celebrating Christmas



The Holiday Season is upon us again and not a moment too soon! This is a year we will bid adieu come New Year's Eve with a palpable sense of relief. And as our festive traditions commence, we find ourselves again asking such burning questions as this; "Can the 1988 Bruce Willis movie 'Die Hard' be considered a Holiday movie?" Let me explain.

The running gag is whether or not a single, passing Christmas scene or reference in a song or film qualifies it to be included in one's Holiday rotation. By that logic, such other films as "Grumpy Old Men," and such songs as "Favorite Things," and "Baby it's Cold Outside," can also be considered sufficiently Christmasy to merit inclusion.

We associate a great many such "traditional" totems with Christmas, even when they have very little to do with the Holiday, a lament popularized in 1964 with the release of the classic Holiday hit "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

Hearing Charlie Brown's question "Isn't there anyone who can tell me what Christmas is all about?" and Lucy's whispered "It's run by a big eastern syndicate, you know!" seem quaint nearly 60 years later.

Many of us pine every year for a "good old-fashioned Christmas" and this year, whether we like it or not, we may get our wish as the shadow of the Covid virus persists. The customary celebrations, if they can occur at all, will likely be muted affairs. Holiday shopping will be different with 70% of recent survey respondents signaling their preference for on-line purchases over in-person excursions. The economic impact of the virus afflicts many households.

This Christmas will be different, but must that mean it will be disappointing? Many of the trappings we associate with the Holiday Season, like the movie "Die Hard" have virtually nothing to do with "what Christmas is all about." I always chuckle when the annual dispute appears over "Merry Christmas," vs. "Happy Holidays," or "Season's Greetings" since - as an Orthodox Christian - I don't really have a dog in that fight though I may faint if ever I see "Christ is Born! Glorify Him!" emblazoned across an ad slick!

The Feast of the Incarnation of the Word, as it is properly known in the Orthodox world, makes available to us a rich banquet of liturgical celebrations, festal hymnody, fasting and feasting, and appointed readings. The kernel of the Gospel message is contained within this feast! But how might we take fullest advantage of these spiritual aspects of the season in an Orthodox way? Here are some suggestions.

The month of December includes many important commemorations for such Saints as Barbara, Savas, Nicholas, Ambrose, Dionysios, and Spyridon. Our cycle of services for the Feast run from the Royal Hours service on the 23rd, to the Vespertal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil on the morning of Christmas Eve and the Matins and Divine Liturgy of Christmas in the evening. Throw in our weekly Paraklesis Service on Wednesday evenings, and the weekend cycle of Vespers, Matins, and Divine Liturgy, and there are opportunities to accommodate every schedule.

In our homes and with our families, perhaps we can accentuate the Dickensian theme of sharing our blessings with the poor and newly unemployed. Long lines of hungry

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Desert Springs December 2020

citizens at area food banks are common scenes in daily newscasts. Our support of local food banks and shelters can provide life-saving sustenance to those in need and a reaffirmation of our faith. Our grandsons brought Christmas cookies to the nearby fire station last year (a win-win for little boys!) and mom and dad hope to continue the tradition.

It has been a difficult and challenging year for our weary world. But as a refrain from our festal hymnology affirms "Where else would the Light have shone if not upon those who sat in darkness?" The Feast of the Incarnation of the Word provides a potent reminder of the extravagant love of God for us, and our Orthodox celebrations reinforce the personal applicability of the message "Glory to God in the highest, Peace on Earth, and Good will to all men."

This is a year to make a virtue of necessity. But by embracing the limitations imposed upon us by the virus' rapid escalation (and do, please fervently pray for its victims and for healthcare workers who valiantly labor to save them!) we may discover new avenues for celebrating with our families the Birth of Christ, avenues that open for us the deep spiritual meaning of the feast.

"God is with us!" is the festival proclamation we will hear in Matins of Christmas Eve. Let us never forget these hopeful words as we enter this festal season with joy in our hearts!

Rev. Father Apostolos Hill | Dean

Light a Virtual Candle

[Light a Candle](#)



In this time more than ever we need prayer.
For those not able to come to the Cathedral yet,
we have set up this ability to light a candle virtually!

Please click the link above and follow the instructions.
Enter your name and the names of those you wish prayed for
in the PayPal "Notes" section,
and Father Apostolos or Father Alexander
will light a candle and say a prayer for you.

Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

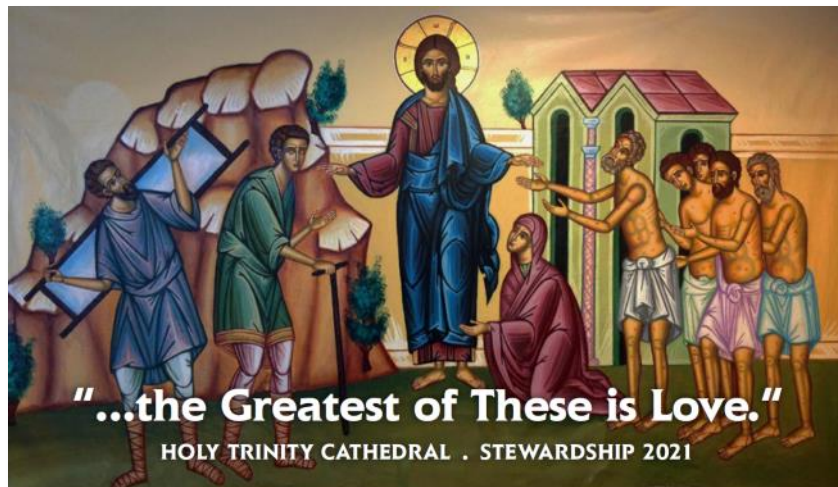
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY - DECEMBER 6th

Please join us for Stewardship Sunday on December 6th. Plan to bring your completed 2021 pledge and we will collect them in the Cathedral where they will be taken up to the altar and blessed by Fathers Apostolos and Alexander.

Each family will receive a gift of gratitude for their participation on Stewardship Sunday.

Participate in our first Stewardship Challenge:

- 1) Please consider "rounding up" your 2021 pledge over your 2020 pledge*
- 2) We are asking for 100% participation from our stewardship to turn in their 2021 pledge and make a contribution toward that pledge by Jan. 31, 2021.*



**Stewardship is everything
we do after we say "I believe."
Stewardship is about
how we live our lives and
make our choices.**

Stewardship Sunday

.....**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6**.....

We are to give, St. Paul says,
"as God has prospered you" (1 Cor. 16:2). He teaches us clearly,
"He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."



Friends of the Festival

OPA

In Memory of our Son George, Nick & Dena Kantaros
In Memory of John Francis Parge & Maria John Parge
Bette Maniatis

PAREA

In Memory of Rev. Father James & Presbytera Catherine Tavlarides and Takie Tavlarides

YIA MAS

Laurel Charnas & Todd Schiller
Andi & Ted Furlis
Celeste & Chris Francis
In Memory of Athena Choukalas, The Choukalas Family
In Memory of Brian Haugen, The DeMoss Families
In Memory of James Poulos
In Memory of Panagiotis Sakkas & John Sakkas, The Schneider Family
Paul, Lori, Tom & Bebe Katsenes
Stella Kosta, In loving Memory of George S. Kosta
Nick, Marina, Athena & Ariana Kretsedemas
The Kyprianou Family
The Manelis Family
Socrates & Stephanie Papadopoulos
Chris & Brad Patten
The Petsas Family
Silesia Brands, Inc.
Catherine Wallerich
Michael & Christina Wombacher
Stephanie Yarusinsky

YIA SOU

Anonymous
The Benetos Family
Honorable Connie Contes & Honorable Hercules Dellas in
honor of all Cathedral parishioners - past, present and future generations
In Memory of Tiffani Noelle Bichekas
In Memory of Florence & Stephen Dyer & Rosemary & Howard Conrad
In Memory of George & Catherine Sarantes
In Memory of Milton, Harriet & Dean Sioles
Mary & John Katsenes
The Lambrou Family

Friends of the Festival continued on page 7

James & Stephanie Machas
The Meris Family
Bill & Jean Miller
Alexi & Alexia Panagiotakopoulos
Angela & George Scopelianos
Terry & Chris Seretis
Tom & Bessie Tzavaras
Scott & Terri Vaughn
Dimetrios & Eugenia Zannis

AGAPI

Anonymous
Nikki Anest
Constantine & Eleni Balanis
Peter & Jennifer Bilitsis
Dena & Christos Economopoulos
Stella Glitsos
Lynn & Bill Graham
Terry Harper
In Memory of Tom & Wanda Contes, The Bracamonte Family
In Memory of Ruth A. Hotis
Nicole & Pete Kamboukas
Tina Karalekas
Helen Katsufrakis
Tom, Jack & Alexandra Katsenes Family
Scott & Jill Leach
Gregory Lizanich
Jacque & Chris Petroulakis
Angelo & Marie Spanos
John & Teresa Thomas
Constantine & Stella Tsantilas
Stephanie Willard & David Worrell

KEFI

Anonymous (2)
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Chris & Rita Bruskas
Kathrene Carras, In Memory of George T. Jouflas
Harriet Chotras
Jean & John Dal Pan
Basil & Ruth Denaxas
Tom & Georgia Furlis
Georgana Frieh

Pam, Dem, & Diana Georgelos
Sandra & Demetri Harris
Cristina & Dan Horvath
In Loving Memory of George P. Harris, Patsy Harris
In Loving Memory of John M. Karoutas
In Memory of Panagiotis "Pete" Kretsedemas
In Memory of Harry Nickalew
In Memory of Andrea B. Nicoluzakis
In Memory of Vaios Tsanos, Areti Tsanos
Irene & Michael Jensen
Jim & Poppy Kavouris
Ronald & Virginia Kidd
Emily Kimmell
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Andrea & Edward McNamera
Helen & Philip Mitchell
Anastasia & Jeremy Oxley
Palmyra Travel & Cruise, LLC.
Rita & Spyros Papaspyrou
Georgia Pikoula
Nicole & David Pyle
Lyda Rabbitt
Lois Sakkas
The Sgouros Family
The Tropea Family
Mrs. Argyro Vasquez
Colin & Paula Walsh
Ann & Bill Wilson-Camelback Coaching
Chris & Kally Zacharos
Zella Zannis

OTHER

Anonymous
James & Helen Bruno
In Memory of Barbara Cope, Patsy Harris
Mary Lou Mastorakos
Hannah & William Neal
Rose & Alex Rentzis

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

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!

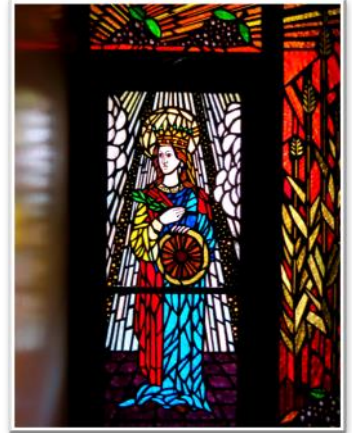
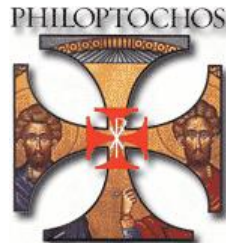
Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Alex Anagnopoulos, President

"FRIENDS OF THE POOR"

An organization where membership is an honor & a privilege.

JOIN & ENRICH YOUR LIFE!



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

**Next Meeting on
Sunday, December 6, 2020
12noon**

Veranda of the Speros Community Center

We are asking our meeting attendees to bring personal care supplies for junior-high-aged boys and girls, such as deodorant, skin care, feminine hygiene, and grooming supplies.

These items will be donated to local students in need.

JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS 2020—2021

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

Pre-Ordered Product Pick Up
December 13, 2020
in front of the Speros Center
following Divine Liturgy



Office Volunteers Needed

As we have been allowed to slowly re-open again the Cathedral for services we are anticipating we will re-open the Cathedral office soon too.

We will have a variety of needs for Volunteer staffing over the next several months.

If you have time and interest to help the church please let Paul Katsenes know at pkatsenes@cox.net.



Easy Stewardship Sign Up!

Go to www.holytrinityphx.org and then click on Stewardship



+REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL+

Light the Path



*His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos
and the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos
joyfully invite you to attend*

Light the Path A Virtual Celebration

Saturday, December 5, 2020
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. PST

Please join us for an inspiring virtual fundraising event in support of the Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund that will feature special presentations from

Hellenic College Holy Cross Students
Nicholas Fettis, Pianist from the Fettis Family Farm in Carmel, CA
Citrus Singers from Citrus College in Glendora, CA

and an Archpastoral Message from

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

There is no cost to attend, however advance registration is required to receive Zoom login information.
Register at: www.sfphiloptochos.org or by calling 415-431-2600 by December 1, 2020.

Donate today online: www.sfphiloptochos.org

Outside Coffee Socials

Resumed in the month of November

Join us on the patio!



Decorated Sanctuary



Photos by Presvytera Denise

Liturgical Services will continue to be live streamed
by Father Apostolos and Father Alexander until further notice.

LIVE-STREAMING INSTRUCTIONS

If you have Facebook, “Like” our Facebook page [Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral - Phoenix, AZ](#)
You will receive updates when we are live.

If you DO NOT have Facebook, go to holytrinityphx.org and follow the instructions on the home page.

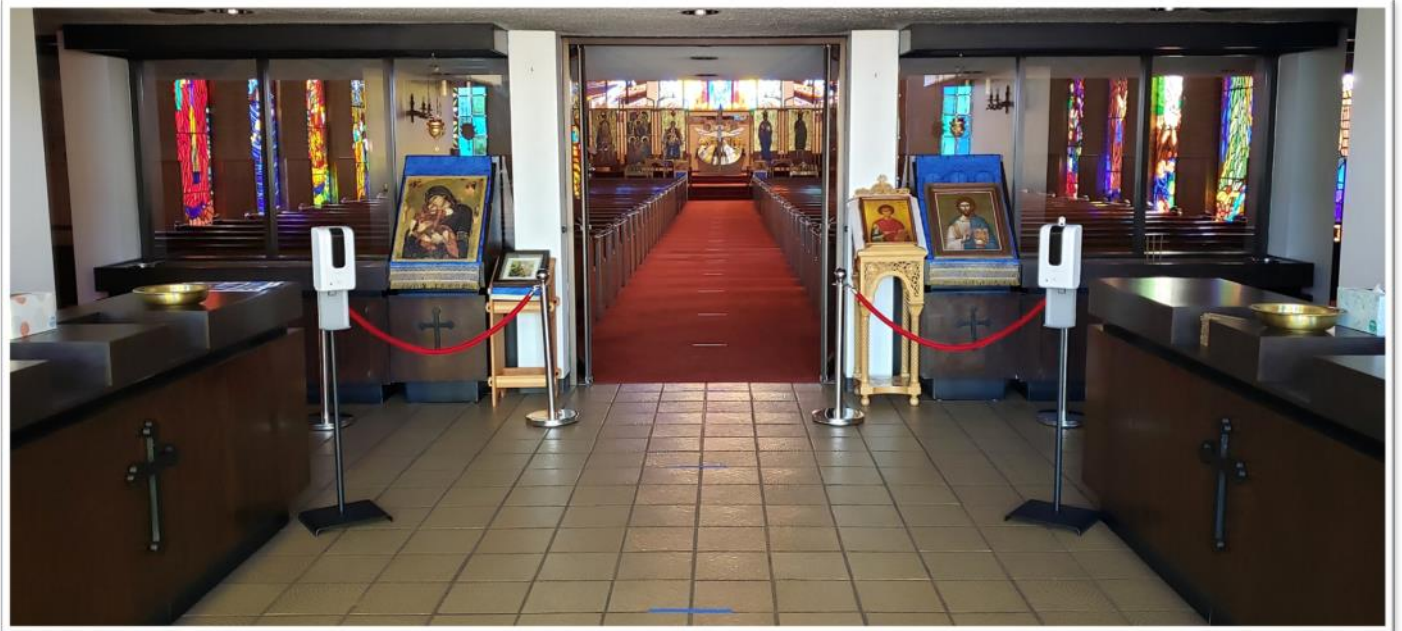


Photo by Paul Valonis

Desert Springs Issues Available to Our Seniors

or the computer-challenged!

In an effort to reach our whole Parish Community with Cathedral news, issues of the Desert Springs will be available for FREE to those in our community who do not own or use a computer, tablet, or smart phone or would prefer to read the news in hard-copy print. Submit names to the Church Office or call or text Kristen at 602-332-8809.

Desert Springs Subscription

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

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, ST, Zip: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Return this form to the Church Office or
contact Kristen at 602-332-8809

Poinsettias

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 13, 2020.

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



GIFT DONATION FORM

Please list my endowment gift as follows: _____

Here is my Endowment gift, which I may add to, of \$ _____

I plan to include the Holy Trinity Endowment fund in my Will ____, my Living Trust ____, or TOD* ____

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Donor, please sign and keep a copy for your records

*TOD = transfer on death

All gifts will be preserved in the archives of Holy Trinity Cathedral

Gifts of \$10,000 or more may be made over a three year period.

Thank You, and + God Bless You + for your generosity.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral + 1973 E Maryland Phoenix AZ 85016

House of Stewards

Through 10/30/2020

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Christine & Andrew Stamatis
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John & Teresa Thomas
Dcn. John & Diak. Mary Thrasher

Kathy & Thad Tropea
Stella & Constantine Tsantilas
Dimitrios Tsioutsopoulos
Katherine & Constantine Tzavaras
Daniel Valenzuela
Peter & Lindsay Vardalos
Kristen Vasilarakos
Argyro Vasquez
Scott & Terri Vaughn
Adam & Lea Venetis
Connie & George Venetis
Stephanie Venetis
Peter & Maria Vlahos
Andrew & Sandy Vlahoulis
Steve & Mary Vrahas
Nicole Wakamatsu
Ken & Angela Walker
Catherine Wallerich
Jaclyn & Matthew Walsh
Paula & Colin Walsh
Paulina & Doug Watson
Garrett Widner
Dennis & Rose Wolfe
Christina & Michael Wombacher
Richard & Katina Wood
Niki & George Zafiraki
Anthony & Karen Zaman
Eugenia & Dimitrios Zannis
Katherine & George Zannis
Zella Zannis
Evangelia Zikos
Kostas & Margarita Zistas
Christina & Michael Zistatsis
Eleanna Zistatsis
Dimitrios Zistatsis
Ann Zoukis



© dak

St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

By Rita Papaspyrou

The month of December offers us the opportunity to celebrate the Holy 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 there 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 them. 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).

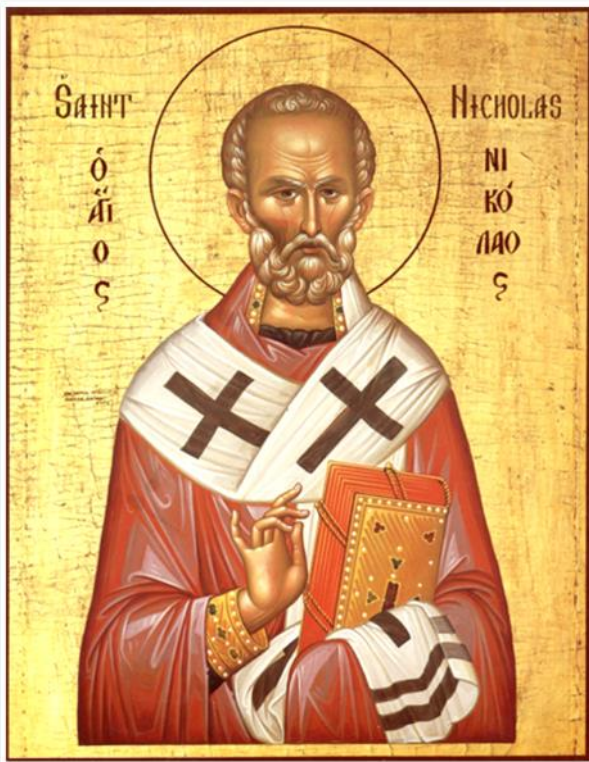
Then a larger group of angels appeared. They praised and glorified God and sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). When the angels finished singing, they disappeared and the light began to fade. It became dimmer and dimmer until it was dark again. 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.

St. Nectarios Bookstore Message continued on page 19

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.

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. 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.

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!



Sunday School

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK!

every Sunday

at 10:40am

Join us every Sunday in the Cathedral for a 15-minute Sunday School discussion and lesson with Father Apostolos and Alexander.

They are excited to see all the kids' faces and connect with them!

The focus will be "making connections and building relationships".

All kids who are Sunday School age (Kindergarten through High School) are encouraged to participate.

We look forward to seeing all of our youth on Sunday!



Holy Trinity Sunday School

is looking for parents and young adults to teach our youth when Sunday School resumes. This is a great opportunity to ensure our youth grow up knowing their Orthodox faith.

If interested, please contact Kalli Schneider:

kalliopischneider@gmail.com



Father Alexander talks with students after Divine Liturgy.

Our Church Family

Funerals

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

Psalm 23:6

11/23/2020:

Baselios Kontsiotis

May his memory be eternal.

11/30/2020:

Melani Ioannou

May her memory be eternal.



Budget Meeting

Beloved Stewards of Holy Trinity Cathedral,

As you are hopefully already aware, we will hold a virtual Parish Assembly on Zoom Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 12 Noon. Please join between 11:45-11:55am so we can hold a timely meeting. You can find the information for the Zoom below and simply click on the link or dial in with the phone number and you're in!

The meeting agenda is a review of the Parish Council proposed 2021 budget. It is being prepared and will be sent to you after Thanksgiving for your review.

As for all Parish Assembly meetings, this is reserved for Stewards in Good Standing so please do not share any of this information in the PowerPoint or the Zoom information with anyone outside of our Cathedral family! See you Sunday!

Topic: Holy Trinity Cathedral - Informational Parish Assembly

Date: Sunday, December 13, 2020

Time: 11:45am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://goarch.zoom.us/j/92472170790>

Meeting ID: 924 7217 0790

One tap mobile: +12532158782,,92472170790#

Dial in: (253) 215-8782

Meeting ID: 924 7217 0790

Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners and their guests



See you soon!

Julie Karoutas

email: juliekaroutas@gmail.com

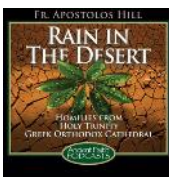
cell: 623-313-8720 call or text

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.



Follow HTC on Facebook

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



AHEPA Chapter 219

OUR NEXT MEETING



Tuesday
December 15, 2020
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
JAMES A SPEROS COMMUNITY CENTER
1973 E. MARYLAND AVE.
PHOENIX, AZ

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP? CONTACT
STEVE LEMERE
770-990-6825

AHEPA Chapter 219

AHEPA 219 Educational & Cultural Foundation Scholarship Luncheon



PLEASE JOIN US

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 2021

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, 2020

OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

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



Are you getting the weekly
OPA Newsletter?

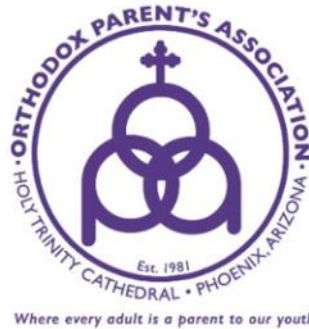
OPA communicates primarily through email,
via our email newsletter.

To stay informed on all of the
youth, parent, and family happenings at Holy Trinity,
sign up today.

It's easy, just email your information
cjecomom@gmail.com,
and we'll get you added to list!

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

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



Want to get involved?
The Little Lambs Youth Group
is looking for an energetic parent or young adult
that would like to assist for the
2020-21 Activity Year.

Little Lambs Group = newborns to Kindergarten

If interested, please contact Angela Scopelianos
angelagarozzo@gmail.com or (913) 638-5991

Tell Us Something Good



“Many thanks to the Parish Council and parishioners who have worked to implement and maintain the protocols for the rest of us to attend as safely as possible.” - Your Appreciative Attendees

Arizona Hellenic Foundation

The **Arizona Hellenic Foundation** has several scholarships available for qualified students. For information about eligibility, and scholarship application, please visit the Foundation's website at Azhellenic.com.



Reason for the Season

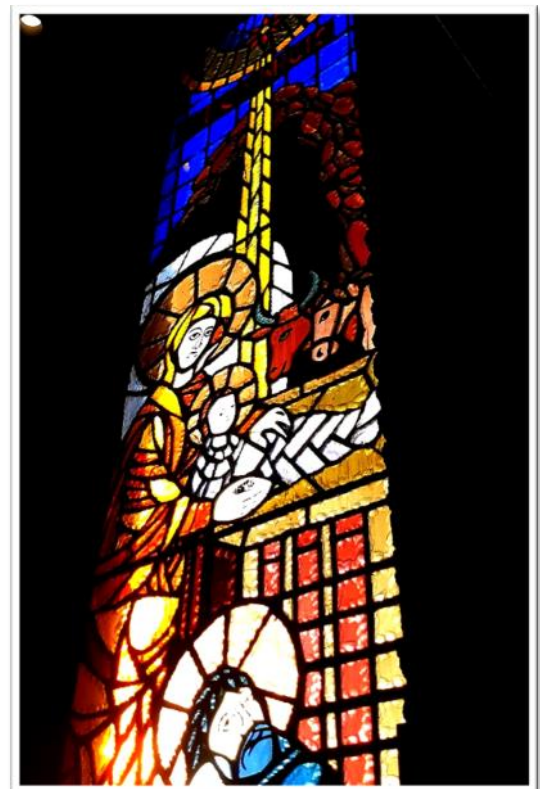


Photo by Gina Graham

Tell Us Something Good



**Contact Sharon Daniolos
at 602-955-8015
for holiday goodies!**
Includes melomakarona,
kourembiethes, artoclasia, paximadia,
cinnamon loaf, and more!

Young Marrieds Seminar

 METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO
YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES

“ESSENTIAL CONVERSATIONS
FOR A LIFETIME OF LOVE”



Join us and other couples in our Orthodox community for 1-hour virtual sessions twice a month, in a complimentary series featuring discussions from *Eight Dates* by John Gottman, Ph.D., designed to strengthen your commitment to one another and to God.

THURSDAYS AT 6:30PM PST

OCTOBER 15	NOVEMBER 12	DECEMBER 3	JANUARY 7	FEBRUARY 4
OCTOBER 29	NOVEMBER 19	DECEMBER 17	JANUARY 21	FEBRUARY 18

VISIT EITHER WEBSITE BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.gosfyouth.org
www.familywellnessministry.org

 YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

 Family Wellness Ministry



ST. ANNA ST. JOACHIM

Tatiana Grant, iconography