

Desert Springs

April 2020
Volume 5 Issue 4



The New Normal

Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

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

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The 25th of each month

Sunday Bulletin Deadline
Wednesdays, 12 noon

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

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

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www.goarch.org

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Message from Father Apostolos

The Meaning of Holy Communion



There was a moment two months ago, just before the beautiful decorations of Christmas were to be stored away for the year, that I thought to myself; *"When next these ornaments and strings of garland come out of their boxes, the world will have changed."* Little could I have anticipated how quickly change would come.

Immunologists have long cautioned the world about the inevitability of a virus breaking containment and wreaking havoc. Netflix even released just recently a documentary series titled "Pandemic." It is almost too contemporary to be considered prophetic. That we failed to take seriously enough their many warnings is now obvious to all.

But beyond the grim 24/7 news cycle, beyond the unsettling specter of grocery shelves stripped bare, of shuttered restaurants and retail stores, of Wall Street on its knees, and of jobs and livelihoods lost, we are being provided a moment to contemplate in a prayerful and meaningful way whether or not the changes that are coming will be good or bad ones.

One of the changes that has been forced upon us concerns our momentary inability to gather together to comprise the Body of Christ in worship. As an act of co-suffering love, we are refraining from coming together in order to stop the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus to buy our heroic nurses and physicians the time they need to minister to the afflicted.

To do so is an act of *extreme ascesis*. During the Lenten Season when we would be gathering throughout the week for corporate prayer, we cannot do so safely. The State of Emergency in Maricopa county and the City of Phoenix, and the guidelines from the CDC limit public gatherings to no more than ten souls. And in view of these strictures and the risks which ensue upon flouting them, our His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Archbishop Elpidophoros, and Metropolitan Gerasimos have each enjoined us to obey them.

Specifically, we are instructed by our Hierarchs to offer the Divine services *only* electronically via live-streaming service to various social media platforms as we are doing. We priests have also been instructed in this Metropolis *not* to offer Holy Communion until these strictures are lifted. His Eminence, Gerasimos, made very clear his reasoning on a conference call with all Metropolis clergy this week.

In the last several days and until this final edict was announced, I have mulled over many conceivable plans whereby you might safely receive the Holy Gifts. I am certain you understand how disturbing it is for priests to be rendered unable to administer the holy mysteries. To do so is the very reason that each of us entered the Holy Priesthood.

But it would be reckless for any priest to expose the faithful to harm or even death. To do so would be to fail in our duty as shepherds. And having just witnessed our son's struggle and my sister's struggle with this virus, I have gained an insight into how lethal it is, even to a young and healthy person. To the elderly and to those with underlying health challenges, COVID-19 can be deadly.

His Eminence reminded the brothers that the very term "Communion" describes the start-to-finish reality of the Holy Eucharist and not simply to the culminating moment of approaching the Chalice. Correctly understood, it is never accurate to state that one "gets communion" or that one "takes communion," nor to speak of "receiving *my* communion." Communion is always experienced in community and never individually. Holy Communion must not be reduced to a commodity.

Message continued on page 4

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Fr. Apostolos' Message continued from page 3

The Holy Canons of the Church which regulate and guide the act of public worship reinforce this point again and again. It is the entirety of the shared experience when the faithful gather in the Lord's Name to comprise the Church, to manifest it and to make it visibly present, that can be accurately described as Communion.

To reduce the Eucharist to the mere act of receiving the Holy Gifts, no matter what method utilized to limit the risk of exposure to harm, is to reduce the Body and Blood of Christ to something magical, something "lucky." It is the totality of worship, the litany of "Kyrie eleisons" and "amens" and the consent and active participation of the faithful that create the precise liturgical conditions whereby true Liturgy occurs.

And for now, as an ascesis of co-suffering love to our family, friends, and neighbors, and to all healthcare providers, we are unable to meet the conditions of true worship. I pray that you understand how immensely painful, how challenging, it has been to offer the Divine Oblation to an empty house, meeting only the minimal canonical conditions of worship! My first instinct was to forego the sacred offering until reminded that each and every Divine Liturgy is also offered "for the life of the world."

In time, this shadow of death will have retreated from our lands. We have the assurance of the Good Shepherd that even in the valley of this shadow we may rest secure in His provision for us. And until that time I will offer the Oblation through my own tears on your behalf and in the hope that we will be reunited again in the community of Faith.

The marvel of technology allows Alexander and me to bring our robust liturgical schedule into your homes on a variety of social media platforms. *(Please note the detailed instructions in this Desert Springs edition which explain how you can tune in!)*

I do not want to lose even one dearly beloved member of our Cathedral family to this virus, not when avoiding such a tragedy is as simple as staying out of its way! It remains my fervent hope that no later than at the leave-taking of Holy Pascha, these strictures will be lifted and we can gather together - albeit belatedly - to celebrate the Holy Resurrection of Christ!

The world has indeed already changed because of the COVID-19 virus. There will be no return to the exact conditions of our lives as they existed even one month ago. But the trajectory of this change is in our hands, whether or not we seize this opportunity to listen to the voice of God in the enforced silence of our sequestration.

Will we assess the health of our interior lives, of our relationships, our family dynamics, of the shape of our society? Will we emerge from this crisis kinder? Wiser? Holier? And will our Holy Trinity Cathedral family emerge from this painful period of separation more united than before? More cohesive? And more grateful for the precious moments we spend together which before we may have taken for granted? I believe the answer to these questions will be a thunderous "YES!"

And when we next gather to celebrate without fear or apprehension the Holy Eucharist, we will experience a true Communion at a depth of joy and gratitude we've never before imagined. May we *fervently and ceaselessly* beseech Almighty God for this and for His grace and mercy to flow into the tireless healthcare workers in the trenches of this battle and into the afflicted bodies of the virus's victims.

If we cannot now become a people of prayer in the face of such challenges, then we will never be. God is never more in control than when He appears not to be. All that He does or allows, He does out of unspeakable love and with a view toward our eternal disposition, not just toward our temporal comfort.

May we bathe our lives in prayer "for the life of the world" as we await that joyful moment of our reunion!

Stewardship

By Sandy Meris



WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER – AN ACT OF STEWARDSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

It's unthinkable that we find ourselves in the position we are currently in. With a global pandemic upon us, the Covid-19 epidemic has changed all our lives dramatically in just the last few weeks.

Many of us are sequestered in our homes, businesses shut down, schools closed. In addition, there are no sporting events to either attend or even watch on tv, no social gatherings, parties, events, even simple get togethers with friends are off the table. Even the movie theaters and shopping malls are quiet. Even our beloved Cathedral has been called to close the doors to keep us physically apart in order to keep us safe.

But keeping us physically apart does not mean we must remain spiritually apart. Though we cannot enter the church with our bodies, we can always attend church in our hearts and in our minds. Not attending church, although feels so uncomfortable, is actually an act of stewardship. It is each of us doing our part to take care of each other by not exposing one another to potential infection.

Many of you know that Father Apostolos and Alexander Eliades are offering services on You Tube and on Facebook live. Watching the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, hearing Father's words and Alexander's beautiful chanting, was comforting and familiar in what is such an uncertain time. Seeing the various names pop up on the screen as more and more people logged on and began to watch, one couldn't help but feel that familiar fellowship between us.

So, with virtually everything in our lives halted for now, we find perhaps that we have much more time on our hands. Hopefully, this pause, taking place during Great Lent, allows us time for reflection and prayer.

What can we do? How can we help the church in these times? The obvious answer is with your 2020 Stewardship. Holy Trinity still has our monthly bills and salaries that must be paid. We ask that you continue to remain current on your stewardship and mail in your contributions. And, there has never been a better time to become an on line, automated donor through WeShare. Simply go to: www.holytrinityphx.org, click on "Stewardship" in the upper right-hand corner and fill out your 2020 pledge card. From there you can sign up for WeShare or continue to mail in your donations.

Until we are able to see each other's smiling faces and embrace one another on the grounds of our beloved Cathedral, may each of you stay safe and healthy. Take care of yourselves and one another. May God bless us all and keep us during this difficult time.

STEWARDSHIP FACTS:

Did you know?...

- ◆ In order to be a member in good standing, you must fill out a new Pledge Card every year and make a contribution toward that pledge.
- ◆ Currently, stewardship only covers about half of Holy Trinity's monthly expenses. The shortfall is made up from Festival proceeds and rental income.
- ◆ In 2019 the average pledge per family was more than \$1,200 per year.

House of Stewards

Through 03/27/2020

Panagiota Agelakos
Dorothy Ainslie
Evan & Terri Alexon
Nikki C. Anest
Bettina Angelos
John & Sandy Annos
John Antoniadis
Elaine Apostle
Sheila Asala
Chris & Angie Athens
Helen & Constantine Balanis
Diana Balos
Alexandra Bates
Scott & Stacey Beaty
George & Stacy Benetos
Vicki & Dan Bichekas
Peter & Jennifer Bilitsis
Vasiliki Bilitsis
Helen A. Bixenman
Anthony Boyd
Oscar & Heidi Bracamonte
Helen & James Bruno
Chris & Georgia Brusalis
Chris & Rita Bruskas
Kristen Bruskas
Kathrene Carras
Frank & Alice Carris
Dawn & Casey Cartier
George & Alexandra Chondropoulos
Harriet Chotras
Jim Chotras
Athena Choukalas
Kim & Pete Choukalas
Katherine & Jeffrey Clark
Andrew & Mara Contes
Connie & James Contes
Ed & Angie Cooper
Jean & John Dal Pan
Nick & Sharon Daniolos
Patty Davis
Hercules Alexander Dellas
Patrick & Karla Delord
Tom & Irene Demas
Bill C. DeMoss
Charles C. DeMoss
Chris DeMoss
John & Marjorie DeMoss
Michael & Maureen DeMoss
Ruth & Basil Denaxas
Alexandros & Erika Dimitriadis
Homer & Doree Drakos

Stanley & Fran Drozd
Dena & Christos Economopoulos
James Elam & Lisa Glitsos Elam
Alexander & Laura Eliades
Ed & Katherine Fancher
Jeff & Judy Farr
Greg Hernandez
Helen Fernandez
Athanasios & Georgia Fourlis
Ted & Andi Fourlis
Tim & Antonette Fraenkel
Georgana Friehe
George & Julie Froumis
Niki Ganolis
Demetra Georgelos
Diana Georgelos
Pamela Georgelos
Christina & Thomas Georgiou
John Giannopoulos
John & Polly Ginakes
Stella Glitsos
Jeremy & Athena Gonzales
Eva Goodman
Bill & Lynn Graham
Gina Graham
Mary Haidos
Donald Hall
Terry G. Harper
Stephanie & Gregory Heckel
Gregory Hill
Rev. Fr. Apostolos & Presv. Denise Hill
Bessie Hotis
Pavlos Kairis
Linda & James Kalivas
Pete & Nicole Kamboukos
Roula & Basilis Kaneris
Dena & Nick Kantaros
Jean Kantaros & William King
William & Harriet Kapolis
Virginia S. Karegeannes
Julie Karoutas
James & Joann Karros
Leonidas & Fotini Katrakis
Christos & Kelley Katsanos
Niki & George Katsaros
Mary & John Katsenes
Lori & Paul Katsenes
Thomas Katsenes
Poppy & Jim Kavouris
Fanny Kechajias
Virginia & Ronald Kidd



Emily Kimmell
Maria Kompos
Spiros & Maria Kontakis
Kostadinos & Anatoli Kostouros
Angela & Dean Koumontzis
Nikolas Koziris
Elizabeth & Johnny Kratsas
Nick & Marina Kretsedemas
Tammy Kretsedemas
James & JoAnne Kruljac
Andreas & Cindy Kyprianou
Tassie Ladas
Anastasia Laitsas
John & Angie Lambrou
Judith Lamond
Mary & Elias Lamos
Mary Levendi
Lea & Mike Linaris
Gregory Lizanich
Efterpi Lourias
Stephanie & James Machas
Maria & Martin Maciejewski
Aristotle & Evelyne Macrodimetris
Marika Makridis
Margarita Makris
Julie & Felix Mamani
Donna & Jim Manelis
Bette Maniatis
Maria Maniatis
Rina & William Marinakos
Douglas & Anna Markakis
Leonard & Mary Lou Mastorakos
Katerina Matheos
Nick Maydanis
Pamela Maydanis
Angela & Chris Mead

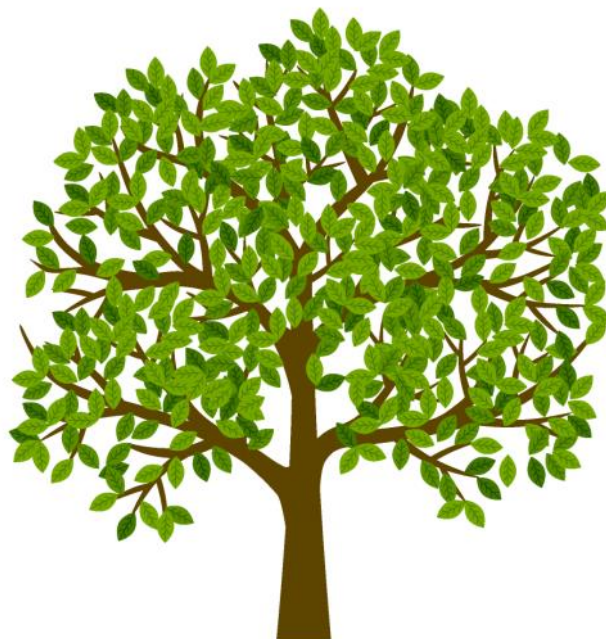
House of Stewards

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Joanne Meris
Sandy & Will Meris
Anthony & Tania Miaoulis
Angie Miller
Jean & William Miller
Paul N. Miller
Andrew Mitchell
Helen & Philip Mitchell
William & Hannah Neal
Jerry & Kathy New
Edna Nicely & Peter Michas
John & Maria Nicholas
Evelyn Nickalew
Anthony Nicoluzakis
AnnaMarie Nieblas
Angelo & Marta Ntatsos
Jeremy & Anastasia Oxley
Else Paletsos
Elizabeth Palmer
Alexander & Alexia Panagiotakopoulos
Christo & Connie Panagiotakopoulos
Bill & Soula Papadopoulos
Chrysoula & George Papadopoulos
Stephanie & Socrates Papadopoulos
Anastasia Papaioannou
Alex & Olga Papamatheakis
Betty Papas
Nicholas J. Papas
Rita & Spyros Paspasyrou
Nicholas & Stacy Papatzimas
Vassilia Papatzimas
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Amy Paul
Christiana Paviet
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Dina & John Pesognelli
Fotini & Dean Pestrivas
Zoe Pestrivas
Kathy & Bill Petsas
Michael & TeAnn Philippis
Brian & Athena Pickett
Georgia Pikoula
Mary & Andreas Poulakidas
Kay & George Poulos
Panagiotos & Anthipe Pries
Nicole & David Pyle
Bertha Quinn
Lydia Rabbitt

Cal & Angela Raup
Milton & Voula Rentzis
Maria & Curt Ruttle
Lois Sakkas
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Jim G. Thomas
John Gus Thomas

Dcn. John & Diak. Mary Thrasher
Kathy & Thad Tropea
Stella & Constantine Tsantilas
Katherine & Constantine Tzavaras
Peter & Lindsay Vardalos
Kristen Vasilarakos
Argyro Vasquez
Adam & Lea Venetis
Connie & George Venetis
Andrew & Sandy Vlahoulis
Steve & Mary Vrahas
Nicole Wakamatsu
Catherine Wallerich
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





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

No one will be allowed in the church.

UPDATED LIVE-STREAMING PLATFORM INSTRUCTIONS

If you have a Facebook account:

Like our Facebook page:

[Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral - Phoenix, AZ](#)

You will receive updates when we are live.

If you DO NOT have a Facebook account:

1. Go to holytrinityphx.org
2. Below the picture of Father Apostolos, find the link for accessing our Facebook where the streaming takes place.
3. Click the link
4. Scroll down until you come upon the video of the live service
5. If Facebook asks you to log in, simply click "Not Now"

If you have any questions or still cannot access our streams, please seek out help from someone you know who is already able to get them, or if you do not know of anyone who can help, email Alexander Eliades: aeliades@holytrinityphx.org

"So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God,
and at the right time He will lift you up in honor.
Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you!"
(1 Pet. 5:6,7)

Light a Virtual Candle

[Light a Candle](#)



In this time more than ever we need prayer.
As we unfortunately cannot come light our own candles,
we have set up this ability to do so 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 Alexander
will light a candle and say a prayer for you.

Bible Study

From Father:

I will begin offering our weekly Bible Study every Saturday morning at 10:00am on **Zoom**. Zoom is a video conferencing website that allows for large gatherings to hold meetings on line. The details are provided below.

Trust me! If I can figure this out, ANYONE can! All you need to do is to go to this website <https://www.zoom.us/>

Once there, you will notice at the top of the screen and to the right the Join a meeting option. Click the option and enter the **Meeting ID: 939 845 616** and then this **Password: 455190**

Zoom allows us up to 100 participants. If we actually have 100 participants I will probably faint and be unable to conduct the study! :)

We will be examining the Magnificat of the Virgin Mary as recorded in St. Luke's Gospel and comparing it with the very similar canticle of praise offered by Hannah in the first book of Samuel. It should be informative and fun!

God bless and keep you all well, protected under the shelter of His wings, and filled with the peace that comes with knowing that He watches over us!

In Christ,

Rev. Father Apostolos Hill | Dean



Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

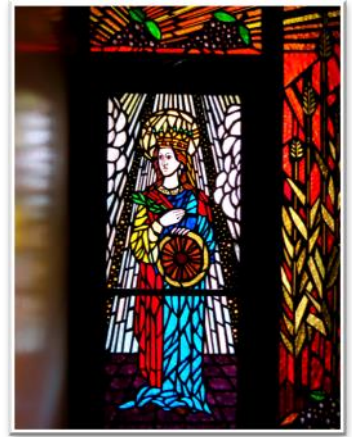
Alex Anagnopoulos, President

"FRIENDS OF THE POOR"

An organization where membership is an honor & a privilege.

JOIN & ENRICH YOUR LIFE!

The March meeting was held on Sunday, March 8, 2020, following Divine Liturgy. Guest Speakers Dena Kokoris Wall and Kathleen Winn spoke about VAST (Valley Against Sex Trafficking) and other local organizations working to combat the problem. Human trafficking is one of the topics taken up by National. The two speakers are shown here with Chapter President Alex Anagnopoulos.



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



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: _____

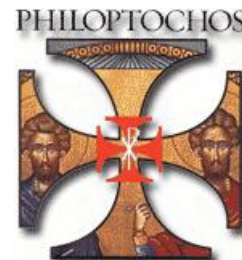
PHONE: (____) _____ CHECK # _____ AMOUNT: _____

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

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos



When Philoptochos sees pain and suffering, we strive to offer comfort.
When Philoptochos sees hunger, we aspire to offer sustenance.
When Philoptochos sees despair, we seek to offer hope.

Like the rest of the ministries, our chapter meetings and projects are cancelled until further notice. As soon as we get the "all clear", we will resume. Until then, we are tasked with slowing down, staying home as much as possible, and putting our chapter charity and project work, for the most part, on hold.

Next up for us was our annual Bake Sale. Although the Bake Sale is a vital **fundraiser** for our chapter, importantly, **we also bake for our home-bound**. We are still determining if or how and when we can provide this service.

Speaking of our home-bound, what we **CAN** do now is to be aware of those in our community that may not have the resources to obtain basic supplies. Or who just want someone to say "hello".



So we ask you, call or check-in to our seniors or home-bound. Let them know they haven't been forgotten. Or pass the info to a Board member and we will reach out. However, if you hear of a parishioner or parishioner family in *dire need*, please let us and/or the Church Office know asap!

As we face new and challenging circumstances, let us not forget that Philoptochos is a parish sisterhood within a larger sisterhood, amidst a loving and strong Cathedral community.

For those of you on Facebook, please check in frequently to the **Cathedral Facebook page at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral - Phoenix, AZ**. A commitment has been made to live-stream services, lessons, and prayers there. It'll also be an easy source to get updated information, along with the website www.holytrinityphx.org.

When you do learn of schedule additions, changes, or cancellations, remember to share the news with those who aren't on email or don't use social media.

We can stand strong together!

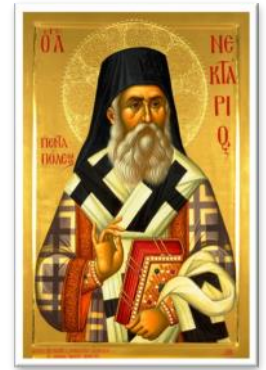
The Philoptochos Mission Statement: The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc., is the duly accredited women's philanthropic society of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. The mission of the Society shall be:

- **To help** the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, the handicapped, the victims of disasters, to undertake the burial of impoverished persons and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the Church through fund raising efforts; and
- **To promote** the charitable, benevolent, and philanthropic purposes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, through instructional programs, presentations, lectures, seminars and other educational resources;
- **To preserve** and perpetuate Orthodox Christian concepts and the Orthodox Christian Family, and through them, to promote the Greek Orthodox Faith and traditions, in accordance with its doctrines, canons, discipline, divine worship, usages and customs;
- **To promote** participation in the activities of the Greek Orthodox community, with the cooperation of the Parish Priest and the Parish Council.

The charitable work of the Society shall be performed with discretion, courtesy and kindness.

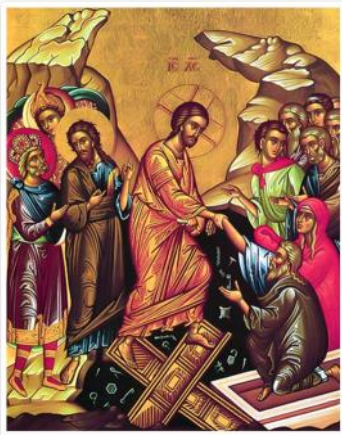
St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

By Rita Papaspyrou



Commemoration of The Great and Holy Feast of Pascha

Holy Week comes to an end at sunset of Great and Holy Saturday, as the Church prepares to celebrate her most ancient and preeminent festival, Pascha, the feast of feasts. The time of preparation will give way to a time of fulfillment. The glorious and resplendent light emanating from the empty Tomb will dispel the darkness. Christ, risen from the dead, cracks the fortress of death and takes "captivity captive" (Psalm 67:19). All the limitations of our createdness are torn asunder. Death is swallowed up in victory and life is liberated. "For as by a man came death, by a man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:21-22). Pascha is the dawn of the new and unending day. The Resurrection constitutes the most radical and decisive deliverance of humankind.



The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the fundamental truth and absolute fact of the Christian faith. It is the central experience and essential kerygma of the Church. It confirms the authenticity of Christ's remarkable earthly life and vindicates the truth of His teaching. It seals all His redemptive work: His life, the model of a holy life; His compelling and unique teaching; His extraordinary works; and His awesome, life-creating death. Christ's Resurrection is the guarantee of our salvation. Together with His Ascension it brings to perfection God's union with us for all eternity.

The Resurrection made possible the miracle of the Church, which in every age and generation proclaims and affirms "God's plan for the universe, the ultimate divinization of man and the created order." The profound experience of and the unshakable belief in the risen Lord enabled the Apostles to evangelize the world and empowered the Church to overcome paganism. The Resurrection discloses the indestructible power and inscrutable wisdom of God. It disposes of the illusory myths and belief systems by which people, bereft of divine knowledge, strain to affirm the meaning and purpose of their existence. Christ, risen and glorified, releases humanity from the delusions of idolatry. In Him, grave-bound humanity discovers and is filled with incomparable hope. The Resurrection bestows illumination, energizes souls, brings forgiveness, transfigures lives, creates Saints, and gives joy.

The Resurrection has not yet abolished the reality of death. But it has revealed its powerlessness (Hebrews 2:14-15). We continue to die as a result of the Fall. Our bodies decay and fall away. "God allows death to exist but turns it against corruption and its cause, sin, and sets a boundary both to corruption and sin." Thus, physical death does not destroy our life of communion with God. Rather, we move from death to life - from this fallen world to God's reign.

Icon of the Commemoration of Great and Holy Pascha

One of the most symbolic of the Festal Icons of the Orthodox Church is that of the Holy Resurrection. In the center of this radiant event is Christ pulling Adam and Eve up from their tombs. The gates of the Realm of Death are broken and thrown down. Death, personified in human form is defeated, and bound hand and foot at the bottom of the scene. We recall the joyous words of St. Paul: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:55)

In the background stands the host of the departed, so numerous they cannot be depicted. Among them in the front of the multitude are some of the righteous dead, though now invigorated by the Resurrection. King David and his son Solomon are seen on the left wearing crowns. Near the center is Saint John the Baptist. On the other side is Abel, the son of Adam and the first man to ever die. He wears a shepherd's robe and has a cane. Many Icons of this subject depict large crowds with a few other recognizable prophets.

Music Ministry

by Terri Alexon, Director



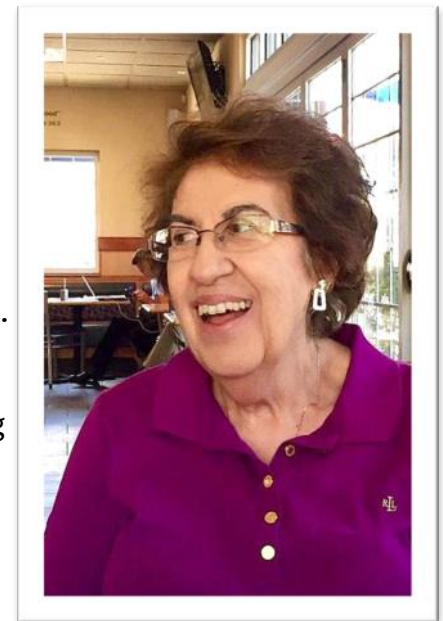
Sing unto the Lord, O you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holiness.

Psalm 30:4

In these unprecedented times, the Music Ministry never imagined that it would be instructed to stay home and not attend services during Lent! As a result, the Cathedral Choir is on temporary hiatus until this viral threat has passed. This time apart has made us appreciate one another and pray for each other more intensely than ever before.

While the age range of the Cathedral Choir is widely varied, the majority is above 50, some of whom have been singing in a church setting for decades. One such member is Sharon Daniolos.

According to Sharon, singing in church is something that she has been doing since childhood. The daughter of Rev. Father George and Khouria Alexandra Habib, Sharon was always active in the church, especially with music. "Participating in this ministry has brought me great joy over the years," she says, "not to mention the blessing of many friendships."



Without a doubt, Sharon has been an integral member of the Holy Trinity Cathedral Choir for many years, participating in all 20 Christmas concerts, and also leading the Youth Choir for these concerts.

Additionally, Sharon has directed the beautiful Holy Saturday morning service. She has special, fond memories of St. George Chapel where she led the children in the music for nearly 20 years! During that time, she witnessed the participation of youth in the Divine Liturgy where the children learned the hymns of the Church and benefited from the many beautiful lessons they learned from our parish clergy over the years.

Outside the Cathedral, Sharon has been active in the Metropolis Church Music Federation, having attended many conferences and workshops to expand her knowledge of music and Orthodox hymnography. In 2007, Sharon was tonsured as a Chanter by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos.

While Sharon has been very active in music ministry, she has enjoyed a very successful career as an educator, teaching Kindergarten in the Madison and Paradise Valley School Districts, as well as in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Las Vegas, Nevada. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and her Master of Arts Early Childhood Education from Arizona State University. Sharon is married to Nick Daniolos who came to the United States from the island of Andros, Greece. Their sons and their families bring them tremendous fulfillment: George and Katy with their children Eleni, Anna and Thomas; and Stefanos and Tiffany and their son Nicholas. Sharon has also shared her professional skills with Holy Trinity Academy by previously teaching Kindergarten.

When she's not singing or teaching, Sharon is an accomplished baker with her own pastry business, and can be found often making baklava, tsoureki, and many other Greek delicacies in her bake shop. Most importantly, Sharon coordinates the baking of prosforo for the Cathedral.

May our Lord and Savior bless her with many more years!

Sunday of Orthodoxy

March 8, 2020



Our Church Family

40 Day Blessings

“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



3/1/2020

Grace Katherine and Harper Claire, twin daughters of Nicole & Peter Kamboukos

God's Blessings be upon them.

03/08/2020

Lane Michael Pritsos, son of Mieke Miller & Costa Pritsos

God's Blessings be upon him.

Baptisms

“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” Galatians 3:27



02/28/2020

Anastasius G. Bates & Victor J. Mendiola, sons of Alexandra Bates, sponsor for both is Catherine Agra.

God's Blessings be upon them.

Coffee Hour

Thank you to **Greek School** for sponsoring Coffee Hours in March until the closedown.



Sunday of the Holy Cross

March 22, 2020



As a Parish, we were not able to celebrate together in person. However, we were able to follow along with the live-stream. Reverend Deacon John Thrasher shared a photo of white carnations for the Elevation of the Holy Cross used by his grandchildren at their kitchen table.

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.



Holy Trinity Academy

By Juli Pritsos

Where do we go from here?

These are strange times. Never before have we had to close our school because of a world pandemic! It breaks our hearts that we have had to temporarily close our doors to our wonderful Littles and their families. No one could have ever predicted that a virus would develop and that the entire world would be affected by the pandemic COVID-19. Strange times indeed.

So where do we go from here? First and foremost our dedication is to our HTA students. I have created daily videos through our Facebook page, Holy Trinity Academy, that provides daily lessons on religion and celebrated events like Greek Independence Day. I have also sent out lessons and links to our families through email that will help keep their children current in their learning and providing families with lists of free activities, (with the help of our preschool teacher, Ms. Yvette Salazar), to help lessen time lost with bored three to six year olds!

What I try to do is appreciate each day that God has given. I am blessed with a wonderful husband, healthy children and grandchildren, and my parents are doing well. I have a roof over my head, food to eat, books to read, enough Netflix movies to keep me entertained, and most of all prayer.

Hopefully, we will be able to return to our classrooms on Monday, April 13, to teach daily lessons for Holy Week, but who really knows? What I do know is that we are off school now and really need your support. Not only have we had to cancel school but we are in the difficult position of having to cancel our annual fundraiser, A Toast to the Future. This fundraiser has been existential for the well being of our school programs, but has also allowed HTA to help individuals within our community and our church with unexpected expenses, the beautification of the James A. Speros Community Center, the salary of chanters, and most recently with a large sum going towards One Spirit+One Vision.

This fundraiser is essential to the betterment of our program to build enrollment and to enhance our program. That said, can HTA count on a monetary donation from you? If every one gave a minimum of \$50 our program would continue to build and

thrive. Your contribution would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be made on our website HTAPHX.org under the "Pay" tab and scroll down to monetary donation amounts that are already set up or checks can be sent payable to:

Holy Trinity Academy
1973 E. Maryland Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 86016
Attn. A Toast to the Future 2020

Contact me at julipritsos@holytrinityacademyphx.org for more information. HTA is enrolling now for preschool and kindergarten for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year. Call now for a tour at 602-248-3881.

HTA HOLY TRINITY ACADEMY
Accelerated learning in a nurturing environment

HTA's Rich Curriculum
Emphasizes a
Strong Academic
Foundation
Developing Curiosity &
a Love of Learning.

Now Enrolling
602.248.3881

Small Class Sizes	Fine Art, Music & Gardening Programs
AZDHS Licensed	Greek Language
Preschool	Affordable Before & After Care
Full Day Kindergarten	
Safe & Caring Environment	

1973 E. Maryland Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85016
htaphx.org

The graphic features a photograph of four young children in blue HTA shirts sitting on a playground structure and smiling. The background is a solid blue color for the top section and a light yellow for the middle section.

Sunday School

Kalli Schneider, Director

Sunday school will resume in September.

Watch for registration information this summer.



Do you enjoy children? Do you enjoy bringing your children to Sunday school? Sunday school loves seeing our youth every week! It is such a blessing to see their smiles and teach them about our rich Orthodox faith. We are currently seeking teachers and/or assistant teachers and a new Sunday School Director for next year. Our most dire need is for 3rd/4th grade. We need teachers or assistant teachers for all grade levels. If interested to be a part of this fulfilling ministry or if you have questions, please contact Kalli Schneider at 602-568-3139 or Alexander Eliades at aeliades@holytrinityphx.org.

Holy Trinity
Sunday School
is looking for parents
and young adults
to teach our youth
in the 2020-21 year.

This is a great
opportunity to ensure
our youth grow up
knowing their
Orthodox faith.

If interested, please
contact
Kalli Schneider:
[kalliopischneider
@gmail.com](mailto:kalliopischneider@gmail.com)

TEACH
encourage
instruct
MENTOR
PRAISE
influence
GUIDE
INSPIRE

Greek School

Irene Dartoozos Mackos, Director
Gabriella Papatzimas, Teacher



Happy Greek Independence Day!

As of March 25, every school in Arizona has closed, including Greek School, and it's still unclear when schools will reopen. Our church services are seen through internet streaming. Unfortunately, our children will not be able to participate in our annual Greek Independence Day Program this year!

However, this virus hasn't stopped us from showing our Greek pride!

Happy Name Day to Evangelos, Vangelis, Evangelia, Vangelio, Eva, Aggelis, Angelis, Vangelis, and Lilika who celebrate on the 25th of March!

As the director of our Greek School, Gabriella Papatzimas and I try to create a friendly environment that children enjoy coming and learning about their Greek language and heritage.

Gabriella and I want to wish you very good health! Be safe, positive and healthy.



Celebrating March 25th from home.



Youth Classes

Daily Youth Classes with Fr. Apostolos on Instagram 3:00 p.m.



Please have your children go to Fr. Apostolos Hill's Instagram account to hear his daily lessons.

Enter: [Fr. Apostolos Hill](#) to access his Instagram account

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!

March Readers



Photos by Presvytera Denise

Zoom Youth Discussion

Had a great time with a combined Holy Trinity and Assumption Senior Goya discussion on the current happenings and the Church! See you again soon!

Zoom Discussion

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 @4PM ON ZOOM
EMAIL FR. JACOB OR ALEXANDER FOR THE MEETING ID AND PASSWORD

Even though we can't be this close in person, we can be in spirit! Join Fr. Jacob and Alexander for a discussion and Q&A!



Maintenance Corner

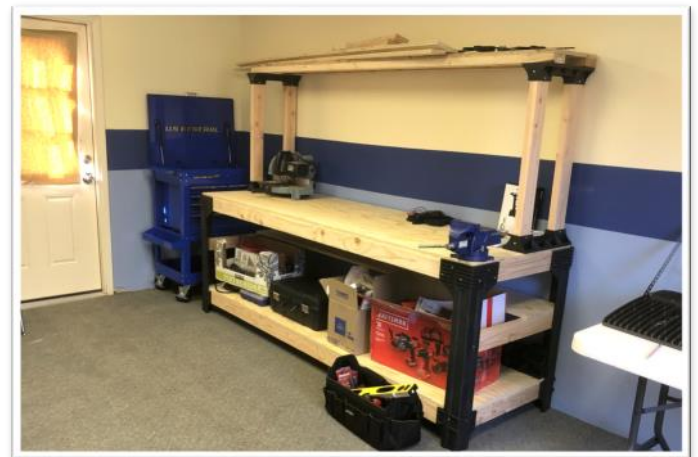
Submitted by Ted Furlis



Busy days for your Maintenance Committee. Scott Vaughn and Ted Furlis have completed the installation of the sound-proofing panels in the Small Hall of the Community Center. This should assist with lessening the echo effect in that room. Peter Bilitsis and Ted Furlis are currently in the process of retrofitting and installing new LED lights at our basketball court to assist our youth with better lighting. Paul and Dimitri Valonis and Ted Furlis are currently in the process of developing and building out our maintenance room. During this slowdown in campus activities due to the CV, we are making plans to try to catch up on maintenance needs around our campus. Please help support our effort as we still need monetary donations to assist us with the purchase of additional tools and equipment.



Buffering in the Small Hall.



Maintenance Room



Repairing the lighting for the basketball court..

Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners
and their guests



Warm regards,
Julie Karoutas
email: juliekaroutas@gmail.com
cell: 623-313-8720 call or text

Message from Pastoral Assistant Alexander Eliades

Well This is Different



We find ourselves in an unprecedented time. At no time in our recent history has society stopped to such an extent as this. Public gatherings are essentially forbidden (even with just friends!), restaurants and businesses are all closed, even our church is shuttered to the public out of obedience to civil and ecclesiastical authorities. There is a statement circling online, the gist of which is, “In WWII we were asked to sacrifice our lives to save the world, today we’re being asked to sit on the couch to save the world.”

It’s obviously an oversimplification of both situations and in no way approaches the sacrifice of the “Greatest Generation” but shows what we’re asked to do. Our lives are changed and we can find it hard to find stability and solace in these uncertain times. Usually this would be the time where we would flock to the

Church and find this solace in the Lord and yet we find we must worship the Liturgy in front of a screen; it is hardly a substitute. So what do we do?

Fr. Stephen Andrew Damick wrote a beautiful article on this entitled, “Prepare Now to Return to Church” (Google it and read it!). What does this mean? Well, he tells us to create the habits now that we want to continue after this has all ended (which it will by God’s Grace!). If you want to be a couch potato when we’re allowed to return to society, then do that now. If you want to become a better, more faithful person, do it *now* so you can continue it after this. We are creatures of habit, not wishful thinking, so create a habit now that will benefit you later! We have so much more time now without distractions (no shopping, sports, or even friends) so begin something worth doing. Every morning, wake up and pray with your family. Eat every meal you can together. Every evening pray together before you go to sleep. Read the Bible together! It may be nice to save that bit of money you usually give to the Church and charity but this creates a bad habit!

We must take up our cross in order to find the Resurrection. As I spoke about this last Sunday in my sermon, it can be very easy to “tune out” our family or those we live with right now. Christ calls us to take up our cross and our cross right now is to love those who are with us! This love, as the Cross, requires sacrifices, putting others first and doing the hard thing for the joy to come. As we are in this unprecedented time, let us take up our Cross, love each other, come closer to God, and do the hard and good things we need to do! Join us on Facebook for prayers and reflections as well! We hope to see us all gathered again soon.



Rainbow After a Recent Rain



Photos by Sheila Asala and Gina Graham

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Desert Springs Subscription

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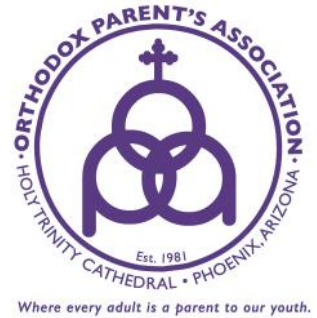
Office use: Payment received on (date) ___ / ___ / ___

OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

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

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

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



As of this time,
due to the current health crisis effecting our country,
and by the directive of
the The Metropolis of San Francisco and the Archdiocese
ALL youth events have been cancelled.

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 Board!

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

Little Lambs



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.

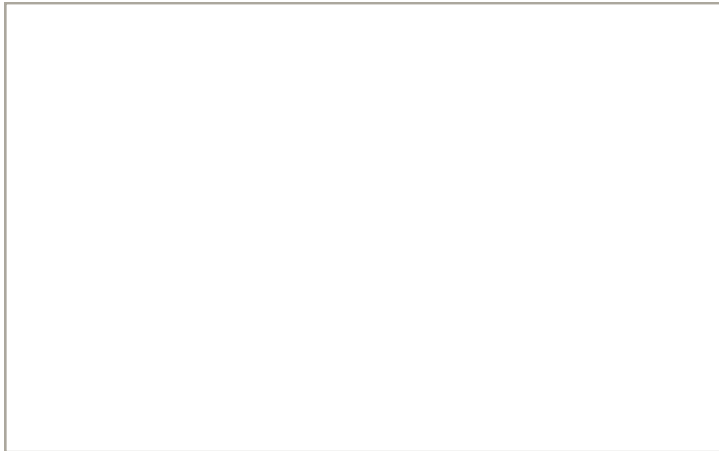
Little Lambs Group = newborns to Kindergarten

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



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: _____