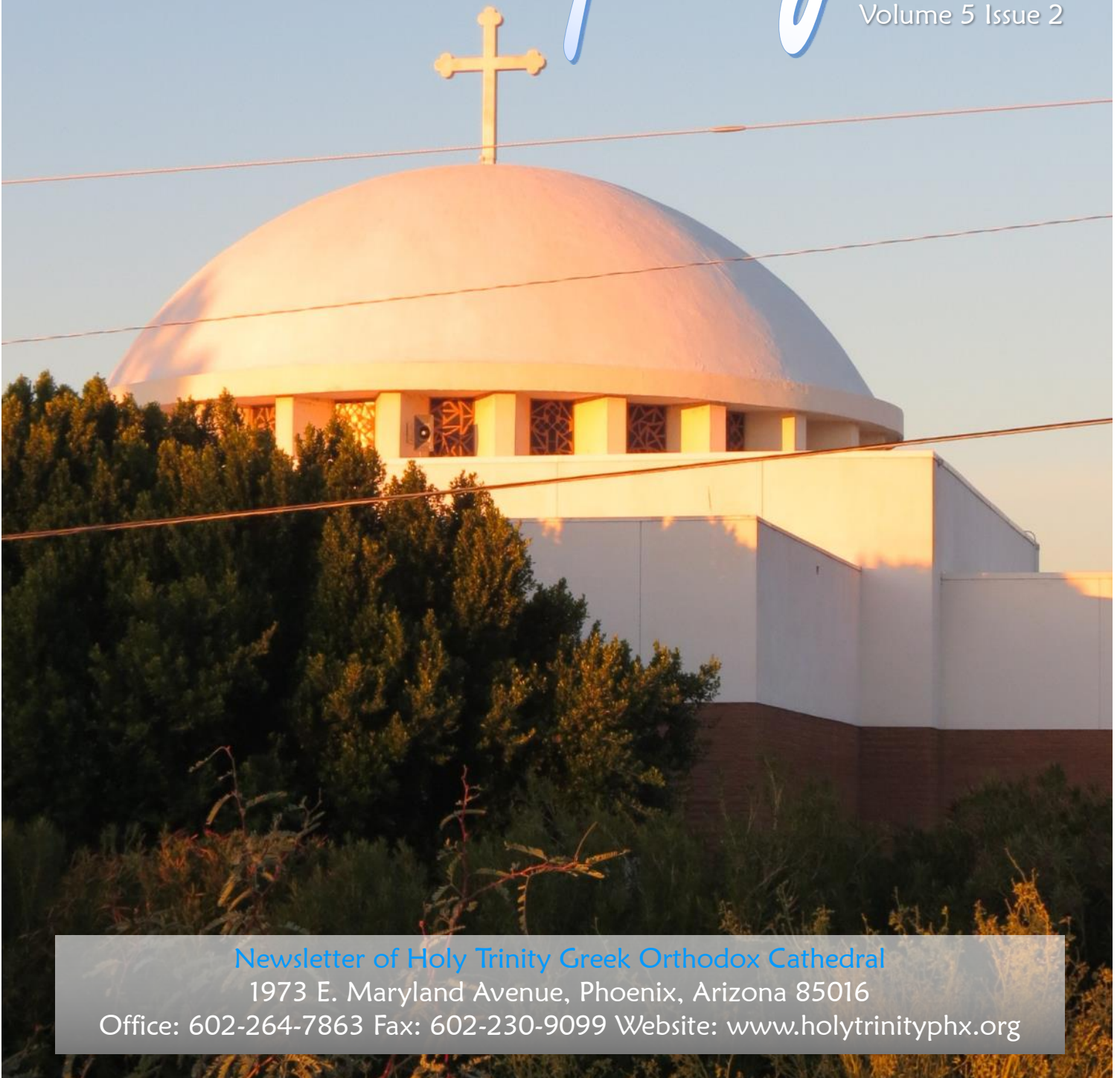


Desert Springs

February 2020
Volume 5 Issue 2



Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

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Pastoral Assistant Alexander Eliades
Rev. Deacon John Thrasher

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

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Paul Katsenes—Vice President
Dina Anagnopoulos—Treasurer
Connie Contes—Assistant Treasurer
Andy Fourlis—Secretary
Charlie De Moss, Sandy Meris,
Socrates Papadopoulos,
Adam Venetis

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www.holytrinityphx.org

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Archdiocese Website
www.goarch.org

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- Wedding Coordinator** — Terri Alexon: terrialexon@gmail.com
- YAL 19-29** — Elliot Staikos: text 717-682-0550
- YAL 30-49** — Nick Papas: npapas@yahoo.com

Message from Father Apostolos



Of all the sacred and sacramental acts I am blessed to offer as a priest, surely the most captivating of them must be to present an infant into the Holy Temple. This small rite begins in the Narthex as the proud parents and family bring the baby into its second home, the Holy Church of Jesus Christ. Prayers for the complete healing of the mother after childbirth are offered along with prayers for the protection of the infant, after which the baby is placed in my arms.

What a moment of bliss! Nearly every time this act is performed as I cradle the precious life in folds of my vestments and step into the Nave of the Church, the baby's eyes snap open as it stares intently into the dome where the ever-merciful Christ stands enthroned in glory. And what glory must these pure infant souls behold at the moment?

Finally stepping before the icon of the Holy Virgin, I recite St. Symeon's prayer; "Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all people, a Light of revelation to the Gentile and the Glory of Your people, Israel." Now, the baby is returned (reluctantly!) by me to the parents with further blessings for them. This small rite is remembered every year at the beginning of February in the Feast of the Presentation of Christ into the Temple.

It has lately been our custom to encourage young parents to allow for this entry to occur before the Divine Liturgy and not after; this to encourage the faithful in the parish family in their own sacred duty to help create an atmosphere of reverence and piety for all our children. The physical birth of an infant into a family must be followed by (as alluded to in the prayers in the presentation service) a spiritual birth through Holy Baptism at the appropriate time.

The prayers for the mother are offered for her health and salvation, not because of any latent sinfulness in the act of gestation, the strictures of the old covenant having been perfectly fulfilled in Christ, (Matt. 5:17) but because a period of absence from the Holy Eucharist has interrupted her participation in the Holy Mysteries of the Church. According to custom, this 40-day period is a sacred time for the mother and father and infant. This period also allows the infant's immune system to come fully online and for the mother to heal.

The language of the rite of presentation assumes that the local parish now becomes the seedbed of faith, that the child's earliest memories will be forged in the presence of God in the Eucharistic Assembly. And it is here that our thoughts and ideations about the true nature of the Church must be in line with our Orthodox theology, not admixed with heterodox views or false customs.

For the Church is not a place, it – or *She* – is a people. It is not an organization, but an organism. A "*Theanthropic*" organism, the Divine-Human organism of the Body of Christ; one in which each living cell – each consecrated Orthodox Christian – is needful. And in recognition of this correct view of our Orthodox Ecclesiology, we must learn to amend our language and vocabulary. For we don't merely "go to Church," we *comprise* the Church.

The Church, in our case, isn't merely at 1973 E. Maryland Ave., but "*wherever two or three are gathered in My (that is: Jesus') Name.*" There He will be in our midst. In coming together in the sacred act, the sacrament, of Assembly (as Fr. Alexander Schmemmann +1983 often wrote) we become a living whole greater than the sum of her parts. Hence, far better and more accurate it would be for us to say as we leave our homes on Sunday morning "Let's go *BE* the Church!"

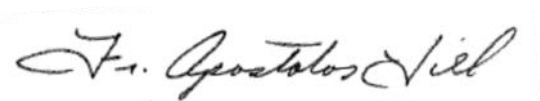
Fr. Apostolos' Message continued on page 4

And in this sacred assembly, no differences are admitted between infants and aged. All members partake equally of the Holy Mysteries and each living cell in the Body of Christ is invited to fully participate. In this Eucharistic Assembly, there can be no “observers,” only participants. And while, in the hymns of the Salutation Service to the Holy Virgin we may hear of rhetoricians “mute as fish,” in the Body of Christ, we must all find our voice, singing together, (*συμφωνοῦσιν*) the sacred hymns in praise to God.

The words we use to describe our Life in Christ must be active ones and not passive ones. Entering into the Presence of God is far more than being physically present at 1973 E. Maryland roughly between 9:30 and 11:00 AM on Sundays! No, our active participation, our *Orthopraxis*, entails communing with God, worshiping with angels, eating Divine Food, standing in the Fire of God’s Presence so that the impurities within us can be burned out of us.

And so we must learn to arrive in an air of expectation. “*I am stepping into the presence of God!*” must be our thought. At the opening invocation “Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” we must begin more fully to apprehend ourselves as citizens of the Heavenly Realm. As the Divine Service unfolds and as the Heaven and Earth meet together in the offering of the Holy Gifts, we must remember that we “*συλλειτουργούντων*,” or “liturgize together with,” and we “*συνδοξολογούντων*,” or “glorify together with” the angelic hosts as is read out in the Prayer of the Small Entrance.

As we celebrate this important Feast of the Presentation of Christ, we have an opportunity to reassess for ourselves and for our little ones the degree to which we are faithfully offering them the full “package of benefits” of being a member of the Body of Christ, of the Church. For their sakes and for ours, may we be ever mindful of the tremendous blessing and privilege it is to be numbered among the saints of Holy Trinity Cathedral. And may we never take for granted the inestimable gift of the Grace of God available to us when we gather in Jesus’ Name!



Stewardship

New PayPal Option

Did you forget your checkbook and or cash? Would you like to purchase candles or make a one-time donation?

Great news! You can use your charge card and our new iPad, conveniently located in the Narthex area, to pay for candles or to make your Sunday offering using PayPal. This convenient option has been made possible, in great part, by the very generous donation of two brand new iPads and stands from the Tzavaras family, in combination with the diligent set-up efforts by our Pastoral Assistant Alexander Eliades and Parish Council member Sandy Meris. *A huge “Thank You” to all!*

House of Stewards

Panagiota Agelakos
 Dorothy Ainslie
 Evan & Terri Alexon
 Nikki C. Anest
 Bettina Angelos
 John Antoniadis
 Elaine Apostle
 Sheila Asala
 Helen & Constantine Balanis
 Alexandra Bates
 Scott & Stacey Beaty
 George & Stacy Benetos
 Vicki & Dan Bichekas
 Helen A. Bixenman
 Anthony Boyd
 Helen & James Bruno
 Chris & Georgia Brusalis
 Chris & Rita Bruskas
 Kristen Bruskas
 Kathrene Carras
 Dawn & Casey Cartier
 Harriet Chotras
 Athena Choukalas
 Kim & Pete Choukalas
 Katherine & Jeffrey Clark
 Connie & James Contes
 Patty Davis
 Hercules Alexander Dellas
 Patrick & Karla Delord
 Tom & Irene Demas
 Bill C. DeMoss
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 Chris DeMoss
 John & Marjorie DeMoss
 Michael & Maureen DeMoss
 Ruth & Basil Denaxas
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 Denise Dye
 Dena & Christos Economopoulos
 James Elam & Lisa Glitsos Elam
 Ed & Katherine Fancher
 Jeff & Judy Farr
 Athanase & Georgia Fourlis
 Ted & Andi Fourlis
 Tim & Antonette Fraenkel
 Georgana Frieh
 George & Julie Froumis
 Niki Ganolis
 Demetra Georgelos
 Diana Georgelos
 Pamela Georgelos
 Christina & Thomas Georgiou
 John Giannopoulos
 Eva Goodman
 Bill & Lynn Graham
 Gina Graham
 Donald Hall
 Terry G. Harper

Stephanie & Gregory Heckel
 Rev. Fr. Apostolos & Presv. Denise
 Bessie Hotis
 Pavlos Kairis
 Linda & James Kalivas
 Pete & Nicole Kamboukos
 Roula & Basilis Kaneris
 Dena & Nick Kantaros
 Jean Kantaros & William King
 Virginia S. Karegeannes
 Julie Karoutas
 James & Joann Karros
 Leonidas & Fotini Katrakis
 Christos & Kelley Katsanos
 Niki & George Katsaros
 Mary & John Katsenes
 Lori & Paul Katsenes
 Poppy & Jim Kavouris
 Fanny Kechajias
 Virginia & Ronald Kidd
 Emily Kimmell
 Maria Kompos
 Spiros & Maria Kontakis
 Angela & Dean Koumontzis
 Nikolas Koziris
 Elizabeth & Johnny Kratsas
 Tammy Kretsedemas
 Mary & Elias Lampos
 Mary Levendi
 Lea & Mike Linaris
 Gregory Lizanich
 Stephanie & James Machas
 Maria & Martin Maciejewski
 Aristotle & Evelyne Macrodimitris
 Marika Makridis
 Margarita Makris
 Donna & Jim Manelis
 Maria Maniatis
 Rina & William Marinakos
 Leonard & Mary Lou Mastorakos
 Pamela Maydanis
 Angela & Chris Mead
 Joanne Meris
 Sandy & Will Meris
 Jean & William Miller
 Paul N. Miller
 Robert & Angelina Miller
 Andrew Mitchell
 Helen & Philip Mitchell
 William & Hannah Neal
 Edna Nicely & Peter Michas
 John & Maria Nicholas
 Evelyn Nickalew
 Anthony Nicoluzakis
 AnnaMarie Nieblas
 Angelo & Marta Ntatsos
 Else Paletsos
 Elizabeth Palmer
 Alexander & Alexia Panagiotakopoulos
 Christo & Connie Panagiotakopoulos
 Chrysoula & George Papadopoulos
 Stephanie & Socrates Papadopoulos
 Alexis & Olga Papamatheakis
 Betty Papas

Nicholas J. Papas
 Rita & Spyros Papaspyrou
 Nicholas & Stacy Papatzimas
 Vassilia Papatzimas
 Irene Pappas
 John J. & Andrea M. Pappas
 Daniel & Anna Pardhe
 Athena Parmenter
 Amy Paul
 Katherine & Kai-Henning Pedersen
 Dina & John Pesognelli
 Fotini & Dean Pestrivas
 Zoe Pestrivas
 Kathy & Bill Petsas
 Brian & Athena Pickett
 Mary & Andreas Poulakidas
 Kay & George Poulos
 Bertha Quinn
 Lydia Rabbitt
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 Maria & Curt Ruttle
 Lois Sakkas
 Dimitra & James Sampson
 Paul Sarantes
 Diane Sedlacek
 John Siavelis
 Evi & George Skintzis
 Phyllis & Elias Skoubis
 John Jr. & Toni Smirniotis
 Pam & Jim Solomon
 Carol Sowers
 Angelo & Marie Spanos
 Rachel & Leo Speliopoulos
 Elias & Theodora Staikos
 Kathryn & Jim Stamadianos
 Nitsa & Gerry Stamatelatos
 Christine & Andrew Stamatis
 William & Rebecca Tavlarides
 Jim G. Thomas
 Kathy & Thad Tropea
 Stella & Constantine Tsantilas
 Katherine & Constantine Tzavaras
 Argyro Vasquez
 Adam & Lea Venetis
 Connie & George Venetis
 Andrew & Sandy Vlahoulis
 Steve & Mary Vrahas
 Nicole Wakamatsu
 Catherine Wallerich
 Paulina & Doug Watson
 Garrett Widner
 Richard & Katina Wood
 Niki & George Zafiraki
 Eugenia & Dimitris Zannis
 Katherine & George Zannis
 Zella Zannis
 Evangelia Zikos
 Christina & Michael Zistatsis
 Eleanna Zistatsis
 Dimitrios Zistatsis
 Ann Zoukis

Message from Pastoral Assistant Alexander Eliades

Something For All!

Somehow 2020 is already a month old and we most likely are finding ourselves in the same busy cycles as 2019. Our hopes and dreams for 2020 are either rounding into form or disappearing from sight as we just try to stay afloat! Well, to better organize the rest of your “Academic” year, we introduce to you the schedule for our Youth and Young Adult Ministries for Spring 2020:

Young Adult:

Thursday, Feb 6, 7pm: Discussion & Paraklesis
Tuesday, Feb 18, 8pm: Taco Tuesday Bowling (Christown Bowlero)
Friday, March 6, 7pm: Akathist Hymn/Discussion
Saturday, March 28, 9am: Hike (Meet at HT)
Saturday, April 11- Lazarus Saturday Liturgy/Pancake Breakfast/Palm Cross Folding
Friday, April 24, 5pm- Vespers/Discussion/The Yard
Saturday, May 9, 1pm- Black Rock Bouldering Gym/North Mountain Brewing Co.
Friday, May 15, 7pm- Discussion & Paraklesis

Senior GOYA (High School)

Feb. 7-8 (Fri, Sat)- Dance Musician Workshop
Feb. 14-17- FDF Weekend- Good Luck to all the Dancers!
Feb. 22 (Sat) – Saturday of Souls Liturgy and All Youth Day
Feb 28 (Fri) – Phoenix Suns Family Night
Mar. 13 (Fri)- Sr. Goya Meeting/Akathist Hymn (7:00pm) – Church/GOYA room
Mar. 20-21-Lenten Retreat @ HTC
Apr. 11 (Sat)- Lazarus Saturday - 9:00am Liturgy/Pancake Breakfast/Palm Cross Folding
Apr. 17 (Fri)- Good Friday retreat,-All youth at Assumption, 9:00am-12:00pm
April House Meeting/Social: Stay tuned!
May TBD - Jr./Sr Goya Trip
May 17 (Sun)- Graduation Luncheon

Junior GOYA (6-8 Grade)

Feb. 14-17- FDF Weekend- Good Luck to all the Dancers!
Feb. 22 (Sat) – Saturday of Souls Liturgy and All Youth Day
Feb 28 (Fri) – Phoenix Suns Family Night
March House Meeting/Social: (stay tuned!)
Mar. 20-21-Lenten Retreat @ HTC
Apr. 10 (Fri): Hope/Joy/Jr. GOYA monthly event
Apr. 11 (Sat)- Lazarus Saturday - 9:00am Liturgy/Pancake Breakfast/Palm Cross Folding
April House Meeting/Social (stay tuned!)
May 8 (Fri): Hope/Joy/Jr. GOYA monthly event
May TBD - Jr./Sr Goya Trip
May House Meeting (stay tuned!)

HOPE/JOY (Grades 1-5)

Feb. 14-17- FDF Weekend- Good Luck to all the Dancers!
Feb. 22 (Sat) - Saturday of Souls Liturgy and All Youth Day
Feb 28 (Fri) – Phoenix Suns Family Night
March House Meeting/Social: Stay Tuned!
Mar. 27 (Fri): Hope/Joy/Jr. GOYA monthly event/Akathist
Apr. 10 (Fri): Hope/Joy/Jr. GOYA monthly event
Apr. 11 (Sat)- Lazarus Saturday - 9:00am Liturgy/Pancake Breakfast/Palm Cross Folding
April House Meeting/Social: Stay Tuned!
May 8 (Fri): Hope/Joy/Jr. GOYA monthly event
May House Meeting: Stay Tuned!

As you can see we have many events still to be finalized so as always, keep an eye out for details as we come closer. How, you may ask? Well, they will be on all of these mediums: the Bulletin, Newsletter, Website, Email, Instagram, and Facebook. See you around!

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

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!



Volunteers helping with a mailing.

2020 Parish Council

January 19, 2020
Swearing In of the Council



Blessing of the Waters

January 5, 2020



Vasilopita Cutting

January 5, 2020



Myrrhbearer Photo Project

Have you been gathering your photos? Starting in March, 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.



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.



Interested in joining Philoptochos?
Want to learn more?
You are invited to our Membership Tea!
See Page 16 for details.



Thank you to January Hostesses
Connie Venetis and Cathy Chiros Keyser



So soft! Connie Venetis and Patty Davis look at baby blankets hand made by Philoptochos member Deborah that will be given to families at each 40-Days ceremony.

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

Philoptochos Annual Agape Ball

Saturday, January 25, 2020

Hosted at Holy Trinity Cathedral by all four Valley Philoptochos Chapters



Alex Anagnopoulos, Holy Trinity Cathedral's St. Katherine Chapter President (second from right) stands with the other Valley Philoptochos Presidents at the 2020 Agape Ball.

Philoptochos Vasilopita Auction

Sunday, 01/05/2020

Thank you to all who contributed the beautiful vasilopitas to benefit Philoptochos' worthy causes!



2020 Parish Directory!

Look for details soon.



Click here to book your online appointment:

<https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/b6b9m4c6/>

Icon Stand

The 1st Sunday of the Month Women's Ministry Narthex Team presented the Cathedral with an icon stand specially suited for our shortest members! Father Apostolos blessed the icon stand following the Blessing of the Waters on January 5, 2020.



“One Day” Valley-Wide Music Event



Love to Sing?

Meet new friends from the Arizona Orthodox Churches?

Register for the next “One Day” music event!

Saturday, March 14, 2020; 10am – 3pm

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, Phoenix



Enjoy a fun day of fellowship and singing; Lunch included!

Video recording of final performance!

See videos of previous “One Day” events at www.occfellowship.org.

Online Registration opens Monday, February 3, 2020

Ages 8 – 108!



Sponsored by Orthodox Christian Choral Fellowship, an Arizona non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

Music Ministry

by Terri Alexon, Director



O sing unto the Lord a new song; for He has done marvelous things: His right hand, and His holy arm, has gotten Him the victory.

Psalm 98:1

This month, I have asked our Protopsaltis George Duvall and Pastoral Assistant Alexander Eliades to highlight the Byzantine Choir at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. I'm pleased to feature their important message to all who are willing to hear and sing a new song:



An Invitation from St. Caedmon Byzantine Choir

If you happen into Church before Divine Liturgy starts (or listen during communion), you'll hear a different form of singing than you may be used to hearing. Other than Divine Liturgy on Sunday (which is led in singing by our Cathedral Choir), every other service, including weekday Liturgies, are sung by our Byzantine Choir.

As we soon will have two priests, the number of services offered will increase dramatically: Vespers on Saturday nights and before feast days, as well as the number of Liturgies. The Byzantine Choir will be involved in many of these services. This presents us with two opportunities: we will have more occasions to worship, and more opportunities to hear and learn Byzantine Music! Now is your chance to join in and learn this Art and participate more closely in the Divine Services.

Our Byzantine choir sings the hymns of the Church in the form of the "Psaltic Arts," commonly referred to as Byzantine Chant. The roots of this chant form pre-date Christianity and has continued to evolve to the present day. It has been the main form of

Music Ministry Message continued on page 14

Desert Springs February 2020



hymnody for the Orthodox Church since the 6th century when it was first penned in its oldest form of notation by St. John of Damascus.

Traditionally, learning Byzantine Music meant falling “under the wings” of Cantors and taking lessons from them, as well as joining them at the chant stand to see how it all plays out in a real service.

Your chance to join in this tradition comes on Thursday, **January 30th at 6:00pm** in the Music Ministry Library located up in the Cathedral Choir loft! When you attend the classes, you will learn more about the many services of the Church besides the Divine Liturgy, and in the end, you will know the eight different Modes of Byzantine Chant and the musical notation used to sing the hymns. Past musical experience is helpful, but not necessary. If you sign up for the classes, we’d also love you to join us at the chant stand to begin to help read and understand how Byzantine Chant is implemented into a service so you can also join us at Matins on Sundays at 8:15am.

We hope to see you in class and at the chant stand. If you’re interested in the class, please send an email to George Duvall at george.d@cox.net. Also, please visit our website at: <http://stcaedmonschant.org>.

If you cannot attend class on Thursday nights, or want one-on-one lessons to go along with the classes, talk to Alexander Eliades or send him an email at aeliades@holytrinityphx.org. Alexander will gladly meet you outside of class in the Church Office to help you as well.

The Divine Liturgy is Christ God giving Himself to us in the form of His Body and Blood. But this is only part of the Christian experience. The other services of the Church allow us to give to Christ what things we can – thanksgiving, worship, and prayer. Outside of Liturgy, the Church has many services that involve singing literally thousands of hymns and offering up hundreds of prayers. As the Spirit calls us all to perfection, we can enhance our journey, entering into a deeper worshipful experience by learning our traditional system of chant and becoming capable of singing to the Lord that new song.

St. Basil Liturgy

January 1, 2020



St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

By Rita Papaspyrou

The month of February offers us the opportunity to celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord into the Temple as well as the Feast Day of St. Haralambos the Hieromartyr.

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Commemorated on February 2

Another name for this feast is The Meeting of our Lord.



The story of the Presentation is told in Luke 2:22-29. Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews and observed their religious customs. An important custom was for the couple to take their first-born son to the Temple. The baby was taken to the Temple forty days after his birth and was dedicated to God. In addition, if the parents were wealthy, they were to bring a lamb and a young pigeon or a turtle dove to be offered as a sacrifice at the Temple. The custom provided that if the parents were poor, they were to offer two pigeons or two

turtle doves for the sacrifice.

When Jesus was forty days old, Mary and Joseph took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem. They were not wealthy, so they took two turtle doves with them to offer as a sacrifice at the Temple. As they arrived at the Temple, Mary and Joseph were met by a very old man named Simeon. He was a holy man and was noted as a very intelligent scholar. Simeon spent much time studying about the prophets of Israel. It was during his studies that he learned of the coming of the Messiah. The Jewish people were waiting for the Messiah to come and deliver Israel from their conquerors. From that time on, Simeon spent his time praying for the Messiah to come. He spent many years in prayer. Finally, while Simeon was praying he heard the voice of God. God promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah.

When Simeon saw Jesus, he took the baby in his arms and blessed the Lord and said: "Lord, now let Your servant go in peace according to Your promise, because my eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory to your people Israel."

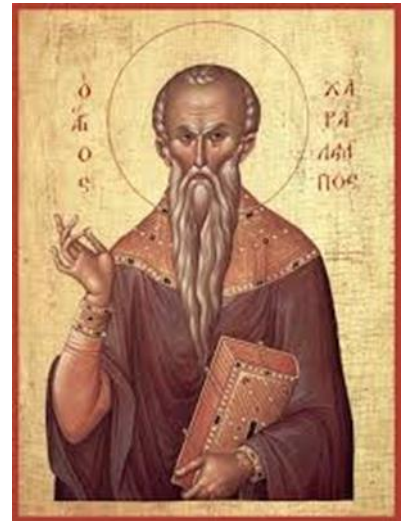
Haralambos (Charalampus) the Hieromartyr

Commemorated on February 10

His name Χαράλαμπος means "glowing with joy" in Greek. It is believed that at the time of his martyrdom in 202, Haralambos was 113 years old. Despite his advanced age, he was tortured mercilessly. He was the bishop of Magnesia and spread the Gospel in that region for many years. However, when news of his preaching reached the authorities of the area, the proconsul Lucian and military commander Lucius, the Saint was arrested and brought to trial, where he confessed his faith in Christ and refused to offer sacrifice to idols. He endured atrocious tortures but held steadfast to his faith.

St. Nectarios Bookstore Message continued on page 16

Lucius, enraged, seized the instruments of torture and began to torture Haralambos himself, but suddenly his forearms were cut off as if by a sword. The governor Lucian then spat in the face of the saint, and immediately Lucian's head was turned around so that he faced backwards. Then Lucius entreated the Saint to show mercy on him, and both torturers were healed through the prayers of Saint Haralambos. During this a multitude of witnesses came to believe in Christ. Among them also was Lucius, who fell at the feet of the holy bishop, asking to be baptized.



The Saint was brought to the emperor Septimius Severus who sentenced him to beheading with a sword. During Saint Haralambos' final prayer, the heavens opened and the saint saw the Savior and a multitude of angels. The holy martyr asked Him to grant that the place where his relics would repose would never suffer famine or disease. He also begged that there would be peace, prosperity, and an abundance of fruit, grain, and wine in that place, and that the souls of these people would be saved. The Lord promised to fulfill his request and ascended to heaven, and the soul of the hieromartyr Haralambos followed after Him. By the mercy of God, the saint died before he could be executed.

Philoptochos Membership Event

*Join us for a
Membership Luncheon
Hosted by
St. Katherine Philoptochos*

Saturday, February 1, 2020
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Alexi's Grill
3550 N. Central Ave., Phoenix

\$55.00 per person

MENU
Mimosa
Greek Salad
Chicken Milano
(Grilled Chicken Breast sautéed in white wine cream
sauce w/sundried tomatoes, mushrooms, basil)
Roasted Red Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables
Limoncello Mascarpone Cake
Tea, Coffee

RSVP no later than January 23, 2020 by visiting
our table in the Community Center after Liturgy
or calling Patty @ 480-703-4713

Holy Trinity Academy

Love and Guidance Promote Brain Growth

By Juli Pritsos

The brain is an amazing, wonderful and complex malleable organ allowing us to learn and think comprehensive concepts, recognize and express feelings, and have creative thoughts. *How does this happen? And why does the brain grow so much and so fast from birth to age five?*

Simply put, the brain is a relational organ and in order for it to meet its utmost potential it depends on positive and repeated experiences and input. If a child's needs are met with empathy, love, and guidance and nurtured by people with a close connection to them the brain is then housed in a positive place that allows all of the information to come in, process, and flourish with positive reinforcement and repetition!

Kerri Kalivas-Rouse couldn't agree more. "My daughter's experience at HTA has been invaluable. She is challenged every day with fun, stimulating material in a warm and nurturing environment. What most stands out about HTA's curriculum to me is the inclusion of fine art, religion, and Greek language. I love that my daughter is exposed to rich cultural content in an accessible way. The teachers at HTA always engage children with affection and respect, and regularly surprise me with their creative and thoughtful approach to education."

We realize that when a child comes into our school it is generally their first time away from home and that a loving and caring environment is essential for a positive school experience. Offering a number of ways to learn through interesting and thoughtful experiences, ensures that each child learns at their own pace and excels to the best of their abilities. The combination results with a happy child and happy parents!

Take a tour and witness what an amazing program we have! I am confident that you will like what you see. After all it doesn't hurt to look.

NOW ENROLLING!



**HTA's rich curriculum
emphasizes a strong academic
foundation developing curiosity
and a love of learning!**

Small Class Sizes

AZDHS Licensed Preschool

Full Day Kindergarten

Safe and Caring Environment

Fine Art, Music and Gardening Programs

Greek Language

Affordable Before and After Care

602.248.3881



1973 E. Maryland Ave. Phx, AZ 85016

htaphx.org

HTA will host Coffee Hour during the month of February. Stop by our information table to learn more about HTA's unique program and meet our fabulous teachers.

Mark Your Calendars

FAITH FULFILLMENT: THE LITURGY CLASS

Faith Fulfillment: The Liturgy, for those interested in the Orthodox Church or parishioners wanting to engage more with their faith, meets on **Monday evenings** in the Administration Conference Room.



ORTHODOX COLLEGE MINISTRY

Our Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) ministry on the ASU campus meets every Tuesday evening during the school year 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.

2020 Directory—SAVE THE DATE(S) FOR THE 2020 HOLY TRINITY DIRECTORY!

Don't be left out, be sure to sign up for your Lifetouch Photography session to have your photo included in the 2020 Directory. You will receive: One FREE 8 X 10 standard print, and a free printed Holy Trinity 2020 directory. **Bonus!** FREE Shutterfly gift with a purchase from the Lifetouch Photographers who will be onsite in March to photograph your family, the scheduled dates are on **March 6, 7, 12, 13 & 14th**. Stop by the table in the Community Center after church any *Sunday in February* to sign up for your time slot OR you can also go to . If you have any questions, please email Donna Manelis at donnamanelis@outlook.com or call 602-315-2408.

PICK UP BASKETBALL

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



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!

January Epistle Readers



Not pictured:
Gabriel Gonzales
Eva Vardalos

Includes photos by Presvytera Denise

Coffee Hour

Thank you to **Dance** for sponsoring Coffee Hours in January.

The February Coffee Hours will be sponsored by **Holy Trinity Academy**.



PEORIA GREEKFEST

2020 Food & Dance Festival

Friday
February 7
4pm to 10pm

Saturday
February 8
11am to 10pm

Sunday
February 9
11am to 7pm

Authentic Homemade Greek Food & Pastries
Live Greek Music • Live Folk Dancing
Market Place • Children's Activities

General Admission: **\$3** | Children & Active Military: **FREE**

St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
 7950 W Pinnacle Peak Rd, Peoria, 85383
www.peoriagreekfest.com | follow us on Facebook | 623-486-8665
No Weapons or Pets Allowed

APOKRIS 2020!

Greek Mardi Gras - Costume Party -
Dinner - Dance
 Live music by **SYNTHESIS**
 Saturday, February 29, 2020
 Cash bar 6 pm | Dinner at 7 pm

Mesa Country Club
 660 W. Fairway Drive | Mesa, AZ 85201

50/50 Cash Raffle

Silent Auction

Best costume prizes for male, female & child

Proceeds to benefit the Arizona Hellenic Foundation's scholarship fund.
azhellenic.org

TICKETS
 Adults - \$60
 12 and Under - \$20
(Chicken Tenders)
 Call Telis Evripidou
 @ 480-332-6957

Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners
and their guests



Dear Desert Diamonds & Friends,

Greetings to All,

Come one & all for our **Valentine's Day Potluck** celebration at Holy Trinity's Fellowship Hall. Please mark your calendars for **Friday, February 14th at 11:30am.**

Bring you're Sweetheart (if you have one), if not we have plenty of single adults to enjoy Fellowship with!

Those that attended our luncheon at the Golden Creek Restaurant had a wonderful time. The owners were very accommodating & the food was excellent!

Please let me know if you are attending & what you will be bringing.

Warm regards,
Julie Karoutas

RSVP, talk or text: 623-313-8720 or
email: juliekaroutas@gmail.com



Golden Creek Restaurant
January 16, 2020

Photos by Julie Karoutas

Our Church Family

Wedding

*"Oh Lord our God, crown them
with glory and honour."*

01/18/2020

Jean Kantaros & William King

Sponsors: Georgianna Vasilas & Constantine Tzavaras
God's Blessings be upon them.



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*



01/07/2020

Emily N. Kruljac

May her memory be eternal.

01/21/2020

Pantelis Leventis

May his memory be eternal.

01/22/2020

Tom Pastis

May his memory be eternal.

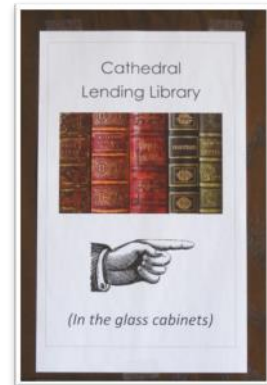
Congratulations to St. Haralambos!

Mortgage Burning Celebration, January 11, 2020



Narthex Library

New Books and Videos Added!



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!



Maintenance Corner

Submitted by Ted Fourlis

The Maintenance Committee is seeking monetary donations to help purchase tool and equipment. We are in the process of designing and building out our maintenance room. We have a large campus with many maintenance needs to be addressed. Your monetary donations will help us buy the tools and equipment we need to keep our processes going. Please send all donations to the Cathedral with Maint in the memo. Thank you for your assistance.



Ted Fourlis
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
602-625-8835
htcmaintenance1973@gmail.com

Follow Holy Trinity Cathedral on Facebook

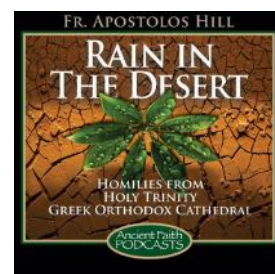
The page offers news of our Parish Community, in addition to offering links to podcasts and videos of many of our services.



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!

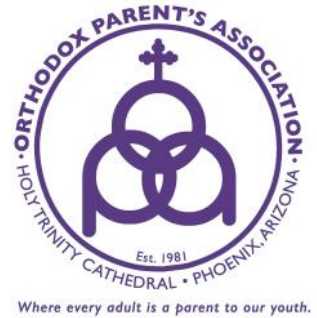
There are weekly video tapings of the Matins, Liturgy and special services posted by Daniel and Joshua Pardhe on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) and through the links on the [website](#).



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

OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

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



OPA wishes everyone a Joyful, Happy and Blessed 2020!!!

January is off to a good start. The OPA board met on Jan. 12, 2020. We discussed January and February youth events. Alexander has taken a lead role in organizing and planning events for the Hope, Joy, Jr. and Sr. Goya. He is doing a great job planning and executing the events with help from the young adults in our community.

Hope, Joy and Jr. Goya continue to meet on the 3rd Friday of each month for fellowship, fun and connecting with our Orthodox Faith. Sr. Goya meets on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 7:00pm in the GOYA room to plan monthly events.

The OPA newsletter is updated weekly with current times and meeting locations. A big thank you to Caroline Economopoulos for doing such a wonderful job keeping information current.

The Assumption Winter Retreat was Jan. 17-19 in Prescott, Az. Fr. Jacob from Assumption led the retreat. It was a beautiful weekend in Prescott where young adults and Sr. GOYAn's spent time in Faith, Fellowship and building Friendships. It is so nice to have our churches coming together to grow in our Faith!

Much Love,
Paulina and Dianna
OPA c/o Presidents

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 OPA Board!

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

Dance Soup & Salad Luncheon and FDF Performance

Sunday, January 26, 2020



OPA Co-Presidents Dianna and Paulina serve up the Avgolemono at the annual Soup & Salad event.

The Three Groups Going to FDF 2020:



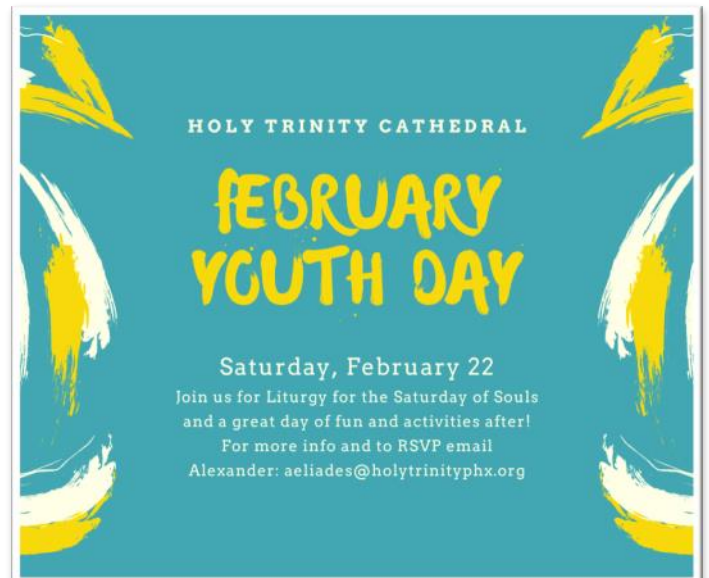
Dance Diakonia Project with Philoptochos



Dance and Philoptochos partnered up to create mats out of plastic bags.



Campfire!



January Hope & JOY

AHEPA Chapter 219



CHAPTER 219 AWARDS \$12,500 IN SCHOLARSHIPS



2019 - 2020 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

PHOTO BY NICK MAYDANIS

STANDING: COSTA TZAVARAS (CHAPTER 219 PRESIDENT), FR. APOSTOLOS HILL, TIM FLOOR, (AHEPA ECF, INC. PRESIDENT) DAN BICHEKAS, MATTHEW DYE, DEMETRIOS PICKETT, BRANDON FLOOR, NICHOLAS FLOOR, CONSTANTINE PAPADOPOULOS, ABIGAIL PASLIDIS, ALEXANDRA PASLIDIS (REPRESENTED BY THEIR BROTHER YANNI PASLIDIS), CHRIS JOHNSON, ANGIE LAMBROU (DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE HELENOS CHAPTER 432 PRESIDENT), ED WEISS (ECF SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN), AND JOHN KOSTARAS (AHEPA 219 CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD).

SEATED: MADELINE FRANKEL, SUSAN PAPADOPOULOS, KATERINA NICOLOPOULOS, ELENI PAPADOPOULOS, VICKI BICHEKAS, NICOLE JOHNSON (REPRESENTED BY HER PARENTS MARGARET JOHNSON AND CHRIS JOHNSON), ELENI DEBICKERO, AND ALYSSA LEMERE.

AHEPA Chapter 219



CELEBRATE WITH US!
AHEPA CHAPTER 219
AWARDS NIGHT

*A Chapter Celebration with
AHEPA Special Guests*

FEBRUARY 13, 2020

6:00PM COCKTAILS

7:00 PM DINNER

8:15 AWARDS

**HOLY TRINITY GREEK
ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
JAMES A SPEROS
COMMUNITY CENTER**

OPEN BAR WITH 4 COURSE - 5 STAR MEAL

**\$80 per Couple or
\$45 per person**

RSVP no later than February 3, 2020 to:

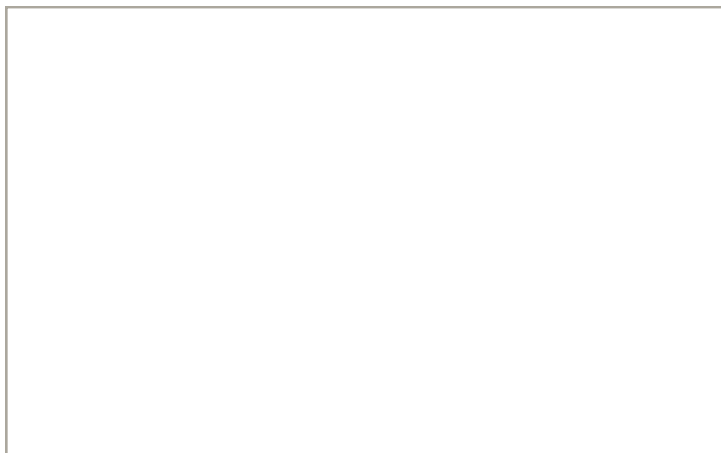
John Kostaras: 480.318.1935

or jkostaras61@gmail.com

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW - LIMITED SEATING

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: _____