February 2021 Volume 6 Issue 2



Rev. Economos Apostolos Hill Rev. Alexander Eliades Rev. Deacon John Thrasher

Office Hours: Monday–Thursday, 9:00am–3:00pm

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

Desert Springs Staff

Rev. Apostolos Hill, Theological Advisor/Editor-In-Chief Kristen Vasilarakos, Layout/Composition 602-332-8809, kvasilarakos@cox.net

Desert Springs DeadlineThe 25th of each month

Sunday Bulletin Deadline Wednesdays, 12 noon

Church Office Email Addresses
Father Apostolos Hill
htpriest@holytrinityphx.org
papoulihill@gmail.com

Father Alexander Eliades aelides@holytrinityphx.org

Office Manager AdminAssist@holytrinityphx.org

Church Front Desk <a href="https://htt

Church Caretakers
Terry, Paul, and Dimitri Valonis

Holy Trinity Bookstore info@stnectariosphx.org

2021 Parish Council Members

Paul Katsenes—President
Connie Contes—Vice President
Jim Manelis—Treasurer
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Socrates Papadopoulos

Holy Trinity Cathedral Website www.holytrinityphx.org

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

Archdiocese Website www.goarch.org

Organization Contacts

- AHEPA Col. Mike Torrealday: tdayf16@cox.net
- All Saints Camp Evan Tsagaris: etsagaris89@gmail.com
- Altar Servers Deacon John Thrasher, David Haag, Chris Francis: thrasheraz@cox.net, davidmhaag@yahoo.com, battersbox7@yahoo.com
- Bible Study Father Apostolos Hill: papoulihill@gmail.com
- Bookstore Rita Papaspyrou: <u>rzakher@gmail.com</u>
- Byzantine Choir George Duvall: phxchantor@cox.net
- Choir Terri Alexon: <a href="http://https:
- Dance Niko Panagiotakopoulos: <u>npanos01@yahoo.com</u>
- Daughters of Penelope Angie Lambrou: angie.lambrou@cox.net
- Desert Diamonds (50+) Julie Karoutas: <u>juliekaroutas@gmail.com</u>
- Epistle Readers Presvytera Denise Hill: <u>denkevhill83@gmail.com</u>
- Family Wellness Lindsay Vardalos, Leah Venetis
- Feed Those in Need Christine Stamatis: cstamatis@cox.net
- Greek Festival Nick Kretsedemas, Angelo Pestrivas: niko.37@cox.net
- Greek School Irene Mackos: eirinie@gmail.com
- Hellenic Museum Bessie Hotis: call 602-953-1913
- Holy Trinity Academy Parochial School Juli Pritsos: julipritsos@holytrinityacademyphx.org
- HOPE & JOY Nikki Forman: ntheo426@hotmail.com
- Little Lambs Angela Scopelianos: angelagarozzo@gmail.com
- Maintenance Peter Bilitsis, Ted Fourlis: <a href="https://
- Myrrhbearers Stacey Beaty, Kathy Choukalas Tropea: <u>tropea5@q.com</u>
- Narthex Outreach Kristen Vasilarakos: kvasilarakos@cox.net
- OPA Paulina Watson, Dianna Scaccia: <u>paulinawatson25@gmail.com</u>, <u>discaccia@gmail.com</u>
- Parish Council Jim Manelis: jmanelis@aol.com
- Philoptochos Alex Anagnopoulos: <u>aanagnopoulos2@msn.com</u>
- Safety & Security Paul Katsenes, Socrates Papadopoulos: pkatsenes@cox.net
- Sons of Pericles Greg Vassiliou, Ted Fourlis: sonsofpericles283@gmail.com
- Jr. & Sr. GOYA Karla DeLord, Jacque Petroulakis: kpdelord@msn.com, jacquepetro@icloud.com
- Stewardship Sandy Meris: sandymeris@gmail.com
- **Sunday School** Kalli Schneider: kalliopischneider@gmail.com
- 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

Eros



I mark the passing of the seasons in the candy aisle. My favorite moment is when clearance Christmas candy is nestled beside conversation Hearts for Valentine's Day and Reese's peanut butter Easter eggs, a trio of sugary treats! We skip over St. Patrick's Day only because no festive candies are closely associated with it.

Seasonal Charlie Brown videos also mark the passing of the seasons as we cue up "Be My Valentine, Charlie Brown," featuring Charlie Brown's perennial crush on the Little Red-Haired Girl and Linus's unrequited love for his teacher, Ms. Othmar as he angrily throws the chocolates he'd hoped to give his teacher into the river, shouting such gems as "This is for 'how do I love thee!"

St. Valentine's Day (and let's not forget that the holiday is dedicated to the memory of the 3rd century Christian Martyr priest) affords us the chance to

examine the degree to which our own relational pursuits are governed and motivated by love. We understand that there are differing types of 'love' mentioned in Holy Scripture; from love for family (*Storge*), love for friends (*Philia*), universal love (*Agape*), and intimate love, (*Eros*) a love as applicable between wedded spouses as between ourselves and God.

In the Prayers Before Holy Communion, we utter the following words, perhaps mechanically; "You have smitten me with yearning, O Christ, and by Your Divine Eros you have changed me..." But how can we speak of the love of Christ for his Church in such a way? St. John provided an answer when he described his apocalyptic vision; "And I saw the holy city of Jerusalem (the Church) coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband." (Rev. 21:2)

Every time I vest myself to serve the Divine Liturgy, I quote the Prophet Isaiah (61:10) as I don my sticharion: "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."

This stands to reason as we recall that the Eucharist is an image of the Marriage Feast of the Lamb, that celebration where Christ, the Bridegroom, feeds His Bride, the Church, his own flesh. St. Symeon the New Theologian's magnificent classic work "Hymns of Divine Love" only magnifies our discomfort; "By what boundless mercy, my Savior, have you allowed me to become a member of your body? Me, the unclean, the defiled, the prodigal. How is it that you have clothed me with the brilliant garment, Radiant with the splendor of immortality, that turns all my members into light? Your body, immaculate and divine, is all radiant with the fire of your divinity, with which it is ineffably joined and combined. This is the gift you have given me, my God: That this mortal and shabby frame Has become One with your immaculate body and that my blood has been mingled with your blood. I sense too that here I have been made one with your divinity, and have even become your own most pure body: A brilliant member lucidly transparent, Luminous and holy. I see the beauty of it all, I can gaze upon your radiance. I have become a reflection of the light of your grace." (Hymn 2)

Christ gives Himself to us without reservation or condition, "And the Spirit and the Bride (the Church) say 'Come!' And let the one who hears say 'Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost." (Rev. 22:17) This final Invitation in the Bible echoes earlier passages such as this from the 42nd Psalm: "As the deer pants for water brooks, so my soul pants after You God, my soul thirsts for God, the living God."

Yet, when we encounter such prayers and passages from holy scripture, do they strike a chord within us or, rather, seem dissonant to us? If the latter, you are not alone. For generations, the Christian faith has been sorely mischaracterized as just another behavioral code, a lifeless, loveless twilight of grim religious obligation bleached of its transformational potency as St. Paul forewarned St. Timothy of those who "have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof." (2 Tim. 3:5)

Cast adrift from the divine Eros of Christ, estranged from the Wedding Feast represented in the Holy Eucharist, we begin to resemble disaffected partners in a dry and loveless marriage; content to "stay together" for the sake of form or "for the children," but with the fire of passion long quenched within us. St. John's account of the dictated letters to the seven Churches of Asia Minor begins with this warning to Ephesus; "But I have this against you, that you have left your first love."

Is it possible to fall out of love with God in the same way it is possible in a marriage? Through neglect, indifference, absorption with oneself and one's needs, the objectification of the other, or for other reasons? To fall out of love with our spouses may imperil our marriages. To fall out of love with God will imperil our very souls. But there is a remedy.

Marriage encounter weekends seek to reacquaint spouses with each other by remembrance, honesty, transparent communication, sincere repentance where needed, with time spent together intentionally, and by clearing the marriage of the detritus of neglect. It is difficult to remain committed to a stranger but love can be rekindled within open hearts. It is in the heart that this needful work must be done. Marriage counselors frequently insist that spouses keep a weekly date night to set aside as inviolable a regular opportunity to work on the relationship. The Holy Eucharist provides us with such an opportunity.

As we celebrate this holiday dedicated to love, albeit of the sappy Hallmark Channel variety, let's embrace it as a catalyst to reconsider the vitality of our love for Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom of the Church, and recommit to strengthening our union with Him!

Rev. Father Apostolos Hill Dean

Vasilopita Cutting

January 3, 2021







Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

EXCITING CHANGES YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF

Our Stewardship committee is hard at work to make exciting changes that will positively impact our parishioners and our ministries.

Parish Communications

One of the most exciting changes will be giving new, updated looks to our modes of communications including our Sunday bulletin, Desert Springs newsletter and emails. You can still expect to see beautiful photos and in depth articles in the Desert Springs and important weekly news in the Sunday bulletin but they will be packaged in a more cohesive, clean design.

You can expect to see the first rollout in the Sunday bulletin in the coming weeks.

Learning and Improving Through Workshops

Our stewardship committee, parish council and ministry leaders all participated in a workshop with one of our Archdiocese's most respected experts on all things relating to stewardship, leadership and parishioner engagement. Mr. Bill Marianis from Georgia gave us a Zoom workshop to remember. We are learning how to work together to create a more engaging church family and work to better serve our Cathedral and our parishioners.

We will soon be sharing what we have learned and what we hope to accomplish, together as a

church family. We believe Holy Trinity Cathedral is primed for growth!



Stewardship 2021 Challenge Update

To the more than 100 Holy Trinity families who have taken part in our first stewardship challenge we thank you! Our challenge has two parts:

- 1. Participation from 100% of our parishioners to submit your 2021 pledge cards by January 31st.
- 2. "Round Up" your 2021 pledge over your 2020 pledge.

And if you have yet to fill out your 2021 pledge card we ask that you please do so today! Fill it out and submit online by going to: www.holytrinityphx.org. Click on "Stewardship" in the upper right hand corner. Click on "Pledge Card," fill out and submit. Then you may select to make your contributions through easy,

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

Welcome

Get in Touch

automated payments through WeShare or you can choose to pay by cash or check.

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Alex Anagnopoulos, President

"FRIENDS OF THE POOR"

An organization where membership is an honor & a privilege. **IOIN & ENRICH YOUR LIFE!**



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

Reminder that 2021 dues are due.

Next Meeting on Thursday, February 4, 2021 6:00pm by ZOOM

श्राव्य

Practice ZOOM!
Wednesday, February 3, 2021
7-8pm, see email for instructions

JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS 2021

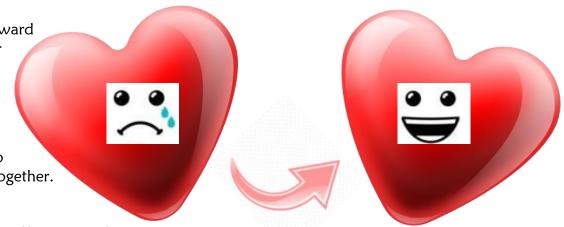
St. Katherine's Philoptochos of HTC Membership 2021, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

We miss you!

Philoptochos looks forward to when we can gather together again, so that we can turn our sad faces happy!

In the meantime, we have a few fun ideas to keep our community together.



2021 SHARE Challenge Ideas:

1. Wear RED on Sunday, February 14th!

We may not be gathering for a Champagne Luncheon as in the past, but how about we still wear something **red**? We are encouraging our whole community to participate, not just Philoptochos members! If you are not attending Divine Liturgy, snap a selfie or gather your family—either wearing red or holding something red—and send the photos to kvasilarakos@cox.net or by text to 602-332-8809.

2. Send a Valentine!

Is there a parishioner you miss seeing in the pews? A senior you know is homebound? Someone who could use a smile? Send a valentine of your own or print and use the valentine on the last page of this issue. You can remain anonymous as typical of valentines, or add a note. Another idea: screenshot the valentine in this issue and send it out by email! Share the love!



Your 2021 Parish Council

Sunday, January 17, 2021



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.



Epiphany

Blessing of the Waters Wednesday, January 6, 2021



Photos by Presvytera Denise

Sunday School

January 31, 2021



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

New! All services can now be found on the **Home Page** of the Cathedral's website

www.holytrinityphx.org,

in addition to the continued postings on our Facebook page.

Thank you to Tom Giatron and Joshua Pardhe for their above-andbeyond efforts to bring clear and timely video to all!



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	

Endowment Fund

+ HOLY TRINITY ENDOWMENTS +

The Holy Trinity Endowments Investment committee is deeply grateful for the \$24,200.00 in donations received in 2020, from Ange Pappas, Athena Choukalas, and the DeMoss families. The earnings and appreciation in the Endowment funds has provided over \$200,000.00 to help reduce the outstanding mortgage, and has provided other funds to benefit the ministries of the Church. Please consider The Endowments in your charitable giving and estate plans so as to leave a legacy of you and your family in the future of Holy Trinity. We are extremely thankful to all those who in the past have come forward with their generous gifts.

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. Halv Trinity Greek Arthodax Cathedral + 1973 F Maryland Phaenix A7 85M6

+REMEMBER THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL+

Bible Study

Fr. Apostolos Re-starts Bible Study!

Join Fr. Apostolos in his Bible Study on ZOOM every **Saturday at 9am!**

The study is titled "Experiencing the Psalms" and will provide an in-depth survey of how the Psalter came to be over 1,000 years by multiple authors, how the Psalms were used in worship in the Old Testament, and how they are used in Orthodox Worship today.

We will examine how to incorporate the Psalms into our Rules of Daily Prayer and how to navigate them as our personal prayer book.

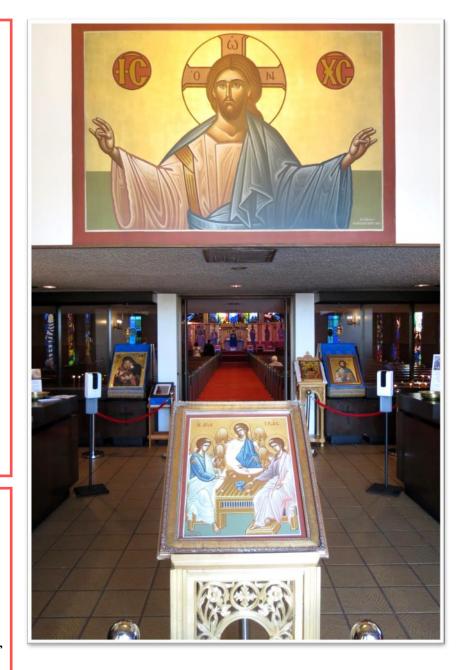
Zoom ID is 84203179482 and the Password is 026451

Divine Liturgy Class

Fr. Alexander Class on the Divine Liturgy

Join us on Mondays at 7pm on ZOOM as we begin to dissect the Divine Liturgy. We will see the development and history of the Liturgy as well as doing a "prayer-by-prayer" of the center of our life as Orthodox Christians.

Zoom ID is 360 179 3722 and the password is HTPhoenix



Narthex Ministry

Passing on the know-how.







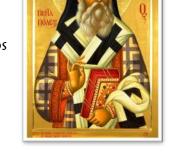
St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

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 2nd 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.

Joseph and Mary 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."

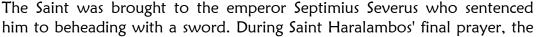
Haralambos (Charalampus) the Hieromartyr

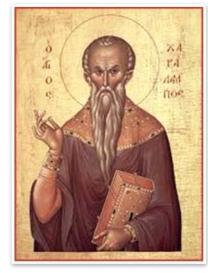
Commemorated on February 10

His name $X\alpha p \acute{\alpha}\lambda \alpha \mu \pi o \varsigma$ 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.

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.





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.

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.

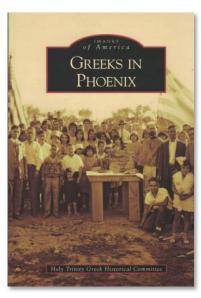
The Historical Museum

By Bessie Hotis

Do you recognize anyone in this photo? Many of the children are still members of Holy Trinity! Andy Limber, Katherine Johnson Pederson, Gus Theodoropoulos, Mary Louise Gannis Theodoropoulos and Alexandra Tsokatos Anagnopoulos are pictured. Also shown in the photo is our first permanent priest, Rev. Ieronimos Koutroulis.



This 1947 photograph shows the ground-breaking for the Hellenic Orthodox church built adjacent to the Community House. Services were held at the church until 1973, when the parish moved to their new church at 1973 E. Maryland Avenue.



This photo, along with many others, is in the book *Greeks in Phoenix* (shown left) which is available for purchase. Contact Bessie Hotis at 602-953-1913 for purchase information.

Our museum, which was established over a decade ago, has many vintage photos that portray the Greeks who came to Phoenix in the early 1900s. With hard work and commitment to their faith, they raised enough money to build the original Community House at 333 E. Virginia Avenue.

Also in the museum, this altar door from Virginia Avenue (shown right).



Our Church Family

40 Day Blessing

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



01/06/2021

Evie, daughter of Alexia and Alexi Panagiotakopoulos God's Blessings be upon her.

Baptisms

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



01/30/2021

Lane Michael Pritsos (Chris), son of Meikeann Miller & Constantinos Pritsos Godparent: Peter Schneider God's Blessings be upon him.

01/30/2021

Thera Kathryn Pritsos (Kathryn), daughter of Jennifer & Michael Pritsos Godparent: Kathryn Schwab God's Blessings be upon her

Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners and their guests

Dear Desert Diamonds & Friends,



Happy & Healthy New Year!!!!!! Praying that you are all well and staying safe.

I am sure that most of us are weary from all the isolation and are waiting to resume the Fellowship that we have shared in the past before Covid hit us!!!!

I am planning a tentative, Valentine's Day Brunch, for our Desert Diamonds Ministry if our situation keeps improving. It will be kept safe & follow the Health rules. I have a few locations in mind that offer outdoor patios. More details to follow as we see how we stand for safety.

I would like to hear from you if you have any suggestions, email address, phone number corrections or additions to our list.

God's blessings to one and All.

Yours in Christ, Julie Karoutas

email: juliekaroutas@gmail.com

cell: 623-313-8720 call, text, or message with

your name & names of guests

Follow HTC on Facebook

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



Rain In The Desert

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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.

Greek School

Irene Dartoozos Mackos, Director Gabriella Papatzimas, Teacher

Holy Trinity Greek Heritage School of Phoenix

GREEK NEW YEAR'S TRADITIONS

- Cutting the Vasilopita and finding the flouri
- Playing Cards
- Hanging onions
- Pomegranate smashing
- Entering your home with your right foot
- Singing Carols

All these are Greek traditions our Greek and Heritage School learned and experienced this month in Greek School.

A special cake called the "Vasilopita" or St. Basil's Pie in which a "flouri" or lucky coin has been baked on New Year's Day in honor of St. Basil. The one who finds the "flouri" in their piece will have good luck all the forthcoming year.

One of the oldest traditions and is still popular until this day. Children playing the triangle and singing the *kalanda* go around their neighborhood. It is a custom to give children money when they come to your door and is considered good luck.

After the New Year's Day church service, some families return home and hang up an onion inside the house, a tradition to make sure that the new year is filled with many blessings and good luck.

Some people choose to go out and celebrate New Year's Eve, others stay at home with friends and family. Greeks believe that the New Year is the time for good luck and fortune therefore many choose to play cards or even the lottery.

Early in the morning on New Year's Day usually a child does the "podariko" or first-footing with their right foot. The first person that enters the house is considered to bring luck to its owners. Another, interesting tradition surrounding New Year's in Greece is smashing a pomegranate in front of the home as a means to make way for good fortune in the coming year.



Click here to watch the video.

AHEPA Chapter 219

MEETING INFORMATION



Due to ongoing health directives and parish protocols, AHEPA Saguaro Chapter 219 will postpone their Annual Awards
Banquet and combine it with next year's. The next Chapter meeting is tentatively scheduled for 11 March, 2021 but stand by for updates.

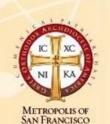
INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?
CONTACT STEVE LEMERE
770-990-6825

A Lenten Journey

Volunteer Opportunity for High School and College Students

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity that connects you to your faith? Become a volunteer today!

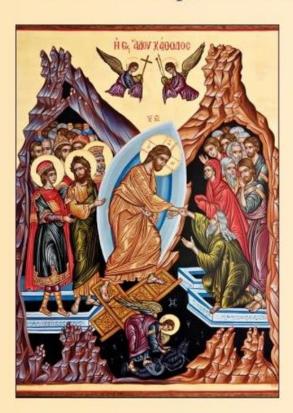
A Lenten Journey



TO GREAT AND

HOLY PASCHA

Metropolis-wide Youth Religious Education Program



- · 11-week virtual youth Religious Education program
- · Pre-Kindergarten through 8th Grade
- Lessons will include key themes of the liturgical cycle beginning with the Triodion, continuing into Great Lent, through Holy Week and concluding with Holy Pascha.
- Classes will be held on Zoom every Sunday beginning February 21 from 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. PST. The last session will be held on Good Friday, April 30.
- Sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis
 of San Francisco Christian Education Ministry, in
 collaboration with the Orthodox Youth Mentorship
 Program of Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox
 Church in Camarillo, CA.
- A team of volunteer teachers will engage students with lessons, activities, and service projects. High school and college students will participate as mentors and activity leaders.
- Register Today! There is no cost to attend, but registration is required, prior to Friday, February 5, 2021.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to participate in insightful lessons, activities and service projects, all designed to enrich their Lenten journey and prepare them for the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection," stated His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco. "Our children deserve the best opportunities to be empowered with knowledge on their faith, and especially during these times of ongoing physical separation, this program creates an opportunity to enhance fellowship and friendships from across our Metropolis."







For more information visit:

www.religioused.sanfran.goarch.org

or contact Program Coordinator Maria Tangalos at mariatangalos@gmail.com.

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 602-740-3950 Paulinawatson25@gmail.com

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















Did You Know...

The first "Greek Hour" on the radio in Phoenix was started in 1953, Heard at 3:00pm every Sunday afternoon on KRUX Radio (1360 AM), broadcasting from Glendale, the program featured recorded Greek music and community news. The spoken segments were aired in Greek by GOYA President Andy Limber and in English by Jenny Pappas. The youth members of the time, all around 16 to 18, produced, wrote, and aired the show, as well as selling advertising time and writing the commercials.

-from the book *Greeks in Phoenix*

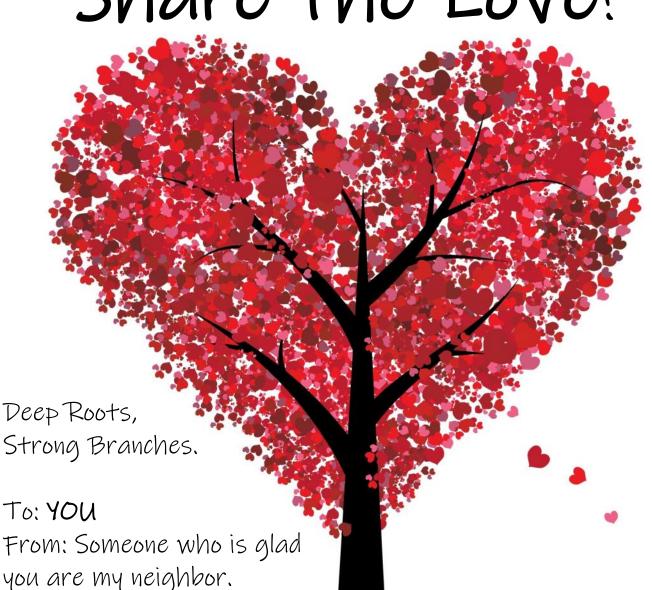


Jesus replied, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is equally as important: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39

Holy Trinity Cathedral's St. Katherine Chapter of Philoptochos

Challenge 2021:

Share the Love!



To: YOU

From: Someone who is glad you are my neighbor.