

# Desert Springs

December 2023  
Volume 8 Issue 11



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

Office: 602-264-7863 Fax: 602-230-9099 Website: [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)

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

**Office Hours:**

Monday–Friday, 9:00am–3:00pm

**Sunday Worship**

8:00am Orthros

9:30am Divine Liturgy

**Desert Springs Staff**

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Theological Advisor/Editor-In-Chief  
Kristen Vasilarakos, Layout/Composition  
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**Desert Springs Deadline**

The 25th of each month

**Sunday Bulletin Deadline**

Wednesdays, 12 noon

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Terry, Paul, and Dimitri Valonis

Holy Trinity Bookstore  
[info@stnectariosphx.org](mailto:info@stnectariosphx.org)

**2023 Parish Council Members**

President: Paul Katsenes

Vice President: Connie Contes

Treasurer: Jim Manelis

Secretary: Andi Furlis

Sandy Annos, Charlie DeMoss,  
Alexander Harding, Jill Leach,  
Chris Petroulakis, John Schneider

**Holy Trinity Cathedral**  
[www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)

**Metropolis of San Francisco**  
[www.SanFran.goarch.org](http://www.SanFran.goarch.org)

**Archdiocese Website**  
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## Organization Contacts

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- **Bible Study** — Father Apostolos Hill: [papoulihill@gmail.com](mailto:papoulihill@gmail.com)
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- **Dance** — Niko Panagiotakopoulos: [npanos01@yahoo.com](mailto:npanos01@yahoo.com)
- **Daughters of Penelope** — Julie Karoutas: [juliekaroutas@gmail.com](mailto:juliekaroutas@gmail.com)
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- **Greek School** — Irene Mackos: [eirinie@gmail.com](mailto:eirinie@gmail.com)
- **Hellenic Museum** — Bessie Hotis: call 602-953-1913
- **Little Lambs** — Deborah Harrison: [14dharrison@gmail.com](mailto:14dharrison@gmail.com)
- **Living Orthodox** — Mary Pardhe: [livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com](mailto:livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com)
- **Maintenance** — Peter Bilitsis, Ted Furlis: [htcmaintenance1973@gmail.com](mailto:htcmaintenance1973@gmail.com)
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- **Wedding Coordinator** — Lindsay Vardalos: [lvardalos@gmail.com](mailto:lvardalos@gmail.com)
- **YAL** — Mary Pardhe: [livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com](mailto:livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com)

## Attention Organizations:

Please check the listings on this page and confirm that the information is correct. Email is the default contact type, but listings can be changed to text or phone if preferred. Email any changes to both the Office at [AdminAssist@holytrinityphx.org](mailto:AdminAssist@holytrinityphx.org) and Kristen at [kvasilarakos@cox.net](mailto:kvasilarakos@cox.net). *It is the organization's responsibility to inform Heidi, Yvonne, and Kristen of any updates to your listing.*



# Message from Father Alexander

## “That’ll Do”



We respect our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters highly but one of the many things that has always bothered me on their terminology of attending church services is “obligation.” Fulfilling one’s “Sunday obligation” is mandatory. Now, they themselves admit this is a poor term, one shouldn’t feel obligated to worship God but should desire Him. Nonetheless we Orthodox often “borrow” this terminology ourselves. Particularly this year when Christmas falls on Monday and Christmas Eve a Sunday, we may feel that simply attending Christmas Eve Morning “will do,” our “obligation” to God being fulfilled and we can continue on with our “real festivities.”

Where to begin?! We simply cannot call ourselves Orthodox Christians if we do not make worshipping the God who Took Flesh For Us a priority on the “holiday” that specifically denotes this! Christmas is not about giving, family time, dinner, gift opening, going to the movies, shopping, cozy nights, and decorations. These should be by-products and secondary to celebrating that our God was born of a woman, in a cold cave, as a baby, and suffered all these things out of His love for us to eternally save us.

So when we consciously decide on Christmas Eve, and especially Christmas morning, to not attend worship for the literal reason for the season we *clearly* make God second to all these other things. Christ is clear on what happens here. “He who loves these more than me is not worthy of me.” When we come to our usual Sunday morning and say “that’ll do,” ponder a minute on what that truly means. Ponder a minute on the message you send to your children, and especially to yourselves.

For God, it will never “do.” We say over and over “To Him belongs ***all glory, honor, and worship.***” Not “That’ll do.” When God condescends to come to earth from His Heavenly Throne and take on our humanity, be born as a helpless baby crying in cold Bethlehem that will never do.

This Christmas don’t think about what will fulfill your “obligation” to Church. Think about how you can worship and give thanks to God the most for all His salvific acts for us. Truly attempt to come to all these services to fully worship and honor Christ:

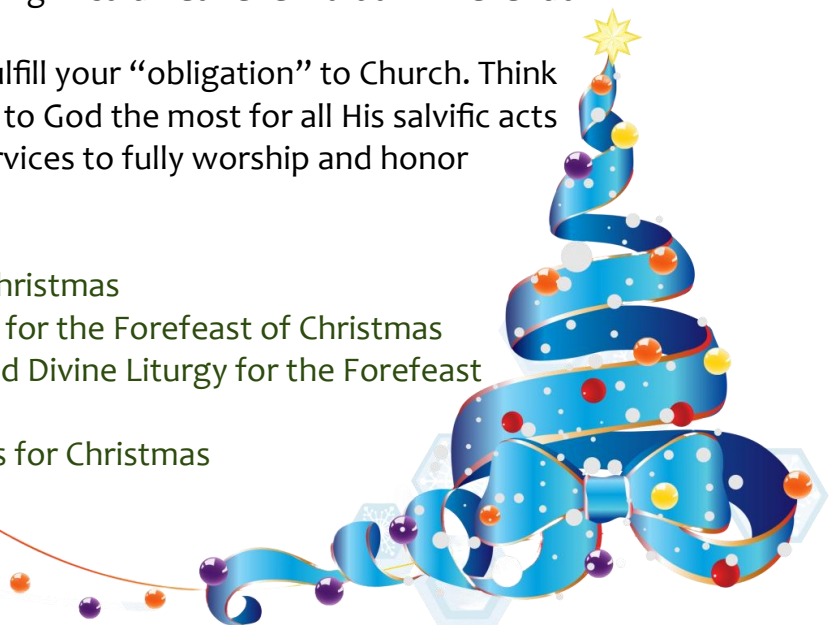
**Friday, December 22, 8am:** Royal Hours of Christmas

**Saturday, December 23, 5pm:** Great Vespers for the Forefeast of Christmas

**Sunday, December 24, 8/9:30am:** Orthros and Divine Liturgy for the Forefeast of Christmas

**6pm:** Liti and Orthros for Christmas

**Monday, December 25, 8am:** Divine Liturgy



# Stewardship

By Sandy Meris



## STEWARDSHIP 2024

**“Well done, good & faithful servant”**

*Matthew 25:23*

**“To be a welcoming community, sharing Christ’s love through faith and service.”**

It is with a grateful heart that I welcome you to Stewardship 2024 that embodies the theme, “Well done, good & faithful servant.” (Matthew 25:23). I cannot think of a more appropriate theme for Holy Trinity, as this past year we have grown our Stewardship as a Cathedral family.

Giving to His Church is a way to thank God for his grace and generosity. The question is not, “What are my stewardship dues?” but “How can I thank God for my many blessings?” We see our church, not as it is, but as it could be. We offer our treasure and ourselves sacrificially, so that, as a member of the Body of Christ, we may reach our full potential in Him.

By now you should have received your 2024 Stewardship Commitment Card in the mail. Please give prayerful consideration to the commitment you are making. If you are able to increase your pledge over last year, please do so as our goal is to become a tithing Cathedral. Giving is an expression of your commitment and thanks for the many blessings in your life. We thank you for being a 2024 Steward of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

### STEWARDSHIP GRATITUDE LUNCHEON

**Sunday, December 10th**

Please join us Sunday, December 10th for our annual FREE Stewardship Gratitude Luncheon immediately following Divine Liturgy.

We ask that on that day you bring your completed 2024 Pledge Card to Liturgy where they will be collected and taken up to the altar to be blessed by the Fathers. Then, please join us in the large hall where we will break bread together as a Cathedral family with a Lenten luncheon and celebrate our stewards with gratitude!

For those who fill out your pledge card online, we will have special cards in the Narthex for you so that your pledge may be included in the blessing at the altar.

### SHELBYNEXT IS HERE!

Our ShelbyNext system is in place and we encourage all of our stewards to please join us in filling out your pledge card online and sign up to pay your stewardship through ShelbyNext. This user-friendly system makes becoming a steward and making payments simple!

Go to: [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)

Click on “stewardship” in the upper right hand corner

Click on “pledge card” - fill out and submit

Then click on “stewardship” again

Click on “ShelbyNext” and fill out and submit

# House of Stewards

As of 11/30/2023

Catherine Agra  
Evan & Terri Alexon  
Constance Anagnopoulos  
Dina Anagnopoulos  
Mike & Alexandra Anagnopoulos  
Nikki Anest  
John & Sandy Annos  
Carla Antypas  
Elaine Apostle  
Argyro Apostolou  
Chris Athens  
Debbie Babakitis  
Christina & Chris Bakavelou  
Constantine & Eleni Balanis  
Taylor Bankson  
Crisanne & Scott Bansner  
Ted & Rebecca Barabatis  
Christopher Bass  
Sam & Heidi Bass  
Alexandra Bates  
Joyce Baulinka  
Nicholas P Baziotes  
Scott & Stacey Beaty  
George & Stacy Benetos  
Stamatios Benetos  
Dan & Vicki Bichekas  
Peter & Jennifer Bilitsis  
James & Helen Bruno  
Georgia Brusalis  
Chris & Rita Bruskas  
Kristen Bruskas  
Constance Burkhart  
Kathy Carras  
Frank Carris  
Chad & Amanda Carver  
Laurel Charnas-Schiller & Todd Schiller  
Harriet Chotras  
Jim Chotras  
Pete & Kim Choukalas  
Katherine & Jeffrey Clarke  
Andrew & Mara Contes  
James & Connie Contes  
Jamie Contes  
Ed & Angeliki Valerou-Cooper  
Wyatt & Emily Coppinger  
John & Jean DalPan  
Evonne Damianos  
Nick & Sharon Daniolos  
Stefanos & Tiffany Daniolos  
Patricia Davis  
Rebecca Davis  
Leonard & Elaine Debickero  
Jim & Ellen Deligiannis  
Anastasia Dellas  
Hercules Dellas  
Patrick & Karla Delord  
Joanne Demangus  
Tom & Irene Demas  
John & Mary Demetropoulos  
Bill DeMoss  
Charles DeMoss  
Chris DeMoss



John & Marjorie DeMoss  
Michael & Maureen DeMoss  
Basil & Ruth Denaxas  
Alexandros & Erika Dimitriadis  
Diane Dion  
Jim Drakos  
Stanley & Fran Drozd  
Carolina Economopoulos  
Christos & Dena Economopoulos  
Clyde (Emil) Ellis  
Fr. Alexander & Presv. Laura Eliades  
James & Lisa Glitsos-Elam  
Ed & Katherine Fancher  
Greg Fernandez  
Helen Fernandez  
Mary Floor  
Tim & Karla Floor  
Zachary & Nikki Forman  
Athanasios & Georgia Fourlis  
Athanasia Fourlis  
Ted & Andi Fourlis  
Tim & Antonette Fraenkel  
Chris & Celeste Francis  
Georgana Friehe  
George & Julie Froumis  
Chris & Catherine Frye  
Semos Gardner  
Chris & Anne Gauras  
Andreanna Georgiou  
Pamela Georgelos  
Diana Georgelos  
Demetra Georgelos  
Dinos & Koula Georges  
John T Giannopoulos  
Polly Ginakes  
Andrew & Angela Goard  
Stella Glitsos  
Eva Goodman  
Bill & Lynn Graham  
Gina Graham  
David Haag  
Mary Haidos  
Donald Hall  
Terry Harper  
Mary & Roger Harris  
Patsy Harris  
George & Georgette Hasiotis  
Alexia Haugen  
Diane Herman  
Fr. Apostolos & Presv Denise Hill  
Gregory Hill

Veronica & Michael Hill  
Bessie Hotis  
Steve & Candy Huff  
Gelu & Jesa Isfanut  
Peter D. Janos  
Jeffrey Johannesmeyer & Melina Machas  
Paulos Kairis  
James & Linda Kalivas  
Pete & Nicole Kamboukos  
Basilis & Roula Kaneris  
Marianna Kaneris  
Jean Kantaros  
Nick & Dena Kantaros  
William & Harriet Kapolas  
Maggie & Marko Karakozis  
Mia Karandreas  
Peter Jr & Tina Karegeannes  
Virginia Karegeannes  
Vasilios & Vasiliqi Karagiannis  
Markos & Maggie Karakozis  
Julie Karoutas  
Joann Karros  
Fotini Katrakis  
George & Niki Katsaros  
Chris & Nobuko Katsenes  
John & Mary Katsenes  
Paul & Lori Katsenes  
Thomas J Katsenes  
Jim & Poppy Kavouris  
Fanny Kechajias  
Catherine & Quentin Keyser  
Ronald & Virginia Kidd  
Emily Kimmell  
Pete & Pat Kladis  
Maria Kompos  
Spiros & Maria Kontakis  
Arthur & Carol Kostaras  
Kostadinos & Anatoli Kostouros  
Dean & Angela Koumontzis  
Anthony & Janet Kouvousis  
Elizabeth & Johnny Kratsas  
Athena Kretsedemas  
Tammy Kretsedemas  
Nick & Marina Kretsedemas  
Debbie Caras & Greg Kunkel  
Tassie Ladas  
Anastasia Lambrou  
John & Evangelia Lambrou  
Judith & Bruce Lamond  
Elias & Mary Lampos  
Scott & Jill Leach  
Constance & Steve Lemere  
Lea Linaris  
Andrew Limber  
Jamie & Kimberly Limber  
Luke & Maria Lipnos  
Gregory Lizanich  
David Lyon  
James & Stephanie Machas  
Maria Maciejewski  
Daniel MacInnis

*House of Stewards continued on page 6  
Desert Springs December 2023*

*House of Stewards continued from page 5*

Joanne Mackos  
Aristotle & Evelyne Macrodimitris  
Marika Makridis  
Margarita Makris  
Mark & Efa Mallas  
Julie & Felix Mamani  
Jim & Donna Manelis  
Maria Maniatis  
Anna Manos  
William & Rina Marinakos  
Nicholas Marino  
Douglas & Ann Markakis  
Mary Lou Mastorakos  
Stephen & Marianthi Mastorakos  
Debra & Demetrios Mauroidis  
Pamela Maydanis  
Peter & Christina Maydanis  
Angela & Chris Mead  
Stephen Mellas  
Joanne Meris  
William & Sandy Meris  
Anthony & Tania Miaoulis  
Alan & Joanna Michalak  
Anastasia Migias  
Angeline Miller  
George Miller & Chloe Jeffries  
Paul & Linda Miller  
William & Jean Miller  
Irene Mirs  
Andrew & Anastasia Mitchell  
Philip & Helen Mitchell  
Emily & Oleg Moroz  
Dino Moschovitis  
James & Irene Mourikes  
Spyro & Effie Mousses  
Jerry & Kathy New  
John & Maria Nicholas  
Evelyn Nickalew  
John Nicolettos  
AnnaMarie Nieblas  
Jeremy & Anastacia Oxley  
Irene Pagoudis  
Else Paletsos  
Elizabeth Palmer  
Christo & Connie  
Panagiotakopoulos  
Alexi & Alexia Panagiotakopoulos  
Anna Panagiotakopoulos  
Niko Panagiotakopoulos  
Thanasi & Melissa  
Panagiotakopoulos  
Philip & Eleni Panagiotoglou  
Sofia Panagiotoglou  
Chrysoula Papadopoulos  
Socrates & Stephanie Papadopoulos  
Aaron Papagalos  
Ria Papageorgiou  
Spyros & Rita Papaspyrou  
Dr. Mike & Stefania Papamatheakis  
Betty Papas  
Nick Papas  
Rita & Spyros Papaspyrou  
Gabriella Papatzimas  
Nicholas & Stacy Papatzimas  
Angeline Pappas  
Andrew & Emily Pappas  
Harry & Fannie Pappas  
Irene Pappas  
John & Andrea Pappas  
Daniel & Anna Pardhe  
Athena Parmenter  
Amy Paul  
Christine & Peter Pearce  
Katherine Pedersen  
John & Dina Pesognelli  
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Fotini Pestrivas  
Zoe Pestrivas  
Peter & Gayle Petkas  
Chris Petroulakis  
Jacquelyn Petroulakis  
Nicholas & Laurel Petsas  
Bill & Kathy Petsas  
Michael & TeAnn Philippis  
Brian & Athena Pickett  
Mary Ann Pikulas  
Mary Poulakidas  
Tracy Poulos  
Panagiotos & Anthipe Pries  
Nicole Pyle  
Bertha Quinn  
Lydia Rabbitt  
Alex & Rose Rentzis  
Menelaos Rentzis  
Voula Rentzis  
George Rouman  
Paul Roupas  
Gregory & Milissa Sackos  
Lois Sakkas  
Brandon Salazar  
Stellios & Nicole Samaradellis  
Dimitra Sampson  
Paul Sarantes  
Les & Christine Sarantinos  
John Schneider  
Peter Schneider  
Warren & Kalliopi Schneider  
George & Angela Scopelianos  
Diane & George Sedlacek  
Terry & Chris Seretis  
Elaine Seretis  
John Siavelis  
Robert & Donna Sioles  
Robert Stamm & Elyse Sioles  
George & Evi Skintzis  
Elias & Phyllis Skoubis  
Constantin Solomon  
David & Alisha Solheim  
Angelo & Marie Spanos  
Leo & Rachel Speliopoulos  
William & Dianne (Tiki) Spell  
James A. & Christina Speros  
James L & Karen Speros  
Vasilios & Diana Speros  
Jim & Kathryn Stamadianos  
Andrew & Christine Stamatis  
Jonathan Stamatis  
Gerry & Nitsa Stamatelatos  
Jimmy & Lisa Sterio  
Tristan & Alana Stoutenburg  
Robert Stuart  
Despina Taularides  
William & Rebecca Taularides  
Nick & Effie Theodore  
Gus & Mary Louise Theodoropoulos  
Jim Thomas  
John Gus & Teresa Thomas  
Deac. John & Diak. Mary Thrasher  
Andrew Touvanas  
Thaddeus & Katherine Tropea  
Stacy & Gerri Tsantilas  
Constantine & Stella Tsantilas  
Vaios & Areti Tsanos  
Dean & Brenda Tseunis  
Dimitri Tsioutsopoulos  
Sotirios & Nicki Tsioutsopoulos  
Matthew & Eva Turgeon  
Costa & Koko Tzavaras  
Daniel Valenzuela  
Peter & Lindsay Vardalos  
Kristen Vasilarakos  
Argyro Vasquez  
Terri & Scott Vaughn  
George & Connie Venetis  
Leah Venetis  
Peter & Maria Vlahos  
Andrew & Sandy Vlahoulis  
Steve & Mary Vrahas  
Ken & Angela Walker  
Paula & Colin Walsh  
Zach & Mary Wilhelmi  
Richard & Katina Wood  
Michael & Christina Wombacher  
Stephanie Yarusinsky  
Zachariah Yoon & Elizabeth Hong  
John & Andreanna Zafiroopoulos  
Anthony & Karen Zaman  
Jerry & Amanda Zannis  
Dimitrios & Eugenia Zannis  
George & Katherine Zannis  
Zella Zannis  
Evangelia Zikos  
Kostas & Margarita Zistas  
Dimitrios Zistatsis  
Michael & Christina Zistatsis

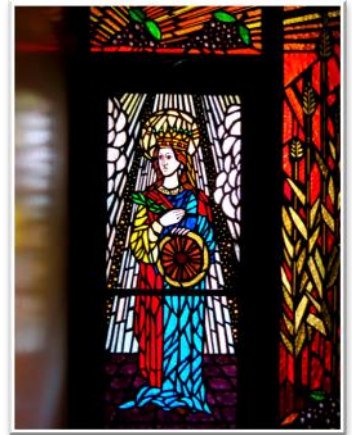
## 2023 PLEDGED FAMILIES

We offer you our thanks for your dedication to our parish and your participation in Christ's work of salvation. If you have filled out a 2023 Pledge Card but your name does not appear on this list, please know any omissions are unintentional. Please call the Church office immediately and we will resolve the situation.



# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Kristen Vasilarakos, President



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

❧  
**Next Meeting on Thursday,  
December 7, 2023  
at 6:30pm  
in the Lounge of the Speros Community Center**  
❧



Join us for our annual Christmas gift exchange following the meeting! Bring a gift (value about \$15-\$20) in unmarked wrapping.



**What is Philoptochos?**  
The translation is  
Philo = Friend  
and Ptochos = Poor.  
It is literally  
"Friend of the Poor".

## JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS 2024

**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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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 2023, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016

# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos Bake Sale—Final Order Date is **December 10th**



## ST. KATHERINE PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE PRE-ORDER FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### ITEMS AVAILABLE:

TSOUREKI \$12 each (please specify quantity & type):

\_\_\_\_\_ PLAIN

\_\_\_\_\_ ALMOND

\_\_\_\_\_ SESAME

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

KOULOOURAKIA \$12 dozen (how many?) \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BAKLAVA \$30 per 8" x 8" pan (how many?) \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

GRAND TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT:

CHECK NO. \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please make check payable to: PHILOPTOCHOS)*

CREDIT CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_ EXP \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAIL COMPLETED FORM AND CHECK (IF APPLICABLE) TO:

**PHILOPTOCHOS BAKE SALE**  
2136 E. Missouri Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85016

**DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS DECEMBER 10, 2023**

**ALL ORDERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP ON SUNDAY, December 17, ONLY.**  
**QUESTIONS? PLEASE CALL OR TEXT ALEX at 602-738-6053 or GEORGIA at 602-291-5911.**



# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

## December Baking Dates!

- ✘ Wednesday, December 13, 2023 9am-2pm
- ✘ Thursday, December 14, 2023 9am-2pm
- ✘ Friday, December 15, 2023 9am-2pm



## Philoptochos Trays

Our chapter passes trays throughout the year to benefit various causes. Following Divine Liturgy **six times a year**, the women of Philoptochos will pass trays to collect your donations for the following beneficiaries:

- 09/10/2023 Holy Cross/Hellenic College
- 11/05/2023 the Patriarchate
- 11/19/2023 the chapter here at HTC
- 12/03/2023 **St. Nicholas Ranch**
- 01/07/2024 St. Basil's Academy
- 04/28/2024 Epitaphio Flowers for HTC

In most cases, our chapter will add to the collected amount.  
Please make checks payable to **"Philoptochos"**.  
*Your donations are much appreciated!*

## Coffee in the Conference Room

**Tuesdays at 9:30 am**  
All are welcome!

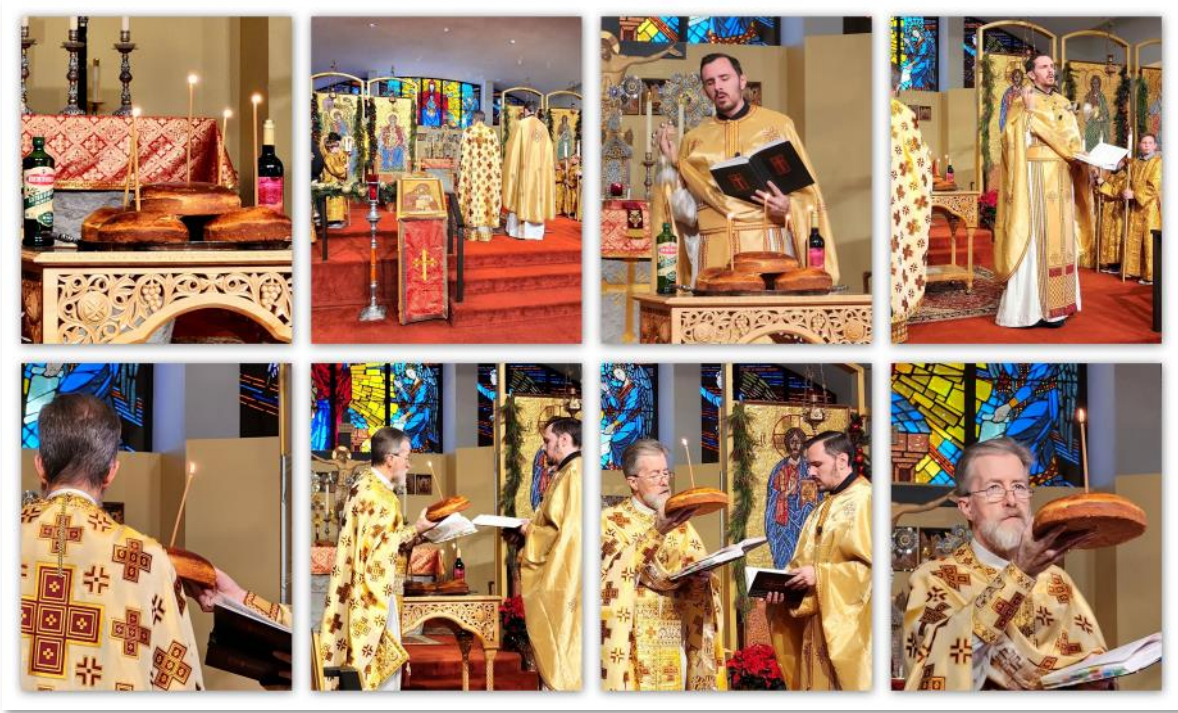


## Assisting with a Mailing on a Tuesday



# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

## Artoklasia in Honor of St. Katherine



## Upcoming Vasilopita Event

Please join us on **Sunday, January 7th**, in the **Speros Community Center**, following **Divine Liturgy**. The Silent Auction will follow after the various cuttings. We auction several beautiful Vasilopitas made by the ladies of the Philoptochos for you to take home and share with your families to start the New Year. We look forward to seeing you.



## 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 fundraising 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.

# Parish Assembly



## Parish Assembly - Official Notification

Our Parish Assembly will be held Sunday Dec. 10 following Divine Liturgy.

All Stewards in good standing are eligible to vote.

Please call the Cathedral office if you have any questions.

### Parish Assembly Meeting—December 10, 2023

(Immediately following Divine Liturgy)

A meeting of the Parish Assembly will be held at Holy Trinity Cathedral;  
Speros Community Center.

1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona.

As provided in the uniform parish regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North America—Stewards in Good Standing are invited to attend and participate.

### Agenda

- 1) Call to order – Paul Katsenes, President, Parish Council
- 2) Opening Prayer- Fr. Apostolos
- 3) Determine if a Quorum exists
- 4) Election of Chairperson for Parish Assembly
- 5) Appoint Parliamentarian, President, Paul T. Katsenes
- 6) Appoint secretary of Chairman and reading of minutes of previous Parish Assembly
- 7) Fr. Apostolos and Fr. Alexander updates for the Parish
- 8) 2024 Budget review and adoption of budget-Jim Manelis
- 9) Stewardship Committee Report - Sandy Meris
- 10) Investment /OSOV Committee – Charles DeMoss
- 11) Festival Committee Report – Nick Kretsedemas, Ted Furlis, Angelo Pestrivas
- 12) Community Refresh Project – Connie Contes
- 13) Elect Board of Elections 2024 (min of 3 members for 1 year term)
- 14) Unfinished Business
- 15) New Business
- 16) For the Good of the Cathedral
- 17) Closing Prayer
- 18) Motion to Adjourn



# Sunday School



## Stories from the Bible

We are excited to announce that we will be leading our children through a journey of Bible stories from Genesis to Revelation beginning August 20 after Divine Liturgy. This 32 week syllabus begins in Eden with the Creation and ends on Patmos with St. John. If you wish to assist with treats, please speak with Presvytera Denise or to assist with crafts, please speak with Debra Harrison.



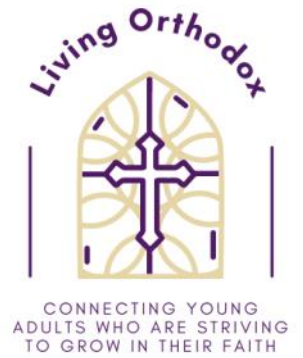
## FOCUS Kickoff Meeting for the Homeless Shelter

Steve Christoforou from FOCUS North America will be returning to Phoenix on **Sunday, Jan. 21** for a follow-up to the July meeting regarding the establishment of a new homeless shelter in Phoenix. Over 50 parishioners from 10 parishes attended the July meeting. There was significant interest in pursuing this idea and we're ready to move forward with a kickoff meeting and team formation! If you have any questions about the proposed FOCUS shelter in Phoenix or want to be involved in the effort, please contact Steve at [schristoforou@focusna.org](mailto:schristoforou@focusna.org). The recording of the presentation can be found at <https://bit.ly/3O2roul>.



# Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry

Living Orthodox is a national, pan-Orthodox ministry that is building a community of young adults (18-30s) who are striving to grow in and connect with their faith. Sign up for our email newsletter at <http://eepurl.com/ixBiEk> to be informed about upcoming events!



## Living Orthodox Retreat: Recap

On October 28-29, Holy Trinity Cathedral held the first Living Orthodox retreat! Over 30 young adults from six parishes across Arizona attended the event. On Saturday, we started with breakfast at 8 am, followed by morning prayers. Then, participants attended presentations, workshops, and activities as a part of the twelve-hour retreat. The keynote speaker, **Father Timothy Pavlatos** from St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church, began the day with a talk on “Thanksgiving: Living a Eucharistic Life.” Next on the agenda was a presentation by psychologist **John Hinson** on the topic: “Healing of Body and Soul: Eucharistic Participation and Mental Wellness.”

After the main presentations, the participants visited the Speros Center kitchen to learn about baking prosphora from **Joanna Mackos**, assisted by **Panagiota Agelakos**, **Dena Kantaros**, and **Georgia Kotsovos**, and witness the process of making and sealing prosphora loaves. While the prosphora loaves were baking, participants split into three simultaneous workshop tracks:

1. **Father Apostolos Hill** and **Father Timothy Pavlatos** led the Ask-A-Priest forum, allowing participants to ask questions in a small-group setting.
2. **Anastazius Kaejatidarjan** led an interactive workshop on Byzantine chant that gave attendees a basic intro to chant by practicing the first ode of the Katavasias of Nativity.
3. **Joyce Bavlinka** and **Tristan Stoutenburg** co-led a workshop on iconography that included both an overview of the use of icons in the church and a special tour of the icons in the cathedral and St. George Chapel.

After the afternoon lunch break, Holy Trinity Cathedral parishioner, **Chris Lopez**, led a service project to pack 50 bundles of blankets and toiletries for distribution to those experiencing homelessness. All the attendees were able to take a few bundles home to distribute to those in need.

Next on schedule was a special opportunity to hear from young adult ministry leaders in the Valley. The presenters were **Megan Joksimovic**, the current president of ASU’s Orthodox Christian Ministry (OCF) chapter; **Eli Mallouhi**, the youth pastor at St. George Antiochian Church; **Niko Paris**, the youth director at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church; and **Ian deGrasse**, founder of the Inklings group at St. George Antiochian Church. Each presenter shared their path into their current role in young adult ministry, the lessons they have learned along the way, and encouragement for building up the next generation of leaders in church ministry.

After an opportunity to talk with the presenters, the attendees headed outside to play a lively game led by **John Schneider** and enjoy a break in the fresh air. When the game ended, attendees had time

*Living Orthodox Retreat Recap continued on page 16*



# Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry





# Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry



# Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry

Recap continued from page 13

to connect with each other before attending Vespers. Following service, we enjoyed a delicious dinner and ended the evening with discussions and board games led by **Daniel Tirsoreanu**.

Hard-working **Phillip Panagiotoglou** prepped and cooked breakfast, lunch, and dinner for all! Teens **Sophia and Nichole Philipps** helped in the kitchen for the evening meal.

Photographer was **Daniel Valenzuela**, who captured the many activities provided during this full day retreat.

Complimentary childcare was provided from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm on Saturday. On Sunday, a small group of attendees went on a fun group trip to Dave and Buster's at Tempe Marketplace and enjoyed food and games.

Videos of all the presentations are posted on our YouTube channel (<https://tinyurl.com/LOvideosYT>)! Please see the next two pages for photos from the event.

## January 2024

On January 21, we will be having a special follow-up presentation by Steve Christoforou from FOCUS North America. Steve visited Holy Trinity in July to discuss the establishment of a new homeless shelter in Phoenix. Over 50 parishioners from 10 parishes attended and there was significant interest in pursuing this idea. Now, we're ready to move forward with a kickoff meeting and team formation! If you have any questions about the proposed FOCUS shelter in Phoenix or want to be involved in the effort, please contact Steve Christoforou at [schristoforou@focusna.org](mailto:schristoforou@focusna.org). The recording of the July presentation can be found on our Living Orthodox YouTube channel (<https://bit.ly/3O2roul>). **This event is open to all parishes and all ages!** Please RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/HTCphx>.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Living Orthodox, please email [livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com](mailto:livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com)! You can also visit <https://linktr.ee/livingorthodox> for links to our Instagram channel and Discord server.



## KICK-OFF MEETING

HOMELESS SHELTER

JANUARY 21, 2024 @ 5:30PM



# Friendsgiving Potluck & Pie Contest

November 12, 2023

This wonderful event was organized by **Presvytera Laura**, attended by many who brought enough food to feed *double*. Much to be thankful for!

Congratulations to **Judith Lamond** for winning the pie contest!





# Celebration Committee



## **Let's Celebrate!**

. On the first Sunday of each month, the Celebration Committee organizes a potluck during coffee hour to celebrate all the special events in parishioners' lives and birthdays that take place in that month. Please join us every month and bring your favorite food item to share!

During the November Celebration Sunday, we celebrated Bill and Jean Miller's 67th wedding anniversary, Stella Glitsos' 99th birthday, and all November birthdays. Since it was Godparent's Sunday, we co-hosted the event with Sunday School/4F. The event was held outside on the patio with fall-themed tablecloths and décor. Large balloons with "Happy Thanksgiving" and other seasonal sentiments were strung on the perimeter of the patio, while each table had an icon and a ceramic vase with fall foliage. Everyone was overjoyed to celebrate with Stella Glitsos. A "Happy Birthday" card for Stella and a "Happy Anniversary" card for the Millers was signed by those in attendance.

We greatly appreciate those who have shared their milestone events with our Holy Trinity family. If you or someone you know from the parish is celebrating a baby, a birthday, an anniversary milestone, or any other special event, please let the Church Office or the parish Celebration Committee know so that we can celebrate as a community! You can send an email with suggestions and details to: [htcphxevents@gmail.com](mailto:htcphxevents@gmail.com).

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more, please email [htcphxevents@gmail.com](mailto:htcphxevents@gmail.com) and/or talk to Terri Alexon or Mary Pardhe!

*Let's* **Celebrate!**



# Celebration Sunday & Godparents Sunday

November 5, 2023





# Celebration Committee

## December Birthdays



# Our Church Family

## 40 Day Blessing

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

Psalm 27:4



11/12/2023

Emilia, daughter of Eleni Athanasopoulou & Yanni Ntarladimas

*God's Blessings be upon her.*

## Baptism

“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Galatians 3:27



11/11/2023

Jaxon, son of Danielle & Jason Lowell

Godparent: Tania & Anthony Miaoulis

*God's Blessings be upon him.*

## Funeral

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

Psalm 23:6



11/03/2023

Tassie Ladas

*May her memory be eternal.*



## Light a Candle

In this time more than ever we need prayer.

For those not able to come to the Cathedral, 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.

## Church Website

**Have you checked out the website lately?**

[www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)

**Events • Services • Photos • Calendar • Stewardship**



**Did you know?**

**We have had 39,590 site visitors in the last 12 months!**

## Wheel Chair & Walker

If you have a wheel chair or walker that is not needed anymore, please donate it to the church. We are in need of another workable Wheel Chair and a Walker for the Narthex.





# Busy Mats

## Resources for our little ones and parents!

We are pleased to make available for our youngest members a supply of Baby Mats in the Narthex!

These "busy mats," lovingly crafted

by one of our parishioners, provide a variety of tactile challenges for infants and toddlers to occupy them during the Divine Services.

Please feel free to utilize them as needed for your little ones and simply return them (refolded) to the basket in the Narthex when exiting the services.

Please also remember to utilize the Children's Guide to the Divine Liturgy booklets previously made available to you. This excellent resource fosters an essential connection to the Divine Liturgy in an accessible way to our young ones.

**Fr. Apostolos & Fr. Alexander**



# National Clergy Retreat Great Vespers

November 1, 2023

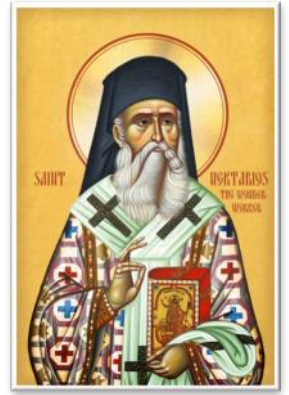


Photos by Kristen Bruskas

Desert Springs December 2023

# St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

Submitted by Rita Papaspyrou  
[stnectariosphx@gmail.com](mailto:stnectariosphx@gmail.com)



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

## Nativity of our Lord

Commemorated on December 25



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

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

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

was there that Mary gave birth to Jesus. The baby was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in the straw in the manger.

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

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

*St. Nectarios Bookstore continued on page 23*

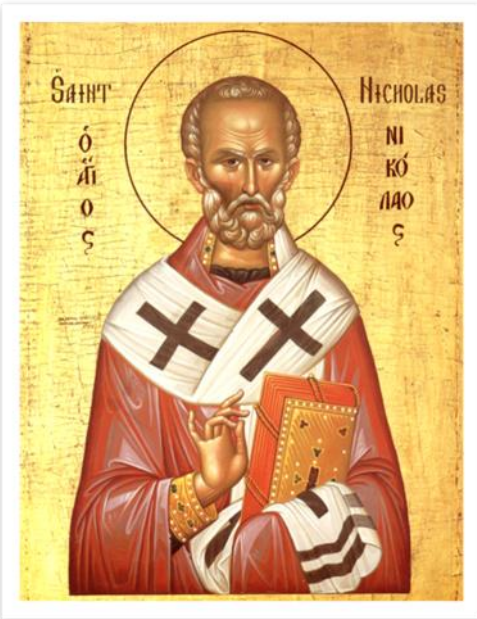


# St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

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

## Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker

Commemorated on December 6



St. Nicholas was born in Lycia (in Asia Minor) around the end of the third century, to pious Christian parents. His love of virtue, and his zeal for observing the canons of the Church, were evident from his infancy, when he would abstain from his mother's milk every Wednesday and Friday until the evening. From early youth he was inclined to solitude and silence; in fact, not a single written or spoken word of the Saint has come down to us. Though ordained a priest by his uncle, Archbishop Nicholas, he attempted to withdraw to a hermit's life in the Holy Land; but he was told by revelation that he was to return home to serve the Church publicly and be the salvation of many souls.

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

God honored his faithfulness by granting him unparalleled gifts of healing and wonderworking. Several times he calmed storms by his prayers and saved the ship that he was sailing in. Through the centuries he has often done the same for sailors who call out to him, and is considered the patron of sailors and all who go to sea.

His numberless miracles through the ages, on behalf of the countless Christians who have called on him, cannot be told.

He was elected Bishop of Myra not long before the great persecutions under Diocletian and Maximian (c. 305), and was put in prison, from which he continued to encourage his flock in the Faith. When the Arian

*St. Nectarios Bookstore continued on page 24*

# St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

heresy wracked the Church not long after Constantine came to the throne, St Nicholas was one of the 318 Bishops who gathered in Nicea in 325. There he was so incensed at the blasphemies of Arius that he struck him on the face. This put the other bishops in a quandary, since the canons require that any hierarch who strikes anyone must be deposed. Sadly, they prepared to depose the holy Nicholas; but in the night the Lord Jesus and the most Holy Theotokos appeared to them, telling them that the Saint had acted solely out of love for Truth, not from hatred or passion, and that they should not act against him.

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

The holy bishop reposed in peace around 345. His holy relics were placed in a church built in his honor in Myra, where they were venerated by throngs of pilgrims every year. In 1087, after Myra was conquered by the Saracens, the Saint's relics were translated to Bari in southern Italy, where they are venerated today. Every year, quantities of fragrant myrrh are gathered from the casket containing his holy relics.

Saint Nicholas is also commemorated on May 9 (The transfer of his relics) and on July 29 (his nativity).

## Saint Spyridon the Wonderworker

Commemorated on December 12



Saint Spyridon of Tremithus was born towards the end of the third century on the island of Cyprus. He was a humble shepherd, and had a wife and a daughter, Irene. He used all his substance for the needs of his neighbors and the homeless, for which the Lord rewarded him with a gift of wonderworking. He healed those who were incurably sick, and cast out demons.

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

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

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

*St. Nectarios Bookstore continued on page 25*

*Desert Springs December 2023*



# St. Nectarios Books & Beyond



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

All the Lives of the saint speak of the amazing simplicity and the gift of wonderworking granted him by God. Through a word of the saint the dead were awakened, the elements of nature tamed, the idols smashed.

His radiant virtue touched the consciences of those he met so that many would spontaneously fall at his feet and confess their sins.

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

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

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

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

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## Decorating the Cathedral for Christmas

Saturday, November 25, 2023



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

All services can be found on the **Home  
Page** of the Cathedral's website  
[www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org),  
in addition to the continued postings on  
our Facebook page.



## 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 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

## HTC on Facebook

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

[Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral—Phoenix, AZ](https://www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityGreekOrthodoxCathedral)





# Endowment Fund

## ✦ THE HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL ENDOWMENT FUND ✦

The Holy Trinity Endowment Fund was established in 1992 with an initial deposit of \$2,000. The goal was to build the Endowment Fund whereby the interest and appreciation would one day provide sufficient income so Holy Trinity would no longer be totally dependent on an annual festival to supplement stewardship income.

The Endowment Fund is obligated to preserve the donor's contributions such that the principal will remain **inviolable** and be held in perpetuity by the Church. The funds are prudently managed by the investment committee, which reports to the Parish Council. The investment committee only approves withdrawals from the earnings and appreciation, over and above the donor's contributions, and are used only to benefit Holy Trinity and its ministries.

Over the course of the past twenty-nine years the committee has held steadfast to this mission, and as a result, generous donors from our Church, desiring to leave a legacy **in perpetuity** for their family, have made contributions totaling **\$654,340.00**.

***This is your opportunity to put your lifetime thumbprint in the history of Holy Trinity Cathedral.***

We have been blessed by the generosity and foresight of the individuals and families listed on the next page. We benefit today from their kindness and vision. If your circumstances allow you to give a gift above and beyond your annual stewardship commitment, then please take this occasion to join the others in creating a legacy by pledging your gift to Holy Trinity Cathedral's perpetual Endowment Fund. Gifts of \$10,000 or more will be separately listed along with others who have reached that level.

**Your gift, no matter the amount, will be combined into the general endowment fund, and will be greatly appreciated.**

## Endowment Gifts

### Platinum Donors: \$100,000+

Faye Boukas  
George & Ann Souvall  
John George Thomas

### Gold Donors: \$50,000+

Dr. Nicholas Baziotes  
Silver Donors: \$25,000+  
The DeMoss Families  
IMO+ Tasia Pritchard

### Bronze Donors: \$10,000+

Gabriel & Helen Papagallos, IMO+ Mary Montague, John & Mary Katsenes, George & Koula Cheros, IMO+ Dina Sakellarakis, Steve & Joan Vrahas, Ange & Alex J. Pappas, James & Connie Contes, Dennis & Anastasia DeBerry, IMO+ John G. Zannaras, Steve & Judith Vrahas, Irene Pilafas Pappas

### General Endowment Fund donations over \$1,000.00

Dr. Christopher J. DeMoss, the Lambrou Family

### In Memory Of Gifts:

IMO+ Stacy Hotis, IMO+ Danny Speros, IMO+ Mark Sprintz, IMO+ Chris Gabriel, IMO+ Fr. James & Presb. Katherine Tavlarides, IMO+ Fr. Anthony & Mary Coniaris, IMO+ Tom Contes, IMO+ Leonard Mastorakos, IMO+ John Sgouros, IMO+ Chris Gabriel, IMO+ Athena & Dan Choukalas, IMO+ Milton & Harriet Sioles, IMO+ Koula & Pete Triantafyllou, IMO+ James H. Karros, IMO Bette Maniatis, IMO Dan Lester Hill



**+ CONSIDER GIFTING HIGHLY APPRECIATED STOCK. +  
72 AND OLDER, SAVE TAXES BY GIVING FROM YOUR IRA. +**

# Endowment Fund

+ CONSIDER GIFTING HIGHLY APPRECIATED STOCK. +  
+ 72 AND OLDER, SAVE TAXES BY GIVING FROM YOUR IRA. +

+ GIFT FORM +

Please list my/our endowment gift as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

Here is my/our one time General Endowment gift, which I/we may add to, of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/we wish to make a gift of \$ 10,000.00 or more payable, now \_\_\_\_\_, or over a three year period.

With this form \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Year Two \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Year Three \$ \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_

Donor, please sign and keep a copy for your records.

All gifts will be preserved in the archives of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016

+ We Thank You and may God Bless You for your generosity. +

## Desert Diamonds

Julie Karoutas

for senior parishioners and their guests:



Dear Desert Diamonds & Friends,  
I pray that you all have enjoyed a Blessed Thanksgiving holiday. We have so much to be grateful for! Below is our December outing.

Thursday, December 7th, at 12:10pm, at the **Herberger Luchtime Theater, to see "Snow Queen"**. Please make your reservations ASAP, seating for this event is limited.

Delight in this magical story about the power of true love, as young Gerda seeks to rescue Kai from the Snow Queen's Icy Palace, based on Hans Christian Anderson's "Wintery fairy tail of the struggle between good & evil. Please note that a box lunch will be provided in the final cost; **\$16.00 for Theater & box lunch!**

**Location:** Herberger Theater; 222 E. Monroe St., Phoenix, AZ 85004 Tel.# 602.254.7399; **Begins at 12:10pm**  
Either email or call or see me after church to make your reservation & pay for the venue.

**Save the date:** January 17, 2024; Coffee at Kerr; ASU Kerr Cultural Center, Scottsdale for "The Barber of Seville".

With love in Christ,  
Julie Karoutas, email: [juliekaroutas@gmail.com](mailto:juliekaroutas@gmail.com)  
Cell# 623.313.8720

*"To be a welcoming community sharing Christ's love through faith and service."*

## What YOU Can Do to Help Visitors Feel Welcome

Have you noticed new faces? 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 to the Coffee Social. A personal connection goes far!

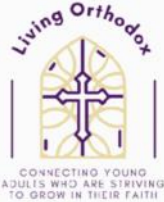


# Young Adult Holiday Party

December 8, 2023




**Saint George**  
Antiochian Orthodox Church



Living Orthodox  
CONNECTING YOUNG  
ADULTS WHO ARE STRIVING  
TO GROW IN THEIR FAITH

**YOUNG ADULT HOLIDAY  
PARTY**






DECEMBER 8 @ 7 PM  
SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX BALLROOM

JOIN US FOR A HOLIDAY  
CELEBRATION SUPPORTING A LOCAL  
CHARITY  
(PLS BRING YOUR FAV DISH FOR THE  
POTLUCK)


DRESSY OR CHRISTMAS  
FUN ATTIRE ENCOURAGED

SCAN OR  
VISIT LINK TO RSVP BY 12/1  
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/YXDJ3N2M](https://tinyurl.com/yxdj3n2m)



# Vigil

December 1, 2023



ΠΟΡΦΥΡΙΟΣ  
ΚΑΥΣΟ ΚΑΛΙΒΡΙΑΣ

**VIGIL FOR ST.  
PORPHYRIOS  
OF  
KAVSOKALIVIA**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 @ 7PM  
HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL  
PHOENIX, AZ  
FESTAL VESPERS,  
ORTHROS, AND DIVINE  
LITURGY

JOIN US FOR A FESTAL VIGIL FOR OUR  
21ST CENTURY HOLY ONE, ST.  
PORPHYRIOS. CHANTERS FROM  
AROUND THE VALLEY WILL JOIN US IN  
SINGING PRAISES TO THIS "LUMINOUS  
STAR" OF CHRIST'S CHURCH

# Coffee Socials Following Sunday Liturgies

Thank you to the **Dance** for sponsoring  
Coffee Socials in November.

*Thank  
you*



The December Coffee Socials are sponsored  
by **Philoptochos**.



# Pickleball & Basketball Court Dedication

November 12, 2023

## Court Dedication Ceremony

Dedication ceremony of the newly resurfaced basketball and pickle ball court took place on November 12, 2023. The funds were donated by Tracy Poulos in memory of her late husband James Poulos. The ceremony took place at the courts and a small reception followed, sponsored by Elite Sports Builders.



# Flag Football

Thanksgiving Morning



**3RD ANNUAL  
HOLY  
TRINITY  
TURKEY  
BOWL**

**9AM GRANADA PARK  
THANKSGIVING MORNING**

RSVP TO FR. ALEXANDER  
ANYONE IN HIGH SCHOOL OR  
ABOVE WELCOME TO PLAY  
ALL WELCOME TO WATCH!



# Original Phoenix Greek Festival

## Friends of the Festival

### **PLATINUM \$1000 or more**

Hon. Connie Contes (ret.) &  
Hon. Hercules A. Dellas  
Charles C. DeMoss  
John, Marjorie, Alexa, & Costa DeMoss  
Diane Herman  
The Manelis Family  
The Meris Family  
IMO Nicholas Meris  
The Miaoulis Family  
IMO Bette Maniatis  
The Petsas Family  
Tracy Poulos  
IMO James Poulos

### **GOLD \$500 or more**

The Choukalas Family  
Georgana Frieh & Emily Kimmell  
IMO Bill Kimmell and Karen Kimmell  
Bill & Lynn Graham  
John & Mary Katsenes  
Katsenes Insurance Family  
- Tom, Jack & Alexandra  
The Lambrou Family  
Peter & Gayle Petkas  
Robert & Donna Sioles  
Vasilios & Diana Speros  
Stephanie Yarusinsky  
George & Tina Zannis

### **SILVER \$250 or more**

Anonymous  
Constantine & Helen Balanis  
Sam & Heidi Bass  
Stanley & Kay Coin  
Ted & Andi Fournalis  
The Georgelos Family  
Elias & Mary Lampos  
James & Stephanie Machas

Nicole & David Pyle  
Sackos Family  
Paul Sarantes

### **BRONZE \$100 or more**

Elaine Apostle  
Stamatios Benetos  
Camelback Coaching -  
Anne & Bill Wilson  
Kathy Carras  
IMO George Jouflas  
Harriet Chotras  
John & Jean Dal Pan  
The Delord Family  
IMO Ruth A. Hotis  
Fr. Alexander & Pres. Laura Eliades & Family  
Tom & Georgia Fournalis  
Demetri & Sandra Harris  
George & Georgette Hasiotis  
Holy Trinity Cathedral Choir  
Paul Kairis  
Helen Katsuftrakis  
Jim & Poppy Kavouris  
Ronald & Virginia Kidd  
Tammy Kretsedemas  
Debbie Cavas Kunkel  
Gregory Lizanich  
Anna Manos  
Nick Maydanis  
Bill & Jean Miller  
Helen & Philip Mitchell  
The Chrysoula Papadopoulos Family  
Lyda Rabbitt  
The Sgouros Family  
IMO John & Jean Sgouros  
Constantin Solomon  
The Tropea Family  
Dimitri Tsioutsopoulos  
Zella Zannis

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# AHEPA CHAPTER 219

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## Our Next Chapter Meeting

Thursday, December 21 at 6 PM

Holy Trinity  
Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
Community Center  
1973 E Maryland Ave  
Phoenix, AZ

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**INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?**  
**CONTACT STEVE LEMERE**  
**602-882-9990**



# Daughters of Penelope

Chapter 432  
Phoenix, AZ



As we roll into the Christmas Holiday Season, memories of a Blessed and Grateful Thanksgiving holiday still linger on!

Enjoy some pics from both our October 21st Joint/luncheon meeting and our recent November 19th, Founder's Day meeting, Bake Sale and hosting a delicious Luncheon after church. Both successful, thanks to our Board Members, and some of our sisters. **Together We Are Strong!** A special Thanks, to our Brother AHEPAN, Phillip Panagiotoglou!

**Upcoming events:** Dates TBA (Check your emails)

A Christmas celebration

Wine Tasting Mtg./Social

A special Dinner/Mtg. our hosts for Dinner, #219, our Brother Ahepans

**Your 2023/2024 Helenos #432 Board of Officers:**

Julie Karoutas; President

Cynthia Bekiaris; Vice President

Recording Secretary; Deedee Staikos

Corresponding Secretary; Irene Mourikes

Treasurer; Niki Pallas

Marshall/Liaison to AHEPA; Toni Pandi

In Theta Pi,  
Julie Karoutas,  
President #432



# OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

Caroline Economopoulos, 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  
[ciecomom@gmail.com](mailto:ciecomom@gmail.com),  
and we'll get you added to list!

## Youth Christmas Party

Join us **Friday, Dec. 8 at 4pm-bedtime** for the youth  
Christmas Party at the Papamatheakis Home. We will have  
a white elephant gift exchange and tons of fun! Please  
RSVP to Olga Papamatheakis at [olgakriti@gmail.com](mailto:olgakriti@gmail.com)



## Youth 4F Night

Youth 4F Night: Join us **Saturday, Dec. 16  
at 4:30 pm** for an evening of Faith, Fel-  
lowship, Christmas Fun and Food. All of  
our youth from Grades 1-12 are invited to  
join us for this great night. Keep an eye  
out for registration!

Our 4F Nights return again on the 3rd Saturday of  
every month from 4:30pm-8pm! Our theme this  
year is "**God is Wondrous in His Saints**" and every  
month we will learn about a different "type" of  
saint and how we can apply what they did to our  
lives as Orthodox Christians even in our world  
today! PLEASE mark off these dates in your  
calendar for the whole year.

## HOLY TRINITY 4F 2023/24

**DATES:**  
SEPTEMBER 16  
OCTOBER 21  
NOVEMBER 5 GODPARENTS SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 18  
DECEMBER 16  
JANUARY 20  
FEBRUARY 24  
MARCH 16  
APRIL 6 - LENTEN RETREAT  
APRIL 27 LAZARUS SATURDAY  
RETREAT  
MAY 11

WORKSHEET ASSIGNMENTS DUE AT  
FOLLOWING 4F, AFTER COMPLETING  
3: ICON  
5: PRAYER BOOK  
10: BIBLE

## RESOURCES

- **Weekly Bulletin attachments/narthex handouts**
- **DailyReadings App**
- **Weekly Sunday School Questions**
- **Catechism and Bible Study classes**
- **Fr. Apostolos and Fr. Alexander**



# Youth Ministries at Holy Trinity Cathedral 2022/23

## House Meetings

If you are interested in heading up some outings or hosting your child's age group at your house, or simply learning more about OPA, please email Caroline Economopoulos [here](#).

## Other Opportunities

Reach out to Fr. Alexander [here](#) if you'd like to learn how your children can be involved such as

- serving as an Altar Boy
- singing in the Choir
- learning Byzantine Chant
- joining our Greek School
- or any other ministry of interest.

Of course you and your children are welcome to join for both Bible Study and Catechism Class throughout the year. More information will be forthcoming on this soon as well.

**Our children have been entrusted to us by God to return them to Him as much like Him as they can be. Whether your child will prioritize God and the Church when they grow up is dependent on you prioritizing it when they are home with you. If other events and activities take precedent now, they will take precedent later.**

**We are all on a journey to Christ together as a Cathedral family; join us this year as we march forward towards Him.**

Fr. Apostolos Hill  
Fr. Alexander Eliades



Thankful poster made by the youth at the November 2023 4F event.

## All Saints Camp 2024



**ALL  
SAINTS  
CAMP  
2024!**

REGISTRATION OPENS DEC. 15  
CAMP SHADOW PINES | HEBER, AZ  
MAY 26 - JUNE 1  
[WWW.ALLSAINTSCAMPARIZONA.ORG](http://WWW.ALLSAINTSCAMPARIZONA.ORG)

# OPA Family Volunteering

November 11, 2023

## OPA Family Volunteer Opportunity

FMSC offers volunteers a one-of-a-kind experience. You'll hand-pack rice, soy, dried vegetables and a nutritionally complete blend of vitamins and minerals into bags which are then sealed, boxed, placed on pallets and shipped to our incredible partners working hard to reach the neediest children around the world.



## Annual Youth Winter Retreat

Join us **January 12 - 14, 2024** at Emmanuel Pines Camp in Prescott, AZ.

Cost: \$175 per person, \$25 sibling discount.

Register at

[assumptionaz.org/winterretreat](http://assumptionaz.org/winterretreat).

Questions: Niko Paris at

[youth@assumptionaz.org](mailto:youth@assumptionaz.org).



SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL YOUTH

# WINTER

## Retreat

**January 12 - 14, 2024**

Emmanuel Pines Camp, Prescott, AZ

Registration opens November 1, 2023

Questions? Niko Paris  
[youth@assumptionaz.org](mailto:youth@assumptionaz.org)



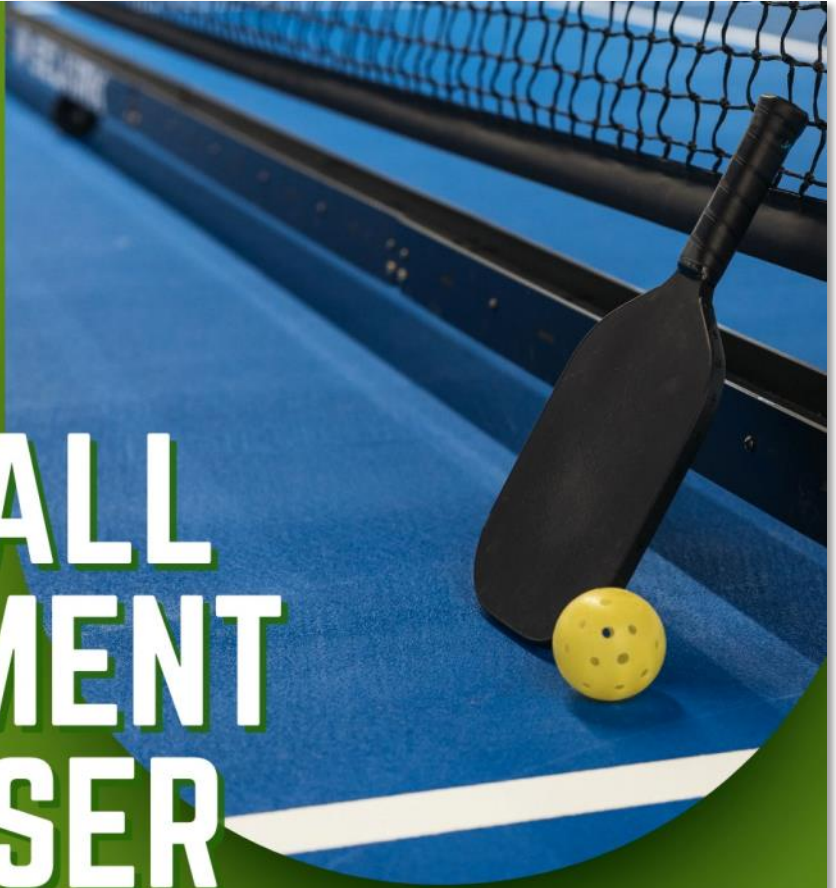
ASSUMPTION YOUTH YOUNG ADULTS



# All Saints Camp Fundraiser

**ALL SAINTS  
CAMP  
ARIZONA  
PRESENTS**

# **PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER**



**11AM SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 3, 2024**

**HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL  
POULOS COURT**

## **ENTRY**

- 16 Teams
- Single Elimination
- First Come, First Serve Sign-ups
- Open Dec. 8 @ 12pm
- \$100 per team

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

Raffle for great prizes!  
BBQ and drinks for sale  
Cornhole and Fun!

**Questions? Email Chris Fredericksen at:  
[c.fredericksen@yahoo.com](mailto:c.fredericksen@yahoo.com)**