Joyful Pentecost

Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
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- Wedding Coordinator — Lindsay Vardalos
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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 and Kristen at kvasilarakos@cox.net. It is the organization’s responsibility to inform Heidi and Kristen of any updates to your listing.
Message from Father Apostolos

The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

"For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost." (Acts 20:16)

Though he had been prophetically warned against it by a Prophet named Agabus, St. Paul was determined to be in Jerusalem by Pentecost. Agabus had demonstrated the fate awaiting Paul if he persisted in his intention by binding his own hand and feet with Paul's belt, saying; "So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles." (Acts 20-11)

This is indeed what occurred after St. Paul's teaching in the Temple so enrage the hearers that a riot erupted to tear the Apostle to pieces which required Roman soldiers to quell. The resulting examinations before Legionary Commander, the Sanhedrin, then the Regional Governor Felix and his successor Festus, resulted in Paul's appeal to Caesar which, as a Roman citizen, was his right. In Rome, St. Paul would be martyred and beheaded under Nero.

What was so compelling about the Feast of Pentecost that constrained St. Paul to pursue his own doom by ignoring the warning of Agabus and others to stay away from Jerusalem? Pentecost was known as the Feast of Weeks, a period of 50 days after Passover on the Jewish Calendar date of 14 Nissan to sanctify the grain harvest. It was an agricultural celebration until it became, by the 1st century BC (according to the Babylonian Talmud) associated with the giving of the Law by Yahweh to Moses on Mt. Sinai. Shavuot, or Pentecost, was the 2nd holiest feast day of the Jewish year.

Jesus instructs the Disciples to remain in Jerusalem (Acts 1:4) for the "Promise of the Father" to be fulfilled. This promise Jesus described in St. John's Gospel; "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you." (16:12-15)

Thus it was immediately after the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven and His enthronement at the right hand of the Father, that the Disciples returned the short distance from Mount Olivet to Jerusalem "with great Joy" to await the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. St. Luke records that there were 120 disciples, including "Mary, the Mother of Jesus" who assembled in the Upper Room in prayerful anticipation. Essential business was also conducted as the 11 remaining Disciples after Judas Iscariot's grisly suicide (Acts 1:18) drew lots to ascertain who would replace him, the lot falling to Matthias. (vs. 26)

The account of the Descent of the Holy Spirit described by St. Luke in Acts 2 depicts a dramatic transformation and a spiritual empowerment which would shake the entire world. Rushing from the Upper Room and filled with the Divine Energy of the Holy Spirit, St. Peter's impromptu homily to the men of Jerusalem, the same men who had but 53 days prior shouted "Crucify Him!" on the day of the Christ's Crucifixion, resulted in the conversion of 3,000 of them. Thousands more would be swept into the nascent Church which St. Luke describes;

"Then fear came upon every soul and many wonders and signs were done through the Apostles. Now all who believed were together and had all things common and sold their possessions and goods and divided them among all, as anyone needed. So continuing daily with one accord in the Temple and breaking bread from house
to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved.” (2:43-47)

Such is the blueprint for explosive Church growth! This is why the Feast of Pentecost is sometimes referred to as the "Birthday of the Church." It is also the Feast Day of our beloved Cathedral and we will celebrate it with the prescribed services from Saturday of Souls through Holy Spirit Monday. But what does the Pentecost portend for us as Orthodox Christians in our time? How can we account for the vast differences between the explosive growth of the Early Church among those who had but recently demanded the death of Jesus Christ and our own rather indifferent participation in the feast?

Holy Scripture and the hymnology of the Orthodox Church has very much to say about the essential role of the Holy Spirit in our salvation. The Festal Hymn to the Holy Spirit describes Him as the "Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth... Treasury of Good Gifts, the Giver of Life." St. Luke's Gospel foretells the intention of the Father to send the Holy Spirit upon His children; "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (11:13) St. Paul describes the Holy Spirit as the guarantor of our freedom; "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." (2 Cor. 3:17) References to the Holy Spirit in the entirety of the Bible are too numerous to list here.

Every Orthodox Christian brought into the Church, whether as infants or as adult converts, receive the Gift of Confirmation by the Holy anointing oil known as Holy Chrism, with the affirmation "the Seal of the Gift of the Holy Spirit." The Church teaches us through Holy Scripture, sacred hymnology, the writings of the Holy Fathers, and the lived-out experience of faithful Orthodox Christians, that we must cooperate and collaborate with the Holy Spirit in our journey into the Heavenly Kingdom.

We are also admonished not to "grieve" (Eph. 4:30) or "quench" or "extinguish" (1 Thess. 5:19) the Holy Spirit. It is from the Holy Spirit that we receive the Fruit of the Spirit, "love, joy, peace, patience, forbearance, goodness, kindness, gentleness, and self-control." (Gal 5:22-23) To the Romans, St. Paul writes that those who are in Christ "walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit." (8:4)

All of which brings us to the festal celebration at hand. One cannot live the life in Christ absent the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. To do so would akin to attempting to utilize our mobile devices with a dead battery. The Holy Spirit is the vivifying Dynamis of God who continually abides within us, comforting, teaching, warning, correcting, encouraging, and finally... saving us! How, then, can we be sure to receive from God the Father the full measure of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost?

Simply by participating energetically in the Divine Services assigned to the Feast, principally, the Kneeling Vespers on the evening of June 4th at 5:00PM. I understand that our frequent invitations toward liturgical participation have since receded into the background noise of regular parish communiques, but to miss the precise service in which, through the massively powerful prayers of invocation, the Holy Spirit is given as a gift from God is... calamitous. The weariness of daily life, the fog of confusion, the looming shadow of unnamed anxieties, even the fear of death, can be healed and dispersed by the in-rushing "mighty wind" of the Spirit descending upon the thirsty hearts assembled and kneeling in supplication.

Please rearrange your schedules accordingly to be with us throughout the festal services of the Name-Day of the Cathedral and join us after the Kneeling Vespers Service for the Pan-Orthodox reception to follow in the Speros Center!
Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

To be a welcoming community sharing Christ’s love through faith and service

Stewardship 2023 Theme: Giving Thanks: Eucharist Stewardship

WE DID IT!! WE MET OUR STEWARDSHIP GOAL!!

We are excited to announce that we reached the $500,000 mark in stewardship pledges for 2023! You may recall back in December at Stewardship Sunday we set the goal of reaching $500,000 collectively in our total pledges. And as of this month, we have reached and even surpassed that goal!

Here is where we stand as of May 19th:

Total number of pledged families 307
(this does not include 31 families who are contributing financially to Stewardship but have not completed a 2023 pledge card, therefore not allowing us to officially count them as Stewards)*

Total amount pledged $510,222
Total amount collected $229,732

Clearly, we are growing as a Cathedral family! We are better understanding the true meaning of Stewardship and sacrificial giving. We are giving thoughtful, prayerful consideration to increasing our Stewardship financial commitments annually.

We are gaining new parishioners who are discovering Orthodoxy or Holy Trinity for the first time and we are welcoming back past parishioners. Our pews have been full and we have lots of young families with new babies and little ones who will ensure the future of Holy Trinity.

It is due to the continued support and generosity of our Stewards that we are able to make improvements and repairs to our campus and create a Cathedral family with something to offer everyone. We are truly blessed and grateful for our Holy Trinity family!

*If you feel you may be one of the 31 families who does not have a 2023 pledge card on file, please contact the church office.

SHELBYNEXT LAUNCHES JUNE 1st

We are pleased to announce that ShelbyNext is officially our new online giving Stewardship portal as of June 1st.

There are many exciting new opportunities for us with the Shelby system. We will begin to inform you about and unveil new things to make your stewardship and giving opportunities better and easier.

***IMPORTANT NOTE FOR THOSE WHO USE WESHARE:***

If you are currently a WeShare user for your online stewardship giving, your account and all information has already been transferred to ShelbyNext. There is nothing you need to do. Your giving amount, account information and timing of your monthly or weekly donations will continue as normal.

If you’re not an online giver, there is no better time than to sign up for ShelbyNext and make your giving simple. Please visit the church website at www.holytrinityphx.org click on Stewardship in the upper right hand corner and become an online giver today! And as always, we are here to help if you need assistance with this process. Simply call the church office and Heidi or Yvonne can assist you or reach out to me at: sandymeris@gmail.com.
House of Stewards

As of 05/25/2023

Panagiota Agelakos
Catherine Agra
Evan & Terri Alexon
Constance Anagnostopoulos
Mike & Alexandra Anagnostopoulos
Nikki Anest
John & Sandy Anos
Elaine Apostle
Argyro Apostolou
Chris Athens
Christina & Chris Bakavelou
Constantine & Eleni Balanis
Taylor Bankson
Crisanne & Scott Bansner
Sam & Heidi Bass
Alexandra Bates
Joyce Bavlinka
Scott & Stacey Beaty
George & Stacy Benetos
Stamatios Benetos
Dan & Vicki Bichekas
Peter & Jennifer Bilitsis
Helen Bixenman
James & Helen Bruno
Georgia Brusalis
Chris & Rita Bruskas
Krisen 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 & Maria Contes
James & Connie Contes
Ed & Angeliki Valerou-Cooper
Wyatt Coppinger
Hon Steve & Stacia Counelis
John & Jean DalPan
Evonne Damianos
Nick & Sharon Daniolos
Patricia Davis
Rebecca Davis
Leonard & Elaine Debickero
Anastasia Dellas
Hercules Dellas
Patrick & Karla Delord
Joanne Demangus
Tom & Irene Demas
John & Mary Demetropoulos
Alexa DeMoss
Bill DeMoss
Charles DeMoss
Chris DeMoss
John & Marjorie DeMoss
Michael & Maureen DeMoss
Basil & Ruth Denaxas
Alexandros & Erika Dimitriadis

Jimmy Drakos
Stanley & Fran Drozdz
Carolina Economopoulos
Christos & Dena Economopoulos
Clyde (Emil) Ellis
Fr. Alexander & Presv. Laura Eliades
James & Lisa Glitsos-Elam
Ed & Katherine Fancher
Athanase & Georgia Fourlis
Athenasie Fourlis
Ted & Andi Fourlis
Tim & Antolette Fraenkel
Chris & Celeste Francis
Georgana Frieih
George & Julie Froumis
Semos Gardner
Chris & Anne Gavras
Andreanna Georgiou
Thomas & Christina Georgiou
Pamela Georgelos
Diana Georgelos
Demetra Georgelos
Dinos & Koula Georges
John T Giannopoulos
Polly Ginakes
Stella Glitsos
Eva Goodman
Bill & Lynn Graham
Gina Graham
David Haag
Mary Haidos
Donald Hall
Terry Harper
Mary & Roger Harris
Patsy Harris
Alexia Haugen
Diane Herman
Fr. Apostolos & Presv Denise Hill
Gregory Hill
Veronica & Michael Hill
Bessie Hotis
Gelu & Jesa Isfanut
Ekaterini & Jason Jaynes
Jeffrey Johannesmeyer & Melina Machas

Pavlos Kairis
James & Linda Kalivas
Petre & Nicole Kamboukos
Basilis & Roula Kaneris
Marianna Kaneris
Jean Kantaros
Nick & Dena Kantaros
William & Harriet Kapolas
Maggie & Marko Karakozis
Peter Jr & Tina Karegeannes
Virginia Karegeannes
Vasilios & Vasilii Karagiannis
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 Kouvouis
Elizabeth & Johnny Kratsas
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
Luke & Maria Lipnos
Gregory Lizanich
David Lyon
James & Stephanie Machas
Maria Maciejewski
Daniel MacInnis
Joanne Mackos
Aristotle & Evelyn
Macrodimitris
Marika Makridis
Margarita Makris
Julie & Felix Mamani
Jim & Donna Manelis
Anna Manos
Jenny Margaris
William & Rina Marinakos
Nicholas Marino

House of Stewards continued on page 7
Desert Springs June/July 2023
House of Stewards continued from page 6

Douglas & Ann Markakis
James & Michele Markakis
Mary Lou Mastorakos
Stephen & Marianthi Mastorakos
Debra & Demetrios Mavroidis
Angela & Chris Mead
Joanne Meris
William & Sandy Meris
Anthony & Tania Miaoulis
Alan & Joanna Michalak
Anastasia Migias
Angelina Miller
Paul & Linda Miller
William & Jean Miller
Irene Mirs
Philip & Helen Mitchell
Emily & Oleg Moroz
Dino Mocanuvitis
James & Irene Mourikes
Spyro & Effie Mousses
Jerry & Kathy New
John & Maria Nicholas
Evelyn Nickalew
John Nicolettos
Anna Marie Nieblas
Else Paletos
Elizabeth Palmer
Alexi & Alexia Panagiotakopoulos
Anna Panagiotakopoulos
Christa & Connie Panagiotakopoulos
Niko Panagiotakopoulos
Thanasi & Melissa Panagiotakopoulos
Philip & Eleni Panagiotoglou
Sophia Panagiotoglou
Chrysoula Papadopoulos
Socrates & Stephanie Papadopoulos
Aaron Papagalos
Maria Papageorgiou
Betty Papas
Nick Papas
Rita & Spyros Papaspyrou
Gabriella Papatzimas
Nicholas & Stacy Papatzimas
Angelina 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
Fotini Pestrivas
Zoe Pestrivas
Peter & Gayle Petkas
Chris Petroulakis
Jacquelyn Petroulakis
Nicholas & Laurel Petsas
William & Kathryn Petsas
Michael & TeAnn Philippis
Brian & Athena Pickett
Mary Ann Pikulas
Andreas & Mary Poulakidas
Tracy Poulos
Panagiotes & Anthipe Pries
Nico Pyle
Bertha Quinn
Lydia Rabbitt
Alex & Roy Rentzis
Menelaos Rentzis
Voula Rentzis
Paul Roupas
Maria & Curt Ruttle
Gregory & Milissa Sackos
Lois Sakas
Dimitra Sampson
Paul Sarantes
Les & Christine Sarantinos
John Schneider
Warren & Kalliopi Schneider
Angela & George Scopelianos
Diane & George Sedlacek
Terry & Chris Seretis
John Siavelis
Eugenia Sioles
Robert & Dona Sioles
Robert Stamm & Elyse Sioles
George & Evi Skintzis
Elia & Phyllis Skoublis
Constantin Solomon
David & Alisha Solheim
Angelo & Marie Spanos
Leo & Rachel Spelioiopoulos
William & Dianne (Tiki) Spell
James A & Christina Speros
James L & Karen Speros
Vasilios & Diana Speros
Jim & Kathy Stamadianos
Andrew & Christine Stamatakis
Gerry & Nitsa Stamatelatos
Tristan & Alana Stoutenburg
Dr. Despina Tavlarides
William & Rebecca Tavlarides
Nick & Effie Theodore
Gus & Mary Louise Theodoropoulos
Jim Thomas
John Gus & Teresa Thomas
Deac. John & Diak. Mary Thrasher
Andrew Touvannas
Thaddeus & Katherine Tropea
Stacy & Gerri Tsantilas
Constantine & Stella Tsantilas
Vaios & Areti Tsanos
Dean & Brenda Tseunis
Dimitri Tsoutsopoulos
Sotirios & Nicki Tsoutsopoulos
Matthew & Eva Turgeon
Costa & Koko Tzavaras
Daniel Valenzuela
Kristen Vasilarakos
Argyro Vasquez
Terri & Scott Vaughn
George & Connie Venetis
Leah Venetis
Peter & Maria Vlahos
Andrew & Sandy Vlahoulis
Steve & Mary Vrahos
Matthew & Jaclyn Walsh
Paula & Colin Walsh
Zach & Mary Wilhelm
Richard & Katina Wood
Michael & Christina Wombacher
Zachariah Yoon & Elizabeth Hong
Anthony & Karen Zaman
Dimitrios & Eugenia Zannis
George & Katherine Zannis
Evangelia Zikos
Kostas & Margarita Zistos
Dimitrios Zistatris
Eleana Zistatris
Michael & Christina Zistatris

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 not filled out a pledge card for 2023, please pick one up in the Church Narthex or visit holytrinityphx.org. Pledged families as of 05/26/23

Desert Springs June/July 2023
JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS 2023

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 Scholarships!

Every year Philoptochos awards scholarships to HTC students. Please check out the applications in the Narthex as you walk in on the left.
If you have any questions, call Georganna at 602-300-0016.

Coffee in the Conference Room

is on hiatus until the Fall.
See you in September!

Election Committee
May 4, 2023

Led by Election Chair Judith Lamond, the Elections Team of Crisanne Bansner, Laurel Charnas, and Gina Graham presented each of their areas of research and review to the membership. The election of the 2023-2025 Philoptochos Board followed.

The new Board will be announced in the Fall.
Everyone’s Invited!
June 4, 2023

CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

HTC Community Event

PENTECOST Celebration

Please join us on June 4th after Divine Liturgy to celebrate our church’s feast day with a community BBQ and potluck.

See you there!
Feast Day Services

Please join us for our Feast Day Weekend on June 4 and 5! We will celebrate the Great Feast of Pentecost as usual on Sunday morning, June 4 and then invite the whole Valley for Sunday evening Kneeling Vespers at 5pm followed by a reception. If you are able, please worship with us on Monday morning for Orthros and Liturgy for the Day of the Holy Spirit at 8/9am with the whole Valley as well!

4F Helpers

Jill Scott, Mary Pardhe, and AnnaMarie Nieblas are just a few of the many volunteers who assisted at the monthly 4F events. You are appreciated!

Coffee Hours

Thank you to the OPA for sponsoring Coffee Hours in May.

The June Coffee Hours are sponsored by Philoptochos.

Thank you!
Parish Assembly
Sunday, May 21, 2023

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 39,967 site visitors in the last 12 months!
Dear Friends,

With Summer approaching, it is time for us to take a break until September. I may from time to time write to you, please read the contents. I would love to hear from you if you have any suggestions. I do have a special event planned for September, but you have to read any notices from either me or from some of our volunteers. We will also be very busy baking during the late summer months for the Festival!!!

Enjoy your Summer.

Stay cool & hydrated!!!

See a few pictures of some of our gatherings.

Yours in Christ,
Julie Karoutas
email: juliekaroutas@gmail.com
Cell# 623.313.8720
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 May Celebration Sunday, we celebrated Ria Papageorgiou’s achievement of earning her pilot instrument rating and all May birthdays. The décor incorporated shades of pastel in the tablecloths and balloon arch. The children and parents participating in the May 4F event were a big help in setting up the balloon arch and tablecloths! The table centerpieces were bird nests wreathed in a rose garland. Each nest had tiny pastel eggs and a colorful bird.

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.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more, please email htcphxevents@gmail.com and/or talk to Terri Alexon or Mary Pardhe. We’re looking for more volunteers to help out on a monthly basis!

Communal Cooking Event

In May, our Communal Cooking event was, once again, led by Phill Panagiotoglou. The team prepared a delicious meal of chicken primavera with chicken, Greek salad, and garlic bread. In June, we will be having a grilling event on Sunday after Divine Liturgy to celebrate Pentecost as a parish family. If you are interested in helping out or joining us for future cooking events, please email htcphxevents@gmail.com! It is a great opportunity to learn how to make new recipes and spend time with our Holy Trinity Community.
Celebration Sunday

May 7, 2023
### June Birthdays

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<td>Dina Anagnopoulos</td>
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<td>Polly Ginakes</td>
<td>Tristan Stoutenburg</td>
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<td>Demetri Harris</td>
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<td>Nicholas Harris</td>
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<td>Diane Herman</td>
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<td>Gregory Hill</td>
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<td>Tina Karalekas</td>
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<td>Stavros Kassimatis</td>
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<td>Ronald Kidd</td>
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<td>Matthew Walsh</td>
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**June**
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.

Summer Series 2023

Last Summer, once per month, Fr. Alexander led a special lecture series, the "Summer Series"—3 classes on one-off topics: The Apostles, the Book of Judith, the Theotokos.

This Summer we'll look to do that again but are open to input on what YOU want to learn about! Email Fr. Alexander here if there is a topic or shorter book of the Bible you want to learn about this Summer! Class will be in person and on Zoom.

Dates all following Paraklesis at 6:30pm:
June 14
July 12
August 2

Donations

We greatly value all your donations! Please remember, when you write us a check, to include your intention for the donation and your envelope number in the memo line. i.e. stewardship, candles, etc. Thank you all!

HTC on Facebook

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

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral—Phoenix, AZ
The month of May gives us the opportunity to celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on the fortieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter). Since the date of Pascha changes each year, the date of the Feast of the Ascension changes. The Feast is always celebrated on a Thursday.

The Feast itself commemorates when, on the fortieth day after His Resurrection, Jesus led His disciples to the Mount of Olives, and after blessing them and asking them to wait for the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven.

The moment of the Ascension is told in one sentence: "He was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud which took Him from their sight" (Acts 1:9).

It is also at this time that the disciples were directed by Christ to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Jesus also told them that He would be with them always, "even to the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

The icon of The Ascension of Our Lord is a joyous icon. It is painted with bright colors. Christ is shown ascending in His glory in a mandorla. A mandorla is a design which is almond-shaped or round. Inside the mandorla is the figure of a holy person. Christ blesses the assembly with His right hand. In His left is a scroll. The scroll is a symbol of teaching. This icon shows that the Lord in heaven is the source of blessing. In addition, Jesus is the source of knowledge. The icon reminds us that Christ continues to be the source of the teaching and message of the Church, blessing and guiding those to whom He has entrusted his work.

The Theotokos occupies a very special place in this icon. She is in the center of the icon, immediately below the ascending Christ. The gesture of her hands is gesture of prayer. She is clearly outlined by the whiteness of the garments of the angels. The Theotokos is depicted in a very calm pose. This is quite different from the appearance of the Disciples. They are moving about, talking to one another and looking and pointing towards heaven. The entire group, the Theotokos and the disciples represent the Church.
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!

“To be a welcoming community sharing Christ’s love through faith and service.”
Liturgical Services will continue to be live streamed by Father Apostolos and Father Alexander.

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-and-beyond 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 text Kristen at 602-332-8809.

If you have been receiving the mailed Desert Springs, but no longer need it mailed to you, please let the Church Office know. Thank you!

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

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 inviolate 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 $644,340.00.

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.
Chapter 219 Brothers wish you a safe and happy Summer! Our meetings resume in August. Details to follow.

On behalf of all the Brothers in AHEPA Chapter 219, we would like to sincerely thank all the parishioners who attended our Palm Sunday Luncheon this year. We look forward to serving you again next year - mark your calendars for April 28th, 2024!

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?
CONTACT STEVE LEMERE
602-882-9990
Daughters of Penelope
Helenos Chapter 432
Phoenix, AZ
Submitted by Deedee Staikos

Our year has come to a close. New officers have been elected and they will be installed in September.

We would like to share the 2022-2023 with our community...

Founders Day Daughters of Penelope Coffee Hour.

Grab and go lunches.
Daughters of Penelope

Crafts boutique.

Desert Belle Christmas party excursion and lunch at the Shiprock.

Wine tasting/meeting.
Daughters of Penelope

Joint Ahepa Dinner with a speaker on Ukraine.

Game night at a members home.
Daughters of Penelope

Kentucky Derby luncheon at Turf Paradise.

Not to mention meetings, initiations, charitable contributions, the midwinter conference and in the coming months the District Convention in CA and the National Convention in Nevada...

And in a wink ;) it’s summer!

**Officers:**
Cathy Keyser, President
Angie Lambrou, Vice President
Deedee Staikos, Recording Secretary
Connie Panagiotakopoulos, Corresponding Secretary
Anastasia Mitchell, Treasurer
Jennifer Bilitsis, Marshall
Julie Karoutas, Officer at Large
Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry

Living Orthodox is a national, pan-Orthodox ministry that is building a community of young adults (18-35) who are striving to grow in and connect with their faith! The focus of this ministry is to highlight ways that we, as young adults, personally grow in our Orthodox faith (ex. attending services, reading books, listening to podcasts, watching spiritual videos, etc.) and to share ideas on how to increase our commitment to live an Orthodox life. Join us on for virtual meetings every other week and in-person for our monthly potluck discussions!

April Updates/Discussion

Thank you for supporting the pan-Orthodox Project Mexico food drive! Donations were collected at four parishes, and we collected around 50 boxes of food.

In April, we had a virtual presentation by Fr. Jacob Saylor on the topic of Orthodox relationships and marriage. The two papers that Fr. Jacob covered during the meeting were "The Marriage of Priests: Towards an Orthodox Christian Theology of Gender" and "Christian Purity: The High Value of Marriage, Virginity, and Chastity" - both by Dr. Timothy Patitsas.

Finally, our virtual meetings are back! After a hiatus for Lent, we will be restarting virtual meetings on Discord (https://discord.com/invite/FvayXXf6Wk). If you are a young adult between 18-35 or so, please join us for bi-weekly discussions on Orthodox materials.

For past videos, please visit our YouTube channel at https://tinyurl.com/LOvideosYT. The April video won’t be posted due to the nature of the event, but stay tuned for videos from later events!

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Living Orthodox, please email livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com! You can also visit https://linktr.ee/livingorthodox for links to our Instagram channel and Discord server.
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 cjecomom@gmail.com, and we’ll get you added to list!

Graduation Celebration Lunch
May 21, 2023
8th Grade Graduates

Gianna Benetos will be graduating 8th grade from Sonoran Trails Middle School. In middle school, Gianna participated in Game Cheer. At Holy Trinity, Gianna attended Holy Trinity Academy, and has been active in the Greek dance program, Myrrhbearers, and the youth groups. In the fall, Gianna plans to attend Cactus Shadows High School. In the future, Gianna would like to teach Greek dance, and be an interior designer.

“Do not be afraid to try new things. If you mess up, the only person that will remember is you.”

Eric Delord will be graduating 8th grade from Madison Meadows Middle School. In his free time, Eric enjoys playing flag and tackle football. At Holy Trinity, Eric has been active in Sunday School, the Greek Dance program, the Greek Festival, All-Saints Camp, and the youth groups. In the fall, Eric plans to attend Arcadia High School. In the future, Eric hopes to play football for his high school.
Costa Herrera will be graduating 8th grade from Kyrene Altadena Middle School. In school, Costa was part of the National Junior Honors Society (NJHS) and the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) Program. In his free time, Costa enjoys playing soccer and the trumpet. Costa serves in the altar at both Holy Trinity Cathedral and St. Katherine’s Church. In 2023, Costa participated in St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival and received Honorable Mention. In the fall, Costa plans to attend Desert Vista High School or Horizon Honors. Costa’s future goals are to improve the world in some way through the field of engineering, and solve some of the mysteries of the planets and universe.

That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. – (John 3:15)

“There is no such thing as failure, unless you do not try.” – Albert Einstein

“The most important thing in life that I have learned at this point would be the fact that everything is in the Lord’s hands and that he has a plan for us.”

Joanna Mastorakos will be graduating 8th grade from Sunrise Middle School. In school, Joanna was part of the DLC Gifted Program. In her free time, Joanna participates in Girl Scouts and Youth Theater. At Holy Trinity, Joanna has been active in Sunday School, Choir, Myrrhbearers, and the Greek Dance and FDF competition programs. In the fall, Joanna will be attending Horizon High School. In the future, Joanna wants to become a Forensic Psychiatrist.

“I have worked hard in school and I am proud of my accomplishments in the DLC at Sunrise MS. I am looking forward to high school and ultimately going to college.”
Claire Meyers will be graduating 8th grade from All Saints Episcopal Day School. In middle school, Claire was on the Head of School list every trimester, and part of National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). In middle school, Claire was awarded the Coaches Award for Basketball, and each year was awarded the Presidential Fitness Award. In her free time, Claire is part of the Desert Heat Club Lacrosse team; plays basketball; participates in equestrian competitive jumping; and, is a member of National Charity League. At Holy Trinity, Claire participated in Sunday School and the Greek dance program. In the fall, Claire plans to attend Notre Dame Preparatory High School. In the future, Claire hopes to attend Duke University, major in business, go to culinary school, and develop a global culinary brand.

“Work hard to create choices for yourself.”

High School Graduates

Nathan Delord will be graduating from Arcadia High School. In school, Nathan played for his school’s football teams for four years, and was on his school’s track and field team for a year. At Holy Trinity, Nathan has been active in Sunday School, the Greek Dance and FDF competition programs, the Greek Festival, All-Saints Camp, and the youth groups. In the fall, Nathan will be attending the University of Arizona. Nathan plans to study business in college.
Elizabeth Pardhe will be graduating Summa Cumme Laude honors from ASU Prep Digital. In and out of school, Elizabeth participated in Next Generation Service Corps., 4-H, Model UN, SCENE (Science and Engineering Experience), and Discovery. Elizabeth was the 4-H in Space Arizona Ambassador; Maricopa 4-H STEM Ambassador; President of Discovery; and, 4-H Vice-president of Model UN. Elizabeth has been awarded: Two-time Champion of 4-H Arizona Communications Day (2022 & 2023); Spirit of 4-H Award; and, the 4-H In Space Initiative Certificate. At Holy Trinity, Elizabeth has been active in Sunday School, the Chanting Choir, Myrrhbearers, the Celebration Committee, and the youth groups. Through the church, Elizabeth has participated in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival (SJCOF). She was the Regional 3rd Place winner, and two-time District Nominee for the SJCOF in 2019 and 2023. Elizabeth is the recipient of the New American University Scholarship, and in the fall will be attending the Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University. Elizabeth plans to major in Data Science and get a minor in business or finance.

“I would love to travel the world and explore new countries, and I hope to make the most of my time at ASU!”

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me – (Philippians 4:13)

Alexander Vasilios Petsas will be graduating from Chaparral High School. In school, Alexander was part of the Varsity Football and Varsity Track Teams. Outside of school, Alexander was part of Boys Team Charity. At Holy Trinity, Alexander has been active in Sunday School, the Greek Dance and FDF competition programs, the Greek Festival, Altar Boys and the youth groups. In the fall, Alexander will be attending the University of Arizona.
Sophia Stamatis will be graduating from Xavier College Preparatory. In school, Sophia played on the Xavier golf team for four years, and in 2023 her team placed second in the state of Arizona. Through golf, Sophia was awarded the Best Sportsmanship award, 2023 Captains Award, and she received a scholarship to play golf at a college level. In addition to golf, Sophia played on her school Lacrosse team, was part of the President’s Council, and was in the Photography club. Sophia was in National Honors Society and National English Honors Society, and achieved First Honors from 2020-2023, and Second Honors in 2019. In her free time, Sophia was a member of National Charity League. At Holy Trinity, Sophia participated in the Sunday School program, the Greek Dance program, All Saints Camp, and the youth groups. In the fall, Sophia will be attending Regis University in Denver, CO, and will be playing on the Regis’ golf team. After college, Sophia would like to continue on to graduate school to become a Physician’s Assistant.

“My proudest accomplishment was recently receiving a scholarship and invitation to play on the Regis University Golf team.”

“There are three ways to ultimate success: The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind.” – Mister Rodgers

Emilia Linos is graduating Magna Cum Laude honors with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and Minor in Psychology from Arizona State University Barrett Honors College. Emilia was a Presidential Scholar recipient, and was a convocation speaker. Through the Barrett program, Emilia completed an honors thesis on birth order effects on personality. Outside of school, Emilia was an Mayo Clinic Extern, an AmeriCorp member at Hushabye Nursery, and a SDFC fitness coordinator. After graduation, Emilia has accepted a position as a registered nurse at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, and will complete a nurse residency program in Heart Transplant Cardiovascular Surgery ICU. In the future, Emilia would like to continue her education, and be a leader in providing care for critically ill patients.

Every good and perfect gift is from above. – (James 1:17)
**Gus Pyle** is graduating from the University of Arizona with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Business Administration – Marketing. In school, Gus was an Eller Elite member, and played Intramural sports. In his youth, Gus was very involved in church activities, and he looks forward to getting more involved in the church in the future. Beginning in July, Gus will be working for Treloar & Helsel as an insurance representative.

**Elena Scaccia** graduated from Northern Arizona University with a Bachelor of Science in exercise science and a Minor in Psychology. In college, Elena was a recipient of the Lumberjack Scholarship, and was on the Dean’s List every semester. In the fall of 2024, Elena will be attending Physical Therapy school at Stony Brook University in New York. Elena hopes to become a physical therapist, and one day open an all women’s gym.

"Positivity is a choice. The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts." – Marcus Aurelius

Elena’s proudest accomplishment: “Getting accepted into Stony Brook University’s doctorate of physical therapy program.”
Dominic Tropea is graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice (Policing) degree from Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions at Arizona State University. In school Dominic was on the Dean’s List. At Holy Trinity, Dominic has been a 4F Night Young Adult Assistant, has helped run the food line at the Greek Festival, and is a Senior Acolyte in the Altar. Dominic is leaving in January for Coast Guard Officer Candidate School. Dominic hopes to one day work for a federal agency like the FBI, U.S. Marshals or Homeland Security Investigations. Dominic’s future goals are to one day get the job of his dreams and continue growing in his faith wherever he may be.

“My proudest accomplishments are graduating from ASU, finishing school, and moving forward in life by starting my lifelong career with law enforcement and the military.

My Heavenly Father will do to every one of you if you do not forgive your brother from your heart. – (Matthew 18:35)"

Sofia Walsh is graduating from the Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Global Studies, Minors in Russian, Spanish and Political Science, and a Certificate in Russian and East European Studies. Sofia made the Dean’s List, and received the Foreign Language and Area Studies scholarship to study Russian. While in college, Sofia volunteered with the Anike Foundation, and the U.S. State Department’s Education USA Tajikistan Program. Sofia worked as a Spanish tutor, and a Program Aide at ASU’s Mellikian Center’s Critical Languages Institute summer language program. At Holy Trinity, Sofia continued to help with the annual Greek Festival. Sofia was selected as an Alternate for a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Award to Estonia, which is funded by the U.S. State Department and would allow her to teach English in Estonia for one year. After graduation, Sofia will be attending American University in Washington, D.C., to pursue a Master’s in International Affairs with concentrations in foreign policy and national security, and Eastern European affairs. In the future, Sofia plans to pursue a career in the federal government with the State Department or a national security agency.

“My proudest accomplishment is writing and defending my undergraduate honors thesis, which is focused on Estonia’s efforts to build resilience against Russian disinformation.

For I know the thoughts I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. – Jeremiah 29:11
Joshua Pardhe is graduating Summa Cum Laude honors with a Masters of Science (MSc) Finance (Statistics and Mathematics) degree from Arizona State University. Joshua is ASU’s youngest Master of Finance graduate at age 21; and, is ranked in the top 5% globally for #OSINTForGood hackathon participants. [OSINTForGood is a powerful movement enabling positive action to support charitable causes.] Joshua was a recipient of the Next Generation Service Corps Scholar, W.P. Carey Graduate Scholar, and named the 2022 Graduate Mentor of the Year. In school, Joshua participated in: Alpha Kappa Pi-lota Xi Executive Board; Tau Beta Pi Honor Society; was the 2023 Barrett Alumni Speaker; and, was the 2022 Barrett Dean’s Lecturer. In his free time, Joshua was a W.P. Carey Graduate Leadership Board member and Judiciary Councilman; IEEE Council of Electronic Design Automation Member; and IEEE Computational Intelligence Society Councilmember (focusing on regulation/standardization of intelligence systems). At Holy Trinity, Joshua is Protosaltis of the Holy Trinity Chanting Choir, and a member of the Celebration Committee. Joshua will be moving to New York City for a job as a financial consultant in emerging technologies. In the future, Joshua would like to start his own hedge fund.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. – (Jeremiah 29:11)
2023 Graduates
May 21, 2023