

Desert Springs

January 2023
Volume 8 Issue 1



Welcome New Year!

Vasilopita by Effie Mousses

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

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

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Desert Springs Deadline

The 25th of each month

Sunday Bulletin Deadline

Wednesdays, 12 noon

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2022 Parish Council Members

President: Paul Katsenes

Vice President: Connie Contes

Treasurer: Jim Manelis

Ass't. Treasurer: Dina Anagnopoulos

Secretary: Andi Fourlis

Sandy Annos, Charlie DeMoss,

Alexander Harding, Jill Leach,

Sandy Meris, Elias Moussa,

Socrates Papadopoulos

Holy Trinity Cathedral

www.holytrinityphx.org

Metropolis of San Francisco

www.SanFran.goarch.org

Archdiocese Website

www.goarch.org

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- **Bookstore** — Rita Papaspyrou: stnectariosphx@gmail.com
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- **Celebration Committee** — Terri Alexon and Mary Pardhe: htcphxevents@gmail.com
- **Dance** — Niko Panagiotakopoulos: npanos01@yahoo.com
- **Daughters of Penelope** — Cathy Keyser: keyserc53@gmail.com
- **Desert Diamonds (50+)** — Julie Karoutas: juliekaroutas@gmail.com
- **Epistle Readers** — Presvytera Denise Hill: denkevhill83@gmail.com
- **Feed Those in Need** — Christine Stamatis: cstamatis@cox.net
- **Greek Festival** — Nick Kretsedemas, Angelo Pestrivas: niko.37@cox.net
- **Greek School** — Irene Mackos: eirinie@gmail.com
- **Hellenic Museum** — Bessie Hotis: call 602-953-1913
- **Little Lambs** — Angela Scopelianos: angelagarozzo@gmail.com
- **Living Orthodox (formerly St. Nicodemus Young Adult Book Club)** — Mary Pardhe: livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com
- **Maintenance** — Peter Bilitsis, Ted Fourlis: htcmaintenance1973@gmail.com
- **Myrrhbearers** — Stacey Beaty: staceybeaty@live.com
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- **OPA** — Caroline Economopoulos: cjecomom@gmail.com
- **Parish Council** — Paul Katsenes: pkatsenes@cox.net
- **Philoptochos** — Alex Anagnopoulos: aanagnopoulos2@msn.com
- **Safety & Security** — Paul Katsenes, Socrates Papadopoulos: pkatsenes@cox.net
- **Sons of Pericles** — Ted Fourlis: text or call: 602-625-8835
- **Special Events Administrator** — Angie Lambrou: angie.lambrou@cox.net
- **Stewardship** — Sandy Meris: sandymeris@gmail.com
- **Sunday School** — Kathy New: kkatsalis@msn.com
- **Wedding Coordinator** — Lindsay Vardalos
- **YAL** — Alexander Harding: text 480-626-3149

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 Alexander

The Blessing of Homes



Photo from greekherald.com.au

For a while, due to the size of our parish, issues of Covid, and a variety of things we have not been able to bless your houses in this season of Theophany. This changes this year! If you would like your house blessed please contact the office, Fr. Apostolos or Fr. Alexander directly and we will set up a time to bless your homes!

Why should I have my home blessed?

I'm glad you asked! When we begin anything we are called to pray and so beginning to inhabit our homes we should always seek to pray and have God present there abiding in our home so if you have just moved somewhere we bless your house. We ask God to bless you and keep you for many years and protect your home! The Church teaches us to sanctify everything: dwellings, places of work, all our pursuits, and the fruits of our labor. The home blessing at Theophany represents a renewal of our lives in Christ. Washed in the baptismal waters, our homes become temples of the Holy Spirit for the fulfillment of the will of our Heavenly Father. This is why the Church blesses everything that can be found in a Christian home; and if something is not worthy of being blessed, then there should not be a place for it in the home of a Christian.

But I've had my house blessed before, do I need to again?

Yes! We should have our homes blessed again just as we need constant blessing in our life. At this time of Theophany we have the water blessed on Theophany available to sanctify our homes and purify them of the sin that lingers in them and ask God to dwell there instead.

What should I do to prepare?

After you have set-up your appointment with us, here is how to prepare for your house blessing: All who reside in the household should make every effort to be present for the Blessing. We will gather in a central location (perhaps your home altar) and please, if possible, have ready: a lit candle, a Theophany icon or another icon of Christ, make sure your rooms are lit (if at night) and open doors to rooms for ease of entry.



Please contact the office or either Fr. Apostolos or Fr. Alexander if you would like to have your home blessed this Theophany season and we will make arrangements to make your home truly a place where Christ dwells and blesses you in this new year!

As a note, it is NEVER required to give a priest money, the Scriptures tell us, "Freely you have received, freely give." It is a pious custom to do so but should NEVER be thought of as a requirement, a priest comes to his parishioners to bring the blessings of God upon them and their homes.

Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

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

NEW YEAR— NEW STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

Wishing all of our Holy Trinity stewards a joyous, healthy, blessed 2023!

As we prepare for a new year we pray for health for ourselves and our families, success for our children and hope that this new year will be better than the last. It's important to remember the church in our reflections and as we make plans for the upcoming year.

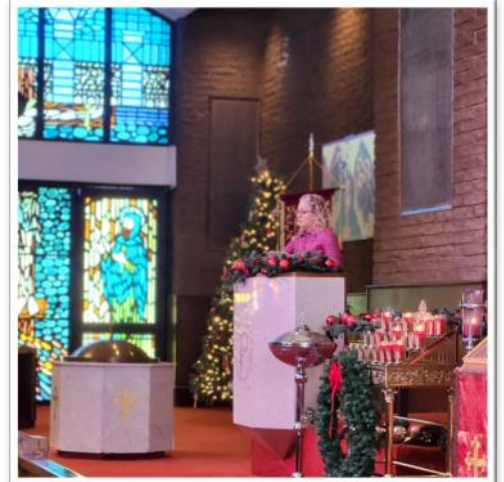
Each and every year we make a new stewardship commitment. We are required to fill out a new Stewardship Pledge Card and prayerfully, thoughtfully consider our new pledge for the year. We are striving to become a tithing parish which means to give 10% of our first fruits to the church. At the very least, stewardship should be a sacrificial giving and hopefully increasing year after year.

Our goal is for 100% of our parishioners to turn in their pledge cards by January 31st. And our next goal is to reach the \$500,000 mark in total commitments. This is something I am confident we can do as we are not far from that goal. Can you help us get there by increasing your pledge over last year's?

One thing that is evident of our Holy Trinity community is that we can meet any goal we set when we work together. This community is a giving, generous community and when there is a need our parishioners answer the call.



We are truly grateful for the outpouring of loving generosity and understanding of what true stewardship means. Glory be to God for the blessings He continues to bestow on our beloved Cathedral!



Blessing the Pledge Cards

*Stewardship message continued on page 5
Desert Springs January 2023*

Stewardship

FILL OUT YOUR 2023 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD HERE!

If you have yet to fill out your **2023 Pledge Card** simply click [HERE](#) to be immediately connected to our online pledge card. Simply fill out the information and submit it. Then if you are a current WeShare user you can continue using WeShare until we are fully integrated to the new system. Once that happens we will provide assistance in converting you to ShelbyNext.

NEW AND IMPROVED STEWARDSHIP COMING SOON!!

We are excited to announce that we have a new and improved stewardship program and portal coming in February! ShelbyNext will be our new online payment portal and with it comes a myriad of opportunities that will help us serve you better. ShelbyNext will replace WeShare and PayPal. ShelbyNext is user friendly and enables us to have a one-stop shop for all of our needs both stewardship related and otherwise. Through ShelbyNext you can receive text message reminders about various church events and services, make stewardship payments, purchase tickets to church events, make memorial or Friends of the Festival donations and even download Father's sermons. If you are a current WeShare user we will provide information soon on how to convert to ShelbyNext. We will be ready to share information about signing up soon.

YOU ANSWERED THE CALL TO CREATE A “SEASON OF GENEROSITY”

A huge thanks to all of our parishioners who donated non perishable food, toys and school supplies to the families of St. Vincent de Paul. In all we collected 6 boxes filled with these much needed items. Because of your generosity those families were able to provide a toy to their children, send them off to school with much needed supplies and put a hot meal on their table. Thank you!



Stewardship Luncheon

December 11, 2022

Parishioners enjoyed a delicious complimentary lunch provided by the Stewardship Committee and the Parish Council.



The Little Lambs offered a cookie decorating activity for the youngest members during the luncheon.

Thank you, Debra Harrison and Team!



House of Stewards

As of 12/29/2022

Panagiota Agelakos
Catherine Agra
Evan & Terri Alexon
Constance Anagnopoulos
Mike & Alexandra Anagnopoulos
Nikki Anest
Bettina Angelos
John & Alexandra Annos
Elaine Apostle
Argyro Apostolou
Chris Athens
Christina & Chris Bakavelou
Constantine & Eleni Balanis
Taylor Bankson
Ted & Rebecca Barabatis
Marissa Bard
Shannon & Elise Bard
Alexandra Bates
Joyce Bavlinka
Dr. Nicholas Baziotes
Scott & Stacey Beaty
George & Stacy Benetos
Stamatios Benetos
Dan & Vicki Bichekas
Peter & Jennifer Bilitsis
Emily Blazev
James & Helen Bruno
Chris & Georgia Brusalis
Chris & Rita Bruskas
Kristen Bruskas
Constance Burkhart
Kathy Carras
Frank & Alice Carris
Chad & Amanda Carver
Laurel Charnas-Schiller & Todd Schiller
Thanos & Anna Chimonas
Harriet Chotras
Jim Chotras
Pete & Kim Choukalas
Katherine & Jeffrey Clarke
Andrew & Mara Contes
James & Connie Contes
Kathy Contes
Ed Cooper
Jean Dal Pan
Nick & Sharon Daniolos
Patricia Davis
Leonard & Elaine Debickero
Elevisis & Alexis Delgadillo

Dimitrios & Ellen Deligiannis
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
Stanley & Fran Drozd
Denise Dye
Kathryn Dye
Caroline Economopoulos
Christos & Dena Economopoulos
Emil Ellis
Fr. Alexander & Presv. Laura
Eliades
Greg Fernandez
Helen Fernandez
Mary Floor
Tim & Karla Floor
Athanasia Fournalis
Athanasia Fournalis
Ted & Andi Fournalis
Tim Fraenkel
Chris & Celeste Francis
Georgana Frieh
George & Julie Froumis
Christopher & Catherine Frye
Chris & Anne Gavras
Andreanna Georgiou
Pamela Georgelos
Diana Georgelos
Demetra Georgelos
John Giannopoulos
Polly Ginakes
Stella Glitsos
Eva Goodman
Bill & Lynn Graham
Gina Graham
David Haag
Mary Haidos
Donald Hall
Alexander Harding
Terry Harper



Mary & Roger Harris
Patsy Harris
Alexia Haugen
Rev. Fr. Apostolos & Presv.
Denise Hill
Gregory Hill
Veronica Hill
Maria Hontzas Ruttle
Bessie Hotis
Jeffrey Johannismeyer
James & Linda Kalivas
Basilis & Roula Kaneris
Jean Kantaros
Nick & Dena Kantaros
William & Harriet Kapolas
Vasilios & Vasiliqi Karagiannis
Christina Karalekas
Mia Karandreas
Julie Karoutas
Joann Karros
Stavros & Olga Kassimatis
Christos & Kelley Katsanos
John & Mary Katsenes
Paul & Lori Katsenes
Thomas Katsenes
Jim & Poppy Kavouris
Fanny Kechajias
Catherine & Quentin Keyser
Ronald & Virginia Kidd
Emily Kimmell
George & Zanetta Kleanthis
Anastasia Kompos
Maria Kompos
Kostadinos & Anatoli Kostouros
Dean & Angela Koumontzis
Elizabeth Kratsas
Tammy Kretsedemas
Nick & Marina Kretsedemas
Debbie Kunkel
Theodore Kyriacou

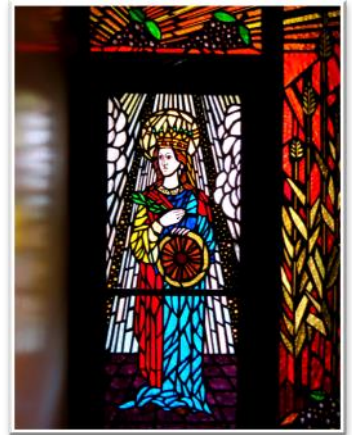
*House of Stewards continued on page 8
Desert Springs January 2023*

House of Stewards continued from page 7

Tassie Ladas	Christo & Connie Panagiotakopoulos	John Siavelis
Anastasia Laitsas	Nikolas Panagiotakopoulos	Elyse Sioles
John & Evangelia Lambrou	Thanasi & Melissa Panagiotakopoulos	Robert & Donna Sioles
Judith Lamond	Sofia Panagiotoglou	George & Evi Skintzis
Elias & Mary Lampos	George & Chrysoula Papadopoulos	Elias & Phyllis Skoubis
Scott & Jill Leach	Socrates & Stephanie Papadopoulos	George Skoubis
Mike & Lea Linaris	Ria Papageorgiou	Evangelos Skoubis
Gregory Lizanich	Alexander & Olga Papamatheakis	Constantin Solomon
Efterpi Lourias	Betty Papas	Angelo & Marie Spanos
Melina Machas	Nicholas Papas	Leo & Rachel Speliopoulos
James & Stephanie Machas	Rita & Spyros Papaspyrou	James A. & Christiana Speros
Maria Maciejewski	Gabriella Papatzimas	Elias & Theodora Staikos
Aristotle & Evelyne Macrodimetris	Nicholas & Stacy Papatzimas	Jim & Kathryn Stamadianos
Marika Makridis	Andrew & Emily Pappas	Andrew & Christine Stamatis
Margarita Makris	Angeline Pappas	Jane Steffens
Douglas & Anna Markakis	Harry & Fannie Pappas	Tristan & Alana Stoutenburg
Mark Mallas	Irene Pappas	Christopher Tapas
Julie & Felix Mamani	John & Andrea Pappas	Despina Tavlarides
Anna Manos	Daniel & Anna Pardhe	William & Rebecca Tavlarides
Jim & Donna Manelis	Athena Parmenter	Gus & Mary Theodoropoulos
Maria Maniatis	Katherine Pedersen	Nick & Effie Theodore
William & Rina Marinakos	John & Dina Pesognelli	Jim Thomas
Nicholas Marino	Fotini Pestrivas	Deac. & Diak. John & Mary Thrasher
Mary Lou Mastorakos	Zoe Pestrivas	Andrew Touvannas
Stephen & Mari Mastorakos	Chris Petroulakis	Thaddeus & Katherine Tropea
Pamela Maydanis	Jacquelyn Petroulakis	Constantine & Stella Tsantilas
Peter & Christina Maydanis	William & Kathryn Petsas	Stacy & Gerri Tsantilas
Angela Mead	Nicholas & Laurel Petsas	Dimitrios Tsioutsiopoulos
William & Sandy Meris	Michael & TeAnn Philippis	Constantine & Katherine Tzavaras
Joanne Meris	Evanthia Piatt	Daniel Valenzuela
Anthony & Tania Miaoulis	Brian & Athena Pickett	Peter & Lindsay Vardalos
George Miller	Georgia Pikoula	Kristen Vasilarakos
Paul & Linda Miller	Mary Pikulas	Argyro Vasquez
William & Jean Miller	Andreas & Mary Poulakidas	Andrew & Sandy Vlahoulis
Andrew & Anastasia Mitchell	Tracy Poulos	Steve & Mary Vrahas
Philip & Helen Mitchell	Chris & Juli Pritsos	Kenneth & Angela Walker
Dino Moschovitis	Constantinos Pritsos	Catherine Wallerich
Elias Mousa	Nicole Pyle	Paula Walsh
Spyro & Effie Mousses	Bertha Quinn	Douglas & Paulina Watson
John & Maria Nicholas	Lydia Rabbitt	Timothy West
Evelyn Nickalew	Alex & Rose Rentzis	Roberta Williams
John Nicolettos	Lois Sakkas	Dan Williams
Annamarie Nieblas	Dimitra Sampson	Richard & Katina Wood
Pamela Nolen	Paul Sarantes	Michael & Christina Wombacher
Marta Ntatsos	Leslie Sarantinos	Dimitra Zakas
Irene Pagoudis	John Schneider	Anthony & Karen Zaman
Jeremy & Anastasia Oxley	Warren & Kalliopi Schneider	Dimitrios & Eugenia Zannis
Else Paletsos	George & Angela Scopelianos	George & Katherine Zannis
Elizabeth Palmer	Diane Sedlacek	Zella Zannis
Alexander & Alexia	Chris & Terry Seretis	Evangelia Zikos
Panagiotakopoulos	Elaine Seretis	Michael & Christina Zistatsis
Anna Panagiotakopoulos	George & Traci Sgouros	

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Alex Anagnopoulos, President



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



**Next Meeting on Thursday,
January 5, 2023
at 6:30 pm
in the Education Building**

Some of our
Coffee Social
participants
helped with
the calendar
mailing!



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

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

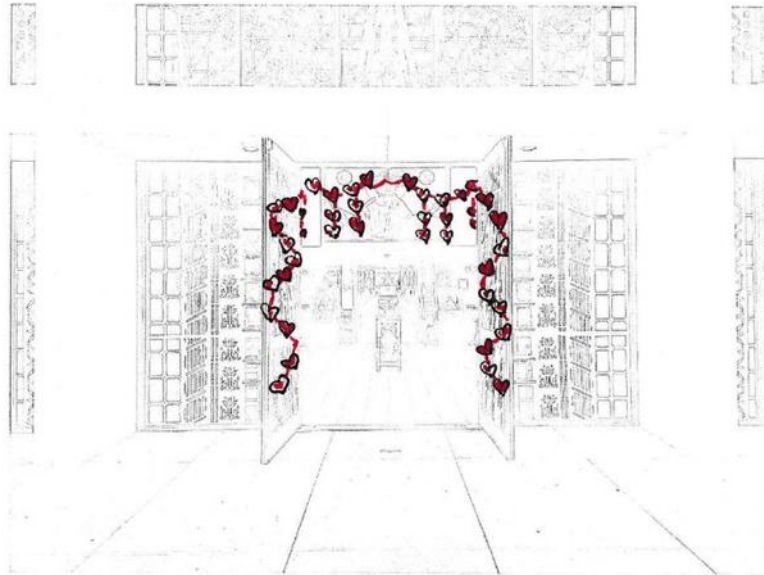
December Meeting

12/08/2022



First, there was a short meeting, followed by a generous buffet, then a fun gift exchange!

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos Hearts Project



Beginning **Thursday, 01/05/2023 through Sunday, 02/05/2023**, we will be selling paper hearts for \$10.00 each. Once decorated - by you or the Philoptochos crew - the hearts will be strung together, blessed by the Fathers, and on display on Sunday, 02/12/2023. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the loved ones in your life, and to honor those In Memory Of - May Their Memory Be Eternal! Look for tables and presentations every week through the first week of February.



Coffee in the Conference Room!

EVERY TUESDAY!

9:30-11:00 am
No RSVP needed -
just stop on by!



Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

To Joanna Mackos and ALL the Bakers—we very much appreciate you!



Tuesday's Baking Day



Thursday's Baking Day

Christmas Bake Sale

December 18, 2022

Thank you to all who bought items at our annual Christmas Bake Sale! Your support allows us to continue our diligent efforts for our many projects and commitments.



Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos Vasilopita Auction

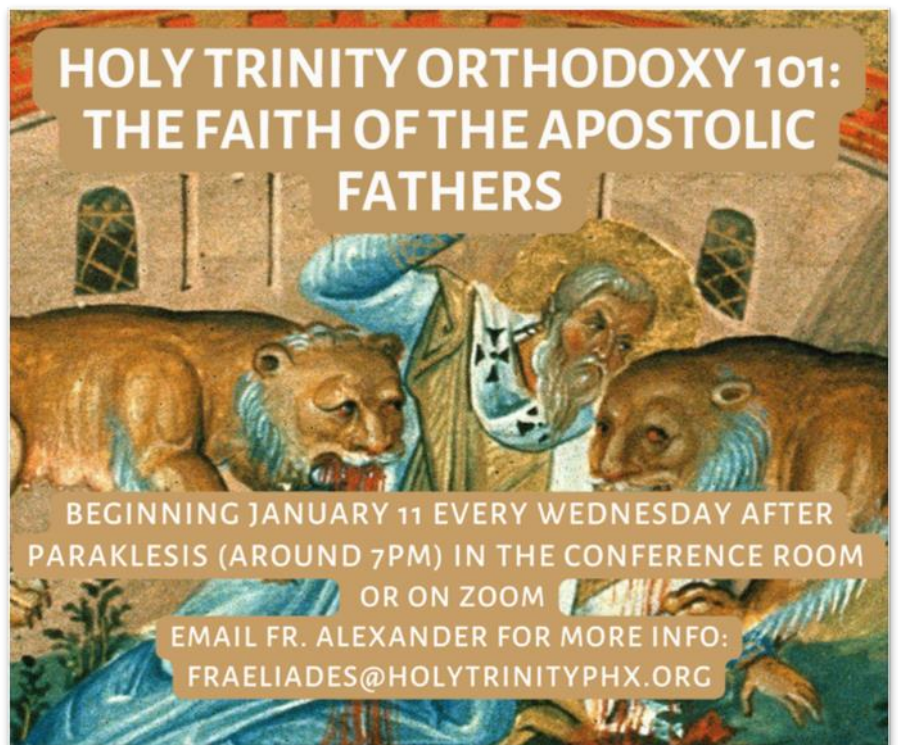
Please join us on **Sunday, January 8th, in the Speros Community Center following Divine Liturgy.** We will auction several beautiful Vasilopitas made by the ladies of Philoptochos for you to take home and share with your families to start the New Year. We look forward to seeing you!



Orthodoxy 101

Beginning on **January 11 Fr. Alexander will hold his Orthodoxy 101 Class every Wednesday after Paraklesis (around 7pm)** in the Conference Room and on Zoom ([here](#)). We will approach the faith through the lens of the Apostolic Fathers, the Fathers of the Church who lived within the first 100 or so years after Jesus! What did these early Christians believe? How did they live? Let's find out together!

We read some writings from the book "The Apostolic Fathers in English" by Michael Holmes. This book is not *required* as all readings are also available online through google for free but is helpful. Another helpful way to frame the class will be through reading "The Illumined Heart" by Pres. Frederica Matthews-Green.



Calendar Overview

Father Apostolos reminded parishioners on New Year's Day to use a calendar to keep the liturgical seasons and Name Days forefront in daily prayer and activities.



Parish Assembly and Parish Council Elections

December 4, 2022



Parish Council Election Results

Congratulations to our new Parish Council members, elected for a 3 year term (in alphabetical order): **Alexander Harding, Paul Katsenes, Jill Leach, Chris Petroulakis, and John Schneider.**

May God bless you and strengthen you in your service to His Church!

Coffee Hours

Thank you to **Philoptochos** for sponsoring Coffee Hours in December.

The January Coffee Hours are sponsored by **Dance**.



Thank you!



Youth Christmas with the Fathers

December 18, 2022



Christmas Eve Reception

The Celebration Committee expanded beyond their monthly Sunday potlucks and hosted a **hot chocolate and cookie reception** in the Narthex on Christmas Eve!



Youth Lesson

New Year's Day



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 **involute** 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.

GIFT DONATION FORM

Please list my **endowment gift** as follows: _____

Here is my Endowment gift, which I may add to, of \$_____

I plan to include the Holy Trinity Endowment fund in my
Will___, my Living Trust___, or TOD*___

Signed:_____

Dated:_____

Donor, please sign and keep a copy for your records

*TOD = transfer on death

*All gifts will be preserved in the archives of Holy Trinity Cathedral
Gifts of \$10,000 or more may be made over a three year period.*

Thank You, and + God Bless You + for your generosity.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral + 1973 E Maryland Phoenix AZ 85016

Endowment Fund

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

ENDOWMENT GIFTS

<p>PLATINUM DONORS: \$100,000.00 + Faye Boukas George and Ann Souvall John George Thomas</p> <p>GOLD DONORS: \$50,000.00 + Dr. Nick Baziotis</p> <p>SILVER DONORS: \$25,000.00 + DeMoss Families IMO+ Tasia Pritchard</p> <p>BRONZE DONORS: \$10,000.00 + Gabriel & Helen Pappagallos IMO Mary Montague John & Mary Katsenes George & Koula Cheros IMO Dina Sakellarakis Steve and Joan Vrahas Ange & Alex J. Pappas James & Connie Contes Dennis & Anastasia DeBerry IMO John G. Zannaras Steve & Judith Vrahas</p>	<p>GENERAL ENDOWMENT FUND: \$1,000.00 + Dr. Christopher J. DeMoss The Lambrou Family</p> <p>OTHER IN MEMORY GIFTS IMO Stacy Hotis IMO Danny Speros IMO Mark Sprintz IMO Chris Gabriel IMO Fr. James & 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 Soles IMO Koula & Pete Triantafyllou IMO James H. Karros IMO Bette Maniatis IMO Dan Lester Hill</p>
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+ REMEMBER HOLY TRINITY IN YOUR WILL +

NEW Chiller Installation!

December 2022



Desert Diamonds

Senior Parishioners and their guests

Julie Karoutas

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



Xronia Pola!

Let us ring in the New Year with fellowship, luncheon & and guest speaker, Fran Drozd!

"The Number One Resolution that everyone makes in January"...to take weight off, which will include "Spiritual Fitness"

She was an Ambassador to the oldest weight loss Organization in America and is a Motivational Speaker that has spoken across the country. Fran will have a Question & Answer period, will bring a few of her Books & Brochures, the Olympic torch she carried from the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics; we can also take pictures with the torch!



Many are anxiously waiting for this event; Please, make your reservation early, names of those attending & what dish you will be bringing. We will also have guests from some of our other Greek Orthodox churches.

Yours in Christ,

Julie Karoutas

email: juliekaroutas@gmail.com

Cell# 623.313.8720

Blessing Bags

Bags with helpful items for the homeless were put together by our youth and available for distribution on 12/11/2022. Thank you to Christopher Lopez who led the project and to all the parishioners who picked up a bag or two to hand out to those in need.



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!

In December, the Celebration Committee hosted two events – the December Celebration Sunday and a Christmas Eve Reception. On Saturday, Dec. 3rd, a group of parishioners gathered in the kitchen to prepare a delicious communal meal for Sunday. Together, they made clam chowder, biscuits, squash salad, and pumpkin pie. If you would like to participate in future cooking events, please email htcphxevents@gmail.com.

This month, we celebrated Fr. Alexander's birthday and all December birthdays (see the list of names on the following page). The hall was decorated with foil Christmas-themed balloons, a red-and-green balloon arch, and two balloon columns. In addition, we had an automatic bubble machine that added a festive mood to the celebration. Each table was adorned with either mini-Christmas trees or vases with candy canes. Thanks to all who have participated in the monthly potluck this, sharing your favorite food item. We greatly appreciate those who have shared their milestone events with our Holy Trinity Christian 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.

On Christmas Eve, the Celebration Committee hosted an informal reception following the 6pm Lity and Matins for Christmas. Hot cocoa, apple cider, coffee and an array of treats were set up in the Narthex for everyone to partake as they left church. It was a fun community time for our church family to celebrate the Nativity together.

In 2023, we hope to expand our committee so that we can continue organizing events that brings the parish together. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more, please email htcphxevents@gmail.com and/or talk to Terri Alexon or Mary Pardhe.

Celebration Article continued on page 21

Celebration Committee December Photos



Celebration Committee December & January Birthdays!

Happy Birthday

Nicholas, Beaty	Kelley Katsanos
Anthony Boyd	Matina Kokalis
Helen Bruno	Stella Kosta
Kathrene Carras	Hendrix Lopez
Anna Chimonas	Angela Mead
George Chondropoulos	Effie Mousses
Harriet Chotras	Annamarie Nieblas
Dina Chronis	Sophia
Andrew Contes	Panagiotakopoulos
Dimitrios Deligiannis	Stephanie Papadopoulou
Karla Delord	Danain Papamatheakis
Nathan Delord	Olga Papamatheakis
Bill DeMoss	Rita Papaspyrou
John DeMoss	Spyros Papaspyrou
Petros Economopoulos	William Petsas
Fr. Alexander Eliades	Sophia Philippis
Andi Fourlis	Gregory Sackos
Daniel Fraenkel	Kalliopi Schneider
Celeste Francis	Diane Sedlacek
Dinos Georges	Jonathan Sgouros
Georgette Hasiotis	Traci Sgouros
Aidan Haugen	Christina S. Speros
Dan Horvath	Christine Stamatis
Ella Kamboukos	Gerri Tsantilas
Pete Karegeannes, Jr.	Christina Tzavellas
	Angeliki Valerou-Cooper

Happy BIRTHDAY

George Peter Agnos	Nick Kretsedemas
Bettina Angelos	Leonithas Mackos
Elaine Apostle	Stephan Mackos
Sophia Bakavelou	Sandy Meris
George Benetos	Joanne Meris
Rita Bruskas	Claire Meyers
Frank Carris	Anastasia Mitchell
Pete Choukalas	Zoya Moroz
Adriana Chronis	Kathy New
Mariam Contes	Irene Pagoudis
Yiorgo Cooper	Elizabeth Palmer
Leonard Debickero	Gayle Petkas
Patrick Delord	Georgia Pikoula
Joanne Demangus	Nicole Pyle
Fran Drozd	Lyda Rabbitt
Judy Farr	Nikki Sackos
Bill Graham	Theodore Schneider
Alexia Haugen	Alisha Solheim
Constantinos Herrera	Michael Jim Solomon
Ekaterini Jaynes	James A. Speros
Grace Kamboukos	Alana Stoutenburg
Harper Kamboukos	John Theodore
Vasilios Karagiannis	Sophocles Tsaninos
Vasiliqi Karagiannis	Dimitrios Tsioutsopoulos
Fotini Katrakis	Staci Vaughn
Poppy Kavouris	Andy Vlahos
Fanny Kechaljas	Andrew Vlahoulis
George Kleanthis	Jessica Young

With Appreciation



Evelyn Nickalew thanks everyone who visited, called, and prayed for her during her recent hospital and rehab center stay. She is home now and wants to share her love and appreciation for all of you!



Light a Candle

In this time more than ever we need prayer. For those not able to come to the Cathedral yet, we have set up this ability to light a candle virtually! Please click the link above and follow the instructions. Enter your name and the names of those you wish prayed for in the PayPal "Notes" section, and Father Apostolos or Father Alexander will light a candle and say a prayer for you.

Procession



holytrinityphx.org

Have you checked out the website lately?

Events • Services • Photos • Calendar • Stewardship



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."



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



12/04/2022

Zacharias, son of Elizabeth & Johnny Kratsas
God’s Blessings be upon him.

Baptism

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



12/10/2022

Emily, daughter of Angela & Chris Mead,
Sponsors are Elizabeth & Johnny Kratsas
God’s Blessings be upon her.

Weddings

“Oh Lord our God,
crown them with
glory and honour.”



12/17/2022

Amanda Bard & Harrison Gillis,
Sponsor is Marissa Bard
God’s Blessings be upon them.

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!



Funerals

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

Psalm 23:6

12/22/2022

George Papadopoulos
May His Memory Be Eternal.

01/02/2023

Constantine (Dean) Tsantilas
May His Memory Be Eternal.



HTC on Facebook

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

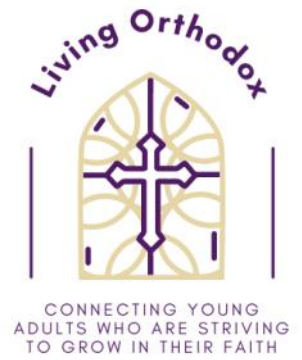
[Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral—Phoenix, AZ](#)



Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry

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!



December Potluck Party

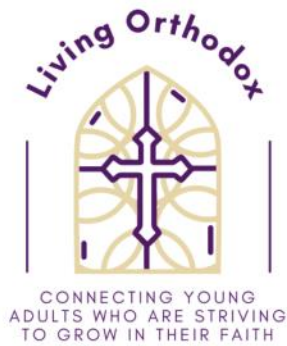
Our December party was a special event with a service project, potluck meal, and a presentation by our featured speaker, John Hinson (St. Ignatius). Mr. and Mrs. Contes graciously opened their home to 20+ young adults who attended the party. Together, the Living Orthodox group filled fifty bags with toiletries and various items to share with people experiencing homelessness. With so many hands, the project was completed in less than 10 minutes! Then, we enjoyed a meal together and had a good time of fellowship. Our featured speaker, John Hinson, gave a beneficial talk on “Finding Healing Through the Sacraments”. We had an opportunity to both learn and ask questions about preparing for and approaching the Sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Confession.



Living Orthodox continued on page 25

2022 Recap

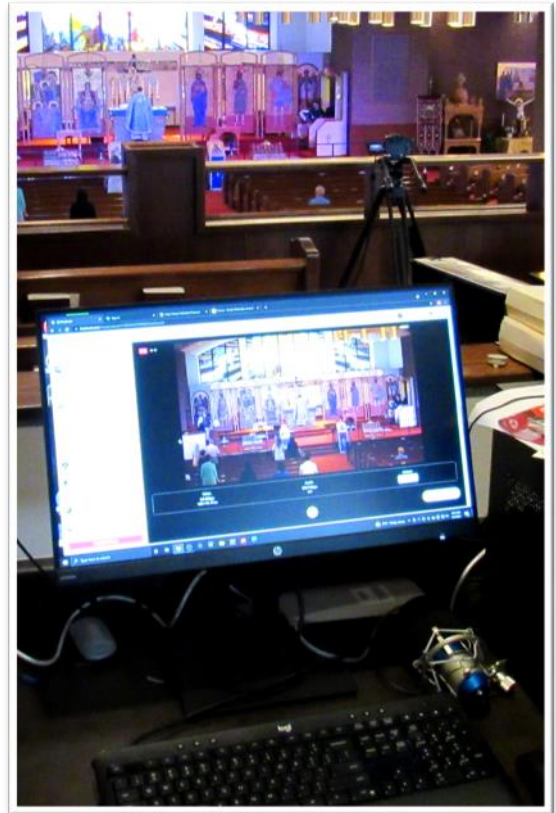
This year, our group expanded from 10 members to over 45 members from 7+ parishes! Our monthly potlucks offer a unique opportunity to fellowship with Orthodox young adults from across the Valley and to learn from speakers who live out their Orthodox faith in everyday life. These speakers share valuable insights on how we can grow and practice our faith. 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.



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

AHEPA Chapter 219

AHEPA CHAPTER 219



Congratulations to our Scholarship
Winners:

- Maria Tsioutsias
- Theodore Annos
- Yianni Paslidis
- Eleni Papadopoulos
- Constantine Papadopoulos

Our Next Chapter Meeting

Thursday, January 19th
6 PM

Holy Trinity
Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Community Center

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

CONTACT STEVE LEMERE

602-882-9990

AHEPA Chapter 219



AHEPA CHAPTER 219 A NIGHT OF RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION

FEBRUARY 18, 2023

**6:00PM COCKTAILS
6:30 PM DINNER
7:45 AWARDS
SOCIAL AFTER AWARDS**

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

OPEN BAR WITH 4 COURSE - 5 STAR MEAL

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

RSVP no later than February 12, 2023 to:

**John Kostaras: 480.318.1935
or jkostaras61@gmail.com**

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW - LIMITED SEATING

Greek School

Irene Dartoozos Mackos, Director

phxgreeksschool@gmail.com

Kalispera/καλησπέρα!

Winter has officially started. Christmas and New Year's was a time to relax, spend time with family, making memories and having holiday fun.

It looks like the Greek government is trying to replace all the summer lights to Christmas lights, decorate the streets and sing traditional Christmas carols.

Also the Orange and Neratzi trees in bloom. Neratzi is a bitter orange which make for a delicious spoon dessert, Γλυκό του κουταλιού.

Kourabiedes/Κουραμπιέδες

On the last day of Greek School, we made these special Christmas cookies/Κουραμπιέδες. These are the most traditional Christmas cookies in Greece and worldwide. The kids enjoyed making and eating them.

Next month we won't be making Βασιλόπιτα.

Vasilopita/Βασιλόπιτα

The Vasilopita is a special Greek tradition. Making this special cake for New Year's is in honor of Saint Basil. When cutting the cake into slices on New Year's Day, Greeks will name each slice after everyone in the family and friends. Usually also a coin is hidden in the bottom of the cake. Whoever is lucky enough to get the coin in their slice is considered especially blessed in the coming year.

January 6 the celebration of Epiphany.

This is a very traditional event in Greece. Depending on the region, the cross is thrown in the sea, river, or lake. And mountains areas or in Athens, the Cross can also be thrown in a fountain. Young men will dive or jump into the water and try to catch it. The person that will catch it, will have luck for the year. Also, the water is believed to be blessed. The priest often goes to the houses and bless them with this water.

The Epiphany custom comes from Ancient Greece, and particularly from the feast in the ancient Greece, called plintria. During this feast, the Athenians would carry the statue of Athena to the coast of Faliro to wash it in the sea to make sure it would keep it's magical powers.

Of course, January Name Days

6th Φώτης, Φωτεινή, Θεοφάνης Θεοφάνεια Φανή, Ουρανία. (Foti, Fotini)

7th Γιάννη Γιάννης Ιωάννης Ιωάννα (John, Joanna)

25th Γρήγορης Γεωργία Μαργαρίτα (Gregory, Margret)

Don't forget to wish them Χρόνια πολλά!

We have so many of beautiful Greek traditions! . Greek School hopes you keep the traditions alive in your home.



Holy Trinity Greek
&
Heritage School of Phoenix



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,
and we'll get you added to list!

OPA Meetings

One of the unique things about Holy Trinity Cathedral has always been OPA (Orthodox Parents Association) and their ability to facilitate ministry. This year we would like to empower the parents of different age groups to have meetings in their homes and other social outings with our groups:

HOPE: Grades 1-3

JOY: 4-6

Jr. Goya: 7-8

Sr. Goya: 9-12

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](#).

Please also join us also for OPA's informational meeting on **August 14** after Divine Liturgy in the Hall. Refreshments will be offered.



Where every adult is a parent to our youth.



December Activities



Sr. GOYA went ice skating.

12/05/2022

Our Goya gathered together at the Papamatheakis home for some Christmas cheer and had a great night together! Thank you to the Papamatheakis for hosting and all for joining us!



12/17/2022



OPA—Orthodox Parents Association

Senior GOYA Discussion

This upcoming school year we will hold a meeting with our Senior Goya (Grades 9-12) the first Sunday of every month (unless noted below) at 7pm. This will provide our High Schoolers with a great opportunity to connect with each other and their faith. Please mark these dates down:

January 8
February 5
March 5
April 2
May 7

Greek Dance

Niko Panagiotakopoulos, Director
Email: npanos01@yahoo.com
Call/text: (602) 469-2039



Fruit Smoothies by FDF Dancers

December 11, 2022

