

Desert Springs

February 2024
Volume 9 Issue 2



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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2023 Parish Council Members

President: Paul Katsenes

Vice President: Connie Contes

Treasurer: Jim Manelis

Secretary: Andi Fourlis

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

Holy Trinity Cathedral
www.holytrinityphx.org

Metropolis of San Francisco
www.SanFran.goarch.org

Archdiocese Website
www.goarch.org

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- **All Saints Camp** — George Miller: info@allsaintscamparizona.org
- **Altar Servers** — David Haag: davidmhaag@yahoo.com, Chris Francis: battersbox7@yahoo.com
- **Bible Study** — Father Apostolos Hill: papoulihill@gmail.com
- **Bookstore** — Rita Papaspyrou: stnectariosphx@gmail.com
- **Byzantine Choir** — Elizabeth Pardhe: elizabethdpardhe@gmail.com
- **Choir** — Terri Alexon: htphxmusicdirector@gmail.com or terrialexon@gmail.com
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- **Desert Diamonds (50+)** — Julie Karoutas: juliekaroutas@gmail.com
- **Epistle Readers** — Presvytera Denise Hill: denkevhill83@gmail.com
- **Greek Festival** — Nick Kretsedemas: nick.kretsedemas@chilis.com, Angelo Pestrivas: angelopestrivas@msn.com, Ted Fourlis: fourlisted@gmail.com
- **Greek School** — Irene Mackos: eirinie@gmail.com
- **Hellenic Museum** — Bessie Hotis: call 602-953-1913
- **Little Lambs** — Deborah Harrison: 14dharrison@gmail.com
- **Living Orthodox** — Mary Pardhe: livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com
- **Maintenance** — Peter Bilitsis, Ted Fourlis: htcmaintenance1973@gmail.com
- **Myrrhbearers** — Stacey Beaty: staceybeaty@live.com
- **Narthex Intake** — Kristen Vasilarakos: kvasilarakos@cox.net
- **OPA** — Caroline Economopoulos: cjecomom@gmail.com
- **Oratorical Festival** — Nick Petsas: npetsas@outlook.com, Chris Francis: battersbox7@yahoo.com
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- **Philoptochos** — Kristen Vasilarakos: kvasilarakos@cox.net
- **Special Events Administrator** — Angie Lambrou: angie.lambrou@cox.net
- **Stewardship** — Sandy Meris: sandymeris@gmail.com
- **UMOM New Day Centers** — Christine Stamatis: cstamatis@cox.net
- **Wedding Coordinator** — Lindsay Vardalos: lvardalos@gmail.com
- **YAL** — Mary Pardhe: 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 and Kristen at 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

Immersed in the Church

On the 2nd of February we celebrate the Great Feast of the Presentation of the Lord to the Temple. It is a feast where we celebrate many things, the 40th day from Christmas where even Christ Himself is presented as we are at 40 days old. God when He is Incarnate even undergoes the Law that He Himself gave to us and in so doing, sanctifies this as well. If Christ goes to Church and is immersed in the Temple, then shouldn't we?



If we were familiar with the Church and its feasts we'd know this is also one of the more beautiful cycle of services for a feast as well. The Vespers, which we will celebrate on Feb 1 at 6pm is full of beautiful hymns that show us the Condescension of God and the powerful image of Symeon the Elder Priest holding the baby Jesus in his arms that he prayed for for many years. In the Orthros in the morning we hear the beautiful hymns that we sing instead of the usual "More Honorable than the Cherubim..." When we get in a rhythm of Church we look forward to these feasts for their significance, their beauty, and their power in our life.



The power of this feast teaches us an extended lesson from Christmas, the great humility of God to submit to the nature and Laws that He created for our salvation. It teaches us that if God when He became a man needed to attend the Temple and follows the precepts of it, then perhaps we too should take our attendance and following of Him seriously. When we do this we begin to DESIRE to be in church, this is what our faith should be. We should see this newborn babe, 40 days old, who is simultaneously God, consent to be held by an old man to bless even the Eternal God as this child.

It's a Feast the reminds us again of all the things God underwent for our salvation. His helplessness as a baby and His submission to the Law and all precepts He gave for our salvation. We may begin to feel with Christmas, the Circumcision, and this feast of Presentation that we get the point. But it's one thing to get the point and another to live it. When we understand something we should attempt to live it and when we live it we will find ourselves in Church a whole lot more and begin to get the point of a whole lot more and draw closer to God.

I encourage to you to imitate Christ, to come to Church even as He found necessary. And in so doing, in immersing ourselves in what we hear, see, and pray. Because when we imitate God we find we can become like Him and we find that this is what we are made to do. We find peace, we find life, we find purpose unlike what we will find anywhere else.

SO, Present yourself even to the Temple and so imitate God Himself and draw near to Him.

Stewardship

What are YOU doing for YOUR church?

By Kristen Bruskas



We have all heard the famous quote from President John F. Kennedy’s inaugural address where he stated, “Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.” This powerful message challenged people in our great nation to focus on giving and serving, to look outward, and not just be the recipient of someone else’s efforts. What if we took that same phrase and substituted the word “church” for “country”.

“Ask not what your church can do for you . . .”

We can start answering this pretty quickly. The church is where we go to worship, to get married, to baptize our children, to bid farewell to our loved ones, to participate in the Sacraments, to learn about our faith, and to be part of the Body of Christ.

“ . . . ask what you can do for your church.”

Well, the second half? This is where the list can be a bit more challenging, or perhaps more creative. Of course, we know that being stewards is one of the things we can do, but is signing a card and giving a token amount of money to the church enough? Are you tithing, or trying to increase your giving every year? Are you volunteering and actively participating in a ministry? We love all our Festival volunteers, but the 362 days that we are not sharing our faith and culture at the Festival, what more can you offer to the church? We need Sunday School teachers. We need chanters and choir members. Can you help in our bookstore? Can you be a mentor in youth ministry? What about joining Philoptochos and working on an outreach project for people in need? Besides Sundays, can you commit to coming to one additional service per week? **Your church gives you so much, and it is important to make sure that what you are giving back is even more, in time, talent, and treasure.**

We are just one month into the New Year. The opportunities abound at our beloved Cathedral. Come to church. Engage in our ministries. Prayerfully ask yourself, **“Ask not what your church can do for you – ask what you can do for your church!”**

Our parish is blessed, and we are abundantly grateful to God for all that He has given us. But there is so much more we can do for His Glory. By working together with this fresh mindset of serving and giving, we can make 2024 an incredible year for our Holy Trinity Cathedral family.

Stewardship 2024—We are Off to a Great Start!

This year we set two goals for our Stewardship 2024 campaign... the first being for 100% of our stewards to submit their pledge cards by January 31st. And the second for us to increase our financial commitments in order to reach \$500,000 in total pledges. First, we are truly grateful for those who have fulfilled step 1 of our goals. Thank you to those stewards in the list in this month’s issue of the Desert Springs who have made their pledges.

And if you have not yet made your pledge, there is no time like the present! Simply visit www.holytrinityphx.org, click on “STEWARDSHIP” in the upper right hand corner, fill out your pledge card and click submit. It’s as easy as that!

Thank you for being a steward and an integral part of our Holy Trinity Cathedral family!

House of Stewards



As of 01/31/2024

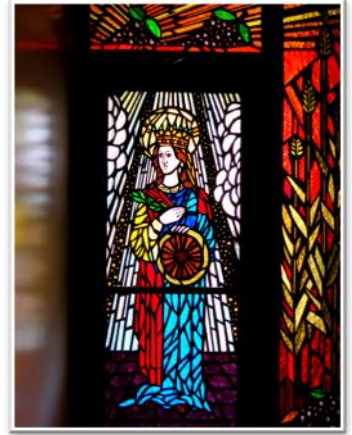
Nikki Anest
John & Sandy Annos
Carla Antypas
Elaine Apostle
Argyro Apostolou
Chris Athens
Constantine & Eleni Balanis
Joanna Bankson
Crisanne & Scott Bansner
Christopher Bass
Sam & Heidi Bass
Joyce Baulinka
Scott & Stacey Beaty
Dan & Vicki Bichekas
Peter & Jennifer Bilitsis
James & Helen Bruno
Georgia Brusalis
Chris & Rita Bruskas
Kristen Bruskas
Kathy Carras
Dawn & Casey Cartier
Chad & Amanda Carver
Laurel Charnas-Schiller & Todd Schiller
Pete & Kim Choukalas
Katherine & Jeffrey Clarke
Andy & Mara Contes
James & Connie Contes
Patty Davis
Hercules Dellas
Patrick & Karla Delord
Tom & Irene Demas
John & Mary Demetropoulos
Anthony & Patricia Demopoulos
Bill DeMoss
Charles DeMoss
Chris DeMoss
John & Marjorie DeMoss
Michael & Maureen DeMoss
Basil & Ruth Denaxas
Alexandros & Erika Dimitriadis
Stanley & Fran Drozd
Carolina Economopoulos
Christos & Dena Economopoulos
Fr. Alexander & Presv. Laura Eliades
Emil Ellis
Ed & Katherine Fancher
Keith & Ashley Fightmaster
Anna Fourlis
Athanasia & Georgia Fourlis
Athanasia Fourlis
Ted & Andi Fourlis
Tim & Antonette Fraenkel
Chris & Celeste Francis
Georgana Frieh
Demetra Georgelos
Diana Georgelos
Pamela Georgelos
John Giannopoulos
Stella Glitsos
Bill & Lynn Graham
Gina Graham
Gail Grevas
David Haag
Mary Haidos
Donald Hall
Terry Harper
Mary & Roger Harris
Patsy Harris
George & Georgette Hasiotis
Alexia Haugen

Stephanie & Gregory Heckel
Diane Herman
Fr. Apostolos & Presv Denise Hill
Greg Hill
Bessie Hotis
Steven & Candace Huff
Jeffrey & Melina
Johannesmeyer
Paulos Kairis
Marianna Kaneris
Jean Kantaros
Nick & Dena Kantaros
William & Harriet Kapolas
John & Tressa Karagiannis
Vasilios & Vasiliqi Karagiannis
Maggie & Marko Karakozis
Virginia Karegeannes
Julie Karotas
Joann Karros
Fotini Katrakis
John & Mary Katsenes
Paul & Lori Katsenes
Helen Katsufraakis
Jim & Poppy Kavouris
Fanny Kechajias
Ronald & Virginia Kidd
Emily Kimmell
Anastasia Kompos
Maria Kompos
Spiros & Maria Kontakis
Arthur & Carol Kostaras
Kostadinos & Anatoli Kostouros
Deborah Caras & Gregory Kunkel
John & Evangelia Lambrou
Elias & Mary Lamos
Georgia Lipane
Luke & Maria Lipnos
Gregory Lizanich
James & Stephanie Machas
Maria Maciejewski
Margo Makris
Julie & Felix Mamani
Jim & Donna Manelis
Anna Manos
Mary Lou Mastorakos
Pamela Maydanis
Peter & Christina Maydanis
Angela & Chris Mead
Christian Meris
Joanne Meris
William & Sandy Meris
Anthony & Tania Miaoulis
Paul & Linda Miller
William & Jean Miller
Oleg & Emily Moroz
John & Maria Nicholas
John Nicolettos
AnnaMarie Nieblas
Else Paletsos
Elizabeth Palmer
Socrates & Stephanie Papadopoulos
Chrysoula Papadopoulos
Ria Papageorgiou
Betty Papas
Nick Papas
Nicholas & Stacy Papatzimas

Andrew & Emily Pappas
Harry & Fannie Pappas
Daniel & Anna Pardhe
Athena Parmenter
Christine & Peter Pearce
John & Dina Pesognelli
Fotini Pestrivas
Zoe Pestrivas
Peter & Gayle Petkas
Chris Petroulakis
Jacque Petroulakis
Brian & Athena Pickett
Mary Poulakidas
Alex Rentzis
Alexi & Sara Rentzis
Jenn Rentzis
Menelaos Rentzis
Voula Rentzis
Pete & Anthipe Pries
Nicole & David Pyle
George Rouman
Lois Sakkas
Stellios & Nicole Samaradellis
Dimitra Sampson
Paul Sarantes
Les & Christine Sarantinos
John Schneider
Warren & Kalliopi Schneider
Diane & George Sedlacek
Terry & Chris Seretis
John Siavelis
George & Eui Skintzis
Elias & Phyllis Skoubis
David & Alisha Solheim
Angelo & Marie Spanos
Leo & Rachel Speliopoulos
James L & Karen Speros
Jim & Kathryn Stadianos
Nitsa Stamatelatos
Andrew & Christine Stamatis
Jonathan Stamatis
Jimmy & Lisa Sterio
Tristan & Alana Stoutenburg
Robert Stuart
Steven & Jean Talkington
Despina Taularides
William & Rebecca Taularides
Jim Thomas
Deac. John & Diak. Mary Thrasher
Andrew Touvanas
Thaddeus & Katherine Tropea
Stella Tsantilas
Matthew & Eva Turgeon
Costa & Koko Tzavaras
Kristen Vasilarakos
Michael Vaughn & Audrey Lewter
Steve & Mary Vrahas
Colin & Paula Walsh
Dan Williams
Anne & William Wilson
Richard & Katina Wood
George & Katherine Zannis
Jerry & Amanda Zannis
Dimitrios & Eugenia Zannis
Zella Zannis
Dimitrios Zistatsis
Eleanna Zistatsis
Michael & Christina Zistatsis

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,
February 1, 2024
at 6:30pm
in the Lounge of the Speros Community Center**

☞☞



Thank you to January refreshment hostesses Kalli, Lois, & Zoe!



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

Count Your Blessings



Commit to your community by participating and joining Philoptochos. Over the years we've listed our outreach programs & commitments. In addition, we are considered the Right Hand of the Church. As a Cathedral, we set an example. PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT & JOIN NOW. Forms are located in the Narthex and the previous page of the Desert Springs. Looking forward to your friendship and consideration in this new year!

Want to learn more? Come to our complimentary Super Coffee Social on February 11, 2023!

Camp Agape Event Set-Up & Party

January 26 & 27, 2024

Thank you to everyone who was able to help with our Camp Agape Celebration!

With your support, we hosted 18 families with children in various stages of medical need.



Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Love Notes to Loved Ones



**LOVE NOTES
to LOVED ONES**

DISPLAYED IN THE
NARTHEX ON FEBRUARY
11TH & 18TH.

**PHILOPHOCHOS is selling
HEART-SHAPED NOTES FOR
YOU TO PERSONALIZE!**

\$10

HEART SALES BEGIN:
January 21, 2024
In the hall after services.

QUESTIONS: contact Paulina
by text at 602-740-3950.

WRITE NOTES TO:
those in memory,
who are ill,
homebound,
far-away,
family,
friends,
children and
grandchildren.



Buy your hearts this
Sunday,
February 4, 2024!



2023

Complimentary Super Coffee Social

February 11, 2024



We wish to thank our community for their continued loving and generous responses to the many causes Philoptochos supports with a complimentary social on February 11, 2024 following Divine Liturgy.

We'll have mimosas!

And we promise to get you home in plenty of time for the game.

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Vasilopita Auction

January 7, 2024

Thank you to all the amazing bakers who brought in their homemade vasilopitas for the auction!

You are appreciated!

Proceeds benefit St. Basil's Academy.

And a big thank you for the hard work and creativity of **Katina Wood** and her team, who took over from long-time lead **Georgia Fourlis**.

Happy retirement, Georgia!



Vasilopita Cutting

January 7, 2024

THANK YOU!

Father Apostolos got the coin!



Theophany Picnic

January 6, 2024



Project Mexico and St. Innocent's Orphanage

Remember before Christmas when we asked our community to donate money to provide seven bikes to the youth at Project Mexico... and YOU came through with almost *3 times* the requested amount?!? We were able to gift *more than seven bikes*, as seen in these photos and videos. Thank you again. YOU are much appreciated.



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!

On January 6th, the Celebration Committee hosted a Theophany community potluck. Mr. Phillip and the committee met earlier in the week to prepare Greek-style potatoes, Greek salad, and other accompanying dishes. Parishioners brought a variety of dishes, desserts, and beverages to share at the potluck. We had nearly a hundred people in attendance! If you want to help us with future potlucks, please email htcphxevents@gmail.com. It takes a community effort to organize the events and we are always looking for volunteers to help!

For the January Celebration Sunday, we had an extra-special event with the Philoptochos Vasilopita Auction combined with the celebration of the 40-day-blessing of Elias Christenson (son of Kenneth and Zoe Christenson); the wedding blessings of Wyatt and Emily Coppinger, Scott and Jill Leach, Tristan and Alana Stoutenburg; and all January birthdays! The hall was decorated for the New Year with gold tablecloths, bowls of vasilopita from Philoptochos, and gold and blue balloons.

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!

Celebration Committee

February Birthdays



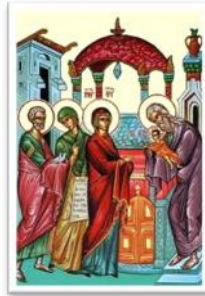
Communal Cooking Event

In January, the Communal Cooking crew led by Phillip Panagiotoglou served a meal of chicken, Greek potatoes, salad, rice with vegetables, and cake to celebrate the January birthdays! If you are interested in helping out or joining us for future cooking events, please email htcphxevents@gmail.com. In addition, please feel free to bring a dish to share with the community on the first Sunday of every month.

Our Church Family

40 Day Blessing

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



01/21/2024

Colton Lucas, son of Angela & Christopher Mead
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



01/22/2024

Nonna Tairov Kocharyan
May her memory be eternal.

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.



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

Events • Services • Photos •
Calendar • Stewardship



Did you know?

We had **39,296** site visitors in the last 12 months?



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



Coffee Socials Following Sunday Liturgies

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

Thank You

The February Coffee Socials are sponsored by **the Celebration Committee**.



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!

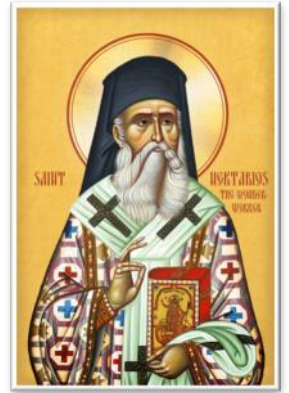
"Welcome! I don't believe we've met yet. My name is (your name)" is a great start. Offer to walk with them to the Coffee Social. A personal connection goes far!

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

St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

Submitted by Rita Papaspyrou
stnectoriosphx@gmail.com

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



Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Commemorated on February 2



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

The story of the Presentation is told in Luke 2:22-29. Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews and observed their religious customs. An important custom was for the couple to take their first-born son to the Temple. The baby was taken to the Temple forty days after his birth and was dedicated to God. In

addition, if the parents were wealthy, they were to bring a lamb and a young pigeon or a turtle dove to be offered as a sacrifice at the Temple. The custom provided that if the parents were poor, they were to offer two pigeons or two turtle doves for the sacrifice.

Joseph and Mary were not wealthy, so they took two turtle doves with them to offer as a sacrifice at the Temple.

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

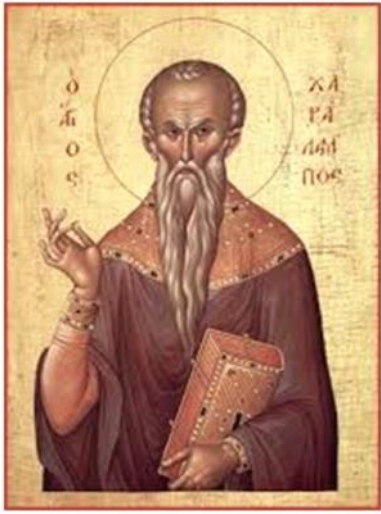
When Simeon saw Jesus, he took the baby in his arms and blessed the Lord and said: "Lord, now let Your servant go in peace according to Your promise, because my eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory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

*St. Nectarios Bookstore continued on page 16
Desert Springs February 2024*

St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

Haralambos (Charalampus) the Hieromartyr

Commemorated on February 10



His name Χαράλαμπος means “glowing with joy” in Greek. It is believed that at the time of his martyrdom in 320, Haralambos was 113 years old. Despite his advanced age, he was tortured mercilessly.

He was the bishop of Magnesia and spread the Gospel in that region for many years. However, when news of his preaching reached the authorities of the area, the proconsul Lucian and military commander Lucius, the Saint was arrested and brought to trial, where he confessed his faith in Christ and refused to offer sacrifice to idols. He endured atrocious tortures but held steadfast to his faith.

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

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

Catechism and Bible Study



Fr. Apostolos is offering a two semester catechism on The Kingdom of God and How to Attain it. Classes will be held on Saturdays at 3:30 in person and via Zoom. Please contact the office or Fr. Apostolos to request registration details.

Fr. Alexander's Bible Study is after 6:30pm Paraklesis in the Conference Room and on Zoom. Class will be offered every Wednesday at that time.

FOCUS Kickoff Meeting Recap

We had over 80 attendees from at least 5 parishes at the FOCUS kickoff meeting with Steve Christoforou to discuss building a homeless shelter in Phoenix! If you want to donate or want to get involved with the exploratory committee, please email schristoforou@focusna.org. A recording of the meeting will be posted to the Living Orthodox Ministry YouTube channel. For a copy of the slide deck and an article recap of the meeting, please email livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com. Learn more about the event on the next page.



Includes photos by Justin Janetsky
Desert Springs February 2024

FOCUS NORTH AMERICA - PLANS FOR PHOENIX, AZ LOCATION

By Justin Janetsky and the Living Orthodox group

Phoenix, Arizona is facing an increasing problem with homelessness. In 2023, Maricopa County had counted nearly 8,000 homeless individuals (about 2,500 were families). From 2022-2023, there were about 30,000 individuals reached through street outreach, emergency shelters, and transitional housing resources. In Phoenix, further support is needed, as homelessness is worsening. 18 more people enter homelessness for every 10 people that find housing. The situation is becoming more severe over time, and numbers bear this out.

As Orthodox Christians, it's not a question of if we will do something about it, but what we will do about it. The Pan-Orthodox community in the valley was blessed to have Mr. Steven Christoforou return to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Sunday, January 21, 2024, to discuss Arizona's vision for a FOCUS community action plan. Steven is the director of operations and community engagement for FOCUS North America. He visited in July last year to gauge how our collective community could address the increasing problem of homelessness through this ministry and asked for a commitment. He has returned to help our community make FOCUS a reality for Phoenix. FOCUS is an Orthodox non-profit organization blessed by bishops and a domestic analog to the IOCC. It currently operates in Cleveland, Minnesota, Detroit, Southern California, Gateway City, Cincinnati, and Houston, fulfilling a wide range of functions for community needs. Based on the success of the current locations, Steve sees the need and potential for service in the valley.

A FOCUS center provides many different services, service opportunities, and the ability to partner with other non-profits/non-orthodox individuals. The vision outlined during the January meeting was that the potential facility would offer meals/basic needs, housing (shelter or a transition house), case management support, and a community for those in need. These facilities typically have a staff, director, full-time cook, full-time case director, social media manager, and house manager, along with participation from volunteers and those living in the facility. Based on the generous assistance from parishes and restaurants that provide food and necessities to keep the facility operating, the actual budget needed to operate can be kept low.

How can the community help to make this vision a reality? The goal is to raise \$100,000 and reach \$75,000 by August of 2024. A matching grant has been pledged to the \$100,000 amount to assist in making this a reality. Currently, \$10,000 has been raised, and more funds are needed to meet our goal. Donations are welcomed by all for any amount at FOCUS PHOENIX through the link or by visiting <https://bit.ly/FOCUSphx>.

The next steps leading up to the financial due date in August include the development and assembly of a local team, an exploratory committee, and working groups (sub-committees). These teams will work every two weeks to reach the goal of a community center that meets the needs of those who are homeless. As of now, meetings will occur within the next 2-3 weeks over Zoom, while full hands-on team meetings will be held every couple of months. The teams will discuss the following questions: what is the mission; who will we serve (e.g., single men, single moms, families, etc.), how will we pay for it, and where will the facility be located?

As the dream comes to fruition, Steven asks those interested in participating to have their heart devoted to the cause. Supporting can mean anything from donating to joining the team and telling your friends about this opportunity. This is a commitment that requires the Pan-Orthodox community and all help is invited. If you would like to join the team and be further involved in this initiative, please reach out to Steven Christoforou: schristoforou@focusna.org. We are blessed to have an opportunity to serve our community in this effort and invite you to join us in this endeavor.

The video of the full presentation is available on our YouTube channel: <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!



IOCC Holy Land Relief Effort Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who participated in our pan-Orthodox fundraiser for the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) Holy Land relief efforts! Through the generous, pan-Orthodox support of the churches in our network and the wonderful luncheon/raffle hosted by St. George Antiochian Church, we are excited to announce that we raised over \$40,000! If you want to add a donation, the "Donate Now" link is still available at <http://bit.ly/3H54MqZ>. Or scan the code on the next page.

Living Orthodox January Community Potluck

On January 21, we hosted the follow-up FOCUS meeting by Steve Christoforou to kick off plans for the establishment of a homeless shelter in Phoenix. Over 80 people from at least 5 parishes attended the meeting. There was significant interest in learning more about the next steps and the numerous possibilities for how the shelter would be operated.

The recording of the meeting will be available on our YouTube channel (<https://bit.ly/3O2roul>). A copy of the presentation slide deck can be obtained by emailing livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com.

Next Steps:

1. Set up an exploratory committee. If you or someone you know is interested in being involved in this effort, please email Steve at Schristoforou@focusna.org. We need volunteers from all backgrounds so please consider being a part of the committee!

2. Fundraise. A foundation is willing to match up to \$100,000.00 in donations raised by August of 2024. If you would like to donate to the project at any time, please use [this link \(https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E334599&id=275\)](https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E334599&id=275) or the QR code in the below flyer. Please help us spread the word by sharing the attached flyer (email us for the PDF version)!

Living Orthodox continued on page 20

Desert Springs February 2024

Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry



February Event

On February 25th, we will be having our next potluck and discussion (speaker TBD). Please RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/HTCphx>.

March Lenten Retreat

All young adults (college - 30s) are invited for a Lenten retreat on March 30th from 8am - 4pm! The event includes breakfast and lunch, a keynote presentation, small group discussions, a service project, and complimentary childcare. Our keynote speaker, Fr. Nicholas Metrakos, is the assistant priest at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in San Francisco, CA. He is involved in translating the lives of modern Orthodox saints and has been a past speaker at several metropolis retreats, FDF workshops, and other events. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/LO-eventreg> and invite your friends! Registration is \$45 but please use code "EarlyReg" before 2/10 for a 40% off discount. The code "20Reg", when used before 3/15, will give 20% off the registration cost.

Join a Living Orthodox Committee!

This year, we are setting up three new committees. The Events Committee, co-chaired by Amanda Mikhail and Maria Kyriakidou, will be focused on increasing the number of events we host monthly. The Community Service Committee, chaired by Christopher Lopez, will be organizing regular projects to serve those in need. Finally, the Communications/Outreach Committee will work on expanding our outreach on social media and strengthening our communication channels across the parishes in our network. We are looking for members to fill up these committees! If you are interested in joining one or more of these committees, please email livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com.

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



Phoenix: 2024 Living Orthodox Fundraiser

For donations,
please use the QR code below.
Thank you for supporting IOCC!



Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry



LIVING ORTHODOX - LENTEN RETREAT



MARCH 30, 2024

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, PHOENIX, AZ

Repentance: Redirecting Our Lives Towards God

All young adults (college - 30s) are invited for a Lenten retreat on March 30th from 8am - 4pm!

The event includes breakfast and lunch, a keynote presentation by Fr. Nicholas Metrakos, small group discussions, a service project, and complimentary childcare. Hotel room discounts are available on request.



Keynote Speaker

Fr. Nicholas Metrakos is the assistant priest at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in San Francisco, CA. He is involved in translating the lives of modern Orthodox saints and has been a past speaker at several metropolis retreats, FDF workshops, and other events.

Scan or visit
<https://tinyurl.com/LO-eventreg>
to register!



Registration - \$45

40% off with code "EarlyReg" (before 2/10)

20% off with code "20Reg" (before 3/15)

FOLLOW LIVING ORTHODOX ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com



@living_orthodox_ministry



@livingorthodoxministry39



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,
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/holytrinityphx)



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

+ 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. +

Arizona Hellenic Foundation

Proceeds from the event go to the
Arizona Hellenic Foundation **scholarship fund.**

Arizona Hellenic Foundation Presents
Apokeries 2024

Live music by Synthesis!

Greek Mardi Gras | Dance | Door Prize | 50/50 Raffle | Costume Optional | Best Costume Prizes for Male, Female & Child

Saturday, March 9, 2024
Cash Bar 6 PM | Dinner 7 PM | Close 11 PM
Tickets: Adults \$100 | 12 and under \$25

Please call Telis Evripidou at 480-332-6957.
Proceeds to benefit Arizona Hellenic Foundation's scholarship

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

Donations

We greatly value all your donations!

Please remember, when you write us a check, to include your **intention for the donation and/ or your envelope number in the memo line.** i.e. stewardship, candles, etc.

Thank you all!



The 63rd Original Phoenix Greek Festival will be on October 11, 12, & 13, 2024.

Mark your calendars!



AHEPA Chapter 219



PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

Hosted by the Brothers of
AHEPA Chapter 219

SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH

FOLLOWING CHURCH SERVICES

HOLY TRINITY

GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

1973 E. MARYLAND AVE - PHOENIX

\$30 Adults

\$20 Ages 6-17

5 and under free

Menu: Greek Style Cod (with Plaki or Skordalia), Greek Style Potatoes, Green Beans, Shrimp Scampi, Pasta Marinara, Rolls, Fruit Salad, and Dessert/Coffee/Beverage Service

Reservations beginning Sunday, March 31st during Coffee Hour in the Speros Community Center

Or Contact:

Andrew Touvannas (509) 628-6293

John Kostaras (602) 318-1935

Pete Marudas (602) 284-1638

All Reservations Must Be Paid In Advance

AHEPA CHAPTER 219



Our Next Chapter Event

Awards & Recognition Celebration
Saturday, February 17, 2024

6:00pm Cocktails

6:30 PM Dinner

7:45 Awards

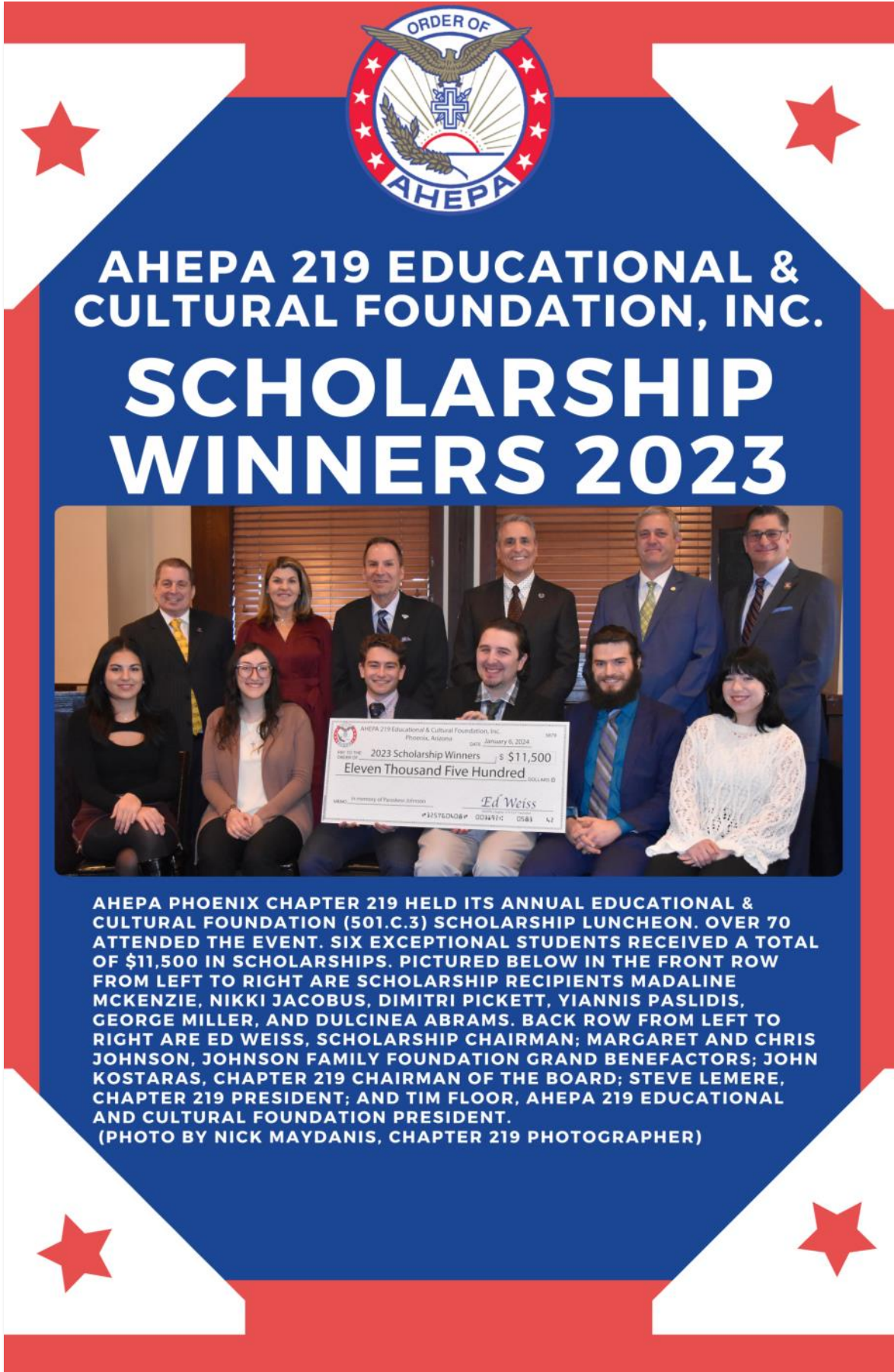
SOCIAL After Awards

Holy Trinity Greek
Orthodox Cathedral
James A Speros
Community Center

\$80 PER COUPLE - \$40 PER PERSON


RSVP TO JOHN KOSTARAS

480-318-1935



AHEPA 219 EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL FOUNDATION, INC.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS 2023



AHEPA PHOENIX CHAPTER 219 HELD ITS ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL FOUNDATION (501.C.3) SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON. OVER 70 ATTENDED THE EVENT. SIX EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS RECEIVED A TOTAL OF \$11,500 IN SCHOLARSHIPS. PICTURED BELOW IN THE FRONT ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT ARE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS MADALINE MCKENZIE, NIKKI JACOBUS, DIMITRI PICKETT, YIANNIS PASLIDIS, GEORGE MILLER, AND DULCINEA ABRAMS. BACK ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT ARE ED WEISS, SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN; MARGARET AND CHRIS JOHNSON, JOHNSON FAMILY FOUNDATION GRAND BENEFACTORS; JOHN KOSTARAS, CHAPTER 219 CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD; STEVE LEMERE, CHAPTER 219 PRESIDENT; AND TIM FLOOR, AHEPA 219 EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL FOUNDATION PRESIDENT. (PHOTO BY NICK MAYDANIS, CHAPTER 219 PHOTOGRAPHER)

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!

Youth Ministry Overview

Youth 4F Night: Join us Saturday, Feb. 24 at 4:30 pm for an evening of Faith, Fellowship, 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!

Sunday School - after the Divine Liturgy on the Solea. Our 2nd semester continues with the survey of the New Testament. The New Testament is the record of the Covenant relationship we have been granted in Jesus Christ. As we begin the semester, we are in need of volunteers to provide treats for the students. If you would like to assist in this effort, please contact Presbyteria Denise at 720-560-5327.

All Saints Camp 2024 - Join us May 26 - June 1 at Camp Shadow Pines! Register at allsaintscamparizona.org

**HOLY TRINITY 4F
2023/24**

DATES:	WORKSHEET ASSIGNMENTS DUE AT
SEPTEMBER 16	FOLLOWING 4F, AFTER COMPLETING
OCTOBER 21	3: ICON
NOVEMBER 5 GODPARENTS SUNDAY	5: PRAYER BOOK
NOVEMBER 18	10: BIBLE
DECEMBER 16	
JANUARY 20	
FEBRUARY 24	
MARCH 16	
APRIL 6 - LENTEN RETREAT	
APRIL 27 LAZARUS SATURDAY RETREAT	
MAY 11	

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.

Dance Soup & Salad Lunch

January 28, 2024



Soup & Salad Costume and Performance Sneak-Peak

January 28, 2024



Dance Teams Going to FDF

February 15-18, 2024



All Saints Camp 2024



ALL SAINTS CAMP 2024!

CAMP SHADOW PINES | HEBER, AZ
MAY 26 - JUNE 1

Registration is open!

www.allsaintscamparizona.org

ASC 2024 | Apply to Be a Summer Camp Counselor Today!

All Saints Summer Camp will be hosted at Camp Shadow Pines in Heber, Arizona, May 26-June 1!

The mission of ASC is to bring Orthodox youth and staff closer to Christ and to one another through a safe, fun, and prayerful environment. We are only able to accomplish this because of our highly trained and dedicated staff!

For those interested in being summer camp counselors, medical staff, or support staff, we will be accepting applications until March 15. Click [HERE](#) to apply! With questions, please contact us at info@allsaintscamparizona.org.

God bless you!

A promotional poster for a pickleball tournament. The top half features a blue pickleball court with a black paddle and a yellow ball. The text is in white and green. The event is presented by All Saints Camp Arizona and will take place on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at Holy Trinity Cathedral Poulos Court. The poster lists entry details and highlights such as a raffle, BBQ, and drinks for sale.

ALL SAINTS
CAMP
ARIZONA
PRESENTS
**PICKLEBALL
TOURNAMENT
FUNDRAISER**

**11AM SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 3, 2024** **HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL
POULOS COURT**

ENTRY	HIGHLIGHTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 16 Teams• Single Elimination• First Come, First Serve Sign-ups• Open Dec. 8 @ 12pm• \$100 per team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raffle for great prizes!• BBQ and drinks for sale• Cornhole and Fun!

Questions? Email Chris Fredericksen at: c.fredericksen@yahoo.com

Come cheer on the teams!