Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
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Rev. Economos Apostolos Hill  
Rev. Alexander Eliades  
Rev. Deacon John Thrasher  

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Monday–Friday, 9:00am–3:00pm  

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

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Secretary: Andi Fourlis  
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Alexander Harding, Jill Leach,  
Chris Petroulakis, John Schneider  

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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, Yvonne, and Kristen of any updates to your listing.
Message from Father Apostolos

First Things

"O Lord our God, who have placed times and seasons under your own authority; who, in your infinite compassion and goodness, have counted us worthy to enter a New Year of your loving kindness, bless it and keep us in peace." (from the prayer for the New Year)

There is sacredness to the first day of the New year, a sense of wanting to begin the year well and consistent with our hopes and aims. Time itself has been made sacred by the coming of the God-Man into our temporal and spatial reality. Whereas, before His Divine Incarnation, time was random and unyielding (hence: Xronos, the father of Zeus in Greek mythology who devoured his progeny,) it has now been redeemed in Jesus Christ.

Even the terms used to describe time have been altered. Chronos" is replaced with "kairos," the time of the Kingdom which is unveiled whenever the Church assembles to pray. This is reflected in our hymnology, as in; "Today the Son of God becomes the son of the Virgin," and "Today is suspended upon the Tree," which hymns echo the admonition of St. Paul who wrote to the Hebrews; "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as your fathers did when they rebelled against me in the wilderness."

And while Kairos reflects the languid and gentle timelessness of the Holy Trinity, Chronos is a brutal and unfeeling taskmaster. The emergence of mobile technologies means for us that we are always "on the clock," always accountable for our use of time, always left breathless and exhausted, feeling guilt that we couldn't get more done. The recklessness of "rush hour" traffic, our incivility toward one another as we race through our days to check all the boxes and meet every demand and expectation placed on us, discloses the grim specter of our looming mortality that chases us through life.

Is this any way to live? How can we learn to become like Mary in our very Martha world? Jesus visited the home in Bethany of His friends Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha. And while Mary sat patiently at the feet of Jesus to drink in His words of Life, Martha raced about "much serving," and too busy seeing to the demands of social custom to nourish her own soul at the feet of the God-Man. To this, Jesus responded; "Martha, Martha, you are concerned with many things but only one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good part which will not be taken from her."

As we plan the year ahead, what are we willing to let go of for the sake of nourishing our souls? Where in our ever-growing list of priorities, (most of which are handed to us by others) does the care of our soul fall? Before you begin to feel any guilt about this question, let me share this experience with you!

Once, while attempting to confess to my spiritual father how difficult it was (and remains!) to be consistent to my rule of prayer, Geronda and I had to move three times to various places in the Denver Cathedral complex; this because those who needed something from me kept finding me to interrupt my confession! Finally, Geronda and I snuck back into my office where he told me, "My child, you may only have 2-3 minutes a day to yourself to pray. But if you offer those few spare minutes to God from your heart, He can make them enough for your needs."

Fr. Apostolos' Message continued on page 6
NEW YEAR - NEW STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE

“Well done, good & faithful servant.”
Matthew 25:23

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

We pray you enjoyed a blessed Christmas with family and friends and we wish everyone a happy and healthy 2024. As we embark on a new year, it is important we give our first fruits to the church as Christ instructed us. So now that the celebrations, festivities, shopping, wrapping, baking, and preparing are over, we need to sit down with a grateful heart and consider our 2024 Stewardship pledge.

Our goal is for 100% of our parishioners to submit your 2024 pledge card and make a commitment toward that pledge by January 31st. For those who are able, we ask that you increase your pledge over last year’s commitment. How much of a percentage are you able to increase your giving amount? 1%? 3%? 5%? Whatever the amount, we are truly grateful for the incredible generosity of our Holy Trinity Stewards.

SHELBYNEXT IS HERE!

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

Go to: www.holytrinityphx.org
Click on “Stewardship” in the upper right hand corner
Click on “Pledge Card” - fill out and submit
Then click on “Stewardship” again
Click on “ShelbyNext” and fill out and submit
Stewardship Sunday
December 10, 2023

Stewardship Chair Sandy Meris spoke.

Submitted Pledge Cards were Blessed by the Fathers.

Complimentary Stewardship Lunch
December 10, 2023

Thank you to John Mitchell for another delicious lunch!

Parish Assembly
December 10, 2023

Informative biannual Parish Assembly. Thank you to all who participated!
The saying runs that "The perfect is the enemy of the good." God doesn't demand perfection from us, only our effort and intention. Metropolitan Isaiah often said that "The intention is equal to the accomplishment." God knows our hearts and He understands our limitations! But, beloved parish family... eternity is open to us when we steal away into the inner room of our heart to be with God! And we can breathe the atmosphere of Heaven when we assemble in the Church to pray. Here, our psychosomatic selves can be soothed as the "Peace of Christ which surpasses all understanding" (Phil 4:7) floods into every fiber of our being.

The world we inhabit writhes under the lash of deadlines and anxieties, petty divisions, insufficient resources, strained relationships, and day-to-day exhaustion. We can become weary and disoriented. But the Lord, our Shepherd, "makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside the still waters, He restores my soul." My prayer is that we can navigate the year ahead and the challenges and opportunities it will bring "with the firm conviction that (His) will governs all things." (From St. Philaret's Morning Prayer)

The Prayer for the New Year we will offer at the end of the Divine Liturgy on New Year's Day concludes with this. "Let your kingdom come upon us, O Lord; the kingdom of love, goodness, peace and justice; and make us worthy to praise and glorify, with one mouth and one heart, your most honorable and majestic name, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages."

A most blessed, grace-filled, and prosperous New Year to you all,

In Jesus Christ,
Rev. Father Apostolos Hill | Dean

Eleftherios Chasanidis Visit
Protopsaltis, Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New York City
December 27, 2023

Tristan Stoutenburg, Eleftherios Chasanidis, Father Apostolos, Elizabeth Pardhe, Joshua Pardhe. (Not pictured: Daniel Valenzuela)

With former HTC Phoenix Byzantine Choir Director George Duvall.
House of Stewards

As of 12/31/2023

Catherine Agra
Evan & Terri Alexon
Constance Anagnopoulos
Dina Anagnopoulos
Mike & Alexandra Anagnopoulos
Nikki Ane
John & Sandy Annos
Carla Antypas
Elaine Apostle
Argyro Apostolou
Chris Athens
Debbie Babakitis
Christina & Chris Bakavelou
Constantine & Eleni Balanis
Taylor Bankson
Crisanne & Scott Bansner
Ted & Rebecca Barabatis
Christopher Bass
Sam & Heidi Bass
Alexandra Bates
Elaine Apostle
Argyro Apostolou
Chris Athens
Debbie Babakitis
Christina & Chris Bakavelou
Constantine & Eleni Balanis
Taylor Bankson
Crisanne & Scott Bansner
Ted & Rebecca Barabatis
Christopher Bass
Sam & Heidi Bass
Alexandra Bates

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

Bessie Hotis
Steve & Candy Huff
Gelu & Jesa Isfanut
Peter D. Janos
Jeffrey Johannesmeyer & Melina Machas
Paulos Kairis
James & Linda Kaliyas
Pete & Nicole Kamboukos
Basilis & Roula Kaneris
Marianna Kaneris
Jean Kantaros
Nick & Dena Kantaros
William & Harriet Kapolas
Maggie & Marko Karakozis
Mia Karandas
Peter Jr & Tina Karegeannes
Virginia Karegeannes
Vasili & Vasiliki Karagiannis
Markos & Maggie Karakozis
Julie Karoutas
Joann Karras
Fotini Katrakis
George & Niki Katsaros
Chris & Nobuko Katsenes
John & Mary Katsenes
Paul & Lori Katsenes
Thomas J Katsenes
Jim & Poppy Kavounis
Fanny Kehajias
Catherine & Quentin Keyser
Ronald & Virginia Kidd
Emily Kimmell
Pete & Pat Kladis
Maria Kompos
Spiros & Maria Kontakis
Arthur & Carol Kostaras
Kostadinos & Anatoli Kostouros
Dean & Angela Koumoutzis
Anthoni & Janet Kouououis
Elizabeth & Johnny Krtasas
Athena Kretsedemases
Tammy Kretsedemases
Nick & Marina Kretsedemases
Debbie Caras & Greg Kunkel
Tassie Ladasa
Anastasia Lambrou
John & Evangelia Lambrou
Judith & Bruce Lamond
Elias & Mary Lampas
Scott & Jill Leach
Constance & Steve Lemere
Lea Larina
Andrew Limber
Jamie & Kimberly Limber
Luke & Maria Lipnos
Gregory Lizanich
David Lyon
James & Stephanie Machas
Maria Maciejewski
Daniel Machinis
Joanne Mackos
Aristotle & Evelyne Macrodimitris
Marika Makridis
Margaret Makris

House of Stewards continued on page 8
Desert Springs January 2024
House of Stewards continued from page 6

Mark & Efia Mallas
Julie & Felix Mamani
Jim & Donna Manelis
Maria Maniatis
Anna Manos
William & Rina Marinakos
Nicholas Marino
Douglas & Ann Markakis
Mary Lou Mastorakos
Stephen & Marianthi Mastorakos
Debra & Mediterrinos Mauroidis
Pamela Naydans
Peter & Christina Magadanis
Angela & Chris Mead
Stephen Mellas
Joanne Meris
William & Sandy Meris
Anthony & Tania Miaoulis
Alan & Joanna Michalak
Anastasia Mignias
Angeline Miller
George Miller & Chloe Jeffries
Paul & Linda Miller
William & Jean Miller
Irene Mirs
Andrew & Anastasia Mitchell
Philip & Helen Mitchell
Emil & Oleg Moroz
Dino Moschouits
James & Irene Mourikes
Spyro & Effie Mousses
Jerry & Kathy New
John & Maria Nicholas
Evelyn Nickalew
John Nicoletos
Anna Marie Nieblas
Jeremy & Anastacia Oxley
Irene Pagoudis
Else Paletchos
Elizabeth Palmer
Christo & Connie Panagiotakopoulos
Alexi & Alexia Panagiotakopoulos
Anna Panagiotakopoulos
Niko Panagiotakopoulos
Thanasi & Melissa Panagiotakopoulos
Philip & Eleni Panagiotoglou
Sofia Panagiotoglou
Chrysoula Papadopoulos
Socrates & Stephanie Papadopoulos
Aaron Papagios
Ria Papadogiou
Spyros & Rita Papaspyrou
Dr. Mike & Stefania Papamatheakis
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 Pardee
Athena Parmenter
Amy Paul
Christina & Peter Pearce
Kathrine Pedersen
John & Dina Pesognelli
Angelo Petriuvas
Fotini Petriuvas
Zoe Petriuvas
Peter & Gayle Petkas
Chris Petroulakis
Jacquelyn Petroulakis
Nicholas & Laurel Petsas
Bill & Kathy Petsas
Michael & TeAnn Philippis
Brian & Athena Pickett
Mary Ann Pilkas
Mary Poulakidas
Tracy Poulos
Panagiotis & Anthipe Pries
Nicole Pyle
Bertha Quinn
Lydia Rabbit
Alex & Rose Rentzis
Menelaos Rentzis
Voula & Kathy
George Rouman
Paul Roupas
Gregory & Milissa Sackos
Lois Sakkas
Brandon Salazar
Stelios & Nicole Samaradellis
Dimitra Sampson
Paul Sarantes
Les & Christine Sarantinos
John Schneider
Peter Schneider
Warren & Kalliope Schneider
George & Angela Scopelianos
Diane & George Sedlacek
Terry & Chris Seretis
Elaine Seretis
John Siauels
Robert & Donna Sioles
Robert Stamm & Elyse Sioles
George & Eui Skintzis
Elia & Phyllis Skoubis
Constantin Solomon
David & Alisha Solheim
Angelo & Marie Spanos
Leo & Rachel Speliopoulos
William & Dianne (Tiki) Spell
James A. & Christina Speros
James L & Karen Speros
Vasilios & Diana Speros
Jim & Kathryn Stamadianos
Andrew & Christine Stamatis
Jonathan Stamatis
Gerry & Nitsa Stamatelatos
Jimmy & Lisa Sterio
Tristan & Alana Stoutenburg
Robert Stuart
Despina Taularides
William & Rebecca Taularides
Nick & Effie Theodore
Gus & Mary Louise Theodoropoulos
Jim Thomas
John Gus & Teresa Thomas
Deac. John & Diak. Mary Thrasher
Andrew Touwannas
Thaddeus & Katherine Tropea
Basilios & Mary Tsakiris
Stacy & Gerri Tsantilas
Constantine & Stella Tsantilas
Vaios & Areti Tsanos
Dean & Brenda Tseunis
Dimitri Tsoutsiosopoulos
Sotioras & Nicki Tsoutsiosopoulos
Matthew & Eva Turgeon
Costa & Koko Tzavaras
Daniel Valenzuela
Peter & Lindsay Vardalos
Kristo Fanvarakos
Argyro Vasquez
Terri & Scott Vaughn
George & Connie Venetis
Leah Venetis
Peter & Maria Vlahos
Andrew & Sandy Vlahoulis
Steve & Mary Vrahas
Ken & Angela Walker
Paula & Colin Walsh
Zach & Mary Wilhelmi
Richard & Katina Wood
Michael & Christina Wombacher
Stephanie Yaraninsky
Zachariah Yoon & Elizabeth Hong
John & Andreanna Zafiroopoulos
Anthony & Karen Zaman
Jerry & Amanda Zannis
Dimitrios & Eugenia Zannis
George & Katherine Zannis
Zella Zannis
Euangelia Zikos
Kostas & Margarita Zistas
Dimitrios Zistatis
Michael & Christina Zistatsis

2023 PLEDGED FAMILIES

We offer you our thanks for your dedication to our parish and your participation in Christ’s work of salvation. If you have not filled out a Pledge Card for 2023, please pick one up in the Church Narthex or visit holytrinityphx.org. If you have filled out a 2023 Pledge Card but your name does not appear on this list, please know any omissions are unintentional. Please call the Church office immediately and we will resolve the situation.
Join Philoptochos 2024

Next Meeting on Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 6:30pm
in the Lounge of the Speros Community Center

Did you know...

There were 13 40-Day Blessings performed in our Cathedral in 2023?

To celebrate each one, Philoptochos provided a hand-made crocheted blanket, books, and a card to the families.

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 Philoptochoos

Vasilopita Auction
January 7, 2024

Please join us on Sunday, January 7th, in the Speros Community Center, following Divine Liturgy. We auction several beautiful Vasilopitas made by the ladies of the Philoptochoos for you to take home and share with your families to start the New Year. We look forward to seeing you!

Philoptochoos Trays

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

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

In most cases, our chapter will add to the collected amount.
Please make checks payable to “Philoptochoos”. Your donations are much appreciated!

December Coffee Socials
Holy Trinity’s St. Katherine Philoptochos

December Meeting with Gift Exchange
December 7, 2023

Thank you to our community for your continued support of our twice-yearly bake sales! Profits earned help support Philoptochos’ many missions.

December Bake Sale
December 17, 2023
Holy Trinity’s St. Katherine Philoptochos

Baking—Day 1 of 3

December 13, 2023
Theophany Picnic—Open to All
January 6, 2024

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

THEOPHANY CELEBRATION!

Please join us for a community BBQ on January 6th following the Blessing of the Waters! We will be grilling whole lambs and enjoying a potluck lunch. Bring your family/friends and a favorite dish to share!

If you have a lamb rotisserie spit and can volunteer to help with the grilling, please let us know at htcphxevents@gmail.com! We also need volunteers to help with the kitchen prep.

8:00 am: Orthros
9:00 am: Divine Liturgy/ Blessing of the Waters
11:00 am: Community Fellowship/Potluck

RSVP at https://tinyurl.com/HTCpotluck
Sunday School

Stories from the Bible

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

FOCUS Kickoff Meeting for the Homeless Shelter

Steve Christoforou from FOCUS North America will be returning to Phoenix on Sunday, Jan. 21 for a follow-up to the July meeting regarding the establishment of a new homeless shelter in Phoenix. Over 50 parishioners from 10 parishes attended the July meeting. There was significant interest in pursuing this idea and we’re ready to move forward with a kickoff meeting and team formation! If you have any questions about the proposed FOCUS shelter in Phoenix or want to be involved in the effort, please contact Steve at schristoforou@focusna.org. The recording of the presentation can be found at https://bit.ly/3O2rouI.
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 December Celebration Sunday, we celebrated Fr. Alexander Eliades’ birthday and all December birthdays! The hall was decorated for Christmas with red tablecloths, mini Christmas trees, vases with gold foliage with mini floating candles, and strings of Christmas-themed 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: htcphevents@gmail.com.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more, please email htcphevents@gmail.com and/or talk to Terri Alexon or Mary Pardhe!

Communal Cooking Event

In December, the Communal Cooking crew led by Phillip Panagiotoglou gathered to cook and serve a meal of Greek navy bean soup, lemon orzo soup, garlic bread, green salad, and assorted desserts provided by Philoptochos. We also had a small cake to celebrate all the birthdays in December! If you are interested in helping out or joining us for future cooking events, please email htcphevents@gmail.com. In addition, please feel free to bring a dish to share with the community on the first Sunday of every month.
Celebration Committee
January Birthdays

George Peter Agnos
Carla Antypas
Elaine Apostle
Sophia Bakavelou
George Benetos
Rita Bruskas
Frank Carris
Pete Choukalas
Adriana Chronis
Mariam Contes
Leonard Debickero
Patrick Delord
Joanne Demangus
Fran Drozdz
Nehemiah Fightmaster
Karla Floor
Bill Graham
Courtney Harris
Mary Harris
Alexia Haugen
Constantinos Herrera
Ekaterini Jaynes
Grace Kamboukos
Harper Kamboukos
Vasilios Karagiannis
Vasiliqi Karagiannis
Fotini Katrakis
Poppy Kavouris
Fanny Kechajias
George Kleanthis
Nick Kretsedemas
Haroula Kyriacou
Stephan Mackos

Leonithas Mackos
Jenny Margaris
James Markakis
Joanne Meris
Alexandra Meris
Claire Meyers
Irene Mirs
Anastasia Mitchell
Zoya Moroz
James Mourikes
Kathy New
Irene Pagoudis
Elizabeth Palmer
Gayle Petkas
James Petsas
Georgia Pikoula
Nicole Pyle
Lydia Rabbitt
George Rouman
Nikki Sackos
Theodore Schneider
Angelo Scopelianos
Alisha Solheim
James A. Speros
Sophia Stamatis
Sophia Sterio
Alana Stoutenburg
Sophocles Tsaninios
Dimitrios Tsioutsiopoulos
Staci Vaughn
Andy Vlahos
Andrew Vlahoulis
Our Church Family

40 Day Blessings
“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

12/10/2023
Elias, son of Zoe & Kenny Christensen
God’s Blessings be upon him.

12/17/2023
Sebastian, son of Victoria & Theofilis Asimos
God’s Blessings be upon him.

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

12/09/2023
Emily & Wyatt Coppinger
Sponsors: Anna & Daniel Pardhe
God’s Blessings be upon them.

Jill & Scott Leach
Sponsor: Kathy New
God’s Blessings be upon them.

Alana & Tristan Stoutenburg
Sponsor: Daniel Valenzuela
God’s Blessings be upon them.

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

12/21/2023
Mike Anagnopoulos
May his memory be eternal.

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

Church Website
Have you checked out the website lately?
www.holytrinityphx.org
Events · Services · Photos · Calendar · Stewardship

Did you know?
We had 3,369 site visitors in December - including 224 visitors on Christmas Eve!
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 Philoptochos for sponsoring Coffee Socials in December.

The January Coffee Socials are sponsored by Dance.

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.”
The month of January gives us the opportunity to celebrate the Feast of Holy Theophany.

In the East, the Nativity of Christ was celebrated together with Epiphany of January 6th, while in the West, the Nativity was celebrated before Epiphany became known to them. It is important to stress that, contrary to what is written in some places, Theophany is NOT the birth of the Church. The Church has always existed since the beginning of times. The Church is God and since God has always existed, so has the Church.

The term Theophany and Epiphany is used interchangeably. Theophany is a Greek word. 'Theophania', (Theos - God; phaneia - manifestation) means in literal translation, "Manifestation of God". The literal meaning of Epiphany (Epi - above; phaneia - manifestation) is "Manifestation from above".

The Orthodox Church has defined the Epiphany of the Holy Trinity as the appearance of God during Christ’s baptism in the Jordan River. It is the beginning of Christ’s official dedication to His Divine Mission in the presence and manifestation of the Triune God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus and the one chosen by God to proclaim His coming, was preaching in the wilderness and was baptizing all who would respond to his message calling for repentance. As he was doing this, John was directing the people toward the one who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11).

The Scriptures tell us that Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. Initially, John would not do this, saying that Jesus should baptize him. Jesus said to John, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness (3:15). John consented and baptized Jesus.

When Jesus came up from the water, the heavens opened suddenly, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. The Bible records that the Spirit descended like a dove and alighted on him. When this happened, a voice came from heaven and said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with Whom I am well pleased.” This was the voice of God the Father.

Christ’s baptism in the Jordan was “theophany,” a manifestation of God to the world, because it was the beginning of our Lord’s public ministry. It was also a “theophany” in that the world was granted a revelation of the Holy Trinity. All three Persons were made manifest together: the Father testified from on high to the divine Sonship of Jesus; the Son received His Father’s testimony; and the Spirit was seen in the form of a dove, descending from the Father and resting upon the Son.

Theophany represents our redemption from darkness and illumination by the light of the knowledge of God. This is why it is also referred to as the Feast of Lights, the Lights which illuminates our conscience and our Christian way of life. “I am the Light”, Jesus said. The
Church celebrates on this day the illumination of the world by the light of Christ. As Orthodox Christians, let us always walk upright in the Light of Christ!

**Icon of the Feast**

1 The Icon of the Feast of Theophany tells the story from the Gospels in images and color. On the left side of the icon we see John the Baptist who is dressed in camel’s hair and has the appearance of one who lives in the wilderness. His arms are outstretched, showing an attitude of prayer and reverence, but also directing others to Christ. With his right hand he is conducting the baptism.

2 The Heavens open, the voice of the Father is heard, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descends upon Christ.

3 In the center of the icon is Christ being baptized in the Jordan. He is standing in the water wearing a waistcloth, and with His right hand He is blessing the waters of the Jordan. Above His head is the Holy Spirit descending as a dove upon Him. At the top of the icon, a semicircle depicts the opening of the Heavens and the voice of the Father.

4 Angels of the Lord gathered on the shore of the Jordan River give praises to Christ.

5 An angel of the Lord receives Christ as He comes out of the water.
Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry

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

Living Orthodox Christmas Party

On December 8, we co-hosted a Christmas party with the St. George young adult group. The event was held at the Legacy Ballroom at St. George Antiochian Church. Over 45 young adults gathered for a fun evening with Christmas-themed games and a delicious potluck dinner. Fr. Apostolos Hill was the featured speaker and gave a wonderful talk - “On the Incarnation”. The video of the talk is available on our YouTube channel (https://tinyurl.com/LOvideosYT).

We also launched a fundraiser to raise $30,000 by January 31st for IOCC relief efforts in the Holy Land. If you would like to donate, please visit our Phoenix fundraiser donation page at https://give.iocc.org/give/546180/#/donation/checkout. As part of the fundraising campaign, the young adults at St. George Antiochian Church will be hosting a special luncheon and raffle on January 12th. Please see the following flyer for details on how to purchase tickets!

Living Orthodox continued on Page 22.
On January 21, we will be having a special follow-up presentation by Steve Christoforou from FOCUS North America. Steve visited Holy Trinity in July to discuss the establishment of a new homeless shelter in Phoenix. Over 50 parishioners from 10 parishes attended and there was significant interest in pursuing this idea. Now, we’re ready to move forward with a kickoff meeting and team formation! If you have any questions about the proposed FOCUS shelter in Phoenix or want to be involved in the effort, please contact Steve Christoforou at schristoforou@focusna.org. The recording of the July presentation can be found on our Living Orthodox YouTube channel (https://bit.ly/3O2rouI). This event is open to all parishes and all ages! Please RSVP at https://tinyurl.com/HTCphx.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Living Orthodox, please email livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com! You can also visit https://linktr.ee/livingorthodox for links to our Instagram channel and Discord server.
Christmas Eve Reception
December 24, 2023

Three Marriages!
December 9, 2023
Liturical Services will continue to be **live streamed** by Father Apostolos and Father Alexander.

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

**Desert Springs Issues Available to Our Seniors**
or the computer-challenged!

In an effort to reach our whole Parish Community with Cathedral news, issues of the Desert Springs will be available for **FREE** to those in our community who do not own or use a computer, tablet, or smart phone or would prefer to read the news in hard-copy print. Submit names to the Church Office or text Kristen at 602-332-8809.

**Desert Springs Subscription**

Enjoy **color** copies of Holy Trinity Cathedral’s *Desert Springs* delivered to you!

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Street Address: __________________________________________________

City, ST, Zip: ____________________________________________________

Contact Phone: _____________________________

Return this form to the Church Office or contact Kristen at 602-332-8809

**HTC on Facebook**

The page offers news of our Parish Community, in addition to offering links to videos of our services.  *Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral—Phoenix, AZ*
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 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 $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
The DeMoss Families
IMO+ Tasia Pritchard

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 Tavlairides, 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
Desert Diamonds

Julie Karoutas
for senior parishioners and their guests:

Dear Desert Diamonds & Friends,

Wishing you All a Blessed & Merry Christmas Holiday; have a blessed, Happy, Healthy New Year!

Please save the date, Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 10.00am. Plan to attend the ASU Coffee at the Kerr performance of "The Barber of Seville". I have secured 12 tickets, to be given to the first 11 to RSVP. If we have more wishing to attend, I can check availability, and may be able to receive more tickets.

Briefly, the ASU School of Music joins ASU Kerr in presenting free entertaining concerts that feature faculty & graduate students. A $5.00 donation is encouraged & bring a can of food or sealed personal item to be donated to Vista del Camino Food Bank. Coffee service begins at 9:30 a.m. Performance at 10:30a.m.

ASU Kerr Cultural Center, 6110 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85253

Please note: The center is located on Rose Lane, between Lincoln & McDonald Drive on Scottsdale Rd., Head West on Rose Lane, drive 175 yds.; turn Left onto first unmarked street in the spacious parking lot.

After the performance we can plan on going to lunch in the area. A new Mediterranean restaurant has opened up nearby, if we choose to go. Details to follow.

With love in Christ,
Julie Karoutas, email: juliekaroutas@gmail.com
Cell# 623.313.8720

Desert Springs January 2024
AHEPA Chapter 219

Our Next Chapter Meeting

Thursday, January 18 at 6 PM

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

Interested in membership?
Contact Pete Marudas
602-284-1638
AHEPA Chapter 219

Year In Review

Donated $12K to St Innocents
Donated $10K to UMOM
Awarded $8K in Scholarships
Donated $2.2K to Maui Relief
Donated $2.3K to 4F
Donated $1K to Alex Sampson Memorial
Donated $1.1K to Benevolent Fund
Made $19K in Festival Bar Sales
Donated $900 to All Saint’s Camp
Donated $2K to Charities
Sponsored Palm Sunday Lunch
Sponsored Community Picnic

Interested in Membership?
Contact Pete Marudas
602-284-1638
AHEPA Chapter 219
Youth 4F Night
Youth 4F Night: Join us Saturday, January 20 at 4:30 pm for an evening of Faith, Fellowship, Christmas Fun and Food. All of our youth from Grades 1-12 are invited to join us for this great night. Keep an eye out for registration!

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

Annual Youth Winter Retreat
Join us January 12 - 14, 2024 at Emmanuel Pines Camp in Prescott, AZ.
Cost: $175 per person, $25 sibling discount.
Register at assumptionaz.org/winterretreat.
Questions: Niko Paris at youth@assumptionaz.org.
All Saints Camp 2024

REGISTRATION OPENS DEC. 15
CAMP SHADOW PINES | HEBER, AZ
MAY 26 - JUNE 1
WWW.ALLSAINTSCAMPARIZONA.ORG

All Saints Camp Fundraiser

ALL SAINTS CAMP ARIZONA PRESENTS
PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER

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

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

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

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