

Desert Springs

June & July 2024
Volume 9 Issue 6



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

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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 Furlis
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
- **Celebration Committee** — Terri Alexon and Mary Pardhe: htcphxevents@gmail.com
- **Dance** — Niko Panagiotakopoulos: npanos01@yahoo.com
- **Daughters of Penelope** — Julie Karoutas: juliekaroutas@gmail.com
- **Desert Diamonds (50+)** — Julie Karoutas: juliekaroutas@gmail.com
- **Epistle Readers** — Connie Contes: connie.contes@gmail.com
- **Greek Festival** — Nick Kretsedemas: nick.kretsedemas@chilis.com, Angelo Pestrivas: angelopestrivas@msn.com, Ted Furlis: 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 Furlis: htcmaintenance1973@gmail.com
- **Myrrhbearers** — Stacey Beaty: staceybeaty@live.com
- **Narthex Intake** — Kristen Vasilarakos: kristen.vasilarakos@outlook.com
- **OPA** — Caroline Economopoulos: cjecomom@gmail.com
- **Oratorical Festival** — Nick Petsas: npetsas@outlook.com, Chris Francis: battersbox7@yahoo.com
- **Parish Council** — Paul Katsenes: pkatsenes@cox.net
- **Philoptochos** — Kristen Vasilarakos: kristen.vasilarakos@outlook.com
- **Special Events Administrator** — Angie Lambrou: angie.lambrou@cox.net
- **Stewardship** — Sandy Meris: sandymeris@gmail.com
- **UMOM New Day Centers** — Christine Stamatias: cstamatis@cox.net
- **Wedding Coordinator** —
- **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 kristen.vasilarakos@outlook.com. **It is the organization's responsibility** to inform Heidi, Yvonne, and Kristen of any updates to your listing.

Message from Father Alexander

Refurbish, Refresh, Remodel?



You've most likely heard all these terms used in our "Cathedral Refresh" over the last 18 months or so and now you're getting to see what was meant the whole time! Our pews have been taken away to be taken apart and put back together with new materials and new look. The same pews, but different in look and substance, so much so that you couldn't possibly tell they were 50 years old.

As we return God-willing on Pentecost, June 23 into the Church, it will still be Holy Trinity Cathedral, but it will be different. There will be stone on the solea and altar, lighter pews, a different look but the same Church. A long process of planning, and, for the pews and the carpet that is torn apart and redone, a painful one.

This should remind us of our own need to be refreshed spiritually. But a reminder that this is always an uncomfortable thing! We too need to be torn apart, our old stuffing thrown away, new inserted, and a new coat of paint done. As we celebrate Pentecost and the descent of the Holy Spirit we need to understand this.

The Apostles were ripped from their homes and life and changed, sent all over the world where they were tortured and killed for their faith. It was a painful process all around but one that made them into beautiful gems of the Church, even of the world!

So if we find this time of worship in the Hall uncomfortable or when we return, if we think the newly refreshed Cathedral to be not exactly how we it should be, remember the need for refreshment and change in ourselves. Remember that this is always an uncomfortable and difficult time that, if persisted through, leads to great glory forever and ever.

So whatever word you use, Refresh, Refurbish, Remodel, do it! For your soul and your eternal life. It will be painful but it is highly necessary.



Master Plan for the HTC Campus

Our community is blessed to have this large, beautiful campus which has served us well for over 50 years! It is important that we continue addressing the near-term needs and repairs of our facilities and campus as we also create a plan that looks forward towards addressing our future needs.

The current Refresh Project for the cathedral is in progress. A Master Plan is needed to not only address the buildings, but the flow and connection between the building (walkways, patios, field, etc.), the landscaping and overall grounds and the beautification of our entire campus.

One aspect in creating this Master Plan is to gather input from the community. The committee has created this brief questionnaire for members of our community to complete. There will be follow-on meetings with the ministries as well as general meetings to give the opportunity for all to participate.



Please respond with your thoughts to the questions with respect to the facilities and grounds of our campus.

Click [THIS](#) link to answer the survey.

Parish Assembly

June 2, 2024



Stewardship

By Sandy Meris



STEWARDSHIP PARISH-WIDE COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT Back to School Supplies August 4 - September 29

As children head back to school, many of them do so without the ability to afford basic school supplies. Let's help support the students in our community at Madison Park Middle School by filling their classrooms with school supplies.

Madison Park is a Title 1 school in the Madison School District located at 14th Street & Campbell. A Title 1 school has a high percentage of students from low income families who receive free or reduced school breakfast and lunch.

We will be collecting the following items in the Narthex:

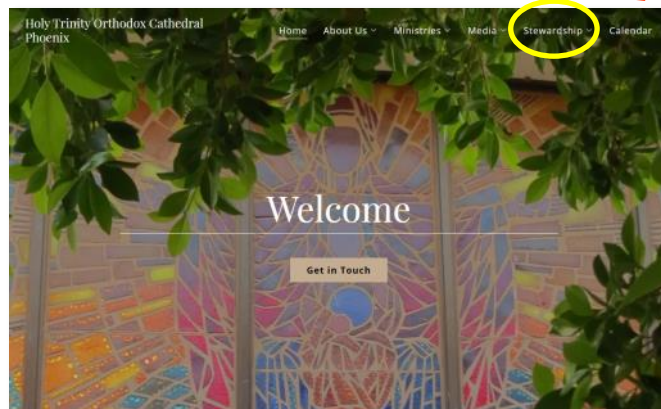
- Pencils
- Crayons
- Colored Pencils
- Markers
- Glue Sticks
- Erasers
- Highlighters
- Scissors
- Spiral Notebooks
- Composition Notebooks
- College ruled lined paper
- 3-Ring Binders
- Folders



Easy Stewardship Sign Up!

Use **WeShare!**

Go to www.holytrinityphx.org
and then click on **Stewardship**.



House of Stewards



As of 05/30/2024

Dina Anagnopoulos
Nikki Anest
John & Sandy Annos
Carla Antypas
Elaine Apostle
Argyro Apostolou
Chris Athens
Christina Bakavelou & Chris Perry
Constantine & Eleni Balanis
Joanna Bankson
Crisanne & Scott Bansner
Christopher Bass
Dean Bass & Liz Beckman
Sam & Heidi Bass
Alexandra Bates Family
Joyce Baulinka
Dr. Nicholas Baziotes
Athena Beaty
Scott & Stacey Beaty
George & Stacy Benetos
Stamatios Benetos
Dan & Vicki Bichekas
Peter & Jennifer Bilitsis
James & Helen Bruno
Georgia Brusalis
Chris & Rita Bruskas
Kristen Bruskas
Connie Burkhart
Betty Carras
Kathy Carras
Dawn & Casey Cartier
Michael Cartier
Chad & Amanda Carver
Haralambo Charitou
Laurel Charnas-Schiller & Todd Schiller
Harriet Chotras
Jim Chotras
Pete & Kim Choukalas
Theo & Pauline Christakos
Kenny & Zoe Christenson
Katherine & Jeffrey Clarke
Andy & Mara Contes
Jamie Contes
James & Connie Contes
Evonne Damianos
Nick & Sharon Daniolos
Patty Davis
Rebecca Davis
Leonard & Elaine Debickero
Anastasia Dellas
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
Jenny Bruno-Doster
Stanley & Fran Drozd
Caroline Economopoulos
Christos & Dena Economopoulos
Fr. Alexander & Presv. Laura Eliades
Emil Ellis
Aristotflis & Dianne Euripidou
Ed & Katherine Fancher
Greg Fernandez
Helen Fernandez
Keith & Ashley Fightmaster
Mary Floor
Anna Furlis
Athanas & Georgia Furlis
Athanasia Furlis
Ted & Andi Furlis
Tim & Antonette Fraenkel
Chris & Celeste Francis
Georgana Frieh
Semos Gardner
Demetra Georgelos
Diana Georgelos
Pamela Georgelos
John Giannopoulos
Harrison & Mandy Gillis
Pauline Ginakes
Stella Glitsos
Eva Goodman
Bill & Lynn Graham
Gina Graham
Gail Grevas
David Haag
Mary Haidos
Donald Hall
Terry Harper
Mary & Roger Harris
Patsy Harris
Dinos & Koula Georges
Alex Harding
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

James & Linda Kaliuas
Paulos Kairis
Peter & Nicole Kamboukos
Basilis & Roula Kaneris
Marianna Kaneris
Jean Kantaros
Nick & Dena Kantaros
Voule & Cathy Kapetanakis
William & Harriet Kapolas
John & Tressa Karagiannis
Vasilios & Vasiliqi Karagiannis
Maggie & Marko Karakozis
Pete & Tina Karegeannis
Virginia Karegeannes
Julie Karoutas
Joshua & Nyla Karoutas
Joann Karros
Fotini Katrakis
George & Niki Katsaros
John & Mary Katsenes
Paul & Lori Katsenes
Tom J Katsenes
Helen Katsufrazis
Jim & Poppy Kavouris
Fany Kechajias
Nikolaos Kentimenos & Panagiota Kladou
Cathy & Quent Keyser
Ronald & Virginia Kidd
Emily Kimmell
George & Zanetta Kleanthis
Anastasia Kompos
Maria Kompos
Spiros & Maria Kontakis
Arthur & Carol Kostaras
Kostadinos & Anatoli Kostouros
Johnny & Elizabeth Kratsas
Nick & Marina Kretsedemas
Tammy Kretsedemas
Joanne Koukouvetakis-Kruljac
Deborah Caras & Gregory Kunkel
John & Evangelia Lambrou
Bruce & Judith Lamond
Elias & Mary Lamos
Scott & Jill Leach
Steven & Constance Lemere
Lea Linaris
Georgia Lipane
Luke & Maria Lipnos
Gregory Lizanich
James & Stephanie Machas
Maria Maciejewski
Daniel Macinnis
Margo Makris
Marika Madridis
Julie & Felix Mamani
Jim & Donna Manelis
Maria Maniatis
Anna Manos
Bill & Rina Marinakos
Douglas & Ann Markakis
James & Michele Markakis

*House of Stewards continued on page 7
Desert Springs June & July 2024*

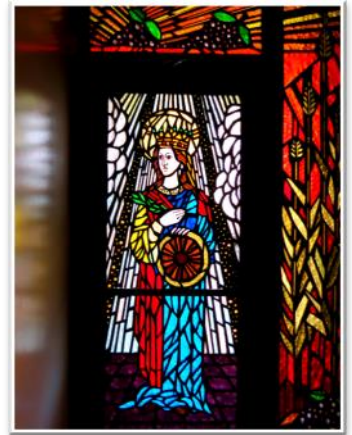
House of Stewards continued from page 6

Becky Martin	Athena Parmenter	Nitsa Stamateletos
Mary Lou Mastorakos	Amy Paul	Andrew & Christine Stamatis
Steve & Mari Mastorakos	Christine & Peter Pearce	Jonathan Stamatis
Katerina Matheos & Wesley Baker	John & Dina Pesognelli	Jimmy & Lisa Sterio
Pamela Maydanis	Fotini Pestrivas	Tristan & Alana Stoutenburg
Peter & Christina Maydanis	Zoe Pestrivas	Robert Stuart
Angela & Chris Mead	Peter & Gayle Petkas	Steven & Jean Talkington
Stephen Mellas	Chris Petroulakis	Despina Taularides
Christian Meris	Jacque Petroulakis	William & Rebecca Taularides
Joanne Meris	Bill & Kathy Petsas	Nick & Effie Theodore
William & Sandy Meris	Michael & TeAnn Philippis	Gus Theodoropoulos
Anthony & Tania Miaoulis	Brian & Athena Pickett	Jim Thomas
Anastasia Migias	Mary Poulakidas	Deac. John & Diak. Mary Thrasher
Paul & Linda Miller	Pete & Anthipe Pries	Andrew Touvanas
William & Jean Miller	Nicole & David Pyle	Thaddeus & Katherine Tropea
Andrew & Anastasia Mitchell	Bertha Quinn	Stacy & Gerri Tsantilas
John & Eleanna Mitchell	Alex Rentzis	Stella Tsantilas
Philip & Helen Mitchell	Alexi & Sara Rentzis	Dean & Breenda Tseunis
Oleg & Emily Moroz	Jenn Rentzis	Dimitrios Tsioutsopoulos
Dino Moschovitis	Menelaos Rentzis	Matthew & Eva Turgeon
James & Irene Mourikes	Voula Rentzis	Costa & Koko Tzavaras
Spyro & Effie Mousse	Catherine Romo	Daniel Valenzuela
Matthew & Sophia Neumann	George Rouman	Kristen Vasilarakos
John & Maria Nicholas	Robert & Maria Rush	Argyro Vasquez
Evelyn Nickalew	Lois Sakkas	Michael Vaughn & Audrey Lewter
John Nicolettos	Leonard & Katina Salvaggio	Scott & Terri Vaughn
AnnaMarie Nieblas	Stellios & Nicole Samaradellis	Stacy Vaughn
Irene Pagoudis	Dimitra Sampson	Leah Venetis
Else Paletsos	Paul Sarantes	Steve & Mary Vrahas
Elizabeth Palmer	Les & Christine Sarantinos	Peter & Maria Vlahos
Anna Panagiotakopoulos	John Schneider	Andrew & Sandy Vlahoulis
Christo & Connie Panagiotakopoulos	Peter Schneider	Colin & Paula Walsh
Niko Panagiotakopoulos	Warren & Kalliopi Schneider	Paulina & Doug Watson
Thanasi & Melissa Panagiotakopoulos	Diane & George Sedlacek	Zach & Mary Kladis Wilhelmi
Phillip & Eleni Panagiotoglou	Nicole Senerius	Connie M. Williams
Sofia Panagiotoglou	Terry & Chris Seretis	Dan Williams
Chrysoula Papadopoulou	Lainie Seretis	Anne & William Wilson
Socrates & Stephanie Papadopoulou	George & Traci Sgouro	Mike & Christina Wombacher
Aaron Papagalos	John Siavelis	Richard & Katina Wood
Ria Papageorgiou	Robert & Donna Sioles	Zachariah Yoon & Elizabeth Hong
Betty Papas	Elyse Sioles & Robert Stamm	John & Andreanna Zafiropoulos
Nick Papas	George & Eui Skintzis	Anthony & Karen Zaman
Spyros & Rita Papaspyrou	Elias & Phyllis Skoubis	George & Katherine Zannis
Gabriella Papatzimas	Peter Skoubis	Jerry & Amanda Zannis
Nicholas & Stacy Papatzimas	David & Alisha Solheim	Dimitrios & Eugenia Zannis
Angeline Pappas	Constantin Solomon	Zella Zannis
Andrew & Emily Pappas	Angelo & Marie Spanos	Evangelia Zikos
Harry & Fannie Pappas	Leo & Rachel Speliopoulos	Dimitrios Zistatsis
Irene Pappas	James L & Karen Speros	Eleanna Zistatsis
John & Andrea Pappas	Vasilios & Diana Speros	Michael & Christina Zistatsis
Daniel & Anna Pardhe	Jim & Kathryn Stamadianos	

2024 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 2024, please pick one up in the Church Narthex or [visit holytrinityphx.org](http://visit.holytrinityphx.org). If you have filled out a 2024 Pledge Card but your name does not appear on this list, please know any omissions are unintentional. Please call the Church office immediately and we will resolve the situation.

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos



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

☪☪
**Next Meeting on Thursday,
June 6, 2024 at 6:30 pm
in the Lounge of the Speros Community Center**
☪☪



Thank you, Phillip, Eleni, and Zoe for the May meal preparation and tablescape!

HAPPY
Father's June 16, 2024
DAY
Following Divine Liturgy

Complimentary Lunch

Hosted by Philoptochos
Including the annual sons & fathers photo!

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 2024, 1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos



2024 Scholarship Forms are available in the Community Center or contact Georgana at 602-300-0016 for more information.



Coffee in the Conference Room

Tuesdays at 9:30 am

Note: the last Tuesday before Summer break is **06/11/2024**. Coffee will resume on **09/10/2024**.

Philoptochos Room Refresh

Can you help with any of these items?

Contact **Eva Goodman** at 602-565-3936 or evagoodman@juno.com for more information,

1. New carpeting. **Thank you!**
2. Looking for someone to come look at our ceiling to see if there is a beam up there to have a couple of ceiling fans installed, to include running the electrical for the wall switches.
3. Gently used firm couch/love seat.
4. Gently used curio cabinet.
5. Gently used (not heavy) vacuum cleaner. **Thank you!**
6. Two new U-Line Rubbermaid Service Carts.
7. We are looking for a somewhat heavy-duty new/or gently used clothes rack.
8. Wall mounted Emergency Kit.
9. Portable foldable table and chairs.
10. Gently used/new dual use hand cart.

May Charity Donations

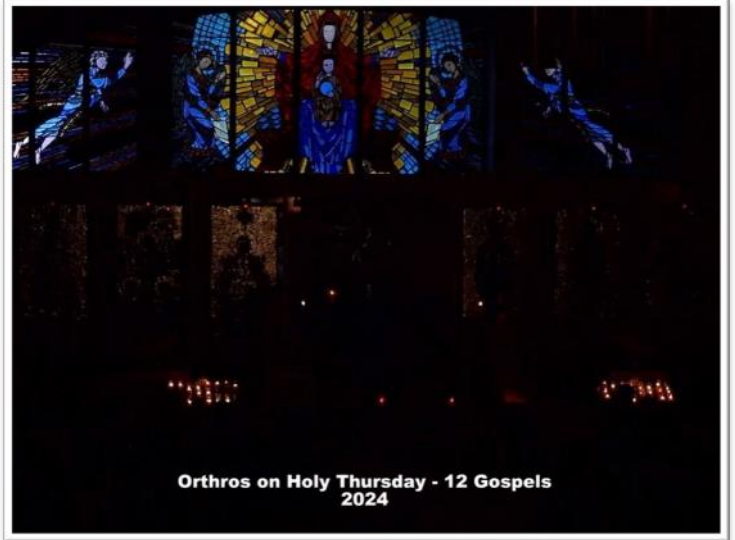
Our Philoptochos Chapter is happy to welcome **two new-to-us local charities** into our slate of causes we support. **St. Joseph the Worker** and the **Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation** are both worthy organizations in need of continued support.



Holy Week Photo Variety



2024 ORTHROS OF THE WASHING OF THE FEET



Orthros on Holy Thursday - 12 Gospels
2024



Royal Hours of Holy Friday
2024



Vespers of the Un-nailing on Holy Friday
2024



Vespers of the Un-nailing on Holy Friday
2024



Vespers of the Un-nailing on Holy Friday
2024

Holy Wednesday—Holy Unction

May 1, 2024



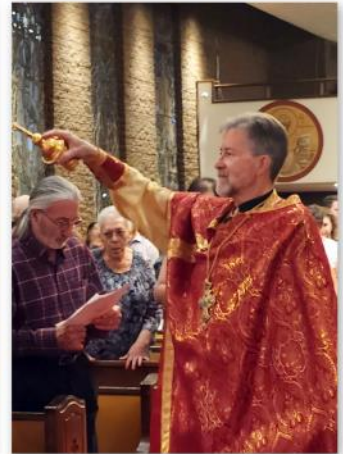
Kouvouklion/Epitaphio



Holy Friday—Lamentations

May 3, 2024

[More Photos](#)



Holy Saturday—Anastasi

May 4, 2024

[More Photos](#)



Magiritsa Meal

May 5, 2024



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 to celebrate!

In May, the Celebration Committee decorated the hall for the post-Paschal, magiritsa meal and hosted the annual Pascha potluck! Around 200 people gathered after Agape Vespers to share a delicious communal meal. Phillip Panagiotoglou and the Celebration Committee prepared lamb, Greek salad, and Greek-style potatoes while parishioners brought a wonderful variety of side dishes and desserts. After lunch, people enjoyed ice cream and spent time connecting with each other while the kids had fun with Easter-themed coloring book and activity tablecloths.

In June, we celebrated all the June birthdays! Due to the parish assembly, the décor was focused on serving table linens and a beautiful, multi-colored balloon garland in spring colors.

If you or someone you know from the parish is celebrating a baby, 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 supporting the Celebration Committee efforts, please email htcphxevents@gmail.com and/or talk to Terri Alexon or Mary Pardhe!

If you would like to support future Celebration Committee events with a donation, please visit <https://bit.ly/HTphxCC> or put "Celebration Committee" on the memo line of checks made out to the Cathedral.

Communal Cooking Event

In June, the Communal Cooking crew led by Phillip Panagiotoglou served a lovely meal of lamb stew, rice, Greek salad, bread, along with parishioner contributions, an assortment desserts, a Costco birthday cake, and ice cream. 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!

Paschal Picnic

May 5, 2024



June Celebration Sunday

June 2, 2024



Celebration Committee

June Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Constance Anagnopoulos
Alexandra Annos
Tasso Annos
Theodore Annos
Wesley Baker
Rebecca Barabatis
Marissa Bard
Gianna Benetos
Jenny Bruno-Doster
Constance Burkhart
Dawn Cartier
Charles Carver III
Kim Choukalas
Jack Choukalas
Anthony Chronis
Betty Chronis
Isabella Andrea Contes
Steven Counelis
Tiffany Daniolos
Ruth Denaxas
Sofia Economopoulos
Peter Fraenkel
Chris Gavras
Pauline Ginakes
Demetri Harris
Nicholas Harris
Diane Herman
Greg Hill
Tressa Karagiannis
Christina Karalekas
Stavros Kassimatis
Ronald Kidd
Spiros Kontakis
Lea Linaris



Gregory Lizanich
Donna Manellis
Becky Martin
Christina Maydanis
Oleg Moroz
Nicholas Nicholson
Stefania Papamatheakis
Nicholas Papas
Petra Pappas
Christine Patten
Christine Pearce
Peter Petkas
Kathryn Petsas
Mike Philippis
Nicole Philippis
Brian Pickett
Barbara Prato
Gio Pries
Leslie Sarantinos
Margaret Scopelianos
John Siavelis
Donna Sioles
David Solheim
Madeleine Solheim
Andrew Stamatias
Tristan Stoutenburg
William Tavlarides
Eypheia Theodore
Georgios Tsakiris
Katherine Tzavaras
Teresa Valonis
Maria Vlahos
Strata Vlahos
Matthew Walsh
Andreanna Zafiropoulos

June

Celebration Committee

July Birthdays

Happy Birthday!

Nikki Anest
Argyro Apostolou
Shannon Bard
Anastasius Bates
Joyce Bavlinka
George Benetos
Peter Bilitsis
Helen Bixenman
Kosta Bracamonte
Haralambo Charitou
Zoe Christenson
Connie Contes
Anthony Demopoulos
Maia Dimitriadis
Diane Dion
Clyde Ellis
Beth-Renee Fightmaster
Alexandra Forman
Ted Furlis
Alexa Furlis
Georgana Frieh
Julie Froumis
John Giannopoulos
Christopher Ginakes
Angela Goard
Patricia Harris
Lucas Haugen
Gregory Heckel
Candace Huff
Rafael Isfanut
Cathy Kapetanakis
Harriet Kapolas
Virginia Karegeannes
Christos Katsanos
Dimitra Kentimenos
Pete Kladis
Anastasia Kompos

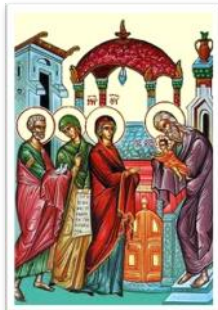
Kostadinou Kostouros
Anatoli Kostouros
John Lambrou
Judith Lamond
Elias Lampos
Scott Leach
Luke Lipnos
James Machas
Anna Manos
Rina Marinakos
Michael McKenzie
Jackson Meyers
Peter Michas
Helen Mitchell
Spyro Mousses
Sophia Neumann
Marta Ntatsos
Angeline Pappas
Angelo Pestrivas
William Petsas
Elyna Pries
Warren Schneider
Stephen Sedor
Chryssanthos Seretis
George E. Skoubis
Penelope Skoubis
Jimmy Sterio
Jim Thomas
Areti Tsanos
Brenda Tseunis
Peter Vlahos
Eleni Watson
Anne Wilson
Katina Wood
Elaine Young
Karen Zaman
Dimitrios Zistatsis

July

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



05/26/2024

Anastasia, daughter of Elizabeth Katehis-Ocasio & Raymond Ocasio
God's Blessings be upon her.

06/02/2024

Camden Thanasi, son of Andie & Gavin Hite
God's Blessings be upon him.

Hazel Marie, daughter of Zoe Ehrick & Kyle Mitchell
God's Blessings be upon her.

Baptisms

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

Galatians 3:27



05/11/2024

Tyler Nicholas, son of Lauren Janiec & Chris Bass
Godparent: Elexis Damianos
God's Blessings be upon him.

06/01/2024

Cameron, son of Amanda Bard & Harrison Gillis
Godparents: Philip Bard & Marissa Bard
God's Blessings be upon him.

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



05/11/2024

George Johnson
May his memory be eternal.

05/13/2024

Harry Pappas
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.

Oratorical Festival

We're so proud of our two contestants in the Metropolis St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival who represented us well with speakers from all along the West Coast, well done Jack Choukalas and Kosta Hernandez!



Congratulations!

Greek Heritage Night at the Diamondbacks!

May 24, 2024



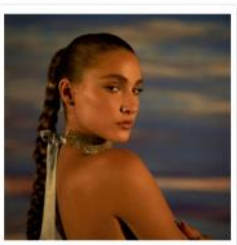
The Arizona Diamondbacks invited parishioners and guests to their annual Greek Heritage Celebration at Chase Field on **Friday, May 24**. The Special Event package included a ticket to the Friday, May 24 game vs. the Miami Marlins (first pitch at 6:40PM) and a limited-edition Greek Heritage hat.

Some of our Holy Trinity Folk Dancers were broadcasted on the large screen!



Folk Dancers Performed with Greek Singer Evangelia

May 31, 2024



Evangelia's management team learned of the Dance group Ta Patriotakia's 1st Place win at this year's FDF through mutual friends and reached out to Dance

Director Niko and parent Stefania to ask if some of the dancers would join Evangelia on stage for her Phoenix stop! With only a few day's notice, Stefania was able to pull a team of six girls that already had tickets to the concert. Photos are from the practice at the venue prior to the stage performance.



The 63rd Original Phoenix Greek Festival

will be on

October 11, 12, & 13, 2024.

Mark your calendars! phoenixgreekfestival.org



2024 Myrrhbearers



Mother's Day

May 12, 2024



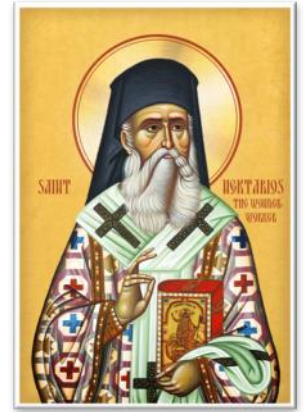
Young Adult Opportunities

- **National Young Adult League Conference** This is a wonderful opportunity for young adults ages 18 – 35 to come together in Witness, Service, Fellowship and Worship during their Conference which will be held July 3 - 7 in San Diego. Visit clergyalaity.org/yalconference for more information

- Ten-Day Immersive **Summer Program CrossRoad** is still accepting applications for the Northern California (June 18-28) and Chicago (July 6-16) sessions this summer. High School juniors and seniors - this is a great opportunity to explore what it means to be an Orthodox Christian in the 21st Century. If you're not in this age group, perhaps you have a niece or nephew, Godchild or grandchild. Visit crossroadinstitute.org for more information.

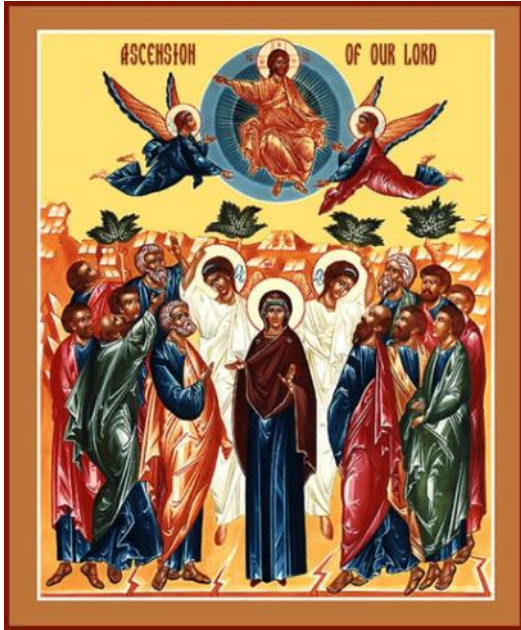
St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

Submitted by Rita Papaspyrou
stnectariosphx@gmail.com



Ascension of our Lord

Commemorated forty days after Pascha



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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Nectarios Bookstore Message continued on page 22

St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

Submitted by Rita Papaspyrou

stnectariosphx@gmail.com

Holy Pentecost

Commemorated **fifty days** after Pascha



The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday.

The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.

The Apostles of our Lord were gathered together in one place. Suddenly, a sound came from heaven like a rushing wind, filling the entire house where they were sitting. Then, tongues of fire appeared, and one sat upon each one of Apostles. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as directed by the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4).

The Bible records that on that day about three thousand were baptized. Following, the book of Acts states that the newly baptized continued daily to hear the teaching of the Apostles, as the early Christians met together for fellowship, the breaking of bread, and for prayer. Many wonderful signs and miracles were done through the Apostles, and the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:42-47).

In the icon of Pentecost we see the fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit, sent down upon the Apostles who will teach the nations and baptize them in the name of the Holy Trinity. Here we see that the Church is brought together and sustained in unity through the presence and work of the Holy Spirit, that the Spirit guides the Church in the missionary endeavor throughout the world, and that the Spirit nurtures the Body of Christ, the Church, in truth and love.

Donations

We greatly value all your donations! Please remember, when you write us a check, to include your **intention for the donation** i.e. stewardship, candles, etc.

Thank you all!



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!



FOCUS Shelter

Weekly meetings with Steve Christoforou to plan the establishment of a homeless shelter in Phoenix are underway! If you or someone you know is interested in being involved in this effort, please email Steve at Schristoforou@focusna.org. Over 30 people are currently part of the exploratory committee.

As of April 29, 2024, we have raised \$15,885.40 from twenty-seven individual and institutional donors with an additional \$25,000 matching grant from an anonymous local donor. As a reminder, a foundation is willing to match up to \$100,000.00 in donations raised by August 2024. If you would like to support the project financially, 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)!



Young Adult Missions Retreat

In May, Living Orthodox, Assumption Church, and the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) partnered to host a free weekend of spiritual discussion on the topic “Your Apostolic Identity as Orthodox Christians”. Over 40 young adults attended the half-day retreat with Dr. Nathan Hoppe from OCMC and the other weekend events. Dr. Hoppe shared his experiences growing up in a missionary family, converting to Orthodoxy, and his years of ministry with the Orthodox church in Albania to build eucharistic communities. He discussed the importance of being an apostolic church that seeks to serve local and global communities by evangelism and missions work. We ended the retreat by discussing practical ways our churches in Arizona can support local and international missions work.

To this end, we are looking for parish ambassadors to coordinate support efforts for OCMC missionaries. If you would like to learn more about how you can help, please email livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com!

To learn more about Dr. Hoppe’s work in Albania and to support him, please visit <https://secure.ocmc.org/site/SPageNavigator/Missionaries/Hoppe%20Family/HoppeMissionaryFamily.html>

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.



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](#)



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. +**

Platytera Refresh

The place behind the Altar is reserved only for the icon of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. This icon is called the **Platytera** (Broader than the heavens).



Coffee Socials Following Sunday Liturgies

Thank you to **OPA** for sponsoring Coffee Socials in May.

The June Coffee Socials are sponsored by **Philoptochos** and the July Coffee Socials will be sponsored by various parishioners.



THANK YOU!



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!



thank you
for your
awesomeness

AHEPA CHAPTER 219



Our New Chapter Officers

Chairman of the Board **Steve Lemere**

President **Costa Tzavaras**

Vice President **Gary Nicolaou**

Treasurer **Brian Pickett**

Secretary **Antony Vasileiadis**

Our Next Meeting

Thursday, Aug 22 - 6pm

**Holy Trinity Greek
Orthodox Cathedral
James A Speros
Community Center**

Daughters of Penelope

Chapter 432
Phoenix, AZ



Congratulations to our new board!

President: Cynthia Behrakis

Vice President: Niki Pallas

Secretary: Anna Plagianis

Recording Secretary: Toni Pandi

Treasurer: Georgia Lipane

Marshall: Irene Mourikes

Board of Governors:

Julie Karoutas

Cathy Keyser

Angie Lambrou

Connie Panagiotakopoulos

Yours in Theta Pi,

Julie Karoutas

President

Helenos Chapter #432



Desert Diamonds

Julie Karoutas

for senior parishioners and their guests:



Dear Desert Diamonds & Friends Xristos Anesti/Alithos Anesti

Save the date: **Friday, June 28th**, Casino Arizona, For Dinner & a show; ABBAFAB, CAS.. in their SHOWROOM! Details to follow. I must have a headcount for reservations. Please note: The show is **Free**. RSVP/ASAP!!!

Let us gather in Fellowship, enjoy a delicious dinner and a show. Hoping to see you there. Please notify me if you are coming, we need a count for reservations. We can carpool if needed.

Yours in Christ,

Julie Karoutas

email: juliekaroutas@gmail.com

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Julie Karoutas

Email: juliekaroutas@gmail.com

Cell: # 623.313.8720



May gathering at Luci's at the Orchard

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!

Little Lambs Egg Hunt

Holy Saturday, May 4, 2024



THANK YOU

to everyone who donated
filled eggs for this year's
Little Lamb Egg Hunt



2024 Graduates



Carla Antypas



Athena Beatty



Zoe Cartier



Jack Choukalas



Costa DeVoss



Christina Gardner



Aleena Haugen



Ariana Kretschedemas



Athena Kretschedemas



Katie Meris



Constantine Pazzadopoulos



Pantelis Petroulakis



Nicole Philippis



Demetrios Pickett



Anastasia Sampson



Gianna Sgouros



Jonathan Sgouros



Sophie Solheim



Staci Vaughn



Ella Wombacher

Graduates 8th Grade



Jack Choukalas will be graduating 8th grade from Madison Meadows Middle School. In middle school, Jack was in National Juniors Honor Society; was the Yearbook Editor in Chief; was on the Honor role every year; and, was in Odyssey of the Mind where they won State Champions and went to world competition. In his free time, Jack enjoys playing on his school's football and volleyball teams, participating in Best Buddies, and is part of Boys Team Charity. At Holy Trinity, Jack has been active in Sunday School, Altar Boys, the Greek Dance and FDF competition programs, and the youth groups. This year through Holy Trinity, Jack participated in the regional Oratorical Festival, and went to the Metropolis Level to compete. In the fall, Jack plans to attend Sunnyslope High School. In the future, Jack would like to be a forensic scientist or technician.

If I've learned one thing it is to not focus on permanent solutions for temporary problems. – (1 Corinthians 16:14)

Grads, continued



Nicole Philippis will be graduating 8th grade from Cicero Preparatory Academy. In school, Nicole has earned a Magna Cum Laude in Latin, the Rising Mathematician, and the Scholar Athlete awards. In her free time, Nicole plays soccer and basketball. At Holy Trinity, Nicole has been part of Holy Trinity Academy, Greek School, Sunday School, Myrrh Bearers, and the youth 4F group. In the fall, Nicole will continue at Cicero Preparatory Academy for her high school education. Nicole hopes to continue to improve her basketball skills, and to play on the Varsity Basketball team all four years of high school.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. – (John 3:16)

My proudest achievement: doing really well in school.



Gianna Sgouros will be graduating 8th grade from Desert Canyon Middle School. In school, Gianna was involved with Student Government. In her free time, Gianna participates in competitive swimming, snow skiing, wake boarding and surfing. At church, Gianna is involved with the Greek Dance program. In the fall, Gianna will be attending Chaparral High School. In the future, Gianna would like to have a career in marketing and sales.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. – (Isaiah 43:2)

Most important thing I have learned at this point in life, is to always be good to and help others.



Sophie Solheim will be graduating 8th grade from Herberger Young Scholars Academy. In her free time, Sophie is involved in theater, plays the violin, and is learning French. At Holy Trinity, Sophie is a part of Sunday School, Myrrh Bearers, and the 4F youth groups. In the fall, Sophie will be returning to the Herberger Young Scholars Academy to start her high school education. In the future, Sophie would like to open a dress shop or a bakery....or both!

My proudest accomplishment is sewing my own ball gown from up-cycled curtains.

"There I have another name. You must learn to know me by that name. This was the very reason why you were brought to Narnia, that by knowing me here for a little, you may know me better there." – Aslan, The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

Grads, continued

Graduates High School



Zoe Cartier will be graduating high school from the Walnut Hill School for the Arts. In school, Zoe was the founder and president of the Poetry Club. Although away at school, Zoe has continued to participate in church youth programs, and even come back to Holy Trinity to participate in the Greek Dance and FDF competition programs. In the fall, Zoe has been given a one-year contract to dance with the Boston Ballet, and is getting the chance now to pursue her dream of dancing professionally. Zoe plans to continue in ballet and dancing at the professional level and, in the future, Zoe hopes to become a principal ballerina in a renowned ballet company.

"Let all that you do be done with love"



Costa DeMoss will be graduating from Notre Dame Preparatory. Based on his academic performance, Costa is a Merit Scholarship recipient. In school, Costa played on the Varsity Football team, and received the Outstanding Defensive Lineman and Outstanding Offensive Lineman awards. While in high school, Costa has been a Kairos Leader, a NDP Ambassador, been on the Child Help Teen Board, and worked part time doing car detailing. At Holy Trinity, Costa has volunteered in the Narthex, and attended St. Nicholas Ranch camp. In the fall, Costa will be attending the University of Arizona. In the future, Costa hopes to pursue an MBA or attend law school.

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. – Joshua 1:9



Christina Marie Gardner will be graduating a year early from high school. Christina attended Pinnacle High School for 2.5 years, and then transferred to an online program to finish early. While at Pinnacle High, Christina enjoyed playing basketball. Outside of school, Christina works full time selling airplane parts. In her free time, Christina enjoys playing the piano, working out, designing, and doing lots of cooking. At Holy Trinity, Christina participates in the Greek Dance program, choir, bible study groups, and the youth groups. In the spring 2025 semester, Christina will be attending Montclair State University or Rutgers University.

My future goals in life are simple, I want to maintain and create a big happy and healthy family in Christ, and work hard to pursue my dreams in interior design and fashion design. I am thankful I've worked hard to be able to graduate early and move to the east coast for school where all my family lives; it has always been my dream to be with all of them. I don't have one specific thing that I've learned up until this point, because there are so many lessons I've learned over the years, but this is a quote I live by:

"Happiness is not about fulfilling everything you want or getting every outcome you desire. Happiness is being able to live life with a peaceful mind without constantly craving more, being content and having a strong relationship with Christ."

Grads, continued



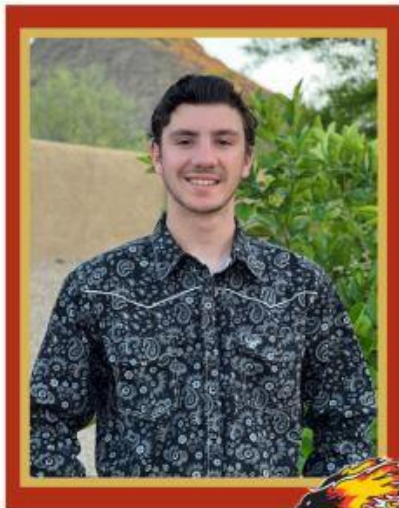
Aleena Haugen will be graduating from Chaparral High School. Aleena was awarded with the FDF Archbishop Dimitrios Scholarship, and is a recipient of the Arizona Hellenic Scholarship. In school, Aleena participated in various clubs and sports. At Holy Trinity, Aleena has been participating with dance program from Little Lambs age throughout high school; the FDF competition program from middle school through high school; the All Saints camp from second grade through high school; Sunday School throughout her whole life; all the youth and 4F programs; and, recently began chanting. In the fall, Aleena will be attending Arizona State University. In the future, Aleena hopes to have a family, be deeper in her religious faith, and create an organization that actively seeks to extract and rehabilitate victims of child sex trafficking.

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. – (Philippians 4:4-9)



Ariana Kretsedemas will be graduating from Horizon High School. Throughout high school, Ariana was on the Superintendent's Honor Roll for every semester, and this year was the Student Body Secretary. In school, Ariana was involved in National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, the Society of Women Scholars, Key Club, and Student Government. Ariana is an avid dancer, and for the past 11 years she has been a member of Dance Motion Performing Company. At Holy Trinity, Ariana has been a part of Sunday School, various youth groups, and the Greek Dance and FDF competition programs. In the fall, Ariana will be attending Arizona State University, where she hopes to earn a degree in interior design. Ariana's current goals are to maintain good grades in college, graduate, then start a successful career, and eventually a family.

I've always lived by the phrase "everything happens for a reason". This phrase shows me how God and my faith will guide me in the right direction. I am most proud of my academic achievements and the fact that I've always been able to balance school, dance, work, and church.



Pantelis Petroulakis will be graduating from Chaparral High School. In school, Pantelis was the President of the Chaparral HS Mountain Bike team; and he was part of the Chaparral Symphonic Orchestra where he was awarded first violin and concert master. Pantelis is an avid cyclist, and has participated in Arizona Cycling Association High School Championships; is part of Podium Mountain Bike Association of Arizona; and has competed in multiple state and regional mountain bike championships. In addition, Pantelis loves cars, and has earned his Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) and OSHA certifications. At Holy Trinity, Pantelis served as an Alter Boy, participated in Sunday School and youth events, annually volunteered at the Greek festival, participated in the Greek dance and FDF programs, attended All Saints camp, and participated in the Oratorical Festival Regional competition. In the fall, Pantelis will be attending Weber State University where he was accepted into the automotive Technology Program.

I'm passionate about the automotive industry and would love to own a repair shop or dealership in the long-term. It is also very important to me to remain close to my Greek Orthodox Faith.

"Γίνε εσύ η αλλαγή που θες να δεις στον κόσμο. Which means, be the change you want to see in the world."

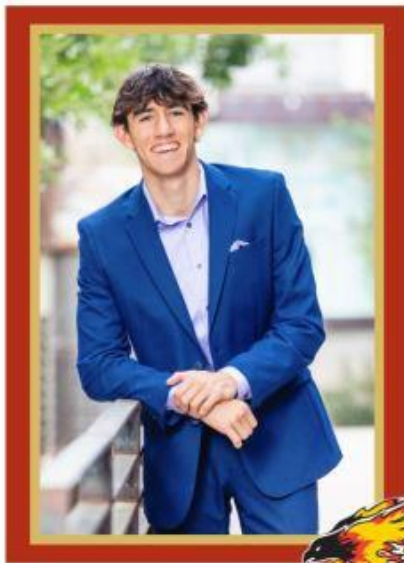


Grads, continued



Anastasia (Stacey) Sampson will be graduating from Sunrise Mountain High School. In school, Stacey made the Sunrise Mountain Varsity Softball team as a freshman, and continued to play until her Junior year. In her senior year, Stacey played club softball in Unified Sports. At Holy Trinity, Stacey has been part of the Greek dance program since the age of 4, attended All Saints camp annually, and participated in the Jr. and Sr. GOYA youth groups. Stacey loves art and ceramics, and is currently working part-time at a pottery studio. In the fall, Stacey will be attending the University of Montana Western, where she plans to study psychology. In the future, Stacey hopes to go to law school and become a criminal prosecutor.

"My favorite quote is from my big sister, Alex, who used to always say, "I think it's fine." I am proud of the fact that I have made it to where I am today and am looking forward to a bright future."



Jonathan Sgouros will be graduating with Cum Laude honors from Chaparral High. In school, Jonathan was part of National Honor Society, swam all four years on his school's Varsity Swim Team, and was his swim's Team Captain. In his free time, Jonathan enjoys car clubs and shows, snowboarding, surfing, and water skiing. Through church, Jonathan has served in the Altar Boys, and enjoys volunteering with Mom's Pantry and IOCC. In the fall, Jonathan will be attending the University of Nebraska, Omaha, where he plans to major in finance with an emphasis in real estate investment.

The most important thing I have learned at this point is discipline, believing in yourself, overcoming the most challenging of circumstances. Stay positive through struggles and always believe in yourself. You are capable of more than others realize. Believe and Achieve!



Ella Wombacher will be graduating from Corona del Sol High School. Ella is a recipient of the Lumberjack Academic Scholarship. In school, Ella was on the Lacrosse team and Corona Crew team. She was the Lacrosse Team Captain; awarded the 2022 Rookie of the Year; was part of the 2023 All Star Team; received the 2023 All State Award and the 2023 Midfielder of the Year award; and was part of the 2024 All Star Team. In addition to sports, Ella was a member of and Vice President of FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America— which is a Career and Technical Student Organization within her school). Through the church, Ella has participated in Sunday School, and the youth and 4F programs. In the fall, Ella will be attending Northern Arizona University, where she hopes to pursue a degree in psychology.

Ella's most proudest accomplishments so far are her academic scholarship and Lacrosse accolades.

Grads, continued

Graduates College



Carla Antypas is graduating Summa Cum Laude honors with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing with a Minor in Family and Human Development degree from the Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation at Arizona State University. Carla made the Dean's List, and was the recipient of the ASU Provost's Scholarship. Outside of school, Carla was working as a student nurse at Phoenix Children's Hospital, as a kid's caregiver, and as a server at Phoenix Country Club. At church, Carla participates in the Greek Dance program, and volunteered at the Greek Festival. After graduation, Carla will begin working on her nursing board exams to become a Registered Nurse (RN). Her hope is to work at Phoenix Children's Hospital on the Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit.

My future goals involve continually growing and excelling in my nursing practice, whilst making a meaningful impact on the lives of my patients and their families. I would also love to be a travel nurse in a different state or country to learn from various healthcare systems, cultures, and populations.

An important verse that sticks with me is Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Trusting in God and relying on His wisdom and strength, especially during difficult times, reminds me that God has a path set for everyone, even if we cannot fully understand it in the moment.



Athena Beaty is graduating with a Bachelor's in Science degree from Arizona State University with a major in Criminal Justice and Criminology. Now that Athena has completed her education, she plans to pursue a career in crime scene investigation. Athena hopes to give peace and closure to victims and victims families through her profession with the use of her criminal justice degree from ASU.

"An important thing I have learned throughout school is faith is important, and personally I struggled with that at the beginning. Now I am more active in the church and I feel my faith becoming stronger again."

My proudest achievement is completing college.



Athena Kretsedemas is graduating Summa Cum Laude honors with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing with a Minor in Family and Human Development degree from the Edson College of Nursing and Health Innovation at Arizona State University. Athena was on the Dean's List every semester throughout college. She was the recipient of the ASU President's Scholarship, Athanasios K. Syrengeas Scholarship and the Arizona Hellenic Foundation Scholarship. In addition to ASU, Athena attended the Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology for Modern Greek. Outside school, Athena worked as an executive assistant, student nurse, and babysitter. At Holy Trinity, Athena has stayed active by participating in the Greek Dance and FDI competition programs, instructing the Ta Patriotakia dance group, volunteering at the Greek Festival, and was apart of the Young Adult League (YAL). After graduation, Athena will begin working on her nursing board exams to become a Registered Nurse (RN). In the future, Athena hopes to apply her skills and compassion in a Level 3 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

I aspire to continuously grow my career in neonatal health, hoping to make an impact on the lives of newborns and their families. I am also interested in travel nursing to gain diverse experience and explore more of our country. In the future, I look forward to starting a family of my own.

During my time in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Psalm 139:13-14 became a verse that resonated with me. "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." It reminded me that each child is beautifully made by God, and every little life I cared for was made wonderfully and with a profound purpose.

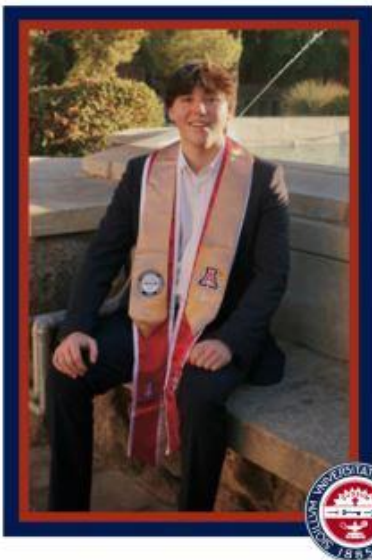
Grads, continued



Katie Meris is graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, and a Minor in Psychology from Grand Canyon University. While at school, Katie has continued to be involved at Holy Trinity Cathedral as a Sunday School teacher, an All-Saints camp counselor, a festival volunteer, and by participating with the Greek dance program. Moving forward, Katie will be teaching 5th grade at North Ranch Elementary School. Katie hopes to stay in the education field, and eventually go back to school for a master's and PHD in psychology.

"A good education can change anyone. A good teacher can change everything." – Unknown

The most important thing I have learned is that my purpose in life is to help as many people as I can and create a safe place for children to learn, grow, and be successful.



Constantine (Dean) Socrates Papadopoulos is graduating Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelors degree in Finance and Accounting and a Sports Management Certificate from the University of Arizona W.A. Franke Honors College. In college, Dean made the Dean's List with Distinctions (4.0 GPA) for four semesters, and the Dean's List (3.5-3.99 GPA) for two semesters. While in college, Dean was part of the Order of Omega Honorary and Sports Management Association. Dean joined the ZBT Fraternity, and was his the Philanthropy Chair and Career Chair of his fraternity. Dean also worked as an accounting and finance tutor. Although Dean has not been active at Holy Trinity while in college, he is very appreciative of the AHEPA and Philoptochos scholarships that helped him achieve his academic goals. After interning at Pricewaterhouse Coopers in Manhattan, Dean accepted a position as an External Auditor in Asset & Wealth Management with them which he will begin this fall. Dean is currently working towards obtaining his CPA license.



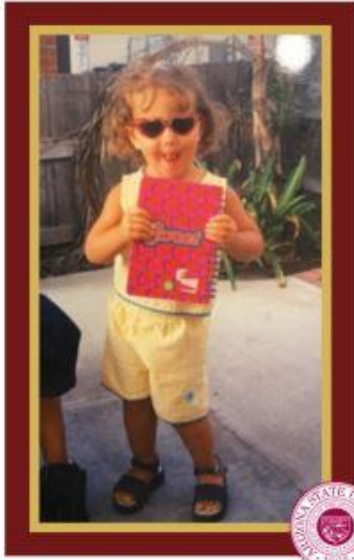
Demetrios Pickett is graduating with Magna Cum Laude honors from the Eller College of Business Management at the University of Arizona with a double major with an Accounting degree and a Finance degree. Demetri made the Dean's List, the Dean's List with Distinction, and Academic Year Distinction throughout college. In school, Demetri was a Student Mentor. At Holy Trinity, Demetri has continued to participate in the Greek Dance program, IOCC, volunteering at the Greek Festival, and being part of the Young Adult League (YAL). In the fall, Demetri will be attending the University of Arizona Graduate School. Demetri's goal is to complete his masters, and obtain a job with Risk and Financial Advisory at Deloitte.

"My goal is to best set up my future children for their success, and to give back to those who made me into who I am."

The most important thing I have learned: Taking the time to learn and invest into others is the greatest gift you can give.

Grads, continued

Graduates Upper Level



Staci Vaughn is graduating law school from the Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. Staci received ASU's Trial Advocacy Certificate and Academic Distinction for Oral Advocacy; receiving the highest grade in ASU's legal advocacy course for oral arguments. In her spare time, Staci participated in Mock Trial Team, and the Government and Public Interest Law Student Association. Even while in school, Staci continued to attend Holy Trinity, participate in the Greek Dance and FDF competition programs, instruct for the Holy Trinity Dance Program, be a counselor at the All Saints summer camp, teach Sunday School, assist with the 4F youth programs, and volunteer at the annual Greek festivals. Staci is happy to finally be done with school, and hopes to carry her passion for criminal justice into a career as a prosecutor in Arizona.

I am grateful for my faith, culture, and each learning experience every step of the way. I have learned that life is short and there is no better use of our limited time than spending it with those you love.

"If you stand for nothing, you will fall for anything." – Alexander Hamilton



Grad Lunch Hosted by OPA

May 19, 2024



Grads Honored At Divine Liturgy

May 19., 2024



All Grads in Attendance



8th Grade



High School



College