# Desert Springs

**May 2024**  
**Volume 9 Issue 5**

---

**Holy Week & Pascha Schedule of Services**  
**April 28 – May 5, 2024**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Service Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Palm Sunday** – April 28 | Orthros and Divine Liturgy, Luncheon to follow!  
Service of the Bridegroom |
| **Great & Holy Monday** – April 29 | Presanctified Liturgy  
Service of the Bridegroom |
| **Great & Holy Tuesday** – April 30 | Presanctified Liturgy  
Service of the Bridegroom |
| **Great & Holy Wednesday** – May 1 | Presanctified Liturgy  
Sacrament of Holy Unction  
Orthros of the Washing of the Feet (with Holy Unction offered) |
| **Great & Holy Thursday** – May 2 | Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil (The Mystical Supper)  
The Orthros of the Holy Passion (12 Gospels) |
| **Great & Holy Friday** – May 3 | The Royal Hours  
The Descent from the Cross Vespers  
The Graveside Lamentations Orthros |
| **Great & Holy Saturday** – May 4 | Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil  
Paschal Vigil for the Holy Resurrection – Meal to follow! |
| **Great & Holy Pascha – May 5** | The Agape Vespers – Picnic to follow! |

---

**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](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)
Organization Contacts

- **4F/Sunday School** — Kathy New: kkatsalis@msn.com
- **AHEPA** — Steve Lemere: lemere4@cox.net
- **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: snectariosphx@gmail.com
- **Byzantine Choir** — Elizabeth Pardhe: elizabethdpardhe@gmail.com
- **Choir** — Terri Alexon: htpxmusicdirector@gmail.com or terrilexcon@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 Pesti: angelopestrivas@msn.com, Ted Fourlis: fourelisted@gmail.com
- **Greek School** — Irene Mackos: eirinie@gmail.com
- **Hellenic Museum** — Bessie Hotis: call 602-953-1913
- **Little Lambs** — Deborah Harrison: 14dharrison@gmail.com
- **Living Orthodox** — Mary Pardhe: livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com
- **Maintenance** — Peter Bilitsis, Ted Fourlis: htcmaintenance1973@gmail.com
- **Myrrhbearers** — Stacey Beaty: staceybeauty@live.com
- **Narthex Intake** — Kristen Vasilarakos: kristen.vasilarakos@outlook.com
- **OPA** — Caroline Economopoulos: ciecomom@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 Stamatis: 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 Apostolos

The Resurrected Life

As the clock strikes midnight on Sunday of the 5th of May, the song will erupt from the faithful assembled in the darkened assembly "Christ is Risen from the dead..." as the Paschal light is distributed from the Altar. The exultant hymn is repeated until the nave is awash in golden candlelight and the priests and servers process to the center of the Nave to read the Paschal Gospel that begins "When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus."

The Paschal celebration fills the hearts of the faithful who have long endured the Great Fast with the joy of the Resurrection. Is has been rightly said that only by experiencing the full panoply of Holy Week can one glimpse the power and beauty of the Orthodox Church. From Lazarus Saturday to the Triumphal Entry, the Cleansing of the Temple, the backroom deals to betray the Christ, from the Mystical Supper to Jesus' violent arrest at Gethsemane, to the Caiphas, Herod, Pilate, to the assembled masses who cry out for His blood, we will have walked beside the Lamb of God, unflinching as He takes the lash, the scourge, the nails, and the grave to win our freedom.

And after the Paschal services have passed and the lamb has been eaten, we may feel a sense of emptiness, perhaps regret if we will have allowed the rhythm of the world to dictate the terms of our lives, denying us, yet again, the opportunity to enter deeply into this mystery of God's love for humanity. Soon enough, even the memory of the Lenten season will dim as the grim "normality" of modern life asserts its dominance over our schedules and attention spans. But must this be true? Might there be a way whereby we can cultivate within us a living remembrance of the Paschal joy which extends from Pascha to Pentecost?

When pressed for my favorite verse in all of Holy Scripture, I typically run to St. Paul's letter to the Gallic immigrants to Asia Minor which reads; "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ lives in me. And the life that I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loves me and gave Himself for me," (2:20) a theme the Apostle repeats in the 6th chapter of the same letter, that through the Cross of Jesus Christ, "the world has been crucified to me and I to the world." (6:14) Taken together with many similar passages, we are reminded that to live the joy of the Resurrection requires first a Crucifixion.

The scandal of the cross was a topic of hot debate in the early Church, to such a degree that St. Athanasius was compelled to defend the manner of death that Jesus undertook. St. Paul’s opening lines to the first believers in Corinth; "For the word of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1:18) The specter of the Cross is the gate through which all must pass to arrive at the joy of the Resurrection, as we pray in every Sunday Divine Liturgy, "Through the Cross, joy has come into all the world... for having endured the Cross for us, He (Jesus) has destroyed death by death."
In the same way the Jesus voluntarily laid down His life to ascend the Cross for us, we must voluntarily surrender to the will of God and eagerly supplant "our" life with His. The Joy of the Resurrection rests upon the foundation of the Lenten experience, absent which any pretension of Paschal joy must ring hollow. This is both the power of and the challenge of Holy Orthodoxy in our age. When asked once how I might describe the Orthodox Church to a catechumen, I quipped (before I could catch myself) "it is Christianity for grownups." And indeed, it is! For in the exchange of my will for God's, I receive everlasting life and the witness of the Holy Spirit within me that it is Christ Himself Who lives in me, as St. Paul wrote above.

This is the transforming power of the Gospel, far beyond the dreary transactional "sin and guilt management" model endured today. The Resurrected life is one of daily rebirth, the change we seek welling up from within us by the grace of God. My prayer for the Holy Trinity Cathedral family is that we will experience together the joy of the Resurrection to the fullest extent through our eager participation of Holy Week and Pascha!

Christ is Risen! Glorify Him!

Master Plan for the HTC Campus

Parish Assembly Meeting on June 2, 2024

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 following questions with respect to the facilities and grounds of our campus.

Please respond no later than MAY 19th to THIS Form

- What improvements would you like to see to our campus?
- Are our current facilities/campus limiting our growth or use?
- What are the top 3 needs/wants of your ministry? What are the 3/5/10 year plans for your ministry?
- Are there areas of our facilities/campus that pose safety concerns?
- If you could start with a blank slate, what would you like to see on this campus?
- Provide any additional comments.

RESPOND IN LINKED FORM ABOVE. THANK YOU!
LENTEN COMMUNITY SERVICE OUTREACH WAS A HUGE SUCCESS...
AND HELPS HUNDREDS OF ARIZONANS IN NEED

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

Heartfelt thanks to the generous, giving Holy Trinity parishioners that came out in huge numbers to help assemble and pack 500 sack lunches for Andre House and Arizonans for Children as part of the Stewardship Lenten Community Service Outreach Project.

Together, we made sandwiches and assembled the sack lunches complete with chips, fruit, cookies and granola bars as well as delivered nearly 600 bottles of water. The homeless community that Andre House serves and the children in the foster care system that Arizonans for Children serves were lovingly fed by our hands that day.

The outpouring of volunteers was so great and the feedback we received from our parishioners was so positive that we will plan more of these hands-on community outreach projects in the future.

Thank you again for answering the call for alms giving and helping those in our community who are in such great need.

"The generous will be blessed, for they share their food with the poor."
- Proverbs 22:9
House of Stewards

As of 04/25/2024

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
Sam & Heidi Bass
Alexandra Bates Family
Dean Bass & Liz Beckman
Joyce Bauilnka
Athena Beaty
Scott & Stacey Beaty
George & Stacy Benetos
Stamatios Benetos
Dan & Vicki Bichekas
Peter & Jennifer Biliatsis
James & Helen Bruno
Georgia Brusalis
Chris & Rita Bruskas
Kristen Bruskas
Connie Burkhart
Kathy Carras
Dawn & Casey Cartier
Michael Cartier
Chad & Amanda Carver
Haralambo Charitou
Laurel Charnas-Schiller & Todd Schiller
Harriet Chotras
Jim Chotras
Pete & Kim Choukalas
Kenny & Zoe Christenson
Katherine & Jeffrey Clarke
Andy & Mara Contes
Jamie Contes
James & Connie Contes
Evonne Damianos
Patty Davis
Rebecca Davis
Leonard & Elaine Debickero
Anastasia Dellas
Hercules Dellas
Patrick & Karla Delord
Tom & Irene Demas
John & Mary Demetropoulos
Anthony & Patricia Demopoulous
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
Ed & Katherine Fancher
Greg Fernandez
Helen Fernandez
Keith & Ashley Fightmaster
Mary Floor
Anna Fourlis
Athanase & Georgia Fourlis
Athanasia Fourlis
Ted & Andi Fourlis
Tim & Antonette Fraenkel
Chris & Celeste Francis
Georgana Frieh
Semos Gardner
Demetra Georgelos
Diana Georgelos
Pamela Georgelos
John Giannopoulos
Harrison & Mandy Gillis
Pauline Ginakes
Stella Giltsos
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 & Presu Denise Hill
Greg Hill
Bessie Hotis
Steven & Candace Huff

Jeffrey & Melina Johannesmeyer
James & Linda Kaliyas
Paulos Kairis
Peter & Nicole Kamboukos
Basilis & Roula Kanzelis
Mariana Kaneris
Jean Kantaros
Nick & Dena Kantaros
Voule & Kathy Kapetanakis
William & Harriet Kapolas
John & Tressa Karagiannis
Vasilios & Vasiliq Karagiannis
Maggie & Marko Karakozis
Virginia Karegeannes
Julie Karoutas
Joshua & Nyla Karoutas
Joann Karros
Fotini Katrakis
George & Niki Katsaros
John & Mary Katsenes
Paul & Lori Katsenes
Tom J Katsenes
Helen Katsufakis
Jim & Poppy Kavouris
Fany Kechajias
Nikolaos Ktenimemos & Panagiota
Kladou
Cathy & Quint 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 Kretsedemasa
Tammy Kretsedemas
Joanne Koulkoutakis-Kruljac
Deborah Caras & Gregory Kunkel
John & Evangelia Lambrou
Bruce & Judith Lamond
Elias & Mary Lampas
Scott & Jill Leach
Steven & Constance Lemere
Lea Linaris
Georgia Lipane
Luka & 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

House of Stewards continued on page 7

Desert Springs May 2024
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. 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.
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
Count Your Blessings

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

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.
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.
7. We are looking for a somewhat heavy-duty new/or gently used clothes rack.
8. Wall mounted Emergency Kit.
10. Gently used/new dual use hand cart.
Baking for the 2024 Pascha Bake Sale was on Tuesday, April 23 and Wednesday, April 24, 2024. (Photos from the Tuesday baking day.) Thank you to Joanna Mackos and the Bake Sale Team for your dedicated work to create the tasty koulourakia and tsoureki! Proceeds benefit the causes Philoptochohos supports.
Holy Trinity’s St. Katherine Philoptochos

Kouvouklion/Epitaphio Tray

Philoptochos is ever grateful for the generosity of our parishioners! On Palm Sunday, our chapter passed a tray to collect donations for the Kouvouklion flowers. After our chapter rounded up, the total we were able to present to the church was $2,500 from our community. Thank you!

Pascha Bake Sale

Thank you for another great sale!

Pascha Bags

Coffee in the Conference Room

Tuesdays at 9:30 am
All are welcome!
Note: the last Tuesday before Summer break is June 11, 2024.

23 were given out this year!
Sunday of the Cross
April 7, 2024
Palm Crosses & Pancake Breakfast
April 27, 2024

Kouvouklion/Epitaphio Decorating Committee

Red Eggs
Thank you to Joann Karros and Kathy Clarke for again hosting!
Palm Sunday
April 28, 2024
Paschal Picnic

HOSTED BY THE CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY

Paschal Potluck

MAY 5

SUNDAY AT 12 PM

FOLLOWING AGAPE VESPERS AT 11 AM

LAMB, POTATOES, AND GREEK SALAD WILL BE SERVED.

PLEASE INVITE YOUR FAMILIES/FRIENDS AND BRING A DISH TO SHARE! IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, LET US KNOW AT THE LINK BELOW.

SIGN-UP LINK:
HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/HTCPOTLUCK

QUESTIONS? EMAIL HTCPHXEVENTS@GMAIL.COM
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 April, the Celebration Committee celebrated the baptism of Sophia Sterio (daughter of Jimmy and Lisa Sterio); Jack Choukalas and Costa Herrera - winners of the district level Oratorical Festival; Jean Miller’s 90th birthday; Anna Pardhe’s 50th birthday; and Ria Papageorgiou’s completion of flight training and new job as a flight instructor!

We had a wonderful group of young volunteers who stayed after the 4F Lenten retreat to help decorate the hall. They carefully chose the colors of the balloon garland: pastel shades to represent spring; purple balloons for Lent; and a few red balloons in anticipation of the Paschal red eggs. The tablecloths and table arrangements were gold.

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 April, the Communal Cooking crew led by Phillip Panagiotoglou served a Lenten lunch of shrimp scampi, basmati rice with peas and carrots, Greek-style zucchini, shredded carrot dessert with golden raisins and walnuts, vegan cake and other assorted desserts! 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.
Celebration Committee

May Birthdays

Sheila Asala
Lilly Babakitis
Natalia Bakavelou
Olivia Bakavelou
Crisanne Bansner
Nicholas Baziotes
Scott Beaty
Anya Beaty
Dan Bichekas
Georgia Brusalis
Chris Bruskas
Joanne Carras
Casey Cartier
George Carver
Titus Chimonas
Jim Chotras
Jeffrey Clarke
Mikela Cooper
Katy Daniolos
Patty Davis
Patricia Demopoulos
Maureen DeMoss
Marcel Dimitriadis
Penelope Eliades
Andrew Forman
Tim Fraenkel
John Ginakes
Lynn Graham
Roger Harris
Bessie Hotis
Voule Kapetanakis
Markos Karakozis
Maggie Karakozis
Nyla Karoutas
Olga Kassimatis
Lori (Mann) Katsenes
Emily Kimmell
Panagiota Kladou
Maria Kompos
Angie Lambrou
Mary Lampos
David Lyon
Joanna Mackos
Dino Moschovitis
John Nicholas
Jiori Orfanos
Jeremy Oxley
Alexia Panagiotakopoulos
Marco Panagiotakopoulos
Christine Papadopoulos
Alex Papamatheakis
John Pappas
Mina Pappas
Vasili Paul
Vincent Paul
Mary Poulakidas
Anthipe Pries
Bertha Quinn
Dimitra Sampson
Nicole Senerius
Robert Sioles
Constantin Solomon
James Speros
Diana Speros
John Sterio
Matthew Turgeon
Augustine Turgeon
Aristithi Vardalos
Mary Vrahos
Isaiah Walker
Sofia Walsh
Ari Watson
Ella Wombacher
Stephanie Yarusinsky
John Zaifiropoulos
Dimitri Zannis
Dimitrios Zannis
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

04/21/2024
Stratis, son of Katerina Matheos & Wesley Baker
God’s Blessings be upon him.

Gabriel, son of Jesa & Gelu Isfanut
God’s Blessings be upon him.

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

04/13/2024
Penelope
daughter of Heather Norris-Skoubis & Peter Skoubis
Godmother: Christine Pearce
God’s Blessings be upon her.

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

04/17/2024
Andreanna Georgiou
May her 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.

Catechism and Bible Study

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

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

We are continuing to lead 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.

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!

Church Website

Have you checked out the website lately?

www.holytrinityphx.org

Events • Services • Photos • Calendar

• Stewardship

Easy Stewardship Sign Up!

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

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!
Commemoration of The Great and Holy Feast of Pascha

Holy Week comes to an end at sunset of Great and Holy Saturday, as the Church prepares to celebrate her most ancient and preeminent festival, Pascha, the feast of feasts. The time of preparation will give way to a time of fulfillment. The glorious and resplendent light emanating from the empty Tomb will dispel the darkness. Christ, risen from the dead, cracks the fortress of death and takes "captivity captive" (Psalm 67:19). All the limitations of our createdness are torn asunder. Death is swallowed up in victory and life is liberated. "For as by a man came death, by a man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive" (I Corinthians 15:21-22). Pascha is the dawn of the new and unending day. The Resurrection constitutes the most radical and decisive deliverance of humankind.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the fundamental truth and absolute fact of the Christian faith. It is the central experience and essential kerygma of the Church. It confirms the authenticity of Christ's remarkable earthly life and vindicates the truth of His teaching. It seals all His redemptive work: His life, the model of a holy life; His compelling and unique teaching; His extraordinary works; and His awesome, life-creating death. Christ's Resurrection is the guarantee of our salvation. Together with His Ascension it brings to perfection God's union with us for all eternity.

The Resurrection made possible the miracle of the Church, which in every age and generation proclaims and affirms "God's plan for the universe, the ultimate divinization of man and the created order." The profound experience of and the unshakable belief in the risen Lord enabled the Apostles to evangelize the world and empowered the Church to overcome paganism. The Resurrection discloses the indestructible power and inscrutable wisdom of God. It disposes of the illusory myths and belief systems by which people, bereft of divine knowledge, strain to affirm the meaning and purpose of their existence. Christ, risen and glorified, releases humanity from the delusions of idolatry. In Him, grave-bound humanity discovers and is filled with incomparable hope. The Resurrection bestows illumination, energizes souls, brings forgiveness, transfigures lives, creates Saints, and gives joy.

The Resurrection has not yet abolished the reality of death. But it has revealed its powerlessness (Hebrews 2:14-15). We continue to die as a result of the Fall. Our bodies decay and fall away. "God allows death to exist but turns it against corruption and its cause, sin, and sets a boundary both to
corruption and sin." Thus, physical death does not destroy our life of communion with God. Rather, we move from death to life - from this fallen world to God's reign.

**Icon of the Commemoration of Great and Holy Pascha**

One of the most symbolic of the Festal Icons of the Orthodox Church is that of the Holy Resurrection. In the center of this radiant event is Christ pulling Adam and Eve up from their tombs. The gates of the Realm of Death are broken and thrown down. Death, personified in human form is defeated, and bound hand and foot at the bottom of the scene. We recall the joyous words of St. Paul: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:55)

In the background stands the host of the departed, so numerous they cannot be depicted. Among them in the front of the multitude are some of the righteous dead, though now invigorated by the Resurrection. King David and his son Solomon are seen on the left wearing crowns. Near the center is Saint John the Baptist. On the other side is Abel, the son of Adam and the first man to ever die. He wears a shepherd’s robe and has a cane. Many Icons of this subject depict large crowds with a few other recognizable prophets.

---

**Kouvouklion/Epitaphio Decorating**

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the Kouvouklion on **May 3, 2024**, Holy Friday morning, at **7:00 am.**

**Myrrhbearer Training**

For Holy Friday and Holy Saturday services.
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](http://eepurl.com/ixBiEk) to be informed about upcoming events!

Living Orthodox Lenten Retreat

From Friday evening, March 29, and throughout the day on Saturday, March 30, we hosted Father Nicholas Metrakos (Holy Trinity – San Francisco) as a keynote speaker for the second Living Orthodox Retreat. The retreat included a wonderful breakfast and lunch prepared by Phill Panagiotoglou. The attendee gift bag included a copy of *The Great Canon: The Work of Saint Andrew of Crete* along with a bookmark, pen, and small snack. All attendees also received a workbook, written by Fr. Nicholas, called *Repentance: Redirecting Our Lives Towards God*.

The retreat was from 8 am to 3:15 pm on Saturday and featured a morning prayer service of the first hour; an introduction by Mary Pardhe (the president of the Living Orthodox group) and Ian deGrasse (the vice-president); followed by a day of lecture, discussion, and reflection on repentance. To conclude the day, Christopher Lopez, the chair of the community service committee, led a clothes-sorting activity for the Aris Foundation. As the Lenten journey continues, our faith calls us to prayer, almsgiving, and fasting to help us with repentance and growing closer to God.

**RETREAT NOTES**

“Repentance: Redirecting Our Lives Towards God” led by Fr. Nicholas Metrakos
Written by Living Orthodox volunteers

The retreat was divided into three sections that presented repentance as a journey through space and time. We started by discussing the differences between the terms “repentance” and “remorse”. These terms are often conflated but it is important to recognize their differences.

Repentance can be defined as turning towards God and rethinking our actions. It is beyond an emotion state and is coupled with action. Notable examples from the Bible of people who repented are King David (who committed adultery and murder), Peter (who denied Christ), Jonah (who disobeyed God), and Paul (who used to persecute Christians). Despite what these figures did, they repented and made changes to their life.

Remorse, on the other hand, is to look at the past and find that it does not align to one’s current values. It is the first step towards repentance, the recognition of separation from God, but it is primarily an emotional feeling that does not necessarily result in action. Some biblical examples include Adam looking back at the gates of paradise and Judas as he tried to refuse the money he received from betraying Christ.

Once you feel remorse for past actions, what is the next step? We can find the answer by examining the icon of the Prodigal Son (see next page).
Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry

Living Orthodox continued from page 21

Journey

1. Christ is depicted as the Father. Note the son’s carelessness in his posture.
2. All images are about the son but note the changes in the color of the clothes. He loses the purple robe, his clothes become shabbier, and he is dwelling with the pigs (the worst thing possible for a Jew). He prostrates himself before Christ in the window as he realizes the depth to which he has fallen. At that point, he remembers his father’s house. It is important to note that Christ is present at that moment, the lowest point in the son’s life, and that son still must take the physical action to go home.
3. The father runs to meet the son. The past is forgotten in the joy of the son’s return.
4. The son is dressed in a robe that is better than the one he left home in, signifying that the father doesn’t just reinstate him to his former status but elevates him. In this, we see baptismal imagery through which we are made sons of God. The ring is a symbol of authority, power, and sonship. The shoes represent the shoes of peace.
5. The joy of the father on the return of the prodigal son is represented by singing and dancing.
6. The killing of the fatted calf further shows the joy and celebration as this was a special meal offered in preparation for a major celebration.

The mystery of repentance, confession, is a “second baptism” and a restoration to sonship that is a continuous struggle until we die. However, Christ is there the whole time through our journey back home, even when we don’t see him.

Being a Human 101

We need to think about who we are so that we can learn how to become like God. As St. Athanasios said, “God became man that man might become God.” Humans are comprised of both a soul that can explore the world around us through intellect, reason, opinion, fantasy, and sense-perception (interface between what we sense and how we react) and a body that can explore the world through sight, smell, taste, hearing, and touch. We can use our bodies for multiple actions, both those that draw us closer to our “home” with God (virtues) or go the other way (vices). If we chose to fill our hearts with virtues, we will change our lives and bodies. However, we must be brutally self-aware of our virtues and vices to effectively flee from vice and replace the passions of our life with virtues. The closer we draw near to the light of Christ, the more aware we become of our weaknesses and the more confident we become in the mercy of Christ.

The progression to passion was explained to us by the following example:

- **Provocation:** Pass a billboard for Dairy Queen on the I-10
- **Coupling:** Eyes linger on the billboard for more than a second
- **Ascent:** Walk down the frozen food aisle just to see ice cream again
- **Struggle:** Open the door and take out different ice creams
- **Passion:** Sit on the couch and binge eat a pint of Rocky Road... every week... for years

The Church fathers list four main virtues (courage, moral judgement, self-restraint, and justice) out of which the child virtues originate. These include faith, hope, love, prayer, humility, gentleness, long-suffering, forbearance, kindness, freedom from anger, knowledge of God, cheerfulness, simplicity, calmness, sincerity, freedom from vanity, freedom from pride, absence of envy, honesty, freedom from avarice, compassion, mercifulness, generosity, fearlessness, freedom from dejection, deep compunction, modesty, reverence, desire for heaven's good, longing for the kingdom, and desire for adoption by God. Similarly, there are three main passions (forgetfulness, laziness, and ignorance) that lead to the following child vices: impiety, false teaching/heresy, blasphemy, wrath, bitterness, irritability, inhumanity, rancor, gossip, harsh, criticizing, dejection, fear, cowardice, quarrelling, jealousy, envy, self-esteem, pride, hypocrisy, falsehood, unbelief,
Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry

Living Orthodox continued from page 22

greed, love of material things, attachment to concerns, hostility, and gratitude, grumbling, vanity, conceit, love of power, love of popularity, and decision, deceit, shamelessness, and sensibility, flattery, treachery, faking it, indecision, wandering, thoughts, self-love, avarice, malice, and guile.

We repent as a community and our decisions to be virtuous (or sinful) impacts those around us. For example, if we wake up 30 minutes earlier to do our morning prayers, we leave in time for work so that we drive like a sane person and don’t cut people off in traffic. Because of our prayer and peaceful morning, we are kind with our frustrated co-worker and leave the last piece of pie in the breakroom to be kind to others. These personal actions affect our community since our neighbor who is on the same route to work doesn’t get angry due to bad drivers and is in a better mood all day; our frustrated coworker calms down and is calm with his anxious wife that night after work; and the last piece of pie is taken home by a mother who gives it to her child that is facing bullying at school. All this, and more that we can’t see, happen due to a personal decision to be virtuous.

Through time

Both virtues and vices can be inherited through families by genetics and epigenetics (genetic modifications due to environmental factors that can transferred to future generations). We have a responsibility to be aware of the virtues that our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents have given us (hospitality, piety, generosity, etc) through genetics/behaviors we observed while growing up and actively invest in these virtues in our own lives. On the flip side, we need to be aware of vices and passions that exist in our families and actively seek ways to actively diminish these vices for our future generations. This exercise of analyzing our inherited virtues and vices is vital since, if one is called to marriage and child-rearing, it is important to consider what type of spiritual inheritance we want to leave our children.

Reading the lives of the saints are valuable resources on our road to repentance since they show the struggle and transformation that happens when we commit to living a virtuous life. Some examples of more modern saints are St. Nektarios of Aegina, St. Luke the Surgeon, St. Gabriel of Georgia, St. Paisios, and St. Silouan the Athonite.

And Space

Repentance (or lack thereof) on a personal and communal level has implications on a global scale by creating societal beliefs that lead to global issues and change the trajectory of countries. If we continue to sin without repenting, we hurt ourselves and invite the wrath of God as a surgeon.

We discussed the following quote from St. John Chrysostom in his Two Exhortations to Theodore After His Fall, “For even as one who places himself outside the light inflicts no loss on the light, but the greatest upon himself being shut up in darkness; even so he who has become accustomed to despise that almighty power, does no injury to the power, but inflicts the greatest possible injury upon himself. And for this reason God threatens us with punishments, and often inflicts them, not as avenging Himself, but by way of attracting us to Himself. For a physician also is not distressed or vexed at the insults of those who are out of their minds, but yet does and contrives everything for the purpose of stopping those who do such unseemly acts.”

After the discussion, we did two activities to better understand how our behaviors affect those around us. First, we wrote the names of the last 10 people we texted, thought about which virtues/vices we are inspiring in them, and wrote down ways that we could pray for them more. Next, we wrote down the top 3 problems we felt were affecting the world today and discussed how our personal repentance connects with solving those larger problems.
To close the retreat, we went through some practical tips for preparing for confession (reflecting on the list of passions; our thoughts/words/actions in the context of the path to passion; and considering how we have sinned against ourselves, others, or God). We also talked about the importance of not letting shame or embarrassment keep us from fully confessing our sins and seeking healing. We also considered the importance of reflecting on the experience of peace after confession, putting any advice into practice, and taking ownership of confessing regularly.

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

**May Young Adult Retreat**

Living Orthodox, Assumption Church, and the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) are partnering to host a free weekend of spiritual discussion on the topic “Your Apostolic Identity as Orthodox Christians”. All young adults (18-30s) are invited on May 18th for the main, half day retreat from 9 am – 2:30 pm at Assumption. Bonus events include a young adult meet-and-greet on Friday, May 17th with the keynote speaker (held at Assumption) and a community-wide event on Sunday, May 18th at Holy Trinity. Our speaker is Dr. Nathan Hoppe, an OCMC missionary with over 26 years of service in Albania. Once again, the event is free, but RSVP at https://bit.ly/LO_workshop if you plan to attend!

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](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](https://www.facebook.com/holytrinityphoenix)
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

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 Seros, 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
Endowment Fund

+ GIFT FORM +

Please list my/our endowment gift as follows: __________________________________________
Here is my/our one time General Endowment gift, which I/we may add to, of: $__________________
I/we wish to make a gift of $ 10,000.00 or more payable, now______, or over a three year period.
With this form $__________________
Year Two $__________________
Year Three $__________________
By:______________________________________________                             Dated: ___________ 20____
Donor, please sign and keep a copy for your records.
All gifts will be preserved in the archives of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 1973 E. Maryland
Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85016
+ We Thank You and may God Bless You for your generosity. +

Coffee Socials Following Sunday Liturgies

Thank you to the Young Adults for sponsoring Coffee Socials in April. The May Coffee Socials are sponsored by OPA.

2024 Greek Festival Dates

The 63rd Original Phoenix Greek Festival will be on October 11, 12, & 13, 2024.
Mark your calendars! phoenixgreekfestival.org
Greek Heritage Night at the Diamondbacks!

May 24, 2024

The Arizona Diamondbacks are excited to invite YOU to our annual Greek Heritage Celebration at Chase Field on **Friday, May 24**. Your Special Event package includes a ticket to the Friday, May 24 game vs. the Miami Marlins (first pitch at 6:40PM) and a limited-edition Greek Heritage hat.

The event page to purchase tickets is live: [https://www.mlb.com/dbacks/tickets/promotions/themes/greek-heritage-celebration](https://www.mlb.com/dbacks/tickets/promotions/themes/greek-heritage-celebration)

Please contact Tatum Barstad for groups of 10+ or with any questions:

Tatum: tbarstad@dbacks.com or 602.462.4287.

Desert Diamonds

Julie Karoutas
for senior parishioners and their guests:

Dear Desert Diamonds & Friends,

A busy time is here for our Orthodox Christians with Palm Sunday and Holy Week here preparing for the resurrection of our Lord. Kali Anastasi, Kalo Pascha to All.

On May 12th, we will be celebrating "Mothers Day", remembering All Mothers, Aunts, Mentors, Godmothers, & All who cared! God's Blessings to You. Happy Mother's Day!

Save the date: Tuesday, **May 21st**, 2024, at 11:30am
Our May gathering luncheon, will be held at **Luci's at the Orchard Restaurant**, 7100 N. 12th St., Phoenix, AZ 85020
602.633.2442
Let us gather in Fellowship, enjoy a delicious lunch in their Outdoor Patio area. Hoping to see you there. Please notify me if you are coming, we need a count for reservations.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Julie Karoutas
Email: juliekaroutas@gmail.com
Cell: # 623.313.8720
Our Next Chapter Meeting

Thursday, May 16 - 6pm

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
James A Speros Community Center

Annual Poker Tournament
Saturday, May 18th 5pm - 10pm

Contact Gary Nicolaou at
602-432-3508 or
gjnicolaou@gmail.com
Palm Sunday Brunch 2024

Hosted by the AHEPA Chapter 219 Brothers

300 Attendees!
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 cjeconom@gmail.com, and we’ll get you added to list!

OPA Parent’s Meeting
April 7, 2024
Calling ALL Graduates

Graduating from 8th grade, High School, College, higher degree program or vocational:
Please CLICK HERE to fill out the 2024 Graduate Recognition Form.
All forms need to be submitted by Friday, May 3rd.

In addition, we are requesting a photo of each graduate.
(class/graduation photos preferred)
A special graduation email will be sent to all the Holy Trinity congregation the week of May 13th - 17th.

Salute to Graduates

FOR: ALL Graduates - 8th grade, High School, College, Masters, Vocational Programs
DUE DATE: Friday, May 3rd
WHAT YOU NEED: Complete the google form & submit a photo of the graduate
QUESTIONS: Caroline: cjecomom@gmail.com or 480.200.7051

SAVE THE DATE: Graduation Celebration during coffee hour, Sunday, May 19th.
Please plan to attend and celebrate your graduation with our HT Congregation!
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

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

Announcements! Hello Dance Families,

Dance Schedule:

**Sunday, May 19th - Workshop: 11:45-1:30**
**Sunday, June 2nd - Workshop: 11:45-1:30**
All Saints Camp

Early Registration: $550
CLOSED
Regular Registration: $600
(January 1-April 30)
Late Registration: $650
(May 1-15)

All Saints Summer Camp will be hosted at Camp Shadow Pines in Heber, Arizona, May 26-June 1! This annual program is available to all youth entering third grade through those who just graduated high school.

Payment plan options will be available. Click the registration link below for further registration information (i.e. camperships, sibling discounts, refunds, etc.).

The mission of ASC is to bring Orthodox youth and staff closer to Christ and to one another through a safe, fun, and prayerful environment. This is all accomplished thanks to our highly trained and dedicated staff.

We seek to keep finances from barring any child to come to camp, if you have need of a scholarship, please let Fr. Apostolos or Fr. Alexander know.

For more information, visit our website at allsaintscamparizona.org. With questions, please contact us at info@allsaintscamparizona.org.

REGISTER HERE!