

# Desert Springs

April 2025  
Volume 10  
Issue 4



Sunday, March 16, 2025

**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)

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**Rev. Alexander Eliades**  
**Rev. Deacon John Thrasher**

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Monday–Friday, 9:00am–3:00pm

**Sunday Worship**

8:00am Orthros

9:30am Divine Liturgy

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**Desert Springs Deadline**

The 25th of each month

**Sunday Bulletin Deadline**

Wednesdays, 12 noon

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Treasurer: TBD

Secretary: Andi Fourlis

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**Holy Trinity Cathedral**  
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**Metropolis of San Francisco**  
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[www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

## Organization Contacts

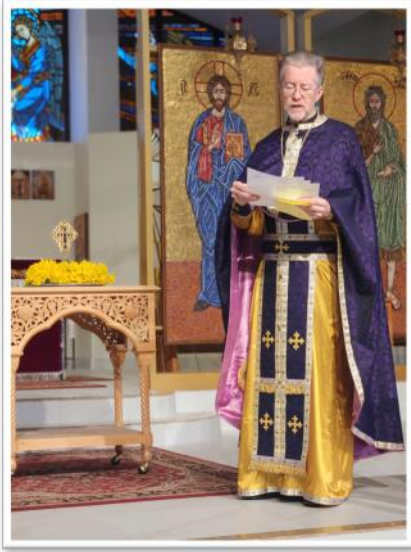
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## Attention Organizations:

Please check the listings on this page and confirm that the information is correct. Email is the default contact type, but listings can be changed to text or phone if preferred. Email any changes to both the Office at [manager@holytrinityphx.org](mailto:manager@holytrinityphx.org) and Kristen at [kristen.vasilarakos@outlook.com](mailto: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

## Dying Before We Die



In the Athonite monastic tradition, there is a short phrase which is frequently seen upon entering monastic grounds which reads *"Αν πεθάνεις πρὶν πεθάνεις, Δέν θά πεθάνεις ὅταν πεθάνεις"* or in English, *"If you die before you die, you won't die when you die."* This seems a puzzle wrapped in a mystery, hidden in an enigma.

Consideration of death and mortality is certainly not encouraged in our culture and we go to tremendous lengths to avoid the topic entirely. And yet, we will soon enter Great and Holy Week on Palm Sunday evening to contemplate the "Life-giving Passion and Death of Jesus Christ." The many readings from Holy Scripture, the hymnology, and the iconographic imagery will all underscore the grim reality of Jesus' torment and execution on a Roman cross.

Experiments, of a sort, have been attempted to gauge the traumatic nature of crucifixion, only - obviously - without the nails. Volunteer subjects, once tied firmly to the cross, are scarcely erected into place before begging to be taken down, so excruciating is the position. And on Holy Thursday evening the faithful will assemble in the darkened Church to witness the specter of Christ crucified voluntarily to fulfill the Divine Will of the Father to ransom fallen and broken humanity.

In this moment, time seems suspended, space falls away, the earth trembles, and the angels look on astonished as the hymn is sung *"Today is suspended upon the Tree He who suspended the land upon the waters..."* This is a death from which one cannot look away, the Author of Life offering up His life up to agonizing death for the life of the world. And though many may find this remembrance distasteful and misaligned with current sensibilities all who wish to receive the Everlasting Life Jesus promises must first enter into His death.

At every Orthodox baptism the words of St. Paul are remembered; *"Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."* Participation in the death of the Cross is the gateway, and the only one, through which any who wish to celebrate the joy of Pascha must pass. There can be no Resurrection, no celebration of it unless a death has first occurred.

The Lenten season itself offers the faithful Orthodox Christians an opportunity to embrace the Athonite phrase *"if you die before you die, you won't die when you die."* Observe how little effort is required of us. A little fasting, A few more services, A bit of reading. A simple giving of alms. And even these small efforts gravely tax our endurance. The way of the Cross is always taxing, but the joy of the Resurrection beckons!

St. Paul would also write these stirring lines, *"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."* Great Lent is referred to as "the Arena" wherein our faith is tested. Can we do

## Message from Father Apostolos, continued

battle against our own latent tendencies, our sinful passions, our deadness of spirit and disinterest in the things of God, our attachments to the things of this world?

Living the crucified life in Christ is not a trifling matter and ought not be whimsically discussed. It is easy to apply religious rhetoric and time-worn cliches but these only obfuscate the very real challenge of walking the path of salvation. "Dying before we die" is a lifelong avocation, plagued by fits and starts, many mistakes and disappointments, but also with moments of grace and peace.



Every Lenten journey is different for us; some years seemingly less daunting and others an exhausting grind. Dying to ourselves isn't easy! But through our struggles, the light of the Resurrection dawns and the greater the struggle the greater the victory. Metropolitan Isaiah frequently reminded me that "the victory is in the struggle," and "the intent is the same as the accomplishment."

As we near the end of Great Lent 2025 and prepare ourselves for the rigor of Holy Week, let us "run with patience the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith" as St. Paul wrote. Now is the time to put on a burst of speed as would a distance runner at the end of a grueling race. The finish line beckons and we begin to hear the "cloud of witnesses" in the heavens cheering us on! May we run the remainder of the course with our best effort until we sing together "Christ is Risen from the dead!"

Kali Anastasi,

## New Speaker Covers in the Sanctuary - Who are the Saints on the Covers?



1. St. Kassiani
2. St. Paraskevi
3. St. Katherine
4. St. Marina

# Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

## **“Your Own From Your Own”**

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



### **TOP 10 REASONS YOU SHOULD BE USING SHELBYNEXT FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP PAYMENT CONTRIBUTIONS**

- #10 If you can pay your water bill online you can pay your stewardship online.
- #9 Do you even have a checkbook?
- #8 You can set your payment schedule for weekly, monthly, bi-monthly or whenever you so choose.
- #7 You won't panic in December realizing you are only half way to completing your pledge!
- #6 It's one less thing to worry about - set it up online and forget it! (until next year of course).
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- #2 We are working hard to streamline our processes and procedures regarding Stewardship and this is the most important next step we are asking you to take.
- #1 **It's 2025!**

Okay....so thanks to our **Top 10** List, you are hopefully now out of excuses for not using ShelbyNext for your Stewardship payments.

Here is how you sign up:

Visit [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)

Click on “Stewardship” in the upper right hand corner

Click on “ShelbyNext” in the drop down list and fill out the information

THANK YOU for becoming a ShelbyNext user!

# House of Stewards

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Terri Alexon  
Andrew & Maria Allman  
Calli Allman  
Alexandra Anagnopoulos  
Dina Anagnopoulos  
Noah Andersen  
Nikki Anest  
John & Sandy Annos  
Elaine Apostle  
Argyro Apostolou  
Christina Bakavelou & Chris Perry  
Constantine & Eleni Balanis  
Scott & Crisanne Bansner  
Christopher Bass  
Dean Bass & Liz Beckman  
Sam & Heidi Bass  
Joyce Baulinka  
Scott & Stacey Beaty  
George & Stacy Benetos  
Stamatios Benetos  
Dan & Vicki Bichekas  
Peter & Jennifer Bilitsis  
Helen A Bixenman  
James & Helen Bruno  
Alexander Brusalis  
Georgia Brusalis  
Chris & Rita Bruskas  
Kristen Bruskas  
Kathrene Carras  
Frank Carris  
Chad & Amanda Carver  
Harriet Chotras  
Jim Chotras  
Pete & Kim Choukalas  
Jeff & Kathy Clarke  
Jarmeen Constantine  
Andy & Mara Contes  
Jamie Contes  
Jim & Connie Contes  
Alexandria Contoraudis  
Ed & Angie Cooper  
Max Cups  
Zane Cups  
Ethan & Talia Curtis  
Nick & Sharon Daniolos  
Stefanos & Tiffany Daniolos  
Patty Davis  
Anastasia Dellas  
Hercules Dellas  
Patrick & Karla Delord  
Tom & Irene Demas  
Anthony & Patricia Demopoulos  
Dr. Bill C DeMoss  
Charles DeMoss  
Chris DeMoss  
John & Marjorie DeMoss  
Jimmy Drakos  
Stanley & Fran Drozd  
Anthony Dunn  
Caroline Economopoulos  
Christo & Dena Economopoulos  
Peter & Virginia Economopoulos  
James & Lisa Elam  
Fr. Alexander & Presv. Laura Eliades



Peter & Marie Eliades  
Emil & Anna Ellis  
Aristotelis & Dianne Euripidou  
Greg Fernandez  
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Tim & Karla Floor  
Anna Furlis  
Athanase & Georgia Furlis  
Athanasia Furlis  
Ted & Andi Furlis  
Tim & Antonette Fraenkel  
Chris & Celeste Francis  
Georgana Frieh  
George & Julie Froumis  
Joshua & Kayla Gabrielsen  
Thomas George  
John Giannopoulos  
Polly Ginakes  
Stella Glitsos  
Eva Goodman  
Bill & Lynn Graham  
Gina Graham  
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Mary Haidos  
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Gregory Hill  
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Vasilios & Vasiliqi Karagiannis  
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Maggie & Markos Karakozis  
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Julie Karoutas  
George & Niki Katsaros  
Lori Katsenes

Mary Katsenes  
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Kostadinis & Anatoli Kostouros  
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Tammy Kretsedemas  
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Jennifer Orlando  
Else Paletos  
Elizabeth Palmer  
Alexi & Alexia Panagiotakopoulos  
Christos & Connie

## House of Stewards continued from page 6

Panagiotakopoulos  
Niko Panagiotakopoulos  
Thanasi & Melissa  
Panagiotakopoulos  
Chrysoula Papadopoulos  
Socrates & Stephanie Papadopoulos  
Ria Papageorgiou  
Mike & Stefania Papamatheakis  
Betty Papas  
Nick Papas  
Spyros & Rita Papaspyrou  
Ari Pappas  
Andrew & Emily Pappas  
Fannie Pappas  
John & Andrea Pappas  
Daniel & Anna Pardhe  
Athena Parmenter  
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Lydia Rabbitt  
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Menelaos Rentzis  
Voula Rentzis  
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Paul Sarantes  
Eleftheria Scalise  
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John Schneider  
Angela & George Scopelianos  
Steve & Stephanie Sedor  
George & Diane Sedlacek  
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Robert Stamm & Elyse C Sioles  
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Constantin Solomon  
Angelo & Marie Spanos  
Leo & Rachel Speliopoulos  
Elias Staikos  
Jim & Kathryn Stamadianos  
Nitsa Stamateletos  
Andrew & Christine Stamatis  
Jonathan & Kris Stamatis  
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Robert Stuart  
Despina Taularides  
William & Rebecca Taularides  
Nick & Effie Theodore  
Gus Theodoropoulos  
Jim G Thomas  
Deac. John & Diak. Mary Thrasher  
Andrew Touvanas

Dominic Tropea  
Nathaniel G Tropea  
Thaddeus & Katherine Tropea  
Stacy & Gerri Tsantilas  
Stella Tsantilas  
Dean & Breenda Tseunis  
Matthew & Eva Turgeon  
Costa & Koko Tzavaras  
Theodore & Georgia Tzeremas  
Ray & Denise Unks  
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Santiago Valles  
Peter & Lindsay Vardalos  
Kristen Vasilarakos  
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Scott & Terri Vaughn  
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Steve & Mary Vrahas  
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Colin & Paula Walsh  
Matthew & Jaclyn Walsh  
Sofia Walsh  
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Anne & William Wilson  
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Richard & Katina Wood  
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Zachariah Yoon & Elizabeth Hong  
Anthony & Karen Zaman  
Dimitri & Eugenia Zannis  
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Go to  
[www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)  
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## 2025 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://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

Kristen Vasilarakos, President



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

☙☙  
**Next Meeting on Thursday,  
April 3, 2025 at 6:30pm  
in the Lounge of the Speros Community Center**  
☙☙

## Check in on a Parishioner—Circle of Angels

Do you have a family member or friend who has not been able to come to church lately? Please let us know! Call or Text Julie at 850-225-4978.



## Pascha Bake Sale

April 6, 2025

We are baking delicious Koulourakia and Tsourekia for Pascha.

Orders will be ready for pick up on  
**Sunday, April 6.**

### NEW THIS YEAR!

**Grab and Go wrapped pastry gifts!** Available at the April 6<sup>th</sup> Bake Sale in the Lounge.



## Coffee in the Conference Room

**Tuesdays at 9:30 am**

For those with a flexible schedule: Join us for coffee and talk. Included within the social are activities related to Philoptochos' Circle of Angels, other chapter support, sometimes church office support, and just plain hanging out with friends. We'd love to see you!



# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

## NEW Men's Socks



# WOW!

Thank you to our community for donating an abundance of **new socks & coins for water** for Philoptochos' recent charity drive!

We were able to fill more than **100** backpacks and bags for the homeless with used items—and also clean, unused socks and fresh bottled water. You are appreciated!

March Meeting



# Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers



PARISH WIDE

## LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT

Saturday, April 5 • 10:00 am  
Large Hall

Let's join together on **Saturday, April 5th at 10:00 am** to help those in need during Lent by making 500 sack lunches for the people of *Andre House* and *Arizonans for Children*.

All ages are welcome to help us assemble, pack and deliver meals to these two very worthy, local organizations. Located in downtown Phoenix, *Andre House* serves the homeless and poor population of Phoenix while *Arizonans for Children* serves abused, abandoned and neglected children in the Arizona foster care system.

Jesus calls us to almsgiving during Lent. Let's come together as a Cathedral family to fulfill this important part of our Lenten journey.

***"One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed."***

- Proverbs 19:17



# Pascha Flower Donation

Remember beloved family and friends and beautify the Cathedral with plants this Pascha.

**Donations of \$20.00 per remembered individual or married couple are appreciated.**

Complete this form and return with your donation to the Church office or enclose in an offering envelope, to place in a collection tray.



**Please provide your order by April 6, 2025.**

Donor name: \_\_\_\_\_ Donor phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) of those honored and the relationship to donor:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

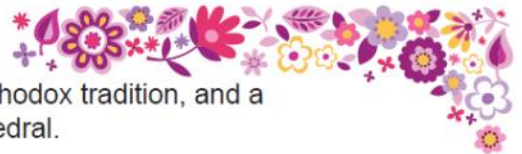
Total donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Please call the Cathedral office: 602-264-7863



  
**HOLY TRINITY**  
GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  
1973 E. Maryland, Phoenix, AZ 85016

# Salutation Icon Flowers



Decorating the Annunciation Icon each week of Lent is an Orthodox tradition, and a lovely way to memorialize loved ones by supporting our Cathedral.

**Suggested donation of \$50.**

Complete this form and return with your donation to the Cathedral Office, or enclose in an offering envelope and place in collection tray.

**Please provide your order by April 6, 2025.**

Donor name: \_\_\_\_\_ Donor phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name (s) of those honored and the relationship to donor:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

Total donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

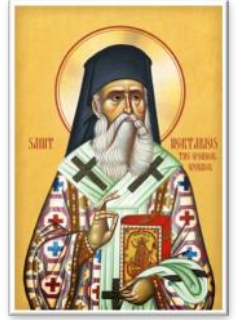
Questions? Please call the Cathedral office: 602-264-7863



  
**HOLY TRINITY**  
GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  
1973 E. Maryland, Phoenix, AZ 85016

# St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

Submitted by Rita Papaspyrou [stnectariosphx@gmail.com](mailto:stnectariosphx@gmail.com)



## 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.

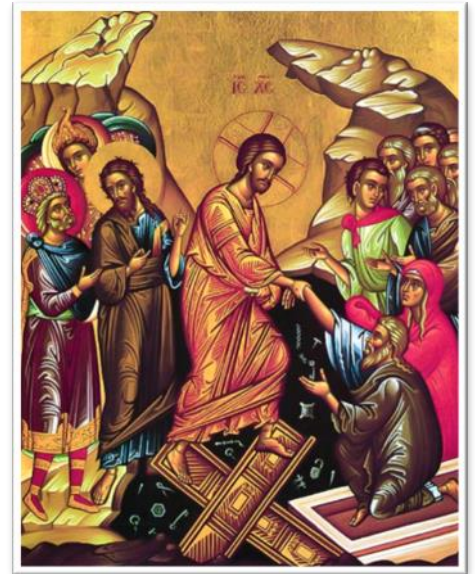
The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the fundamental truth and absolute fact of the Christian faith. It is the central experience and essential kerygma of the Church. It confirms the authenticity of Christ's remarkable earthly life and vindicates the truth of His teaching. It seals all His redemptive 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.

**HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL, PHOENIX, AZ**  
**SERVICES OF GREAT & HOLY LENT 2025: MARCH 2 – APRIL 12**

FRIDAY, APRIL 4 ----- 8AM - PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY  
 FRIDAY, APRIL 4 ----- 6PM - THE AKATHIST HYMN  
 SUNDAY, APRIL 6 ----- 6PM – PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS HOSTED BY HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL  
 MONDAY, APRIL 7 ----- 6PM - GREAT COMPLINE  
 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9 ----- 5:30PM - 9TH HOUR AND PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY \*  
 FRIDAY, APRIL 11 ----- 8AM - PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY  
 SATURDAY, APRIL 12 ----- 8/9AM - SATURDAY OF LAZARUS – ORTHROS AND DIVINE LITURGY  
 SATURDAY, APRIL 12 ----- HOLY WEEK 4F RETREAT FOLLOWING PALM CROSS FOLDING UNTIL 1PM  
 APRIL 13 – APRIL 20 ----- PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK, AND PASCHA (SEPARATE SCHEDULE)

\*ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS OF GREAT LENT FOLLOWING PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY, WE WILL HAVE A POTLUCK LENTEN MEAL AND REFRESHMENTS, ALONG WITH A BRIEF SPIRITUAL REFLECTION. BRING YOUR FAVORITE LENTEN DISH AND JOIN US FOR AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FELLOWSHIP AND LEARNING!

ΚΑΛΗ ΔΥΝΑΜΗ! GOOD STRENGTH AND A BLESSED FAST TO ALL! HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE TO FOLLOW

**HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL, PHOENIX, AZ**  
**HOLY WEEK & PASCHA SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**  
**APRIL 13 – APRIL 20, 2025**

**PALM SUNDAY – April 13**

....*Orthros and Divine Liturgy-Luncheon to follow!* ..... 8:15 a.m.  
 ....*Service of the Bridegroom* ..... 6:30 p.m.

**GREAT & HOLY MONDAY – April 14**

....*Presanctified Liturgy* ..... 8:00 a.m.  
 ....*Service of the Bridegroom* ..... 6:30 p.m.

**GREAT & HOLY TUESDAY – April 15**

....*Service of the Bridegroom* ..... 6:30 p.m.

**GREAT & HOLY WEDNESDAY – April 16**

....*Presanctified Liturgy* ..... 8:00 a.m.  
 ....*Sacrament of Holy Unction* ..... 3:00 p.m.  
 ....*Orthros of the Washing of the Feet (with Holy Unction offered)* ..... 6:30 p.m.

**GREAT & HOLY THURSDAY – April 17**

....*Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil (The Mystical Supper)* ..... 8:00 a.m.  
 ....*The Orthros of the Holy Passion (12 Gospels)* ..... 6:30 p.m.

**GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY – April 18**

....*The Royal Hours with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos* ..... 8:00 a.m.  
 ....*The Descent from the Cross Vespers* ..... 3:00 p.m.  
 ....*The Graveside Lamentations Orthros* ..... 6:30 p.m.

**GREAT & HOLY SATURDAY – April 19**

....*Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil-Proti-Anastasi* ..... 9:00 a.m.  
 ....*Paschal Vigil for the Holy Resurrection with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos* ..... 11:30 p.m.

**GREAT & HOLY PASCHA– April 20**

....*Agape Vespers with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos* ..... 12 p.m.

# Services of Great & Holy Lent & Holy Week



# Sunday of Orthodoxy

March 9, 2025



View More [PHOTOS](#)



# Sunday of the Cross

March 23, 2025





## Archpastoral Visit of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

We are blessed to have His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco with us to celebrate the Great Feast of Pascha (Anastasi Service) this year and Agape Vespers.

## Pancake Breakfast and Palm Folding

Join us on Lazarus Saturday, April 12 at 9:00 am. Divine Liturgy starts at 9:00 am in the Cathedral, followed by a Lenten pancake breakfast on the patio of our Community Center. We will also be folding the Palm Crosses that will be given out during Palm Sunday service. This annual event is always a fun time for faith and fellowship.



## Lazarus Saturday Youth Mini-Retreat

Saturday, April 12

**After Liturgy on Saturday, April 12,** join us for palm cross making, breakfast, and a mini-retreat before Holy Week. After folding the palms, we will have two sessions and be finished by 12:00 pm.



## Agape Vespers

Let Father Alexander know if you are able to read the Gospel in a foreign language at the Agape Vespers at 11 am on Pascha.



# Project Mexico Homebuilding Trip

Project Mexico Group



We have finalized our team to build a home through Project Mexico and now are in the crucial time of fundraising for our trip! We need to raise money to cover the costs of our travel, materials for the build, and food for the week. If you are interested in helping in this regard, please contact Fr. Alexander.

## Project Mexico Coffee Hour

Project Mexico Group - Coffee Hour  
Sunday, March 30

**Learn more:**

[frealiades@holyltrinityphx.org](mailto:frealiades@holyltrinityphx.org)  
or ask Father Alexander

<https://www.projectmexico.org/>



## Prospora

Have you ever been interested in baking prospora? We need a few additional people who are willing to bake once a month. If you are interested, please call or text **Diane Sedlacek at 602-463-1284**.



## Wednesday Evening Potlucks

Join us every Wednesday of Lent at 5:30pm for Presanctified Liturgy followed immediately by a potluck in the Small Hall! Bring your Lenten dish before Presanctified and drop it off in the Small Hall, attend Liturgy, then join everyone for a Potluck and small spiritual reflection.



# St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival



## Diamondbacks Greek Heritage Celebration Pre-Sale Offer!

OPA! The Arizona Diamondbacks are excited to invite fans to our Annual Greek Heritage Celebration at Chase Field on Saturday, September 6



against the Boston Red Sox. Purchase your tickets at: <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Greekheritage7441>!

This Special Event ticket package includes a ticket to the September 6 game vs. the Boston Red Sox (first pitch at 6:40PM) and a Greek inspired D-Backs jersey (limited sizing available, first come first serve). All sales are final, no exchanges, returns, or refunds. Tickets based on availability. This offer can't be combined with other offers.

For groups of 10+ or for any questions, please contact Tatum Barstad at [tbarstad@dbacks.com](mailto:tbarstad@dbacks.com) or 602.462.4287.



**OYM** INTERGENERATIONAL RETREAT

JOIN US IN SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA

Orthodox faithful of all ages are invited for a one-day retreat focused on deepening our relationships with Christ and with one another.

**ASSUMPTION**  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
Assumption Greek Orthodox Church  
8202 East Cactus Rd. | Scottsdale, AZ 85260

SCAN TO REGISTER



## Coffee Hour Cold Brew



*Every Sunday in the Hall!*

# March Parish Assembly

March 16, 2025



## Coffee Socials Following Sunday Liturgies

The March Coffee Socials were sponsored by **the Celebration Committee, Greek School, Heidi Bass & Anna Pardhe, Julie Karoutas, and the Project Mexico group.**

The April Coffee Socials are sponsored by **the Young Adults.**



# 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 March, we celebrated Matthew Turgeon's chrismation, Eva and Adeline Turgeon's baptisms, Benjamin Sullivan's baptism and all March birthdays. The hall was decorated with green and gold for St. Patrick's day with gold overlays on the tables and pyramid balloon centerpieces.

If you want to support the ministry, either through funding or time, please let us know! For donations, please visit <https://bit.ly/HTphxCC> or put "Celebration Committee" on the memo line of checks made out to the Cathedral. To volunteer, email [htcphxevents@gmail.com](mailto:htcphxevents@gmail.com) and/or talk to Terri Alexon or Mary Pardhe!

### Returning!

**The Pascha Picnic!**  
**See the flyer on page 23**

This year, we will be joined by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos.



### Communal Cooking Event

For the March Celebration Sunday, the Communal Cooking crew led by Phillip Panagiotoglou served spanakopita, tiropita, Greek salad, assorted sides, and cake. If you are interested in helping out or joining us for future cooking events, please email [htcphxevents@gmail.com](mailto:htcphxevents@gmail.com). In addition, please feel free to bring a dish to share with the community on the first Sunday of every month!

# March Celebration Sunday



# Celebration Committee

## April Birthdays

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Panagiota Agelakos

Peter Agnos

Terri Alexon

Calli Allman

Joanna Apostolis

Anastasia Arger

Elizabeth Beckman

Jennifer Bilitsis

Amanda Carver

Kenny Christenson

George Condon

Jarmeen Constantine

Basil Contes

Eleni Debickero

Dimitri Deligiannis

Marjorie DeMoss

Kathryn Dye

Stella Elam

Jeff Farr

Theodore Fightmaster

Nikki Forman

Chris Francis

Kayla Gabrielsen

Christina Georgiou

Constantine Ginakes

Salvina Harris

Elisah Harris

Veronica Harrison

Michael Hill

Anastasia Huff

Jesa Isfanut

Lauren Janiec

Piper Jaynes

Dena Kantaros

Joshua Karoutas

Gaia Karoutas

Nobuko Katsenes

Nickolas Koziris

Ioannies Kratsas

Athena Kretsedemas

Mark Lefebvre

Maria Lipnos

Irene Mackos

Demetra Makris

Julie Mamani

Diana Markakis

Debra Mavroidis

Emily Mead

Victor Mendiola Jr.

Jean Miller

Pamela Nolen

Anastasia Oxley

Nikolas Panagiotakopoulos

Anna Panagiotakopoulos

Theo Panagiotakopoulos

Savas Panagiotoglou

Socrates Papadopoulos

Aaron Papagalos

Mihaus Papamatheakis

Daniel Pardhe

Anna Pardhe

Athena Parmenter

Brad Patten

Amy Paul

Zoe Pestrivas

Athena Pickett

Mary Ann Pikulas

Tracy Poulos

Gus Pyle

Alex Rentzis

Panos Ruboyianes

Curt Ruttle

Angela Scopelianos

Zoe Sgouros

Leo Speliopoulos

Nicolas Speliopoulos

Dianne Spell

Vasilios Speros

Athanassi Speros

Kathryn Stamadianos

Magdalene Stoutenburg

Robert Stuart

Diana Sutu

Rebecca Tavlarides

Despina Tavlarides

Katherine Tropea

Stacy Tsantilas

Dean Tseunis

Sotirios Tsioutsopoulos

Theodore Tzeremas

Daniel Valenzuela

George Vassiliou

Kenneth Walker

Aidan Walker

Paulina Watson

Steven West

Grace Wombacher

Zoe Wombacher

Joseph Yadush

Alexa Yadush

George Zaglifa

Michael Zistatsis

Eleanna Zistatsis

April

# Pascha Picnic



# *Paschal*

## COMMUNITY POTLUCK

\_\_\_\_ APRIL \_\_\_\_  
SUNDAY **20** AT 1 PM  
\_\_\_\_

FOLLOWING AGAPE  
VESPERS AT NOON

Invite your families and bring a side dish or  
dessert to share!

Lamb, Greek-style potatoes, and salad will  
be provided by Celebration Committee.

RSVP AT  
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/HTCPOTLUCK](https://tinyurl.com/htcpotluck)

Questions? Email [htcphxevents@gmail.com](mailto:htcphxevents@gmail.com)

# Our Church Family

## Baptisms

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

Galatians 3:27



03/08/2025

Yuliana Alvarez

Sponsor: Virginia Merk

*God's Blessings be upon her.*

03/08/2025

Stratis Baker, son of Katerina Matheos & Wesley Baker

Sponsor: Stefan Matheos

*God's Blessings be upon him.*

03/29/2025

Hazel Mitchell, daughter of Zoe Ehrick & Kyle Mitchell

Sponsor: Calli Allman

*God's Blessings be upon her.*

03/29/2025

Gerald Vaughn

Sponsor: Greg Lizanich

*God's Blessings be upon him.*

03/29/2025

Elisah Harris, daughter of Liana Chiarenza & Michael Harris

Sponsors: Alana & Tristan Stoutenberg

*God's Blessings be upon her.*

03/29/2025

Matteo Harris, son of Liana Chiarenza & Michael Harris

Sponsors: Alana & Tristan Stoutenberg

*God's Blessings be upon him.*

## Chrismations

03/29/2025

Jayne Healy

Sponsor: Maria Allman

*God's Blessings be upon her.*



03/29/2025

Liana Chiarenza

Sponsors: Connie & Jim Contes

*God's Blessings be upon her.*

# Our Church Family

## Wedding

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



3/1:

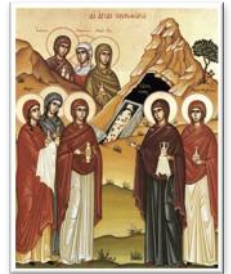
Jennifer Rentzis/Zachary Voulos

Sponsor: Alexi Rentzis

*God's Blessings be upon them.*

## 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."



Psalms 138:6

03/04/2025

Frannie Pappas

*May her memory be eternal.*

03/21/2025

Stella Glitsos

*May her memory be eternal.*

# New Altar Coverings!

The new Altar coverings have arrived!



## Hellenic Museum

Looking for volunteers to open the museum on Sundays after Divine Liturgy and upon request. If interested, please call **Bessie Hotis** at 602-953-1913 or **Alex Anagnopoulos** at 602-738-6053



## Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF)

The Campus Missionary from our OCF ministry is in need of new housing near the ASU Tempe Campus. If you have or know of suitable digs, please contact Aleksander at [alucic@ocf.net](mailto:alucic@ocf.net) or at 708-921-5881.



## The Arizona Hellenic Foundation

has a scholarship program which was established to promote, encourage, induce, and advance education at the college and university level for students of Hellenic descent with at least one parent or guardian residing in Central Arizona. For eligibility requirements and applications, please visit the Foundation's website [www.Azhellenic.org](http://www.Azhellenic.org). Applications are due on **April 1, 2025**.

## Donations

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

*Thank you all!*



## Greek School

Irene Dartoozos Mackos, Director  
[phxgreeksschool@gmail.com](mailto:phxgreeksschool@gmail.com)

Are you ready to learn Greek- Classes start in November!

To sign up or learn more, visit our website [www.greeklanguagekitchen.com](http://www.greeklanguagekitchen.com)

Look forward to welcoming you to our Greek Language Classes and hoping you explore the beauty and richness of the Greek Language!



Holy Trinity Greek  
&  
Heritage School of Phoenix

## What YOU Can Do to Help Visitors Feel Welcome

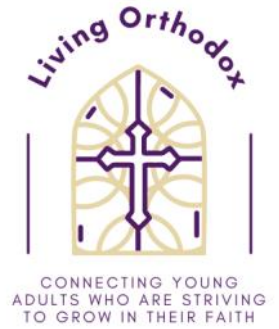
Have you noticed new faces? We've had many visitors stop by lately. Some are Orthodox and visiting from other Parishes, some are returning to Orthodoxy after a long time away, and some are coming to check out Orthodoxy for the very first time. No matter how they come to us, let's make sure we say Hello!

"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!



# 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 at <https://bit.ly/LOconnect> for our email/SMS lists!



## March OCMC Dinner

In March, we had the opportunity to host Fr. James Retelas, Mission Center Development Officer, from the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) for a 3-day trip to Arizona. OCMC, the missions and evangelism agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States, partnered with Living Orthodox to arrange the local schedule of events.

On Saturday, April 15, we hosted a special dinner at Holy Trinity followed by a presentation by Fr. James. Volunteers decorated the hall with linens, icons, and floral arrangements and Phill Panagiotoglou prepared a delicious Lenten meal for the attendees. Dan Valenzuela and Elizabeth Pardhe photographed the event. The presentation covered the mission of OCMC, the work that they are doing across the world, and how they partner with local communities to train priests, provide translations, and build the Orthodox church.

On Sunday, Fr. James co-celebrated the Divine Liturgy at Assumption Church in Scottsdale where he presented the homily. At coffee hour, he hosted an informational table on OCMC. In the evening, Fr. James participated in the pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers at St. John the Baptist's Church in Glendale, where he again offered the homily.

On Monday, Fr. James was the guest speaker at the Monday meeting of the Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF) at Arizona State University.

To learn more about OCMC's work across the world or to make a donation, please visit <https://www.ocmc.org/>.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Living Orthodox, please email us at [livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com](mailto:livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com)! You can also visit <https://linktr.ee/livingorthodox> for links to our social media.



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/HolyTrinityGreekOrthodoxCathedral)



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## AHEPA CHAPTER 219

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### Our Next Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, April 24, 2025  
**Location:** HT Speros Community Center  
**Time:** 6pm cocktail hour and hors d'oeuvres  
**Dinner:** 7pm  
**Meeting:** 7:45 - 8:45pm  
**Cigars on the patio:** 9:00 - 10:00pm

**RSVP: AHEPA219@GMAIL.COM**  
or call President Costa Tzavaras  
**(602) 999-9819**

### Membership Information

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**Contact Pete Marudas**  
**602.284.1638**  
**Rosemar2@msn.com**

# AHEPA Chapter 219



**AHEPA 219  
JOINT MEETING  
WITH THE  
DAUGHTERS OF  
PENELOPE  
  
MARCH 2025**



## AHEPA Chapter 219



# PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

Hosted by the Brothers of  
AHEPA Chapter 219

**SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH**  
FOLLOWING CHURCH SERVICES

HOLY TRINITY  
GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  
1973 E. MARYLAND AVE - PHOENIX

**\$35 Adults**  
**\$25 Ages 6-17**  
**5 and under free**

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

**Reservations beginning Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> during Coffee Hour in the  
Speros Community Center**

**Or Contact:**

**Andrew Touvannas (509) 628-6293**

**All Reservations Must Be Paid at Time of Purchase**

# 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](mailto:ciecomom@gmail.com),  
and we'll get you added to list!

## Summer Camp



