

Desert Springs

April 2026
Volume 11
Issue 4

PALM SUNDAY – April 5

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

GREAT & HOLY MONDAY – April 6

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

GREAT & HOLY TUESDAY – April 7

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

GREAT & HOLY WEDNESDAY – April 8

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 9

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 10

The Royal Hours (Youth Retreat to follow) 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 11

Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil-Proti-Anastasi 9:00 a.m.
Paschal Vigil for the Holy Resurrection 11:30 p.m.

GREAT & HOLY PASCHA – April 12

Agape Vespers 11 a.m.

**Magiritsa Meal offered following Liturgy on Pascha and Picnic following Agape Vespers*

Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

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Rev. Protopresbyter Apostolos Hill
Rev. Alexander Eliades
Rev. Deacon John Thrasher

Office Hours:

Monday–Friday, 9:00am–3:00pm

Sunday Worship

8:00am Orthros
9:30am Divine Liturgy

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Desert Springs Deadline

The 25th of each month

Sunday Bulletin Deadline

Wednesdays, 12 noon

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Vice President: Sandy Annos
Treasurer: Pete Choukalas
Secretary: Andi Fourlis
Christina Bakavelou, Connie Contes,
John DeMoss, Art Kostaras, Sandy Meris,
Niko Panagiotakopoulos

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www.holytrinityphx.org

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Archdiocese Website
www.goarch.org

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- **Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF/18-25 year olds)** — Aleksandar "Speedy" Lučić: alucic@ocf.net
- **Parish Council** — Jim Manelis: jmanelis@aol.com
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- **Wedding Coordinator** — Patty Ladas: pattyladas@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 manager@holytrinityphx.org and Kristen at kristen.vasilarakos@outlook.com. **It is the organization's responsibility** to inform Heidi or Kristen of any updates to your listing.

A Message from Father Alexander

"We have Arrived..."

We are arriving at the moment in the life of the Church when heaven draws especially near to earth, when the veil between the visible and invisible grows thin, and we are invited to step into something eternal. Holy Week is not a commemoration or "remembering" in the ordinary sense, a mere looking back at past events. It is a living participation in the greatest mystery of all time: the death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The services of Holy Week are not obligations we must get over, they are gifts beyond all reckoning, offered freely to every soul willing to receive them. The Church calls us with urgency: *Come. Come and stand beneath the cross. Come and keep watch at the tomb. Come and hear the angel's proclamation. "Let us purify our senses and we will clearly behold Christ shining forth in the unapproachable light of the Resurrection."*

Holy Week unfolds as a sacred drama in which we are not spectators but participants. From Palm Sunday's joyful branches to the darkness of the Twelve Gospels on Holy Thursday; the hushed veneration of the Epitaphios on Holy Friday to the midnight joy of Pascha, every service builds towards that single, world-altering moment when the priest lifts his candle in the darkened church and speaks the Truth that Life and Light has prevailed over darkness.

The temptation is real: to attend only the Pascha Liturgy and Holy Friday and feel that one has honored the season. But the joy of Pascha is not a freestanding joy but it is the joy of those who have *passed through*, passed over, have participated in the Pascha of death, who have walked to Golgotha and kept watch at the tomb. The Resurrection cannot be fully received by those who have not first stood at the Cross.

Our presence also matters for one another. When you come, you strengthen every person standing beside you! When you are absent, the body is

incomplete. Holy Week is not a private devotion or nostalgia, it is the whole Church, together, walking the road that leads to Life with our Incarnate God.



You don't need perfection, but you do need intention. Can you attend one more service this year than last? If you have never come to the Holy Thursday evening, come this year and let the words of the Church work on your heart. If you have always slipped away after the Paschal Gospel, stay for the Liturgy and receive Holy Communion in the inexplicable joy of the Resurrection. Begin where you are. The Church will meet you there and bring you forward.

And bring your children! They will not understand everything but neither do we. But they will remember the candlelight, the incense, the moment the church erupts in joy. These are the memories that form their souls for a lifetime.

Christ is Risen! The most joyful sentence in the human language! But its joy is immeasurable precisely because of what happens before it. The Resurrection is not an escape from the Cross and suffering; it is the Cross and suffering transformed, vindicated, glorified. We do not skip to the ending. We must walk the whole road.

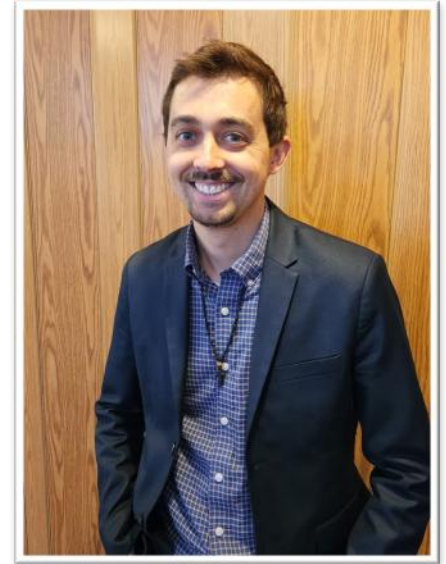
Dear brothers and sisters, do not let this Holy Week pass by at a distance. The Church offers us services of heartbreaking beauty, hymns shaped by centuries of prayer, and the company of all the saints who have walked this same road before us. Step into it. Give it your evenings, your tiredness, your tears, your prayers. You will emerge on the other side changed, knowing in your bones what you have always professed with your lips: that death has been swallowed up in victory, and that nothing, now, can ever be the same.

Let's Meet Our Parishioner Neighbors!

Dan Valenzuela

My name is Daniel Valenzuela, most people know me as Dan. I started attending Holy Trinity back in 2015 after having started my Orthodox journey around 2012/13 in Salem, Oregon at the St. Patrick Mission parish with Fr. Timothy Pavlatos. Before I started attending that church, I was a Catholic student at the secular Willamette University taking an Early Christian Literature course with a Jesus Seminar professor. This professor indirectly guided me toward the Orthodox church as the history he was teaching us indicated that Orthodoxy was the true church. After reading books on Orthodoxy, attending church frequently, becoming a Catechumen, and returning home to Phoenix, Arizona after college, I spent two years preparing to be brought into the church. I officially became an Orthodox Christian through Chrismation on the Sunday of the Paralytic: May 7, 2017 at Holy Trinity by Father Apostolos Hill (who became my spiritual father). At Holy Trinity today, I am an apprentice

chanter/reader in training. I enjoy helping out at the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival as well. Much like chanting and other activities at Holy Trinity, I was asked if I was interested in assisting and I said yes. I am grateful that both activities are tied to my interests: music and learning. I hope to continue to serve in these ministries. I enjoy seeing our youth learn to love their faith and become active members in the church.



If we haven't met yet, please say hello!

Agape Vespers Gospel Readers Needed!

Join us on **Pascha at 11am** with the opportunity to read the Gospel in a foreign language you know! So far only Romanian is taken so let Fr. Alexander know today!



Kouvouklion Decorating (Epitaphios)

A group of volunteers is needed to decorate the Kouvouklion on Holy Friday, April 10 at 7:00 am. Please meet in the Narthex of the Cathedral. Contact Diaconissa Mary Thrasher at thrashermary@cox.net or at 602-679-4041 for details.



What YOU Can Do to Help Visitors Feel Welcome

There are so many new faces! 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. *We currently have over 40 catechumens!* No matter how they come to us, let's make sure we say hello! One way is to say, "I've seen you before, but have not had a chance to meet you yet. Hi, my name is _____."



Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

2026 Theme:
“Rise Up and Build”
Building the Body of Christ
- Nehemiah 2:18



Holy Trinity Cathedral “Why Statement”:

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

TOGETHER WE FED 500 PEOPLE IN NEED OF A MEAL

Thank you so much to our parishioners who participated in the Stewardship Parish-Wide Community Outreach Annual Sack Lunch Project!!

Together we made sandwiches and assembled 500 sack lunches for three very worthy organizations:

Andre House - which serves the homeless and poor population of Phoenix)

Arizonans for Children - serves abused, abandoned and neglected children in the Arizona foster care system, and

Vista Colina - offers emergency and transitional housing for families

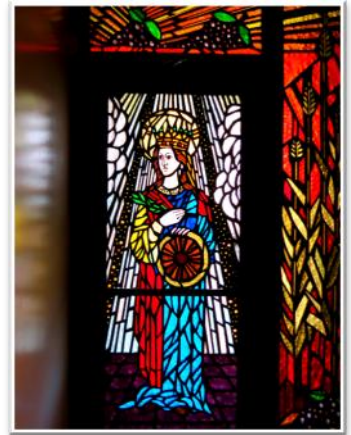
We joined forces with FOCUS Phoenix on this Lenten project and we look forward to more joint projects in the future.



[Click for All Photos](#)

Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Kristen Vasilarakos, President



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



**Next Meeting: Thursday, April 2, 2026, 6:30 pm
Community Center Lounge**



Camp Agape/ Kids'n'Cancer

[Kids'n'Cancer Auction Link](#)



The auction is live!

Extended bidding!

Foster Youth Tote Bags

Change the story for youth aging out of foster care in Arizona!

We are still collecting. Bin is in the Narthex. The goal is to fill 40 complete tote bags! Contact Kristen at 602-332-8809 for more information.

Female

- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Deodorant/Antiperspirant
- Body wash
- Shampoo and Conditioner (include 30% for ethnic hair)
- Shaving cream/gel
- Body lotion
- CeraVe Foaming Facial Cleanser
- Hairbrush/Comb (include 30% for ethnic hair)
- Hair styling products (gel, mousse, hairspray)
- Nail clippers/nail file
- Tweezers

Male

- Toothbrush/Toothpaste/ Floss
- Body wash
- Shaving cream/gel
- Aftershave
- Body lotion
- CeraVe Foaming Facial Cleanser
- Hairbrush/Comb (include 30% for ethnic hair)
- Hair styling products (gel or pomade and 30% for ethnic hair)
- Nail clippers
- Tweezers

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.



Preparing the Pascha Gift Bags!

Desert Springs April 2026

Philoptochos



Bake Sale—Sunday, April 5

Pay-n-Go goodies available!

Pre-Order pick-up!

Following Divine Liturgy in the Community Center



Pascha Picnic



HOSTED BY THE CELEBRATION COMMITTEE
PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

Paschal Community Meal

APRIL

SUNDAY **12** AT NOON

FOLLOWING AGAPE
VESPERS AT 11 AM

LAMB, POTATOES, AND GREEK SALAD WILL BE SERVED.

Please invite your families/friends, and feel free to bring a ready-to-serve appetizer or dessert to share!

If you plan to attend, let us know at the link below so we can plan accordingly.

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

Questions? Email htcphxevents@gmail.com

Special Tray on Sunday

Philoptochos is passing a tray on April 5th for the flowers for the Kouvouklion (Epitaphio). All donations are used for the many different flowers and greenery used to decorate the wooden canopy representing the tomb of Christ.

Please make checks payable to Philoptochos.



God's Corner at Sunday Coffee



This corner is available every Sunday for our little ones to play in and learn together. If you're interested in helping, please contact Mara Contes at mara.contes18@gmail.com.

New! St. Kosmas Greek School

Now Launching: Greek Language School at Holy Trinity Cathedral

- ✓ What: Modern & Ancient Greek language plus more!
- ✓ When:
 - Soft Launch Spring 2026
 - Official Launch Fall 2026
- ✓ All are welcome: Kids, Youth, Adults
- ✓ Director: Christina Bakavelou
- ✓ Learn more during Coffee Hour on March 29
- ✓ Questions? StKosmasGreekSchoolOffice@gmail.com



*"And if the fathers did not learn, teach your children to learn Greek, for our Church is also in Greek.
And if you do not study Greek, my brother, you cannot understand our Faith properly."
Saint Kosmas the Aetolian (1714-1779).*

Celebrate language. Celebrate heritage. Celebrate community.



On March 29, we celebrated the 25th of March which both Greek Independence Day and the Feast of the Annunciation. On this day in 1821, the Greek Revolution began against the Ottoman Empire, symbolically chosen to align with the Annunciation as a proclamation of freedom for the

Hellenic nation.

Christina Bakavelou, the Director of the Greek Language school, and Stefania Papamatheakis led a youth program that included a parade, the Greek Anthem, the 'Τη υπερμαχω στρατηγω' hymn to Virgin Mary and poems. How grateful to see 50 of our kids engaged in this unique program. Christina introduced the Greek School, St Kosmas

which now accepts applications. Everyone had the chance to visit the booths with informational material, initial assessments, interest, and commitment forms. More than 40+ people, both kids and adults, expressed interest. Next step is to match students to classes and teachers based on the age and level of experience. If interested or have questions, please contact StKosmasGreekSchoolOffice@gmail.com.

Last, a huge thanks to Lefty (Elefterios) Karropoulos who cooked an amazing Lenten meal. Please take a moment to thank the organizers, volunteers, and Lefty for bringing to our community a taste of Greece.

[Click for More Photos](#)



Sunday of the Cross

March 15, 2026



[Click for More Photos](#)

Holy Friday Youth Retreat

April 10, 2026

Holy Friday Retreat

Friday, April 10, 2026

We will start immediately following the Royal Hours service (which participants can attend with their families from 8:00-9:15 a.m.) and will conclude with the Un-Nailing Vespers that afternoon (3:00-4:00 p.m.).

Location: 1973 E Maryland, Phoenix
Participants: Any student in PreK through 12th grade

There is no cost to attend. However, please register all participants before the deadline on 04/03/2026.

Questions?
 Contact Alexia at (602) 705-3172 or hphxsundayschool@gmail.com

Register at bit.ly/holyfridayregistration
 Volunteer at bit.ly/holyfridayvolunteer

Walk for Missions!

April 25, 2026

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for the return of **WALK FOR MISSIONS!**

FELLOWSHIP FUN SUPPORT MISSIONS WORK

Saturday April 25 2026
 8am-10am
 Kiwanis Park

Share mission experience
 Learn about mission trip opportunities
 Enjoy a morning walk around the lake & feed your soul while the children play

Arizona Parishes

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
 Exaltation of the Holy Cross Romanian Church
 Greek Orthodox Mission Church of Coolidge & Florence
 Holy Archangel's Russian Orthodox Church
 Holy Cross Orthodox Church
 Holy Resurrection Antiochian Church
 Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
 St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church
 St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church
 St. George Orthodox Church
 St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church
 St. Ignatius of Antioch Orthodox Mission
 St. John the Baptist Romanian Orthodox Church
 St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Mission
 St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
 St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church
 St. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church
 St. Peter the Apostle Orthodox Mission

Sponsored by **OCMC and Project Mexico Missions Alumni**

Supported by **OCMC and Project Mexico & St. Innocent Orphanage**

OCMC.org
ProjectMexico.org

All proceeds to benefit OCMC & 2026 Project Mexico AZ Work Trips

Click [HERE](#) to register.
Click [HERE](#) to volunteer.

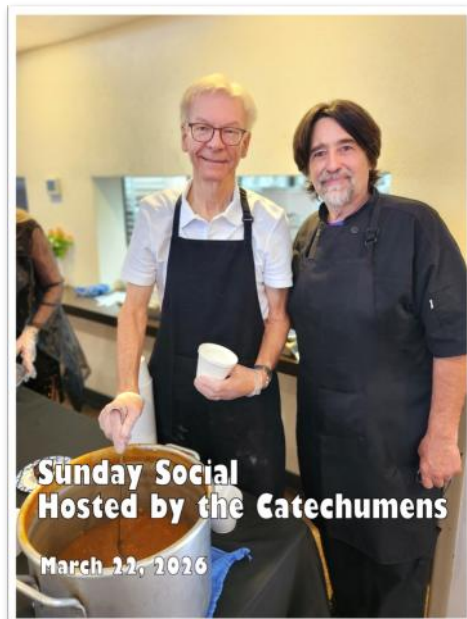


Donation & Registration



Sunday Coffee Socials

March



THANK YOU!

Project Mexico Group

June 11-17, 2026

We're excited again to offer a group to go down to Project Mexico to build a house for those in need, stationed out of St. Innocent Orphanage. Please let Fr. Alexander know if you're interested! Open to High School and above who are able to do manual labor.



Ensuring a Safe Worship Environment

To help keep our parish community safe and at peace during worship, you will notice we have a uniformed police officer on duty each Sunday. This presence is new for our church. It is simply one more way we care for one another and ensure that all who come to pray, serve, and gather here may do so in a secure environment.

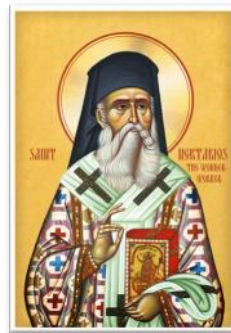


Desert Springs April 2026

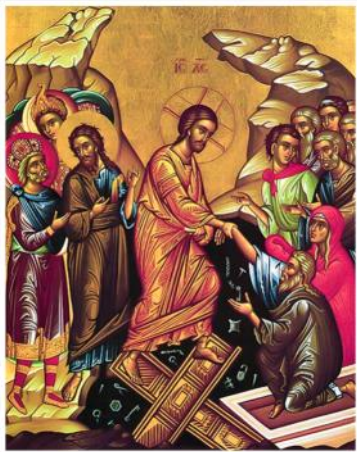
St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

Submitted by Rita Papaspyrou

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" (1 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.

Our Church Family

Baptism

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

Galatians 3:27



03/28/2026

Michelle Mullennix

Sponsor: Anna Jill Leach

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.”

Psalms 23:6



03/30/2026

Richard Wright

May his memory be eternal.

FOCUS

The Fellowship of Orthodox
Christians United to Serve

<https://focusphoenix.org>

<https://focusnorthamerica.org>



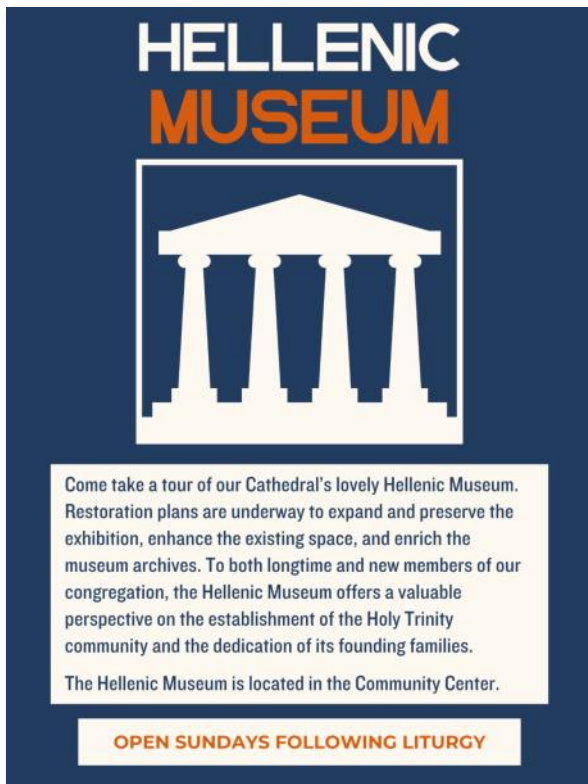
Bible Study

Join us **Wednesdays** after Paraklesis for Bible Study on the Book of Romans with Fr. Alexander in the Chapel and on Zoom. Open to all.

Learning to Live an Orthodox Life

The Spring semester of catechism is held on **Saturdays from 3:30-4:30pm**. This year's theme is “Learning to live an Orthodox life” with an emphasis on the practical application of the Orthodox faith to our daily lives. Class is open to all Cathedral members. Contact Fr. Apostolos to register.

Cathedral Museum



HELLENIC MUSEUM

Come take a tour of our Cathedral's lovely Hellenic Museum. Restoration plans are underway to expand and preserve the exhibition, enhance the existing space, and enrich the museum archives. To both longtime and new members of our congregation, the Hellenic Museum offers a valuable perspective on the establishment of the Holy Trinity community and the dedication of its founding families. The Hellenic Museum is located in the Community Center.

OPEN SUNDAYS FOLLOWING LITURGY



MOTHER'S DAY

Brunch

SUNDAY | MAY 10TH

CELEBRATING ALL THE
WONDERFUL MOTHERS
IN OUR PARISH

\$35 ADULTS | \$25 (AGES 6-17)
CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER FREE

PRE-SALES BEGIN MARCH 29TH
DURING COFFEE HOUR

Celebration Committee



On the first Sunday of each month, the Celebration Committee organizes a luncheon 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, the Celebration Committee celebrated the chrismations of Adriana Perez, Yolanda Fernandez, Micah Thomas, and Terry Pritchard and all March birthdays! We also had a send-off celebration for Scott and Jill Leach as they move to Florida. The hall was decorated with Lenten colors of purple and

white. The table centerpieces were purple flowers with white accent pieces.

In April, we'll be hosting the annual Paschal Community Meal after Agape Vespers on April 12th at noon. Please mark your calendars and invite your friends/families/coworkers!

If you want to join the committee, please email htcphxevents@gmail.com and/or talk to Terri Alexon or Mary Pardhe.



[Click for All Photos](#)

Monthly Communal Cooking Event

For the March Celebration Sunday, the Communal Cooking crew led by Phillip Panagiotoglou served shrimp gravy with parboiled rice, salad, and assorted Lenten desserts. If you are interested in helping out or joining us for future cooking events, please email htcphxevents@gmail.com.



Desert Springs April 2026

April Birthdays

Wish them a Happy Birthday!



Happy BIRTHDAY!

April

Left Column:
 Panagiota Agelakos
 Peter Agnos
 Terri Alexon
 Calli Allman
 Steve Apostolides
 Joanna Apostolis
 Anastasia Arger
 Georgia Bakintas
 Anne Bass
 Jennifer Billitsis
 Amanda Carver
 Kenny Christenson
 George Condon
 Jarmain Constantine
 Basil Contes
 Eleni Debickero
 Dimitri Deligiannis
 Marjorie DeMoss
 Sage Domme
 Stella Elam
 Anna Ellis
 Jeff Farr
 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
 Pat Kladis
 Nickolas Koziris
 Ioannes Kratsas
 Athena Kretsedemas
 Mark Lefebvre
 Maria Lipnos
 Nicholas G. Lopez
 Irene Mackos
 Demetra Makris
 Julie Mamani
 Diana Markakis
 Debra Mavroidis
 Emily Mead
 Victor Mendiola Jr.
 Jean Miller

Right Column:
 Pamela Nolen
 Anastasia Oxley
 Nikolas Panagiotakopoulos
 Theo Panagiotakopoulos
 Savas Panagiotogiou
 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 Sgouras
 Leo Speliopoulos
 Nicolas Speliopoulos
 Dianne Spell
 Vasilios Speros
 Athanassi Speros
 Elias Staikos
 Kathryn Stamadianos
 Magdalene Stoutenburg
 Robert Stuart
 Diana Sutu
 Rebecca Tavarides
 Despina Tavarides
 Katherine Tropea
 Zoe Tsakiris
 Stacy Tsantilas
 Dean Tseunis
 Sotirios Tsioutsopoulos
 Theodore Tzeremas
 Daniel Valenzuela
 George Vassiliou
 George Venetis
 Kenneth Walker
 Aidan Walker
 Paulina Watson
 Juan Weaver
 Steven West
 Grace Wombacher
 Zoe Wombacher
 Joseph Yadush
 Alexa Yadush
 George Zagliffa
 Michael Zistatsis
 Eleanna Zistatsis

Pancake Breakfast and Palm Folding— Join us Lazarus Saturday, April 4 at 9am

We will start at 9:00am with Liturgy 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.



The Talent Show is Back!



PARISH WIDE
TALENT Show!
FRIDAY | MAY 1 | 7-9 PM
 ADULTS, KIDS, FAMILIES, AND FRIEND GROUPS ARE ALL WELCOME TO PERFORM.
 LIMITED NOMINATIONS PER PERFORMANCE CATEGORY - SECURE YOUR SPOT NOW!
 AT HOLY TRINITY LARGE HALL
ENTRY COST:
 \$20 PER ADULT
 \$10 PER CHILD (AGES 5-17)
 NO COST FOR PERFORMERS
 CONCESSIONS WILL BE SOLD DURING THE EVENT
 CONTACT JERRY 602-717-0672 TO REGISTER

Retired Men's Coffee

Calling all retired gentlemen! Join us for a weekly coffee group beginning Thursday, June 12th at 10:00 am in the church office conference room. Meet us each Thursday morning for a cup of coffee and some fellowship. No agenda, just an opportunity for some fellowship and good conversation. Hope to see you there!



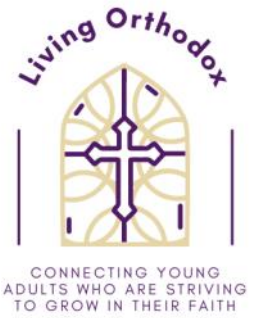
Church Website

holyltrinityphx.org Look for new formatting soon!



Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry

Living Orthodox is a national, pan-Orthodox ministry that is building a community of young adults (18-29) and adults (30-45) who are striving to grow in and connect with their faith. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/LOconnect> for our email/SMS lists!



We were honored to welcome Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick, Chief Content Officer at Ancient Faith Radio, to Phoenix for our Lenten retreat! It was a beautiful series of presentations and we welcomed over 180 people from 7 parishes across the three events.

On Friday night, after the Salutations service, we enjoyed a delicious Lenten meal cooked by Phillip Panagiotoglou. Fr. Damick gave a presentation on the topic “A Sacred Cosmology”. The talk traced the cosmological tradition from ancient civilizations to the present day, with a detailed look on how the Orthodox Christian framework makes sense of and approaches an understanding of the cosmos.

On Saturday morning, we held our Living Orthodox young adult and adult retreat. After a light breakfast spread, Fr. Alexander opened the retreat with morning prayers in the St. George chapel. Fr. Damick gave the keynote address on “Orthodox Christian Worship: Origins, Purpose and Character” followed by a fast-paced service project for the FOCUS Phoenix park ministry. Together, we prepared two coolers of sandwiches (four different kinds). The sandwiches were then collected and distributed along with beverages and snacks by FOCUS. Following lunch and conversation, we split up into three small-group discussion groups - led by Fr. Apostolos, Fr. Alexander, and Napoleon Kanari. Fr. Damick rotated to all three groups to participate in the discussion.

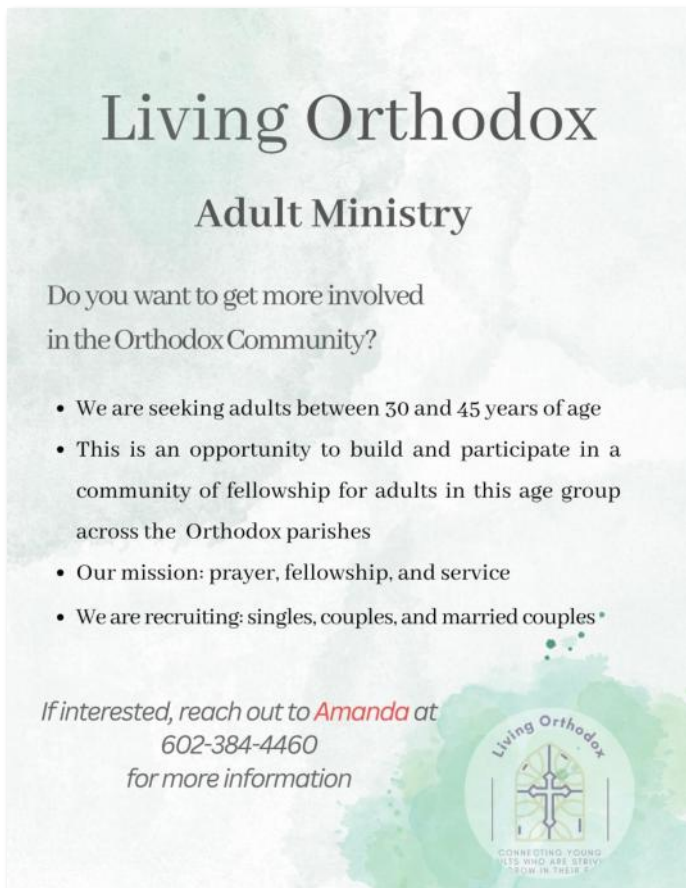
Following the retreat, we moved into the last section of the day with a free talk that was open to all ages. Fr. Damick presented on the topic of “Re-Enchanting a Disenchanted World”. This talk wrapped up the retreat with some practical life advice on getting off our phones, walking in nature, building relationships, and getting serious about our faith. It was a perfect ending to the material presented in the earlier sections.

Fr. Damick co-served Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity and briefly visited coffee hour, before leaving to attend a Living Orthodox lunch event. It was a wonderful visit with a wealth of spiritual benefit. Special thanks to Justen Merk for creating the flyers; the incredible volunteer group that planned and supported the event; and Phillip Panagiotoglou for the meals.

Photos from the event can be found at:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12YzgToaSFuHI4CSVIDH3ge7lRrFRhnWF?usp=sharing>

To be informed of upcoming events in the young adult or adult ministries, please follow us on Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/living_orthodox_ministry/) or sign up for our email newsletter (<https://bit.ly/LOconnect>). You can also visit <https://linktr.ee/livingorthodox> for other links to our social media.



Living Orthodox Young Adult Ministry—Retreat Photos



[Click for Retreat Photos](#)

April Glendi!

Youth and Young Adults Summer Opportunities

WE'RE HIRING
 JOIN OUR 2026 SUMMER CAMP STAFF!
CABIN COUNSELORS • PROGRAM STAFF • LEADERSHIP TEAM
 LIFEGUARDS • MEDICAL STAFF • PHOTOGRAPHERS • VIDEOGRAPHERS
WWW.GOSFYOUTH.ORG

BEST SUMMER EVER!
 REGISTRATION OPENS DECEMBER 17
ionianvillage.org

1ST SESSION - JUNE 16 - JULY 5
 IV NEXT - JULY 5 - 15
 2ND SESSION - JULY 15 - AUGUST 3

Youth Glendi
 MUSIC, DANCING, FAITH, FOOD, & FUN!
 All families welcome!

APRIL 25 2026

Sky Crossing Community Center
 22211 N 32nd St
 Phoenix, AZ 85050

Questions please contact
 Andy & Alexia Ruboyianes - (520) 241-0176

Youth Activities

Anthony Miaoulis, OPA President; Caroline Economopoulos, PR



4F Events SPRING 2026

18 APR GENERAL 4F 4:30 - 8:00 PM

9 MAY END OF YEAR 4:30 - 8:00 PM

JOIN US FOR THE **GRADUATION CELEBRATION COFFEE HOUR** IN HONOR OF THE 2026 GRADUATES

MAY 17, 2026 AFTER DIVINE LITURGY

Holy Trinity Community Center

Little Lambs

Little Lambs **Easter Egg Hunt!**

Children of all ages are welcome to join the fun!

April 11, 2026

After Liturgy by the Community center

Bring your basket!

A colorful poster for an Easter Egg Hunt. At the top, a white lamb with a pink bow and a yellow chick in a cracked eggshell are shown against a blue sky with a rainbow. Below them, the text "Little Lambs Easter Egg Hunt!" is written in large, colorful letters. Further down, it says "Children of all ages are welcome to join the fun!" and "April 11, 2026 After Liturgy by the Community center Bring your basket!". The bottom of the poster features a white church with a steeple, a green field with flowers, and a wicker basket filled with colorful Easter eggs.

Join us for the **LITTLE LAMBS** **CROSS DECORATING**

April 18th at 4F

A poster for a cross-decorating event. It features three large, colorful paint splashes in yellow, blue, and pink. The text "Join us for the LITTLE LAMBS CROSS DECORATING" is written across the splashes. Below, it says "April 18th at 4F". The background is decorated with various art supplies like paintbrushes, crayons, and tubes of paint. At the bottom, there are several wooden crosses of different sizes, some of which are being decorated with paint.

100 Years— Foundation for the Future

Save the date for Saturday, November 7 as we will celebrate 100 years of our beloved Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

For tickets: Caroline Economopoulos
cjecomom@gmail.com

For sponsorships: Anna Ellis
anna@lifemanaged.com

We Need YOUR Photos!

Please share your photos to help us honor our past and celebrate our future!

Help us tell the story of Holy Trinity! As we celebrate our centennial, we want to feature every single family in a special photo montage at this November's Gala. Whether it's a family portrait from last week or a vintage snapshot of a 1930's event, ministry meeting, parish gathering, etc. your memories are part of our history. We are looking for photos of social gatherings, meetings, and parish events spanning the last 100 years. In addition, we want a family portrait from every Holy Trinity parishioner.

How to Submit Your Photos

EMAIL SUBMISSIONS:

You can send digital copies of your family and historical photos directly to the Gala Committee at: donnalmanelis@gmail.com

ONLINE UPLOAD (Preferred Method):

Contact Donna Manelis at donnalmanelis@gmail.com or 602-315-2408 to receive the Google link.

There are 2 separate submissions on our Google link, please be sure to follow the prompts.

IN-PERSON & MAIL:

If you have physical copies that need scanning or would like to donate materials for print recognition, you can contact Donna Manelis at donnalmanelis@gmail.com or call at 602-315-2408.

We are not only collecting photos of social gatherings, meetings, and parish events, but a personal/family portrait of EVERY Holy Trinity parishioner!

Contact Donna Manelis at donnalmanelis@gmail.com to submit photos or for more information.



New Priest Assigned To Greek Church Here

The Rev. Anthony Pentikis is successor to the Rev. George Samaras as pastor of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church at 333 East Virginia Avenue.



Rev. Pentikis

It so happens that Father Samaras is also successor to Father Pentikis. Pastor of the Phoenix congregation for 2 1/2 years, Father Samaras has already taken over Father Pentikis' recent pastorate in Portland, Ore.

coming a priest since I was knee high to a grasshopper." He was born in Forth Worth, Tex., and was graduated from high school there. When he was 20 he began his five years of seminary training in Pomfret, Conn.

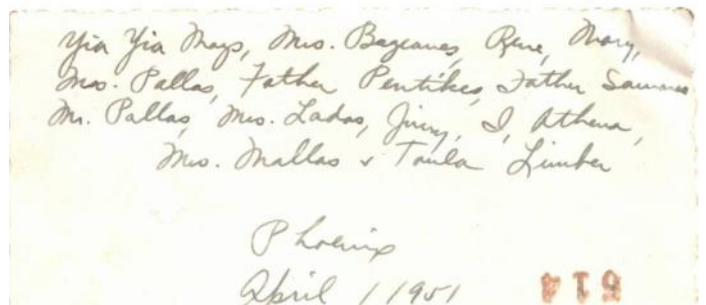
After finishing seminary he studied philosophy and English at the University of Portland, Ore., a Roman Catholic school.

In his spare time Father Pentikis dabbles in oil painting and works on his scrapbooks. He's looking forward to starting a scrapbook on Phoenix.

Holy Trinity Church will celebrate Easter April 29, the first Sunday after the Jewish Passover. Lenten services are now being held in the church every night at 7:30 o'clock.

Spiritual center of the Greek Orthodox Church is Constantinople.

1951
(left and above)
Fr. Anthony Pentikis
and
Fr. George Samaras



Research on the group photo by Andrew Mallas: "Here's a short bio that I'm piecing together on Christine Bageanas (Asvos). She was born in Greece in 1888, came to Chicago, met a guy named John. They had a kid named Bess Kuchuris (1919-2013). John died in 1940 due to an illness. She kept the name Bageanes. Had a brief residence in Phoenix (found a record of her living close to downtown.) ... She died in 1973 in Chicago, so that's her life. I'm 99% sure that's her plus she looks 64 in the photo." Andrew is working on identifying everyone in the photo.