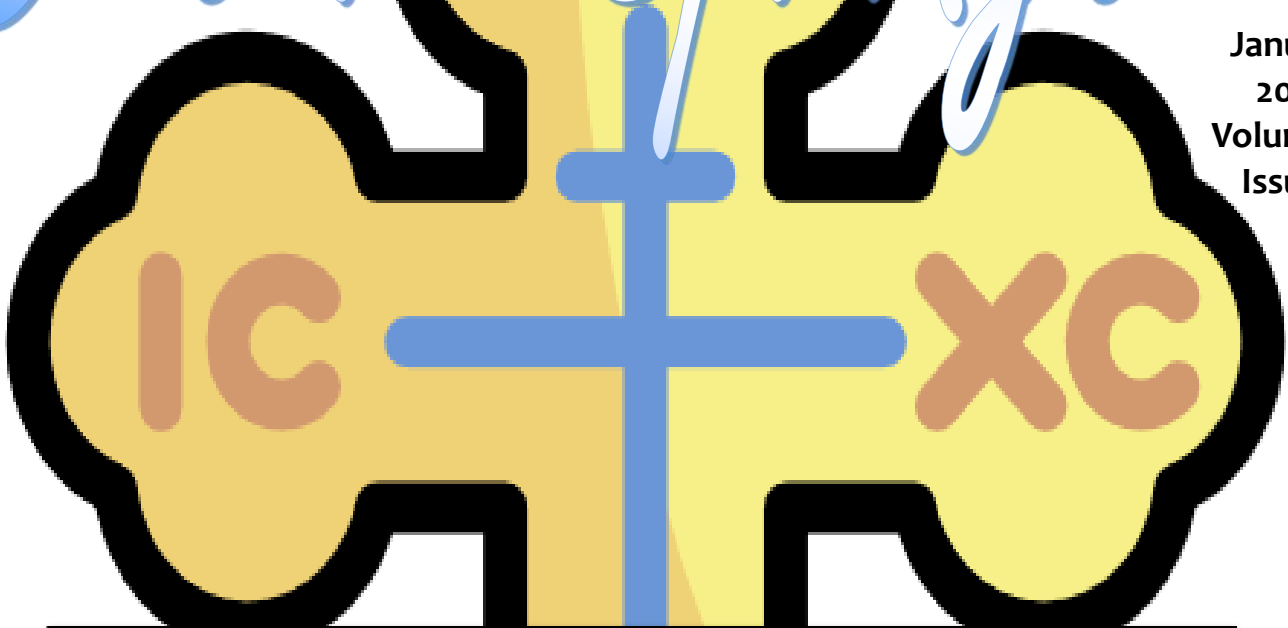


# Desert Springs

January  
2025  
Volume 10  
Issue 1



## **We Said Welcome ...**

### **40 Day Blessings & Baptisms**

"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

2024

## **and We Said Farewell**

### **Funerals**

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever."

Psalm 23:6



**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)

Rev. Economos 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

**Desert Springs Staff**

Rev. Apostolos Hill,  
Theological Advisor/Editor-In-Chief  
Kristen Vasilarakos, Layout/Composition  
602-332-8809,  
[kristen.vasilarakos@outlook.com](mailto:kristen.vasilarakos@outlook.com)

**Desert Springs Deadline**

The 25th of each month

**Sunday Bulletin Deadline**

Wednesdays, 12 noon

**Church Office Email Addresses**

Father Apostolos Hill  
[papoulihill@gmail.com](mailto:papoulihill@gmail.com)

Father Alexander Eliades  
[fraeliades@holytrinityphx.org](mailto:fraeliades@holytrinityphx.org)

Office Manager Heidi Demopoulos Bass  
[AdminAssist@holytrinityphx.org](mailto:AdminAssist@holytrinityphx.org)

Office Administrator Yvonne Vranes  
[htfrontoffice@holytrinityphx.org](mailto:htfrontoffice@holytrinityphx.org)

Church Caretakers  
Terry, Paul, and Dimitri Valonis

Holy Trinity Bookstore  
[info@stnectariosphx.org](mailto:info@stnectariosphx.org)

**2023 Parish Council Members**

President: Paul Katsenes

Vice President: Connie Contes

Treasurer: Jim Manelis

Secretary: Andi Furlis

Sandy Annos, Charlie DeMoss,  
Alexander Harding, Jill Leach,  
Chris Petroulakis, John Schneider

**Holy Trinity Cathedral**  
[www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)

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

**Archdiocese Website**  
[www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

## Organization Contacts

- **4F — 4F:** Kathy New: [kkatsalis@msn.com](mailto:kkatsalis@msn.com)
- **AHEPA —** Costa Tzavaras: 602-999-9819 or [tbirdchachi@gmail.com](mailto:tbirdchachi@gmail.com)
- **All Saints Camp —** George Miller: [info@allsaintscamparizona.org](mailto:info@allsaintscamparizona.org)
- **Altar Servers —** David Haag: [davidmhaag@yahoo.com](mailto:davidmhaag@yahoo.com), Chris Francis: [battersbox7@yahoo.com](mailto:battersbox7@yahoo.com)
- **Bible Study —** Father Apostolos Hill: [papoulihill@gmail.com](mailto:papoulihill@gmail.com)
- **Bookstore —** Rita Papaspyrou: [stnectariosphx@gmail.com](mailto:stnectariosphx@gmail.com)
- **Byzantine Choir —** Elizabeth Pardhe: [elizabethdpardhe@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethdpardhe@gmail.com)
- **Choir —** Terri Alexon: [htphxmusicdirector@gmail.com](mailto:htphxmusicdirector@gmail.com) or [terrialexon@gmail.com](mailto:terrialexon@gmail.com)
- **Celebration Committee —** Terri Alexon and Mary Pardhe: [htcphxevents@gmail.com](mailto:htcphxevents@gmail.com)
- **Dance —** Niko Panagiotakopoulos: [npanos01@yahoo.com](mailto:npanos01@yahoo.com)
- **Daughters of Penelope —** Cynthia Bekiaris: [cynb1308@gmail.com](mailto:cynb1308@gmail.com)
- **Desert Diamonds (50+) —** Julie Karoutas: [juliekaroutas@gmail.com](mailto:juliekaroutas@gmail.com)
- **Epistle Readers —** Connie Contes: [connie.contes@gmail.com](mailto:connie.contes@gmail.com)
- **Greek Festival —** Nick Kretsedemas: [nick.kretsedemas@chilis.com](mailto:nick.kretsedemas@chilis.com), Angelo Pestrivas: [angelopestrivas@msn.com](mailto:angelopestrivas@msn.com), Ted Furlis: [fourlisted@gmail.com](mailto:fourlisted@gmail.com)
- **Greek School —** Irene Mackos: [eirinie@gmail.com](mailto:eirinie@gmail.com)
- **Hellenic Museum —** Bessie Hotis: call 602-953-1913
- **Little Lambs —** Deborah Harrison: [14dharrison@gmail.com](mailto:14dharrison@gmail.com)
- **Living Orthodox —** Mary Pardhe: [livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com](mailto:livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com)
- **Maintenance —** Peter Bilitsis, Ted Furlis: [htcmaintenance1973@gmail.com](mailto:htcmaintenance1973@gmail.com)
- **Myrrhbearers —** Stacey Beaty: [staceybeaty@live.com](mailto:staceybeaty@live.com)
- **Narthex Intake —** Kristen Vasilarakos: [kristen.vasilarakos@outlook.com](mailto:kristen.vasilarakos@outlook.com)
- **OPA —** Caroline Economopoulos: [cjecomom@gmail.com](mailto:cjecomom@gmail.com)
- **Oratorical Festival —** Nick Petsas: [npetsas@outlook.com](mailto:npetsas@outlook.com), Chris Francis: [battersbox7@yahoo.com](mailto:battersbox7@yahoo.com)
- **Parish Council —** Paul Katsenes: [pkatsenes@cox.net](mailto:pkatsenes@cox.net)
- **Philoptochos —** Kristen Vasilarakos: [kristen.vasilarakos@outlook.com](mailto:kristen.vasilarakos@outlook.com)
- **Special Events Administrator —** Angie Lambrou: [angie.lambrou@cox.net](mailto:angie.lambrou@cox.net)
- **Stewardship —** Sandy Meris: [sandymeris@gmail.com](mailto:sandymeris@gmail.com)
- **Sunday School:** Alexia Panagiotakopoulos: [htphxsundayschool@gmail.com](mailto:htphxsundayschool@gmail.com)
- **UMOM New Day Centers —** Christine Stamatis: [cstamatis@cox.net](mailto:cstamatis@cox.net)
- **Wedding Coordinator —** Patty Ladas: [pattyladas@gmail.com](mailto:pattyladas@gmail.com)
- **YAL —** Mary Pardhe: [livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:AdminAssist@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.



# Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

## **“Your Own From Your Own”**

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



### **Stewardship 2025 Goals:**

- 1) 100% participation from parishioners to complete and submit the 2025 pledge card by January 31st.
- 2) Increase your 2025 pledge by a minimum of 1% over your 2024 pledge.
- 3) If you are not using ShelbyNext for your Stewardship contributions, we ask that you please sign up today. Visit [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org) and click on "Stewardship." (If you are already using ShelbyNext for your giving, don't forget to update your giving amount to match it to your 2025 pledge).
- 4) Pledge to attend more services, get involved in a new ministry, and participate in more fellowship opportunities in 2025.

The future and vibrancy of our Cathedral is in our hands. What do we want our Cathedral to look and feel like in 2025? It is up to us!

***Wishing all our Holy trinity parishioners a happy, healthy, blessed 2025!!***



**Sandy Meris Speaks About Stewardship  
And the Fathers Bless the Pledge Card Basket  
Sunday, December 8th**



**Scott Leach and Nick Kretsedemas  
Share Personal Stewardship Reflections  
Sunday, December 1st**



**Stewardship Sunday and Gratitude Luncheon  
Sunday, December 8th**

# House of Stewards

As of 12/31/2024

Calli Allman  
 Alexandra (Alex) Anagnopoulos  
 Dina Anagnopoulos  
 Nikki Anest  
 John & Sandy Annos  
 Carla Antypas  
 Elaine Apostle  
 Argyro Apostolou  
 Chris Athens  
 Christina Bakavelou & Chris Perry  
 Constantine & Eleni Balanis  
 Taylor Bankson  
 Crisanne & Scott Bansner  
 Christopher Bass  
 Dean Bass & Liz Beckman  
 Sam & Heidi Bass  
 Alexandra Bates Family  
 Joyce Baulinka  
 Dr. Nicholas Baziotes  
 Athena Beaty  
 Scott & Stacey Beaty  
 George & Stacy Benetos  
 Stamatios Benetos  
 Dan & Vicki Bichekas  
 Peter & Jennifer Bilitsis  
 James & Helen Bruno  
 Georgia Brusalis  
 Chris & Rita Bruskas  
 Kristen Bruskas  
 Connie Burkhardt  
 Betty Carras  
 Kathy Carras  
 Dawn & Casey Cartier  
 Michael Cartier  
 Chad & Amanda Carver  
 Haralambo Charitou  
 Laurel Charnas-Schiller & Todd Schiller  
 Harriet Chotras  
 Jim Chotras  
 Pete & Kim Choukalas  
 Theo & Pauline Christakos  
 Kenny & Zoe Christenson  
 Katherine & Jeffrey Clarke  
 George Condon & Dafina Boswell  
 Jarneen Constantine  
 Andy & Mara Contes  
 Jamie Contes  
 James & Connie Contes  
 James S Contes  
 Ethan & Talia Curtis  
 Evonne Damianos  
 Nick & Sharon Daniolos  
 Basil Davis  
 Patty Davis  
 Rebecca Davis  
 Leonard & Elaine Debickero  
 Jim & Michelle DeDakis  
 Anastasia Dellas  
 Hercules Dellas  
 Patrick & Karla Delord  
 Tom & Irene Demas  
 John & Mary Demetropoulos  
 Anthony & Patricia Demopoulos  
 Bill DeMoss  
 Charles DeMoss  
 Chris DeMoss  
 John & Marjorie DeMoss  
 Michael & Maureen DeMoss  
 Basil & Ruth Denaxas  
 Benson & Mary Denooyer  
 Alexandros & Erika Dimitriadis



Jenny Bruno-Doster  
 Stanley & Fran Drozd  
 Caroline Economopoulos  
 Christos & Dena Economopoulos  
 Fr. Alexander & Presv. Laura  
 Eliades  
 Emil Ellis  
 Aristotelis & Dianne Euripidou  
 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  
 George & Julie Froumis  
 Joshua & Kayla Gabrielsen  
 Semos Gardner  
 Demetra Georgelos  
 Diana Georgelos  
 Pamela Georgelos  
 Sam Georgiou  
 John Giannopoulos  
 Harrison & Mandy Gillis  
 Pauline Ginakes  
 Stella Glitsos  
 Eva Goodman  
 Bill & Lynn Graham  
 Gina Graham  
 Gail Grevas  
 Sophia Guaclices  
 David Haag  
 Mary Haidos  
 Donald Hall  
 Terry Harper  
 Mary & Roger Harris  
 Patsy Harris  
 Dinos & Koula Georges  
 Alex Harding  
 George & Georgette Hasiotis  
 Alexia Haugen  
 Stephanie & Gregory Heckel  
 Diane Herman  
 Fr. Apostolos & Presv Denise Hill  
 Greg Hill  
 Michael & Veronica Hill  
 Bessie Hotis  
 Steven & Candace Huff  
 Gelu & Maria Isfanut  
 Jeffrey & Melina Johannesmeyer  
 James & Linda Kalivas  
 Paulos Kairis  
 Peter & Nicole Kamboukos  
 Basilis & Roula Kaneris  
 Marianna Kaneris

Jean Kantaros  
 Nick & Dena Kantaros  
 Voule & Cathy Kapetanakis  
 William & Harriet Kapolas  
 John & Tressa Karagiannis  
 Vasilios & Vasiliqi Karagiannis  
 Maggie & Marko Karakozis  
 Mia Karandreas  
 Pete & Tina Karegeannes  
 Virginia Karegeannes  
 Julie Karoutas  
 Joshua & Nyla Karoutas  
 Joann Karros  
 Fotini Katrakis  
 George & Niki Katsaros  
 Chris & Nobuko Katsenes  
 John & Mary Katsenes  
 Paul & Lori Katsenes  
 Tom Katsenes  
 Tom J Katsenes  
 Helen Katsufakis  
 Jim & Poppy Kavouris  
 Fany Kechajias  
 Nikolaos Kentimenos & Panagiota  
 Kladou  
 Cathy & Quent Keyser  
 Ronald & Virginia Kidd  
 Emily Kimmell  
 George & Zanetta Kleanthis  
 Anastasia Kompos  
 Maria Kompos  
 Spiros & Maria Kontakis  
 Arthur & Carol Kostaras  
 Basil & Mikaela Kostaras  
 Kostadinos & Anatoli Kostouros  
 Johnny & Elizabeth Kratsas  
 Nick & Marina Kretsedemas  
 Tammy Kretsedemas  
 Joanne Koukouvetakis-Kruljac  
 Deborah Caras & Gregory Kunkel  
 Charlie & Patty Ladas  
 John & Evangelia Lambrou  
 Bruce & Judith Lamond  
 Elias & Mary Lampos  
 Scott & Jill Leach  
 Steven & Constance Lemere  
 Lea Linaris  
 Georgia Lipane  
 Luke & Maria Lipnos  
 Gregory Lizanich  
 Gabriel & Anna Lopez  
 James & Stephanie Machas  
 Maria Maciejewski  
 Daniel Macinnis  
 Margo Makris  
 Marika Madridis  
 Julie & Felix Mamani  
 Jim & Donna Manelis  
 Maria Maniatis  
 Anna Manos  
 Bill & Rina Marinakos  
 Douglas & Ann Markakis  
 James & Michele Markakis  
 Becky Martin  
 Mary Lou Mastorakos  
 Steve & Mari Mastorakos  
 Katerina Matheos & Wesley Baker  
 Pamela Maydanis  
 Peter & Christina Maydanis  
 Andrea Mastorakos McNamara  
 Angela & Chris Mead  
 Stephen Mellas  
 Christian Meris  
 Joanne Meris  
 William & Sandy Meris  
 Anthony & Tania Miaoulis



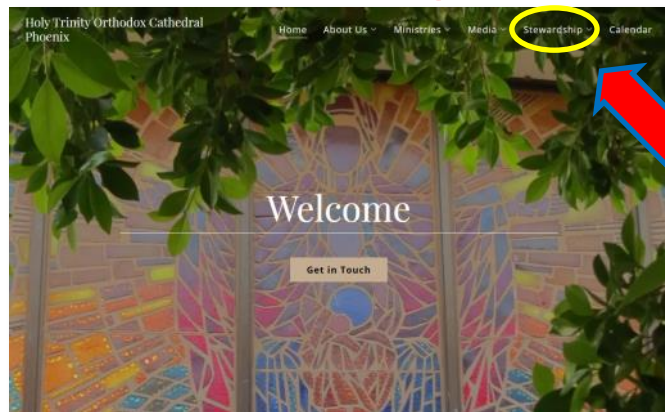
## House of Stewards continued from page 4

Anastasia Migias  
Paul & Linda Miller  
William & Jean Miller  
Andrew & Anastasia Mitchell  
John & Eleanna Mitchell  
Philip & Helen Mitchell  
Oleg & Emily Moroz  
Dino Moschovitis  
James & Irene Mourikes  
Spyro & Effie Mousses  
Matthew & Sophia Neumann  
Kathy & Jerry New  
John & Maria Nicholas  
Evelyn Nickalew  
John Nicolettos  
AnnaMarie Nieblas  
Irene Pagoudis  
Else Paletsos  
Elizabeth Palmer  
Alexi & Alexia Panagiotakopoulos  
Anna Panagiotakopoulos  
Christo & Connie Panagiotakopoulos  
Niko Panagiotakopoulos  
Thanasi & Melissa Panagiotakopoulos  
Phillip & Eleni Panagiotoglou  
Sofia Panagiotoglou  
Chrysoula Papadopoulos  
Socrates & Stephanie Papadopoulos  
Aaron Papagalos  
Ria Papageorgiou  
Betty Papas  
Nick Papas  
Spyros & Rita Papaspyrou  
Gabriella Papatzimas  
Nicholas & Stacy Papatzimas  
Angeline Pappas  
Andrew & Emily Pappas  
Harry & Fannie Pappas  
Irene Pappas  
John & Andrea Pappas  
Daniel & Anna Pardhe  
Athena Parmenter  
Amy Paul  
Christine & Peter Pearce  
John & Dina Pesognelli  
Fotini Pestriuas  
Zoe Pestriuas  
Peter & Gayle Petkas  
Chris Petroulakis  
Jacque Petroulakis  
Bill & Kathy Petsas  
Michael & TeAnn Philippis  
Brian & Athena Pickett  
Mary Poulakidas  
Pete & Anthipe Pries  
Nicole & David Pyle  
Bertha Quinn  
Alex Rentzis  
Alexi & Sara Rentzis  
Jenn Rentzis  
Menelaos Rentzis  
Voula Rentzis  
Catherine Romo  
George Rouman  
Andrew & Alexia Ruboyianes  
Robert & Maria Rush

Lois Sakkas  
Leonard & Katina Salvaggio  
Stellios & Nicole Samaradellis  
Dimitra Sampson  
Paul Sarantes  
Les & Christine Sarantinos  
John Schneider  
Peter Schneider  
Warren & Kalliopi Schneider  
Diane & George Sedlacek  
Nicole Senerius  
Terry & Chris Seretis  
Lainie Seretis  
George & Traci Sgouros  
John Siavelis  
Robert & Donna Sioles  
Christopher & Marilynn Sonier  
Elyse Sioles & Robert Stamm  
George & Eui Skintzis  
Elias & Phyllis Skoubis  
Peter Skoubis  
David & Alisha Solheim  
Constantin Solomon  
Angelo & Marie Spanos  
Leo & Rachel Speliopoulos  
James A & Christina Speros  
James L & Karen Speros  
Vasilios & Diana Speros  
Jim & Kathryn Stamadianos  
Nitsa Stamatales  
Andrew & Christine Stamatis  
Jonathan Stamatis  
Jimmy & Lisa Sterio  
Tristan & Alana Stoutenburg  
Robert Stuart  
Steven & Jean Talkington  
Despina Taularides  
William & Rebecca Taularides  
Nick & Effie Theodore  
Gus Theodoropoulos  
Jim Thomas  
Deac. John & Diak. Mary Thrasher

Andrew Touvanas  
Nathaniel Tropea  
Thaddeus & Katherine Tropea  
Basilios & Mary Tsakiris  
Stacy & Gerri Tsantilas  
Stella Tsantilas  
Dean & Brenda Tseunis  
Dimitrios Tsioutsopoulos  
Matthew & Eva Turgeon  
Costa & Koko Tzavaras  
Daniel Valenzuela  
Kristen Vasilarakos  
Argyro Vasquez  
Michael Vaughn & Audrey Lewter  
Scott & Terri Vaughn  
Stacy Vaughn  
Leah Venetis  
Peter & Maria Vlahos  
Andrew & Sandy Vlahoulis  
Zach Vouras  
Steve & Mary Vrahas  
Kenneth & Angela Walker  
Colin & Paula Walsh  
Paulina & Doug Watson  
Zach & Mary Kladis Wilhelmi  
Connie M. Williams  
Dan Williams  
Anne & William Wilson  
Mike & Christina Wombacher  
Richard & Katina Wood  
Joesph & Athina Yadush  
Zachariah Yoon & Elizabeth Hong  
John & Andreanna Zafiropoulos  
Anthony & Karen Zaman  
George & Katherine Zannis  
Jerry & Amanda Zannis  
Dimitrios & Eugenia Zannis  
Zella Zannis  
Evangelia Zikos  
Dimitrios Zistatsis  
Eleanna Zistatsis  
Michael & Christina Zistatsis

## Easy Stewardship Sign Up!



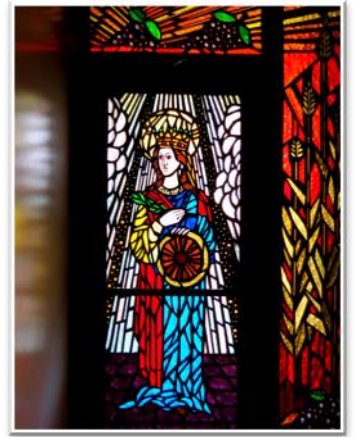
**WeShare is easy!** Go to [www.holytrinityphx.org](http://www.holytrinityphx.org)  
and then click on **Stewardship**.

## 2024 PLEDGED FAMILIES

We offer you our thanks for your dedication to our parish and your participation in Christ's work of salvation. If you have not filled out a Pledge Card for 2024, please pick one up in the Church Narthex or visit [holytrinityphx.org](http://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,  
January 9, 2024 at 6:30 pm  
in the Lounge of the Speros Community Center**  
☞☞

**Below is a highlight of what our chapter supports on a quarterly and yearly basis.** We work tirelessly to ensure that we offer a large *local community footprint* in addition to Metropolis and National causes.

## FOCUS

HTC - Circle of Angels  
HTC - Benevolent Fund  
HTC - Scholarship Fund  
Holy Cross/Hellenic College  
IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities)  
Local - Arizona Free Arts for Abused Children  
Local - Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation  
Local - Arizona Women's Recovery Center  
Local - Circle the City  
Local - St. Joseph the Worker  
Local - Thrive  
Local - Wheel Chair Drive  
Metropolis - Emergency Relief Fund  
Metropolis - Kids'N'Cancer  
Metropolis - Women's Wellness  
National - Autism Fund  
National - Retired Clergy Fund  
National - Sisterhood of Presvyteras  
National - Social Services Fund/Cancer  
National - Social Services Fund/Major Illness  
National - St. Basil's Academy  
OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship)  
OCMC (Orthodox Christian Mission Center)

## What is Philoptochos?

The translation is Philo = Friend and Ptochos = Poor. It is literally “Friend of the Poor”.

The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos has 59 parish chapters and over 4,000 members who are motivated by the words of the Lord, “I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me... inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”



# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

## Collecting for St. Basil Academy & General Youth Fund on January 5

Philoptochos will have the first collection of 2025 in the Narthex this Sunday, January 5.

This collection benefits two worthy Orthodox causes, **St. Basil Academy** and the **General Youth Fund**. Any funds collected are combined with donations from the Vasilopita auction. Please make checks payable to Philoptochos.

**Look for the labeled trays on the Narthex counter.** We appreciate our community's continued support of Philoptochos' efforts to meet the ongoing needs within our Orthodox community.



## Christmas Bake Sale

December 15, 2024



## 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.





# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

December Meeting & Party





# FOCUS

The Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve

<https://focusphoenix.org>

<https://focusnorthamerica.org>



## Congratulations to Christopher Lopez, the inaugural FOCUS Phoenix Director!



**Christopher Lopez** is a native of Phoenix, AZ where he currently resides with his wife, Briana, and their two sons, Hendrix and Santana. He entered into the workforce by becoming a Banquet Captain for the Phoenix Mountain Preserve Reception Center when it was still under the ownership of the Phoenix Fire Department. The location, as Providence would have it, resides in the very same neighborhood he looks to serve today, Sunnyslope. He gradually moved into the field of Information Technology and oversaw the hardware aspect of the business merger between American retail grocers Safeway Inc. and Albertsons LLC, laying his hand on each part of the process, from equipment configuration and software installation, to logistical delivery plans. After converting to the Orthodox Christian Faith, he found himself in search of what he felt to be more purposeful work.

Leaving behind a successful career in I.T., he ventured into the Non-Profit sector.

Accepting an Account Management position with a notable medical healthshare while obtaining multiple State Licenses such as Mortgage Loan Officer and Agent of Life and Health Insurance. He is currently a student of Psychology at Phoenix College as well as sitting Co-Chair of Community Outreach for the Living Orthodox Ministry, which is based out of his home Parish of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. His passion, consistency, and dedication to the work of helping those in need is what inspired Christopher to accept the position as Director of the newly established FOCUS Phoenix Center.

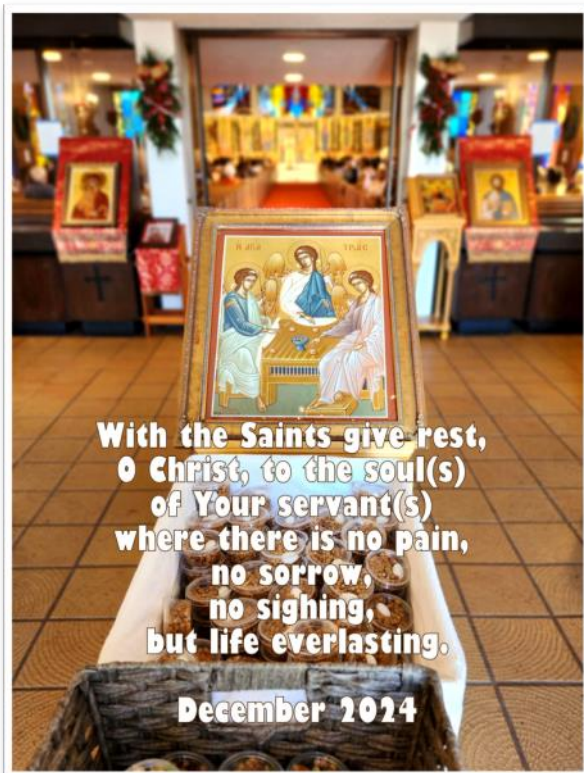
*"And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'" Matthew 25:40*

## Christmas Lessons and Singing on the Solea





# December Photos





# Parish Assembly, Parish Council Voting, and Lunch

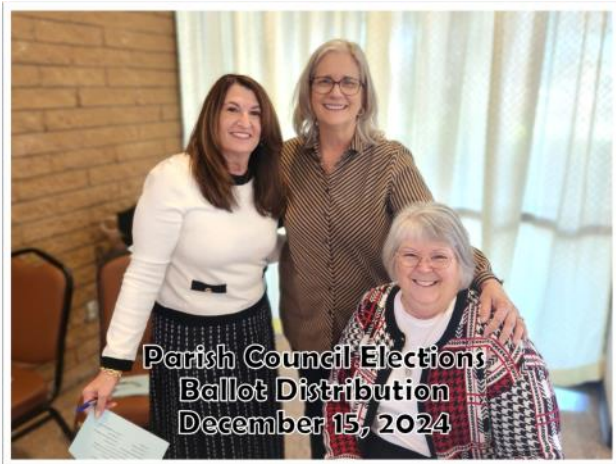
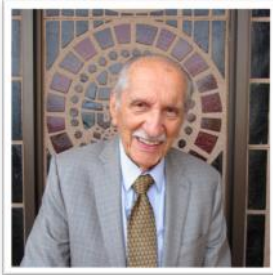
December 15, 2024

## **Congratulations!**

Our newly elected Parish Council Members:

**Sandy Annos, Connie Contes, Charles DeMoss, Andi Furlis, and Jim Manelis**

**God strengthen you for your new terms!**





# Sunday School Returns!

We're excited to announce Sunday School classes back in classrooms this Fall! Led by Alexia Panagiotakopoulos as our new director, we have our four "pods" which will be:



Pre-K-K (located in the Lounge Area)  
1-4th Grade (located in the Goya Room)  
5-8th Grade (located in the Conference Room)  
9-10th Grade (located in the Chapel)

All 11-12 Graders who wish to participate will be assigned a classroom to volunteer in as an assistant teacher.

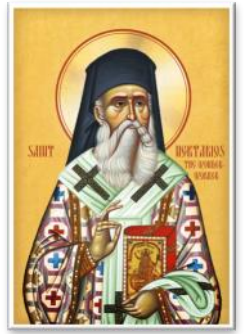
Children will be dismissed after the final Amen in Liturgy and memorials and announcements will be given after the dismissal of the students. Sunday School will be dismissed at 11:30am tentatively until we confirm this is the proper amount of time needed, adjustments may come later and you will be notified.

Email Alexia at our new email:  
[htphxsundayschool@gmail.com](mailto:htphxsundayschool@gmail.com)

REGISTER HERE: [2024-2025 Sunday School Registration \(jotform.com\)](https://www.jotform.com/2024-2025-Sunday-School-Registration)

# St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

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



## The Children's Garden

### The Children's Garden at Coffee Hour

Used in conjunction with the Pre-K/K class for Sunday School, this area in the Large Hall will be available on Sundays for our little ones to play in and learn together. For any questions or if you're interested in helping please contact Mara Contes [here](#).





# Celebration Committee



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 December, we had **two Celebration Committee events!** (Photos on the next page.) Celebration Sunday was a festive event with red, green, white, and gold balloon columns; light-up tree; peppermints; and plenty of Christmas-themed mylar foil balloons. We celebrated Adeline Turgeon's 40-day-blessing, Fr. Alexander's birthday, and all December birthdays.

On Christmas Eve, we hosted our annual reception after the evening Orthros service for the Nativity. Parishioners brought a beautiful array of cookies, cupcakes, and candy to share, while the Celebration Committee members provided hot cocoa and apple cider. It was a lovely time of community celebration.

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](mailto:htcphxevents@gmail.com).

If you are interested in volunteering or supporting the Celebration Committee efforts, please email [htcphxevents@gmail.com](mailto: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 December, the Communal Cooking crew led by Phillip Panagiotoglou served vegetable frittata, hash browns, buttermilk biscuits, mac and cheese, cookies, baklava, and cake along with vegan garbanzo beans and rice for those keeping a strict fast. 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!

# Celebration Committee





# Celebration Committee

## January Birthdays



# Our Church Family

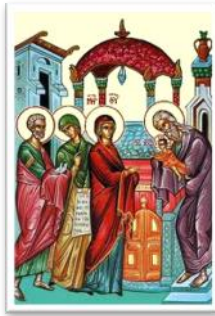
## 40 Day Blessings

“One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.”

Psalm 27:4

12/22/2024

Mary, daughter of Emily & Wyatt Coppinger  
*God's Blessings be upon her.*



## Baptisms & Chrismation

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

Galatians 3:27



12/07/2024

Colton, son of Angela & Chris Mead  
Godparents: Alexa & Justin Davis  
*God's Blessings be upon him.*

12/14/2024

Arabella, daughter of Veronica & Michael Hill  
Godparent: Nathaniel Tropea  
*God's Blessings be upon her.*

12/21/2024

Anthony Dunn  
Godparents: Koko & Costa Tzavaras  
*God's Blessings be upon him.*

12/21/2024—Chrismation

Christina Yarmak  
Godparents: Lynn & Bill Graham  
*God's Blessings be upon her.*

12/28/2024

Emanuel Corrales  
Godparent: Greg Lizanich  
*God's Blessings be upon him.*



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.



# Our Church Family

## Funerals

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever.”  
Psalm 23:6



12/03/2024

John Katsenes  
*May his memory be eternal.*

12/30/2024

Paul Katsenes  
*May his memory be eternal.*



# Educator's Group at Holy Trinity

It's the end of the fall semester and for all of our current or retired teachers, and administrators, you know what that feels like!

How were finals and posting grades? Stressful? How did you feel about the first semester? What do you look forward to in the second semester?

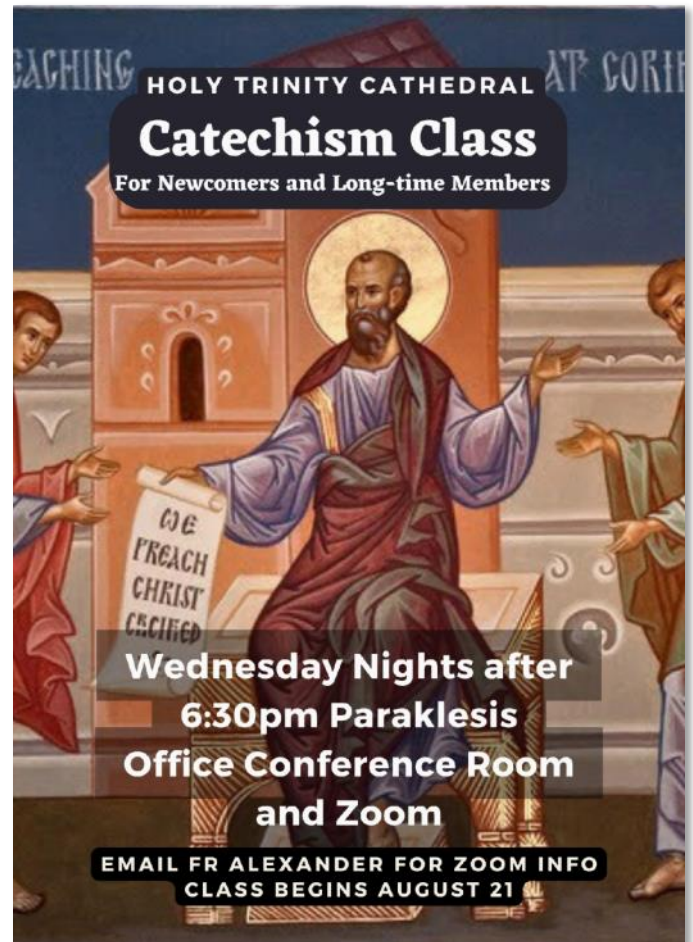
Let's take some time to share and learn from each other.

Remember, this is for all public, private, and charter school educators. We are all one! **This invitation is also extended to our future educators. Join us.**

If you have any questions please email Chris Francis at [battersbox7@yahoo.com](mailto:battersbox7@yahoo.com), or call 623-523-3013.



# Fall Catechism Class



# Church Website

Have you checked out the website **lately?**

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

Events • Services • Photos • Calendar • Stewardship



45,579 visitors in 2024!

45,579 Site Visitors

Last 12 months ▾

2024



4,243 Site Visitors

Last 30 days ▾

December



Desert Springs January 2025

## Winter Retreat



### Young Adult Winter Retreat

Registration is open for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Metropolis Young Adult Winter Retreat in Lake Tahoe, from Friday, January 17 – Monday, January 20, 2025. The theme for this gathering is “Be Still and Know: Listening for God’s still small voice” and will be led by Rev. Father James Kumarelas, Proistamenos from Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in San Jose, CA. Join us for this beautiful retreat, located on a private retreat center on the shore of Lake Tahoe with spectacular views, incredible food, and awesome accommodations! Details and registration online at: [www.gosfyouth.org/youngadults](http://www.gosfyouth.org/youngadults)

## 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!



## Summer Camp



## Coffee Hour Cold Brew



*Every Sunday in the Hall!*



# Scholarship Opportunity

Scholarship and internship opportunities! \$250,000 in scholarships. The application, criteria, requirements, and guidelines are available at [www.panhellenicsf.org](http://www.panhellenicsf.org). Applications are due January 31, 2025.

**SCHOLARSHIP AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!**



**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**  
2024-2025

**\$250,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS**

Applications are due **January 31, 2025**

The application, criteria, requirements, and guidelines are available at [www.panhellenicsf.org](http://www.panhellenicsf.org)





## NEED AN INTERN?

**RECRUIT INTERNS THROUGH THE PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION!**



**Discover New Talent:** Tap into a pool of skilled young professionals ready to bring their perspectives to your company.



**Make a Lasting Impact:** Help shape the next generation of professionals in the Hellenic community by providing mentorship and real-world experience.





**PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION**

PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation  
8501 West Higgins Road • Suite 210  
Chicago, Illinois 60631

☎ 312.357.6432  
☎ 312.872.0090  
🌐 [panhellenicsf.org](http://panhellenicsf.org)  
✉ [info@panhellenicsf.org](mailto:info@panhellenicsf.org)

# House Blessings

House Blessings for the New Year will begin Jan 6 and after by appointment only. Please call the office or Fr. Apostolos or Fr. Alexander individually to make an appointment.



# 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

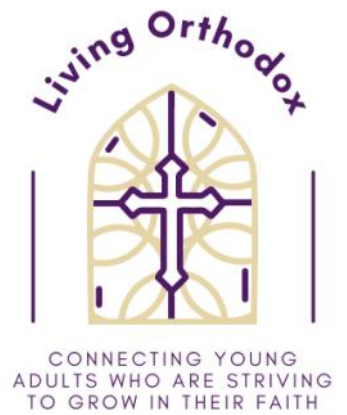
Living Orthodox is a national, pan-Orthodox ministry that is building a community of young adults (18-30s) who are striving to grow in and connect with their faith. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/LOconnect> for our email/SMS lists!

## Living Orthodox Christmas Party

Over fifty young adults from across the Valley gathered at St. George Antiochian Church for our annual pan-Orthodox Christmas party! The event was co-hosted by Living Orthodox, OCF, and the St. George Young Professionals Group. The ballroom was festively decorated for the event with Santa hats for the attendees and Christmas-themed table décor. We enjoyed a potluck dinner together, then heard a presentation by Napoleon Kanari – pastoral assistant from St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church. Following the presentation, we clicked a group photo and played a series of fun games!

We have a number of exciting events planned for 2025 so stay in touch via our email chain and SMS channel!

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/HolyTrinityGreekOrthodoxCathedralPhoenixAZ)



---

## AHEPA CHAPTER 219

---



### Our Next Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, January 16, 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

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



# AHEPA Chapter 219



## AHEPA CHAPTER 219 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



St Innocent Orphanage:	\$21,000*
UMOM Outreach:	\$19,500*
Greek Festival Bar Sales	\$19,000
Scholarship Awards:	\$11,500
Lucas Vasilarakos Funeral:	\$ 4,000
Warrior Service Dogs:	\$ 1,000
AHEPA National Charities:	\$ 1,000
Benevolent Fund Donation:	\$ 1,000
Kids with Cancer Donation:	\$ 500
Packages from Home	\$ 250
Total Community Impact:	\$78,750

\*Includes Matching Funds



# **AHEPA CHAPTER 219 A NIGHT OF RECOGNITION AND CELEBRATION**

**FEBRUARY 15, 2025**

**6:00PM COCKTAILS  
6:30 PM DINNER  
7:45 AWARDS  
SOCIAL AFTER AWARDS**

**HOLY TRINITY GREEK  
ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  
JAMES A SPEROS  
COMMUNITY CENTER**

**OPEN BAR WITH 4 COURSE - 5 STAR MEAL**

**\$80 per Couple or  
\$45 per person**

**RSVP no later than February 11, 2025 to:**

**Steve Lemere: 602.882.9990**

**or [stevenlemere3777@gmail.com](mailto:stevenlemere3777@gmail.com)**

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW - LIMITED SEATING**



# Daughters of Penelope

Helenos Chapter #432

Daughters of Penelope El Camino District 20



Helenos Chapter 432 Daughters of Penelope Celebrated our 10 Year Anniversary!

Our sisters gathered for a celebration and Christmas Dinner. Since 1929 Daughters of Penelope has promoted Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, Family and Individual Excellence.

For our holiday service project, we donated much needed items to UMOM. This organization continues to assist the homeless by helping families rebuild their lives.

On January 16th, we will have a **Pay Your 2025 Membership Pizza Party!**

We look forward to initiating our new members at this meeting. We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30PM at Holy Trinity.

Please contact the Helenos Chapter President, Cynthia Bekiaris ([cynb1308@gmail.com](mailto:cynb1308@gmail.com)), with any questions on how to join us in January. Learn more about our Philanthropic Endeavors and Scholarships.



## Coffee Socials Following Sunday Liturgies

The December Coffee Socials were sponsored by **Philoptochos**.

The January Coffee Socials are sponsored by **Dance**.



# New! Musical Journey

## A Transformative Musical Journey of Faith DRAW NEAR



Music has a unique way of touching the soul, transcending boundaries, and drawing us closer to the divine. It is a profound expression of faith, a universal language that bridges cultures and traditions. [The Draw Near project](#) is a testament to this power. This newly composed musical setting of The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, crafted by the up-and-coming composer Alexander Pierce Hill, is set to inspire and captivate hearts worldwide.

With the internationally renowned British vocal ensemble APOLLO5 at its core, this project is a rare opportunity to share the beauty of Orthodox liturgical music in ways never seen before.

### Why Draw Near Matters

Draw Near is not just a musical composition; it is a spiritual offering, a bridge connecting worshippers with the sacred text of the Divine Liturgy. Alexander Pierce Hill has created music that is accessible and inclusive, welcoming musicians and non-musicians alike. His emphasis on clear, memorable melodies ensures that everyone feels comfortable participating, fostering congregational singing and deepening the prayerful experience. Rooted in the traditions of Byzantine chant and Russian Orthodox choral music, this original composition honors the past while bringing fresh inspiration to the present.

The impact of this project extends far beyond its artistic value. It is an invitation for individuals around the world to engage with the prayers of the Divine Liturgy, even if they have never stepped into an Orthodox church. The potential reach of Draw Near is unparalleled, thanks to its multifaceted approach.



## THE FOUR PILLARS OF DRAW NEAR

### ALBUM

APOLLO5 will record an album of Draw Near. Known for their immaculate blend and captivating performances, [APOLLO5](#) brings unparalleled artistry to this project. Their global following ensures that the album will reach audiences well beyond the traditional Orthodox music sphere. Imagine the prayers of the Divine Liturgy being discovered by listeners worldwide, offering moments of spiritual reflection and connection.

### PUBLISHING

A digital score of the Divine Liturgy will be published, enabling parish choirs worldwide to access this beautiful music. Choirs can download the complete Liturgy or select individual pieces, making it adaptable to their specific needs. This initiative ensures that the music becomes a living, breathing part of worship in countless communities.

### INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS

APOLLO5 will create instructional video modules using the revolutionary [Digital Academy](#) platform. These videos will guide choirs of all sizes and abilities in learning and rehearsing the music, making the project accessible to parishes regardless of their resources or experience.

### TOUR

APOLLO5 will take Draw Near on tour across the United States, performing in Orthodox churches for spiritually transformative concerts. These live events will not only showcase the music but also provide an immersive experience, allowing audiences to feel the depth and beauty of the Divine Liturgy.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### DONATE

We have a little over \$30k left to raise to hit our goal. If you or someone you know is inspired to contribute, please scan the QR code below or visit [adigitalcomposition.com](http://adigitalcomposition.com) to donate.

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.



### SHARE

Share the beauty of Draw Near with your community. Choral music has long been a profound expression of faith, and this project is a meaningful addition to our rich history. Encourage your friends, family, and fellow parishioners to promote and support this transformative endeavor.





# Apokries 2025

The poster features a dark brown background with festive decorations including purple and green beaded garlands, gold and purple streamers, and a large gold Greek key mask on the left. Musical notes in green, yellow, and purple are scattered on the right. The text is arranged in several colored boxes: a purple starburst for live music, a gold banner for event details, a white box for the venue, a purple box for the date and time, a green box for ticket information, and a white box for the scholarship fund.

ARIZONA HELLENIC FOUNDATION  
PROUDLY PRESENTS

**APOKRIES  
2025**

**LIVE MUSIC  
BY  
SYNTHESIS!**

**GREEK MARDI GRAS, DANCE, PRIZES  
FOR BEST COSTUMES, 50/50 RAFFLE**

**HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL 1973 E MARYLAND AVE**  
PHOENIX, AZ 85016

**SATURDAY  
3/1/25**  **CASH BAR STARTS AT 6 PM  
DINNER 7 PM**

**TICKETS: ADULTS \$100 | 16 AND UNDER \$30**  
\*\*\*MINORS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT.\*\*\*  
PLEASE CALL TELIS EVRIPIDOU AT  
(480) 332-6957.

Proceeds to benefit Arizona Hellenic Foundation's scholarship fund.  
[www.azhellenic.org](http://www.azhellenic.org)

# 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!

## Sr. GOYA Christmas Party

December 20, 2024





## 4F—December



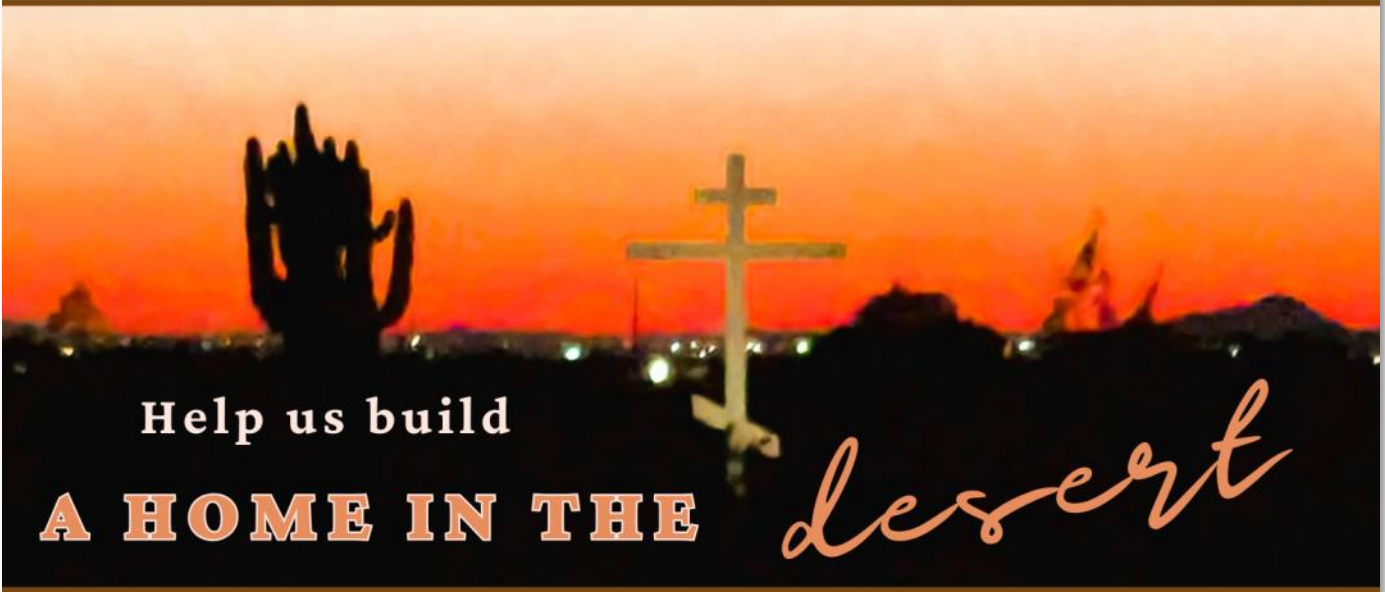
### Upcoming 4F Nights

January 18, February 22, March 22--Lenten Day Retreat  
Reserve your calendars for these dates!



# Orthodox Mission Church of Arizona

## Orthodox Mission Church of Arizona 2025 FUNDRAISER GALA



Help us build  
**A HOME IN THE** *desert*

Join us for an evening of faith and fellowship as we fundraise to build the Orthodox Mission Church of Arizona’s parish - our home in the desert.

**DATE:** SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025  
**TIME:** 5:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** THE WINDMILL WINERY  
1140 W BUTTE AVE, FLORENCE, AZ 85132  
**ATTIRE:** FORMAL

DINNER  
MUSIC  
FELLOWSHIP  
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT  
SILENT AUCTION

Gourmet Dinner Handcrafted by:

*Gianni's Catering*  
Affordable elegance

Location:



Sponsored by:



TICKETS & DONATE

Purchase tickets at [orthodox-mission.org/events/gala](https://orthodox-mission.org/events/gala)  
**General Admission:** \$150 | **Early Bird Tickets:** \$100  
**Child Tickets (6-12):** \$25 | **Onsite Childcare\*:** \$25

The Orthodox Mission Church is a thriving mission parish serving the greater community surrounding St. Anthony’s Monastery in Florence Arizona.  
\*Onsite childcare is available for children 5 and under & must be reserved in advance by contacting [childcare.gala2025@orthodox-mission.org](mailto:childcare.gala2025@orthodox-mission.org).