

# Desert Springs

May 2025  
Volume 10  
Issue 5



Includes photos by Aaron Papagalos and Niko Panagiotakopoulos

**Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral**  
1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85016  
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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

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**Desert Springs Deadline**

The 25th of each month

**Sunday Bulletin Deadline**

Wednesdays, 12 noon

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Secretary: Andi Fourlis  
Connie Contes, Charlie DeMoss,  
Alexander Harding, Art Kostaras,  
Jill Leach, Niko Panagiotakopoulos,  
Chris Petroulakis, John Schneider

**Holy Trinity Cathedral**  
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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 Alexander

## Opening our Eyes and Hearts



What a beautiful Pascha! We were so blessed to have His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco with us and it was so great to see our Cathedral so full. We most likely have returned to our usual routine of life, but God willing there is something within us that has changed even just a little bit with this encounter with the Resurrected Lord. As His Eminence said so beautifully at the Agape Vespers, we too must proclaim that “we have seen the Lord!” But how? Where do we go from here?



Well we continue in the life of the Church which shows us a path in the Gospel readings between Pascha and Pentecost, let's take a look at them:

**Thomas Sunday:** We too must not simply rely on other's accounts of God but search Him out ourselves, “probing” the hand of our heart out to the Lord, touch, seeing, knowing He is Risen!

**Sunday of the Myrrhbearers:** Our faith necessitates bravery and love. These women ran to the tomb at the first moment they could to anoint the Lord, something which could have had them arrested by the soldiers they knew were there. Yet they ran anyway out of their great love for Jesus, we must run to Him too against all odds!

**Sunday of the Paralytic:** We too are often paralyzed in our faith and have no recourse. It is not I who can empower myself to do what is needed to be healed, but only God who can come and heal me when I cry out to Him and ask for His healing and admit that I indeed what to be healed.

**Sunday of the Samaritan Woman:** I am never too far gone. I have never sinned too much. I can never hide my sins from God. He knows them and desires even me to be forgiven and when I seek it He will forgive me. But then I must run and tell the world of His great mercy!

**Sunday of the Blindman:** God can do unheard of things. No one has heard of a man born blind receiving his sight, but God can do it. Whatever instance I find myself in, God can heal me and bring me out of it.

We read the Gospel of John after Pascha for a reason, John reveals to us the depth of the wonder and power of Jesus that is fully accomplished in His Rising. We should take heed to these lessons in our life to let His power shine forth from us for our salvation and that of the world around us!

**Christ is Risen!**

## New Speaker Covers

in the Sanctuary!



# Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

**“Your Own From Your Own”**



**Holy Trinity Cathedral “Why Statement”:**

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

## **A WORD ON STEWARDSHIP FROM THOSE WHO SAID IT BEST:**

“The only investment I ever made which has paid consistently increasing dividends is the money I have given to the Lord.”—J. L. Kraft (*head of Kraft Cheese Corporation*)

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.”—Winston Churchill (*Former British Prime Minister*)

“Man’s extremity is God’s opportunity.”—J.B. Phillips (*Bible Translator and Author*)

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.”—Jim Elliott (*Christian Missionary*)

“All too often we regard stewardship simply as a matter of our giving to God, but this aspect is secondary. Before we can give, we must possess, and before we possess we must receive. Therefore, stewardship is, in the first place, receiving God’s good and bounteous gifts. And once received, those gifts are not to be used solely for our own good. They must also be used for the benefit of others, and ultimately for the glory of God the giver. The steward needs an open hand to receive from God and then an active hand to give to God and to others.”—Murray J. Harris (*Missionary and Professor of Theology and the New Testament*)

“With Christ, it is not how much we give, but what we do not give that is the real test.”—Oswald Chambers (*Scottish Evangelist and Teacher*)

“He is the richest man in the esteem of the world who has gotten the most. He is the richest man in the esteem of Heaven who has given the most.”—F.B. Meyer (*Pastor and Evangelist*)

“You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.”—Amy Carmichael (*Christian Missionary and Founder of an Orphanage and Mission*)

“I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of God. If anything will advance the interests of the kingdom, it shall be given away or kept, only as by giving or keeping it I shall most promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time or eternity.”—David Livingstone (*Physician and Missionary*)

# House of Stewards

As of 05/01/2025



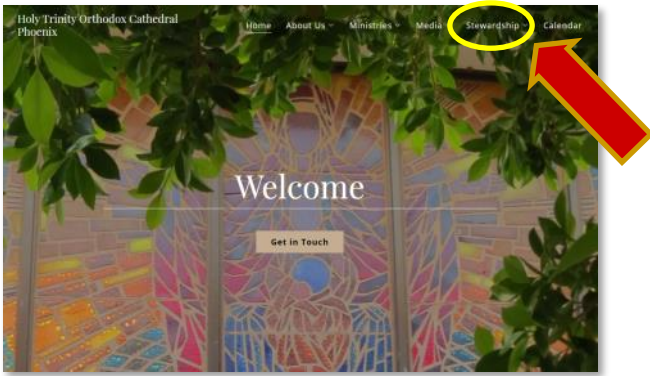
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Terri Alexon  
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Calli Allman  
Alexandra Anagnopoulos  
Dina Anagnopoulos  
Noah Andersen  
Nikki Anest  
John & Sandy Annos  
Elaine Apostle  
Argyro Apostolou  
Christina Bakavelou & Chris Perry  
Georgia Bakintas  
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 Bichakas  
Peter & Jennifer Bilitsis  
Helen A Bixenman  
Nikos Bountas  
James & Helen Bruno  
Alexander Brusalis  
Georgia Brusalis  
Chris & Rita Bruskas  
Kristen Bruskas  
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Frank Carris  
Chad & Amanda Carver  
Harriet Chotras  
Jim Chotras  
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Zane Cups  
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Hercules Dellas  
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Athanase & Georgia Fournalis  
Athanasia Fournalis  
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Thomas George  
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Polly Ginakes  
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Eva Goodman  
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Gail Grevas  
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Tammy Kretsedemas  
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# Easy Stewardship Sign Up!



**ShelbyNext is easy!**

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

## 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 2025, please pick one up in the Church Narthex or visit [hollytrinityphx.org](http://www.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.

*House of Stewards continued from page 5*

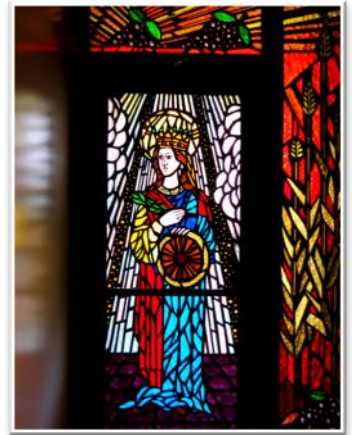
John Nicolettos  
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Jennifer Orlando  
Irene Pagoudis  
Else Paletsos  
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Stella Tsantilas  
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Theodore & Georgia Tzeremas  
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Santiago Valles  
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Eleanna Zistatsis  
Michael & Christina Zistatsis

# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Kristen Vasilarakos, President



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



Last meeting before summer break was Thursday,  
May 1, 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 Bags

April 5 & 6, 2025

Every Pascha, we put together gift bags for homebound and hard-to-get-around parishioners. Part of the assembly was done at March's meeting, with the rest completed on Saturday, April 6. Inside the bags are tsoureki, koulourakia, a paper icon with a verse, a greeting from our chapter, lip balm, hand lotion... and inside the bunny bags are mints and bubbles!

This project falls under the chapter's **Circle of Angels**. Wonderful work, Team!

## Red Eggs



Thank you for donations from  
Joann Karros & Kathy Clarke!

## Tray for the Kouvouklion





# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

## Baking!



If You are Not Currently Getting  
Text Reminders for Baking,  
But Would Like Notifications -  
Contact Maria at 602-909-2337



## Pascha Bake Sale

April 6, 2025



## NEW THIS YEAR!

Online ordering, Zelle and Venmo options, and Grab and Go wrapped pastry gifts!

**Kathy Clarke** is the new Bake Sale Committee Chair, taking over from valued leadership over decades!

Thank you to Kathy and her team; to all who continue to show up to help bake and sell; and to the countless women who have paved the way.

**You are all appreciated!**





# Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos



Thank you, April Refreshment Hostesses,  
Paulina, Zoe, and Kathy!



Thank you, May Refreshment Hostesses,  
Gina, Joyce, Julie, and Jarneen!

## April Donation Distribution to TWO Organizations!



## Tuesday Coffee

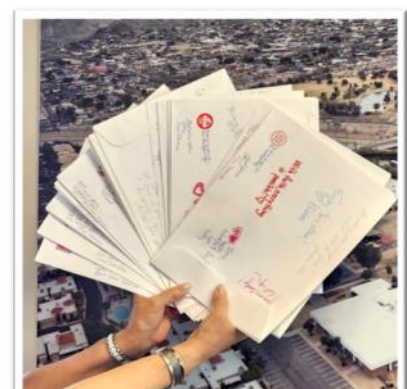


Final Tuesday for the summer will be  
**May 27th!**

We will resume on  
**September 2nd!**

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.

**Come hang out if you can!**





# Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers Reception

April 6, 2025

*Thank you to all our members who contributed desserts, and helped set-up, serve, and clean-up!*

*A **BIG** thank you to the **Celebration Committee** (of which we have some shared members) who allowed us to borrow their tablecloths, who provided the centerpiece vases, created a beautiful balloon arch, and who also greatly assisted in set-up, serving, and clean-up!*

***BIG** thanks also goes to the amazing kitchen team of **Phillip Panagiotoglou, Steve Apostolides, Todd Schiller, and Andrew Touvannas! And Cleo too!***

*Thank you to those who took home tablecloths to launder, especially **Eleni Panagiotoglou** who washed 20!*

*Finally, young men from the **Young Adults** group volunteered to be on garbage duty! Invaluable!  
**Thank you, guys!***

**You are all appreciated.**

**- Kristen, Pan-Orthodox Reception Committee Chair**





# Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers

April 6, 2025



# Annual Palm Sunday Luncheon

April 11, 2025





PARISH WIDE

# LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT

Saturday, April 5 • 10:00 am  
Large Hall

Our community packed **500 sack lunches** for the people of **Andre House** and **Arizonans for Children**.

All ages were welcome to help 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.

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

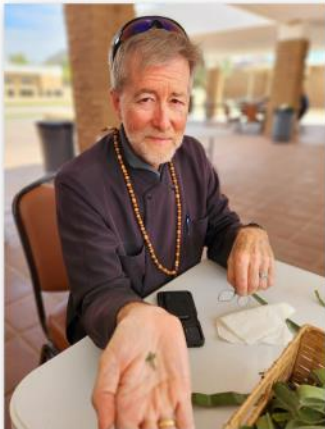
- Proverbs 19:17



Includes photos by Sandy Meris, Ginny Kidd, and Voule Kapetanakis

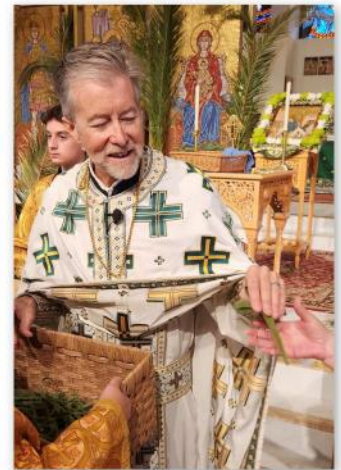
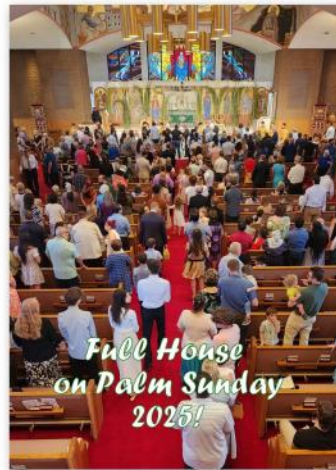


# Lazarus Saturday—Pancake Breakfast & Palm Cross Folding

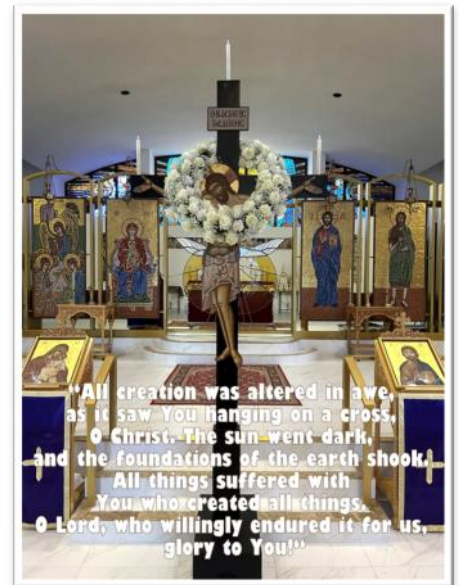
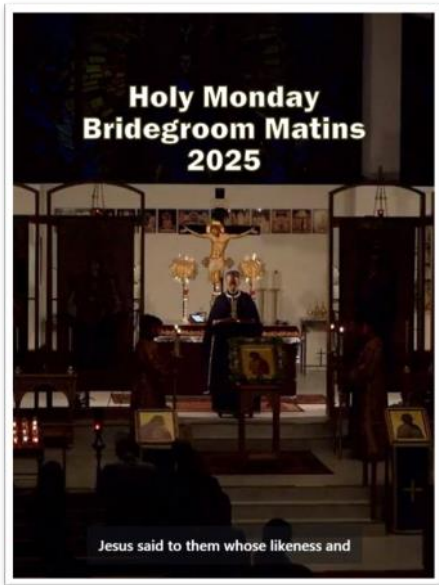




# Palm Sunday







## Kouvouklion Decorating (Epitaphio)



**2025 Kouvouklion**

Includes photos by Koko Tzavaras and Christine Yarmak



# Holy Friday Lamentations

April 18, 2025

[Holy Friday](#)

Click on the link for additional photos from the Holy Friday Lamentation Service.





# Holy Saturday Anastasi & Divine Liturgy

April 19 & 20, 2025

[Holy Saturday](#)

Click on the link for additional photos from the Holy Saturday Anastasi and Divine Liturgy Services.



Includes photos by Aaron Papagalos



# After Gathering/"Magiritsa Meal"

April 20, 2025



Thank you to  
Costa Tzavaras  
and team  
for the tasty meal  
that fed  
about 175 at 2:00 am!



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

We were 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.

## His Eminence Promoted Father to Protopresbyter

April 20, 2025



Photos by Aaron Papagalos

Desert Springs May 2025



# Agape Service—Led by His Eminence

April 20, 2025



Photos by Aaron Papagalos

# Agape Service— Reading/Signing the Gospels in Other Languages

April 20, 2025



Photos by Aaron Papagalos

# Agape Service— Parishioner Recognitions

April 20, 2025



Photos by Aaron Papagalos



# Pascha Picnic

April 20, 2025







## 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.



## 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!





# Celebration Committee



On the first Sunday of each month, the Celebration Committee organizes a potluck during Coffee Social to celebrate all the special events in parishioners' lives and birthdays that take place in that month. Please join us every month to celebrate!

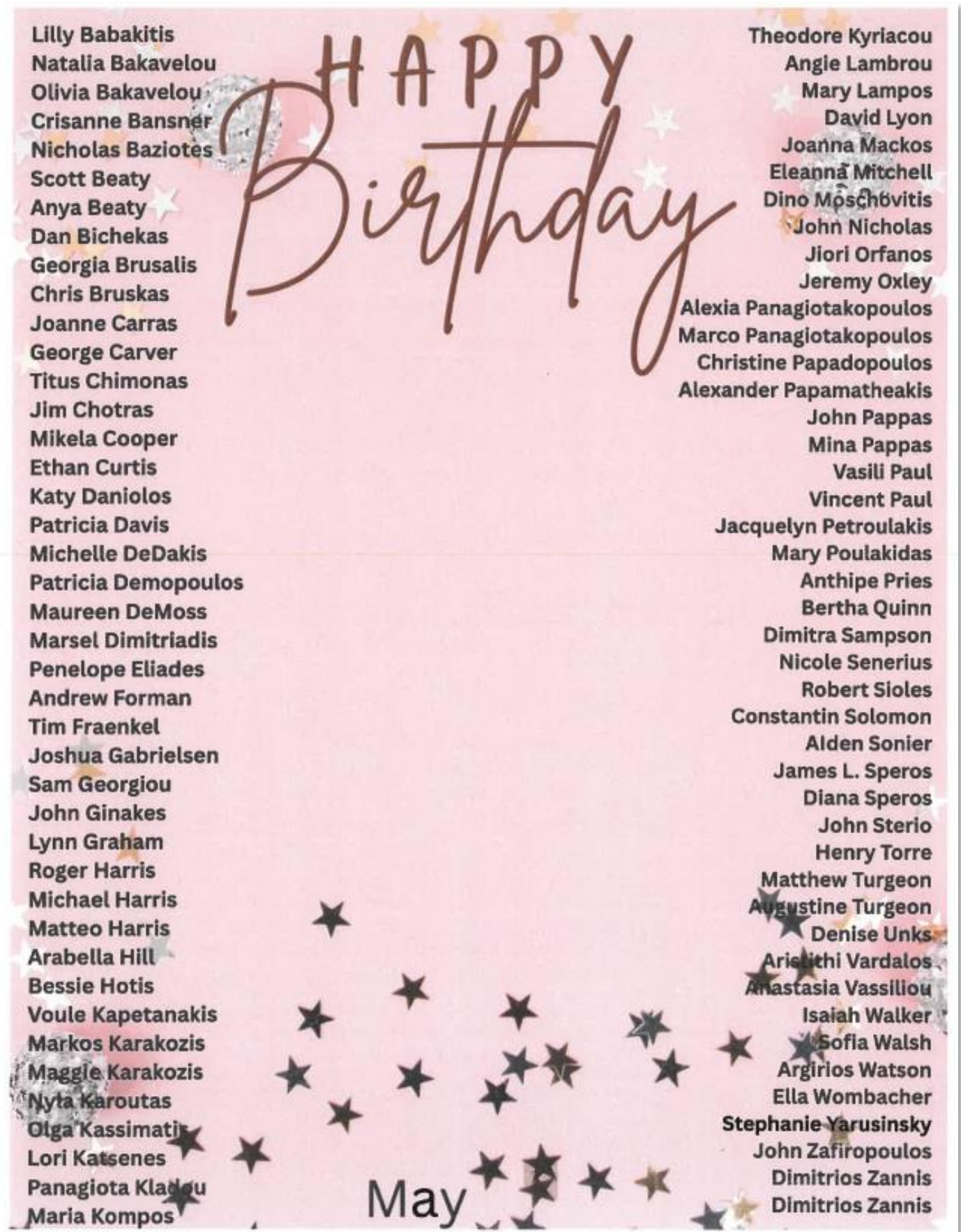


Includes Photos by the Pardhe Family



# Celebration Committee

## May Birthdays





# Our Church Family

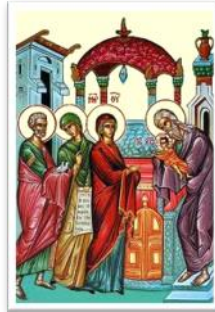
## 40 Day Blessing

"One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple." Psalm 27:4

04/12/2025

Ignatius Michael, son of Alana & Tristen Stoutenburg

*God's Blessings be upon him.*



## Baptisms

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

Galatians 3:27

04/05/2025

Abby Seaholm

Sponsor: Nicole Pyle

*God's Blessings be upon her.*



04/25/2025

Eliana, daughter of Maria & Luke Lipnos

Sponsor: Katerina Papamatheakis

*God's Blessings be upon her.*

04/26/2025

Benjamin, son of Kiyana Graham & Matthew Sullivan

Sponsors: Debra Harrison & Michael Reutman

*God's Blessings be upon him.*

## Chrismation

04/13/2025

Elizabeth Beckman

Sponsors: Lynn & Bill Graham

*God's Blessings be upon her.*



# 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."

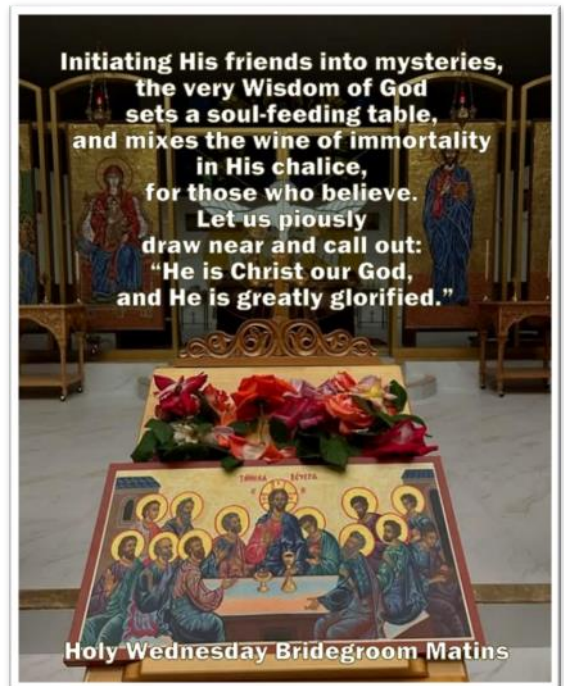
Psalm 23:6



04/03/2025

Gertrude "Terry" Valonis

*May her memory be eternal.*



## Joyous!





# 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!



## April Events

In April, we took a hiatus from events to focus on attending the Lenten services. We met informally at the Lenten Vespers hosted at different parishes and joined Holy Trinity's Paschal potluck for a community celebration!

## May Events

We have several events in the planning stage for May and June, so please stay in touch via our email newsletter and SMS group to get more details! As a reminder, we have regular service project opportunities at the Aris Foundation (every Tuesday evening from 4:30 – 6pm) and with FOCUS Phoenix on the first Saturday of every month (9 am – 1 pm at Holy Trinity). Please email us if you need more details for either outreach opportunity!

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.



## Coffee Socials Following Sunday Liturgies

The April Coffee Socials were sponsored by [the Young Adults](#).

The May Coffee Socials are sponsored by [Heidi & Sam Bass and OPA](#).

THANK YOU!





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)





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## AHEPA CHAPTER 219

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### Our Next Meeting

**Date:** Thursday, May 15, 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 Chapter 219



## **AHEPA Chapter 219 Annual Poker Tournament** **Saturday 05/17/2025 5:00pm to 10:00pm**

### **San Portales Apartments Clubhouse**

7215 E Silverstone Dr Scottsdale AZ 85255

North of Scottsdale Road from the 101 Freeway, turn right on Silverstone Dr  
which is just south of Pinnacle Peak Road

Please refer to the map on the back of this flyer

Parking is available in any of the uncovered spaces in the complex

The clubhouse is located in the front building just past the main gate entrance

Special note: The complex and clubhouse are both non-smoking facilities

### **Event is Open to AHEPA Brothers and Guests**

#### **Tournament Information**

**\$75 Entry Fee Per Player**

**Player check-in from 5:00pm to 6:00pm**

**Play starts at 6:00 PM**

**Dream Dealers will professionally run the tournament**

**The Prize Fund Will be Split Between the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winners**  
**Chip Re-Buys During the First Hour and One Chip Add-On Buy at the First Break**

**Food, snacks, soda, water, & alcoholic beverages are included with your entry fee**  
**For non-playing attendees, a donation of \$20 covers your food and drinks**

**Net proceeds of the event will be utilized to support the activities**  
**and charitable programs of AHEPA Chapter 219**

**For information and to sign up for a seat at a table**  
**Contact Gary Nicolaou at 602-432-3508 or [gjnicolaou@gmail.com](mailto:gjnicolaou@gmail.com)**



# Desert Diamonds

Julie Karoutas

for senior parishioners and their guests:



Dear Desert Diamonds and Friends,

Xristos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!!

On Sunday May 11, 2025 we will be attending at the Scottsdale Philharmonic, a magnificent concert, Beethoven's lyrical Odyssey, to be held at La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church at 6300 Bell Road, Scottsdale 85254.

It's Mother's Day and what a wonderful way to honor our mothers, those of us who are fortunate enough to still have them, and take them to this amazing concert.

For those who wish we can go for Brunch beforehand. The concert begins at 4:00 p.m. but it is suggested to get there a bit early, and get settled in your seat.

A heads up on our June event, mark your calendars the same concert venue at the same location will be featuring an Independence Day concert on Sunday June 29th, 2025. Will not want to miss this fabulous concert, and enjoy the Beautiful music glorifying our beloved United States of America.

Sincerely, Yours in Christ,

Julie Karoutas

email; [juliekaroutas@gmail.com](mailto:juliekaroutas@gmail.com)

Cell# 623.313.8720

Please RSVP as soon as you can to let me know if you are going.

Don't miss out on this wonderful concert. Hoping to see you there.





# 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!

## Annual Egg Hunt!





