

Desert Springs



December 2025
Volume 10
Issue 11



Newsletter of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

Photos by Presvytera Denise
and Christina Yarmak

1973 E. Maryland Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85016

Office: 602-264-7863 Fax: 602-230-9099 Website: www.holytrinityphx.org

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

Desert Springs Staff

Rev. Apostolos Hill,

Theological Advisor/Editor-In-Chief

Kristen Vasilarakos, Layout/Composition

602-332-8809,

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

Father Alexander Eliades

fraeliades@holytrinityphx.org

Office Manager Heidi Demopoulos Bass

manager@holytrinityphx.org

Office Administrator Jana Schloesser

htfrontoffice@holytrinityphx.org

Church Caretakers

Paul and Dimitri Valonis

Holy Trinity Bookstore

stnectoriosphx@gmail.com

2025 Parish Council Members

President: Jim Manelis

Vice President: Sandy Annos

Treasurer: Emil Ellis

Secretary: Andi Fourlis

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

Holy Trinity Cathedral

www.holytrinityphx.org

Metropolis of San Francisco

www.SanFran.goarch.org

Archdiocese Website

www.goarch.org

Organization Contacts

- **4F** — Kathy New: kkatsalis@msn.com
- **AHEPA** — Scott Leach: shirtleach@yahoo.com
- **All Saints Camp** — Fr. Jacob/George Miller: info@allsaintscamparizona.org
- **Altar Servers** — David Haag: davidmhaag@yahoo.com, Chris Francis: battersbox7@yahoo.com
- **Bible Study** — Father Apostolos Hill: papoulihill@gmail.com
- **Bookstore** — Rita Papaspyrou: stnectoriosphx@gmail.com
- **Byzantine Choir** — Elizabeth Pardhe: elizabethdpardhe@gmail.com
- **Choir** — Terri Alexon: htphxmusicdirector@gmail.com or terrialexon@gmail.com
- **Celebration Committee** — Terri Alexon and Mary Pardhe: htcphxevents@gmail.com
- **Dance** — Niko Panagiotakopoulos: npanos01@yahoo.com
- **Daughters of Penelope** — Cynthia Bekiaris: cynb1308@gmail.com
- **Desert Diamonds (50+)** — Julie Karoutas: juliekaroutas@gmail.com
- **Epistle Readers** — Jill Leach: jill.leach@hotmail.com
- **FOCUS Phoenix Ministry Project** — Chris Lopez: lop62@gmail.com, Georgia Lipane: glipane@gmail.com
- **Greek Festival** — Nick Kretsedemas: nick.kretsedemas@chilis.com, Angelo Pestrivas: angelopestrivas@msn.com, Ted Fourlis: htcmaintenance1973@gmail.com, Peter Schneider: petephxgreekfest@gmail.com, Reed Deusterman: reedphxgreekfest@gmail.com
- **Greek School** — Irene Mackos: eirinie@gmail.com
- **Hellenic Museum** — Bessie Hotis: call 602-953-1913
- **Little Lambs** — Deborah Harrison: 14dharrison@gmail.com
- **Living Orthodox** — Mary Pardhe: livingorthodoxministry@gmail.com
- **Maintenance** — Peter Bilitsis, Ted Fourlis: htcmaintenance1973@gmail.com, pkbilitsis@gmail.com
- **Myrrhbearers** — Stacey Beaty: staceybeaty@live.com
- **Narthex Intake** — Kristen Vasilarakos: kristen.vasilarakos@outlook.com, Presvytera Denise Hill: denkevhill83@gmail.com
- **OPA** — Anthony Miaoulis: anthony.miaoulis@gmail.com
- **Oratorical Festival** — Chris Francis: battersbox7@yahoo.com, Nick Petsas: npetsas@outlook.com
- **Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF/18-25 year olds)** — Aleksandar "Speedy" Lučić: alucic@ocf.net
- **Parish Council** — Jim Manelis: jmanelis@aol.com
- **Philoptochos** — Kristen Vasilarakos: kristen.vasilarakos@outlook.com
- **Special Events Administrator** — Angie Lambrou: angie.lambrou@cox.net
- **Stewardship** — Sandy Meris: sandymeris@gmail.com
- **Sunday School** — Alexia Panagiotakopoulos: htphxsundayschool@gmail.com
- **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

🎵 Magnificent Are the Accomplishments of Faith! 🎵

This is the opening line of the hymn we sing for the Forefathers, all those who came before Jesus Christ that we celebrate on the Sunday before Christmas. These 2 Sundays before Christmas are held in commemoration of those who came before the Birth of Christ and we remember all of their deeds, both good and bad! Because we know that God worked through all these deeds His Salvation for us, His people. Through this we understand the importance of those who came before in both their good and bad in shaping us in who we are today and placing us in this moment.

To repeat the theme from my homily on Sunday, November 30 when we celebrated St. Andrew the Apostle, God has called all of us to this moment to steward this moment. Those who came before us have paved the way for us to be here right now in this time in the history of the salvation of the world and even here at Holy Trinity in Phoenix. We hear on Sunday the 14th this month in the reading of Hebrews 11 that God's power works through faith to those who believe and attempt to live out His will, regardless of how imperfect they are. In this list he speaks of Jephthah, a son of a prostitute who was victorious in battle against Israel's enemies and then vowed to give God a sacrifice of thanks of anything that left his home first. When his daughter was the first to leave his house he felt bound by this oath and sacrificed her! Not exactly pleasing in the sight of the Lord.

We see all these imperfect characters lives build to the moment when Christ, the Messiah, God become human, is born. We must see in this how God can call even me, the imperfect, weak, flawed, person to take part in His plan for salvation. Jephthah's faith allows him victory in battle, his flawed overconfident humanity brings him low again to sacrifice his daughter. God can

bring us to important victories in our life, and we can try our best to mess everything up, but God will prevail in His plan. However, God desires our work in His Work and the work He is pointing to right now is the building up of His Church.

So when you enter the Church, look around you at all those who seek to celebrate the Incarnation of God this month, look at the Church itself and ask yourself, how is God calling me to help in His work? I am not worthy, I probably will mess up, but if I approach with the fear of God, with faith, and with love, God will make it out for good.

Our church is in need of YOU to bring forth your faith into accomplishments empowered by God, to steward this moment of change in His Will. We have the people, we have the gifts, we must now put into action our plan of growing our physical space and our vision for the future. Our Church needs you as imperfect and flawed as you may be, to come forth and be apart of this community of faith and God's plan for the salvation of the world.

Parish Assembly Official Notification

Our Parish Assembly and budget meeting will be held **Sunday, December 14, 2025** following Divine Liturgy.



All Stewards in good standing are eligible to vote. Call the Cathedral office for more information.

Let's Meet Our Parishioner Neighbors!

Jayne Healy



Jayne Healy joined us after a distinguished career in nursing, bringing a wealth of experience and a truly unique faith story rooted across the Atlantic.

Jayne came to the United States from England in 1988 to pursue her career as a **Registered Nurse**. After earning her degree in Britain, she navigated the process of taking additional classes and sitting for the nursing boards here in the USA. This dedication is a hallmark of her professional life. Over the next 25 years, she served at the **Mayo Clinic**, working across many specialties. She began in critical care, moved on to the cardiac cath lab, pre-op, endoscopy, and finished her career as a skilled urology nurse.

While her nursing career was taking shape, her relationship with the church followed a journey many of us can relate to. Jayne was baptized into the Church of England, where her connection was immediately hands-on: her father was the organist and choir master, and Jayne and her brothers were all members of the choir. She recounts attending church a remarkable three times every Sunday, singing at countless christenings, weddings, and funerals. Despite this intense early exposure, Jayne admits she didn't always understand the "why" behind all the attendance. When she left home for nurse training, the frequency dropped, and she became a "lapsed Christian," primarily attending only on Christmas and Easter.

Jayne's "aha moment" came not in a typical way, but during a visit to the **Greek Festival**. While touring the Cathedral, she was immediately enamored by its **beauty and peaceful atmosphere**, feeling a profound pull to belong. It was there she ran into Father Alexander, confessed to being a lapsed

Kathy Carras



When Kathy was nine years old, her parents sold their Chicago restaurant and moved themselves, Kathy, and her younger brother to **Athens**. Kathy attended a local school six days a week for her 4th Grade year. After the school year ended, her parents decided to return to the States, but this time to a **warmer climate**. Family friends Irene and Nick Theakos suggested Phoenix, and so they settled in the Sunnyslope area.

Kathy worked the front office of an insurance agency, where she met the love of her life, George Jouflas, and they were together for 25 years before his passing ten years ago.

Interesting fact: Kathy returned to her parent's home and now lives in the same house she first lived in upon her arrival to Phoenix!

Kathy has always been active in the church. For the last 10 years, she volunteers at the visitor's podium on the 4th Sunday of every month, so if you haven't met her yet, that would be a good time to say "hello!"

Christian, and was encouraged to attend the Liturgy the very next day—which she did!

Since then, Jayne has fully immersed herself in the life of the community. She quickly volunteered her baking skills for both the Festival, Christmas, and Easter, and thoroughly enjoyed helping with the **museum tours**, reading all about the history of the community and the amazing people who started it. Also working in the Kafenion selling cookies and learning how to make frappes! Her journey culminated this past March when she was **Chrismated** in a beautiful ceremony. She has made so many wonderful friends who have made her feel incredibly welcome, and she is truly proud to be a part of this amazing community.

Stewardship

By Sandy Meris



2025 Theme:
“Your Own From Your Own”

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.”

The theme for Stewardship 2026 is **“Rise Up and Build”** - Building the Body of Christ from the Old Testament Book of Nehemiah 2:18. According to the Archdiocese, this story and the words of Nehemiah call us today, not just to building and rebuilding with bricks and mortar, but also to a deeper, spiritual building - the rebuilding and renewal of our faith. As Orthodox Christians we are called to respond to God’s gifts with faithful stewardship. Like Nehemiah, we are called to “rise up and build,” carrying on God’s work in our parish and in the greater community at large.

This year’s theme is perfectly aligned with the current landscape we find ourselves in at Holy Trinity. We are in the midst of a campus-wide refresh project including the inside and outside of the Cathedral, community center and education building.

There are many campus needs including a designated, well designed youth space including Sunday School classrooms, a teen room, GOYA meeting rooms and Greek dance practice rooms. With proper funding and increased Stewardship, this and anything we can dream up is possible. Just imagine if every single Steward was a tithing steward giving 10% of our income. There would be no project or goal too big for us to conquer. Will we **“Rise Up and Build?”** We must each ask ourselves - what is God calling me to do? How much more can I give? Am I giving sacrificially? What are my gifts and talents I can contribute? Your Stewardship journey is your own.

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
& GRATITUDE LUNCHEON
DECEMBER 7**

Please join us for Stewardship Sunday on December 7th. By now every parishioner should have received the 2026 pledge card in the mail. Please fill out your pledge card and either mail it in or bring it on December 7th to place in the collection basket in the Cathedral where they will be taken to the altar and blessed.

Or, we encourage you to fill out your Pledge Card online. Simply visit www.holytrinityphx.org and find “Stewardship” under the “More” drop down box in the upper right hand corner.

Either way you do it, we are grateful for your generous contributions and commitment to Holy Trinity and for becoming a 2026 Steward!

Stewardship Testimonials

Sunday, November 23, 2025



Pete Choukalas and Andrew Ruboyanes

Desert Springs December 2025

Stewardship

By Sandy Meris

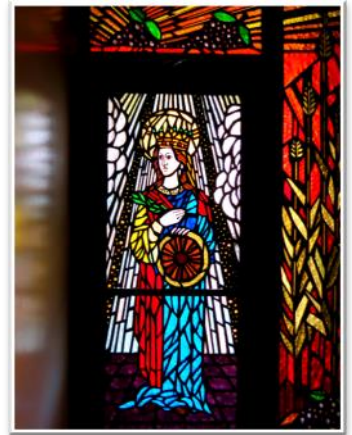


Boxes: 107
Meals: 23,112
Cost: \$6,702.48



Holy Trinity's St. Katherine Philoptochos

Kristen Vasilarakos, President



St. Katherine faceted glass icon in the south wing of



**Next Meeting: Saturday, December 6, 2025, 11:00 am
Small Hall 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.



Final 2025 Tray Passing

Philoptochos will pass the final of six trays we pass each year in support of various Orthodox ministries on Sunday, December 7, 2025. This tray supports **St. Nicholas Ranch**.



St. Nicholas Ranch was established in 1979 by Bishop Anthony of blessed memory. His vision was to create a dedicated home for ministries and events across the Metropolis of San Francisco, especially those that nurture and guide our youth. What began as a vision has become a spiritual home for generations, rooted in tradition, and open to all seeking rest, renewal, and connection. Please make checks payable to Philoptochos and we will collect all donations, round up, and send the total to the Metropolis in care of St. Nicholas Ranch. As always, we appreciate you!

Coins for Missions

Drop your loose change into the jug in the Narthex to support Orthodox missions.

Thank you!



Philoptochos Annual Vasilopita Cutting & Silent Auction

January 4th, 2026

Please join us for the Vasilopita Cutting in the Church following Divine Liturgy, January 4, 2026. The Silent Auction will follow in the Speros Community Center during Coffee Social. We will auction several beautiful Vasilopitas made by the ladies of Philoptochos for you to take home and share with your families to start the New Year. We look forward to seeing you.



Tuesday Coffee Group

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.



Desert Springs December 2025

November Charity Project



Our November meeting was filled with projects! We completed 75 bags filled with a nutritious quick-meal for those in need. The bags were filled with ready-to-eat tuna salad, crackers, an electrolyte drink, water, yogurt, and a small tube of toothpaste. The bags were distributed by FOCUS (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve) focusphoenix.org. In addition, we complete 120 Affirmation Notes for St. Joseph the Worker theworkeraz.org and painted commemorative rocks in honor of the chapter women who came before us.



Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale

We will be taking prepaid orders of our delicious Koulourakia, Tsourekia, and Baklava starting through December 7th following Divine Liturgy.

Pick up will be on Sunday, Dec 14th following Divine Liturgy. We are deeply grateful for your continuing support.



Contact Kathy Clarke at 602-757-1025 for more information.

Scholarship Application

Applications available in the Narthex

St. Katherine's Philoptochos of Holy Trinity Cathedral 2026 Scholarship Application

St. Katherine's Philoptochos is pleased to announce we will be offering three one thousand dollar (\$1000) scholarships to Holy Trinity students attending college in fall of 2026. Listed below are the application requirements.

1. Student and/or family must be a current steward, in good standing, of Holy Trinity Cathedral
2. High school students must have graduated in the spring of 2026 and attending college in the fall of 2026
3. Current college students may apply as a "continuing student" or "graduate student" A student may not apply more than twice.
4. Applicants must submit:
 - A copy of 2025 -26 transcripts
 - College acceptance letter
 - A resume including school, church and community activities

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 15th

If you have any questions or would like to contribute to our scholarships Fund, please contact a member of the scholarship committee. Georgana Frieh 602-300-0016. Scholarships may also be mailed to: Philoptochos Scholarship, 1973 E. Maryland, Phoenix, AZ 85016. Email completed form to: gfrieh@gmail.com

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY & ZIP _____

PHONE & EMAIL _____

HIGH SCHOOL – COLLEGE (presently attending) _____

COLLEGE ACCEPTED TO: _____

GPA _____ Signature _____

Artoklasia in Honor of St. Katherine, Patron of Our Philoptochos Chapter

November 23, 2025



Bible Study

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

Learning to Live an Orthodox Life

The Fall 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 Father Apostolos to register.

Memorial Poinsettias

Poinsettia Remembrance Donation

Please join us in remembering our beloved family and friends while decorating the Cathedral this Christmas.

Donations of \$20 per remembered individual or married couple are appreciated.

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

Please provide your order no later than Sunday, December 14, 2025.

Donor name: _____ Donor phone #: (____) _____

In Memory of:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Total donation: \$ _____

Questions? Please call the Cathedral office: 602-264-7853 | 1973 E. Maryland, Phoenix, AZ 85016



Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, December 21, 2025



"1919-23: From Paris to Smyrna and beyond"

We invite you to join us to remember and reflect on the **Christian Genocide**

SUNDAY DEC 21st

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Location: **Holy Trinity Cathedral**
1973 E Maryland Ave, Phoenix, AZ
Community Hall, Small Hall

Brought to you by:



For more information: Email to ChristinaBakavelou.com

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Stavros Terry Stavridis
Public Speaker,
Freelance Writer,
Historian

REFLECTIONS PANEL



Fr Alexander Eliades
Presbyter,
Holy Trinity Cathedral
Phoenix



Dr. Sophia Isaac
Author,
Career Consultant
VP Seyfo Center AZ



Dr. Anastasia Psomiadi
#1 Best-Selling Author,
Academic Lecturer,
Founder APSON

FACILITATOR

Christina Bakavelou
Global Business Leader
Orthodox Parents Association Treasurer

Poinsettia order forms are in the Narthex or call the Church office for more information.



Desert Springs December 2025



Youth Ministry

Sr. Goya Christmas Party - On Friday, December 19 @ 6pm the Ruboyianes Family is hosting our Sr. Goya (High School) Christmas Party! Bring a White Elephant gift (max. \$20) and join the fun.

Please RSVP to Andy
at andy.ruboyianes@ubs.com.

Sunday School

Following dismissal prayer, students go to:

- PreK/K: Small Hall - Community Center Meeting Room
- Grades 1-4: GOYA Room
- Grades 5-8: Chapel
- Grades 9-10: Conference Room

If you are interested in being a part of the Sunday School ministry, please email htphxsundayschool@gmail.com or text 602-705-3172 to see how you can help.

God's Corner at Coffee Hour

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.



St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

Submitted by Rita Papaspyrou

stnectariosphx@gmail.com

The month of December offers us the opportunity to celebrate the Holy Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as well as the feast days of Sts Nicholas the Wonderworker and Spyridon the Wonderworker and bishop of Tremithus.

Nativity of our Lord

Commemorated on December 25

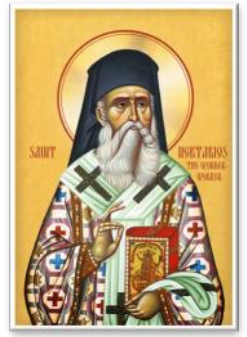


The Feast of the Nativity of Jesus is one of the most joyful days of the Orthodox Church. It ranks next to the greatest holiday, the Resurrection of Jesus. The Feast of the Birth of Jesus is also known as the "Incarnation of Christ." This means that Jesus became a man and came into the world to save us. We also refer to this joyous feast as

Christmas.

Emperor Augustus ordered that a census be taken in all his lands. Everyone had to go to the town of their family's origin to register for the census. This meant that Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. They were descendants of King David and Bethlehem was the City of David.

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth and it was a great distance from Bethlehem. Mary was expecting the baby and it was almost time for her to give birth. Bethlehem was a small town and there were many descendants of David who had come to register for the census. By the time Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem there was no place for them to stay. Finally, Joseph found a cave-like place where they could rest. This place was used by shepherds to protect their sheep in stormy weather. It was there that Mary gave birth to Jesus. The baby was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in the straw in the manger.



Now, that night the shepherds were out in the fields guarding their sheep. Suddenly, there was a bright light which startled them. The light was so bright that it turned the night into daylight. Of course, the shepherds were frightened. Nothing such as this had ever happened. Soon an angel appeared and calmed them. The angel said: "Fear not for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior; which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:11-12).

Then a larger group of angels appeared. They praised and glorified God and sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). When the angels finished singing, they disappeared and the light began to fade. It became dimmer and dimmer until it was dark again. The shepherds were awed. They didn't know what to do. Finally, they decided to leave their flocks of sheep and go to Bethlehem. They decided that they wanted to see for themselves what the angels had told them. When they got to Bethlehem, they found Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus. They fell to their knees and adored Jesus.

Some Wise Men came from the East for they knew of the coming of Jesus. They had seen a star that told them that a new king had been born to the Jews. They followed the star and were looking for the child. At this time the governor of Judea was King Herod. He was a wicked man and was feared and hated by the people. When Herod heard about the Wise Men looking for the child, he invited them to his palace. Herod asked the Wise Men to find the child so that he, too, could worship Him. But Herod was lying. He did not want anyone to take his place. The Wise Men went on to look for Jesus. The Star led them to Jesus and Mary. When the Wise Men found Jesus, they fell to their knees and worshipped Him. They gave Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and

St. Nectarios Books & Beyond

myrrh. The Wise Men left but did not return to Herod. They had a dream that warned them that Herod wanted to harm Jesus. Instead, they returned to their native country by a different route.

Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker

Commemorated on December 6



St. Nicholas was born in Lycia (in Asia Minor) around the end of the third century, to pious Christian parents. His love of virtue, and his zeal for observing the canons of the Church, were evident from his infancy, when he would abstain from his mother's milk every Wednesday and

Friday until the evening. From early youth he was inclined to solitude and silence; in fact, not a single written or spoken word of the Saint has come down to us. Though ordained a priest by his uncle, Archbishop Nicholas, he attempted to withdraw to a hermit's life in the Holy Land; but he was told by revelation that he was to return home to serve the Church publicly and be the salvation of many souls.

When his parents died, he gave away all of his inheritance to the needy, and thereafter almsgiving was his greatest glory. He always took particular care that his charity be done in secret. Perhaps the most famous story of his open-handedness concerns a debt-ridden man who had no money to provide dowries for his daughters, or even to support them, and in despair had resolved to give them into prostitution. On three successive nights the Saint threw a bag of gold into the window of the man's house, saving him and his daughters from sin and hopelessness. The man searched relentlessly to find and thank his benefactor; when at last he discovered that it was Nicholas, the Saint made him promise not to reveal the good deed until after he had died.

God honored his faithfulness by granting him unparalleled gifts of healing and wonderworking. Several times he calmed storms by his prayers and saved the ship that he was sailing in. Through the

centuries he has often done the same for sailors who call out to him, and is considered the patron of sailors and all who go to sea. His numberless miracles through the ages, on behalf of the countless Christians who have called on him, cannot be told.

He was elected Bishop of Myra not long before the great persecutions under Diocletian and Maximian (c. 305), and was put in prison, from which he continued to encourage his flock in the Faith. When the Arian heresy wracked the Church not long after Constantine came to the throne, St Nicholas was one of the 318 Bishops who gathered in Nicea in 325. There he was so incensed at the blasphemies of Arius that he struck him on the face. This put the other bishops in a quandary, since the canons require that any hierarch who strikes anyone must be deposed. Sadly, they prepared to depose the holy Nicholas; but in the night the Lord Jesus and the most Holy Theotokos appeared to them, telling them that the Saint had acted solely out of love for Truth, not from hatred or passion, and that they should not act against him.

While still in the flesh, he sometimes miraculously appeared in distant places to save the lives of the faithful. He once saved the city of Myra from famine by appearing to the captain of a ship full of grain, telling him to take his cargo to the city. He appeared in a dream to Constantine to intercede for the lives of three Roman officers who had been falsely condemned; the three grateful soldiers later became monks.

The holy bishop reposed in peace around 345. His holy relics were placed in a church built in his honor in Myra, where they were venerated by throngs of pilgrims every year. In 1087, after Myra was conquered by the Saracens, the Saint's relics were translated to Bari in southern Italy, where they are venerated today. Every year, quantities of fragrant myrrh are gathered from the casket containing his holy relics.

Saint Nicholas is also commemorated on May 9 (The transfer of his relics) and on July 29 (his nativity).

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



11/09/2025

Athena, daughter of Nyla & Joshua Karoutas
God's Blessings be upon her.

Baptisms

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



11/02/2025

Lenore, daughter of Brittney & Tyler Cohen
Godparents: Julie & George Froumis
God's Blessings be upon her.

11/08/2025

Tytan Vasilarakos, son of Lucas Vasilarakos & Drem Lewis
Godparent: Tessa Clark
God's Blessings be upon him.

11/22/2025

Jordano Sessions
Sponsor: George C. Lizanich
God's Blessings be upon him.

Wedding

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



11/30/2025

Christy & Jordano Sessions
Sponsor: Greg Lizanich
God's Blessings be upon them.

Coffee Socials Following Sunday Liturgies

The November Coffee Socials were sponsored by the **Celebration Committee, Dance, and the Daughters of Penelope**. The December Coffee Socials are sponsored by **Stewardship, the Celebration Committee, and Philoptochos**.



THANK YOU!!

Retired Men's Coffee Group



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!

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.

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!

We were excited to celebrate the baptism of Edmonton Petsas (son of Nick and Laurel Petsas, godparents Peter and Abby Schneider), the 20th Anniversary of Alisha & David Solheim, and all

November birthdays! If you have any upcoming special events, please let us know.

For donations, please visit <https://bit.ly/HTphxCC> or put "Celebration Committee" on the memo line of checks made out to the Cathedral.

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



Monthly Communal Cooking Event

If you are interested in helping out or joining us for future cooking events, please email htcphxevents@gmail.com.

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!

Friendsgiving Potluck

In November, we co-hosted a fun Friendsgiving potluck with OCF! We set up the beautiful OCF ministry icons in the Small Hall and read the Akathist of Thanksgiving as a group. Then, we enjoyed a potluck meal with turkey, mashed potatoes, and several homemade sides and desserts. It was a lovely evening of fellowship.

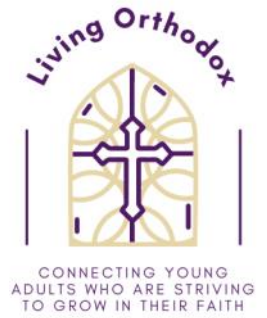
Christmas Party

In December, we will be hosting our 3rd annual Christmas party! The party will be held on **December 7th from 4:30 – 7:30 pm** at Holy Trinity – Small Hall. We'll have a service project, games, bonfire, and potluck meal.

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>).

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



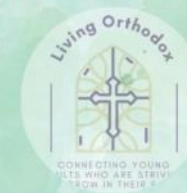
Living Orthodox

Adult Ministry

Do you want to get more involved in the Orthodox Community?

- We are seeking adults between 30 and 45 years of age
- This is an opportunity to build and participate in a community of fellowship for adults in this age group across the Orthodox parishes
- Our mission: prayer, fellowship, and service
- We are recruiting: singles, couples, and married couples*

If interested, reach out to **Amanda** at
602-384-4460
for more information



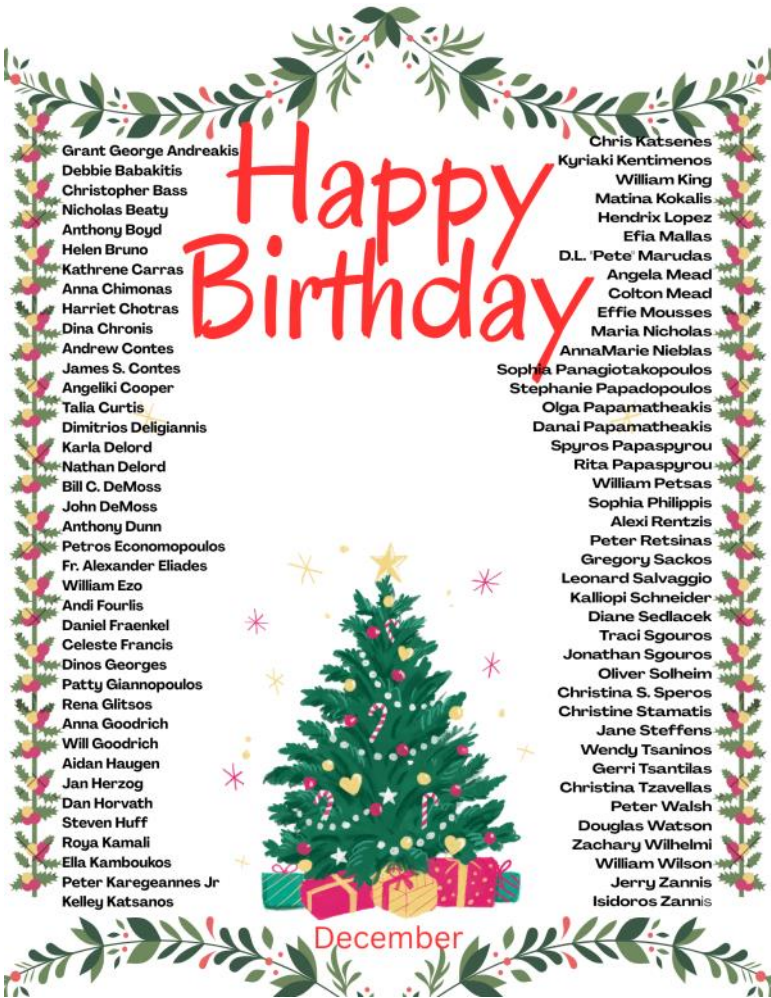
Living Orthodox Christmas Party

December 7, 2025



December Birthdays

Wish them a Happy Birthday!



Daughters of Penelope Founder's Day

November 16, 2025



AHEPA Chapter 219

AHEPA Chapter 219's Next Meeting

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

James A Speros Community Center

6:00pm - Social Hour

7:00pm - Dinner

Interested in Becomming a Member?

Contact Pete Marudas 602-284-1638



NOVEMBER 2025

New Year's Eve Celebration



LIMITED VIP TABLES AVAILABLE

ADULTS: \$75

KIDS AGES 6-12: \$40

CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER: FREE

FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION,

PLEASE CONTACT ANNA

TEL 602 - 469 - 8676

EMAIL ANNA.PANNA10@GMAIL.COM