

in Touch

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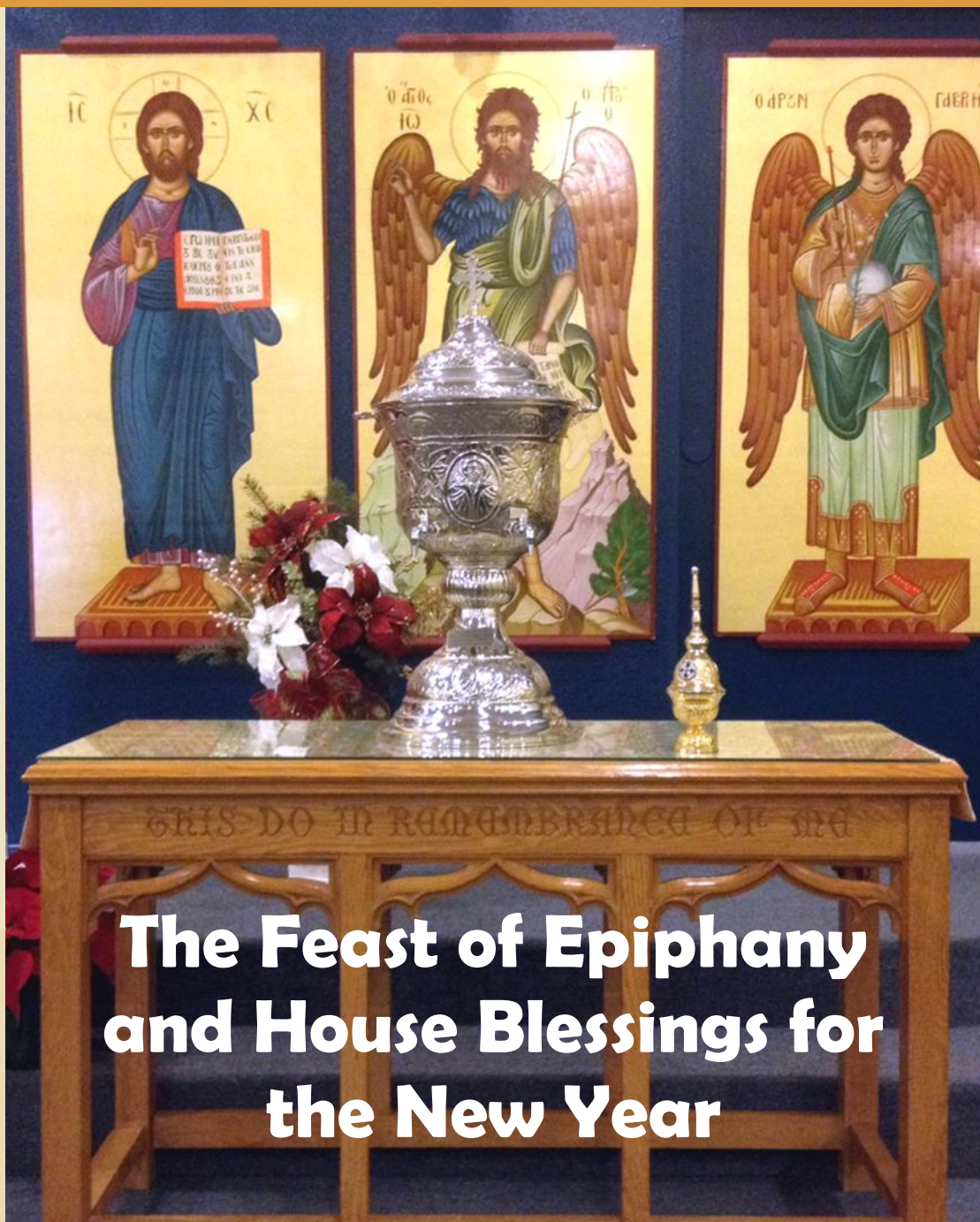
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The Feast of Epiphany and House Blessings for the New Year

Lord, You know that men are flesh and blood; forgive them their sins and pour out Your blessing on all. — St. Haralambos



Thank You to all who purchased gifts for our Angel Tree. 10 needy families in Peoria were the recipients of your amazing generosity!

DOWNLOAD THE APP

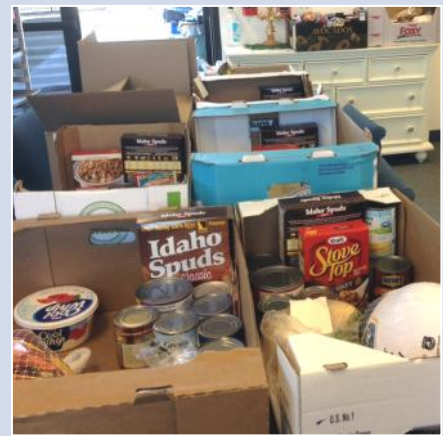
To help with parish communications, we encourage parishioners with cell phones to download the St. Haralambos Church mobile app now available for download for either Apple or Android-based systems. The mobile app will bring parish news and information directly to your cell phone. Please help spread the word!



SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW



OR SEARCH



Holiday Food Boxes

ready for pickup by the Peoria Community Action Agency. Thank you to all who contributed to give complete Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to needy families in Peoria.



Greek Pastry Booth

at the Benevilla Holiday Festival of Cheer on Saturday, December 13 at Peoria Centennial Plaza. Many thanks to our helpers: Steve and Maria Boudousquie, Stella Pagos, Ken and Valla Wrona, Melanie Singleton, Alaina Perrault, Anna Kinniburgh, Frosene Bravos, Dena Waters, Gary Nicholas Sr. and Jr., Savvas and Barbara at Brothers Restaurant.



The Epiphany Blessing

On the Twelfth Day of Christmas, my True Love said to me, "Honey, let's get our house blessed this year!"

The 12th Day of Christmas is January 6th, the Feast of Epiphany, the day our Lord Jesus Christ was baptized by John in the Jordan River. The holy water in the beautiful silver font (front cover) is given for everyone to drink, and is also put into the sprinkler that is used to bless houses.

If you've recently moved into a new home, or it has been a while since your current home was blessed, take a look at the House Blessing Request Form in this month's newsletter, and send it to the church office with the date that works best for you and your family.

The Epiphany Blessing, the Holy Water, reminds us of the Lord's baptism. John the Baptist was already baptizing many who had come to him confessing their sins. When he saw Jesus approach, John said, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting

for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. (Matt.3:13-15)

This was an interesting exchange between Jesus and John. All who came to John to be baptized did so confessing their sins. John, however, recognized Jesus as the Son of God, and knew that Jesus was without sin. It was quite natural, then, for John to stop and consider why Jesus had come to him.

Did Jesus come to confess His sins, like all the others had come to do? No, there was no need for Jesus to confess any sin. Jesus responded to John that He was there to fulfill all righteousness. Listen to an explanation from St. Jerome:

"For three reasons the Savior accepted baptism from John. First, because he was born a man, that he might fulfill all justice and humility of the law. Second, that by his baptism he might confirm John's baptism. And third, that by sanctifying the waters of the Jordan through the descent of the dove (Holy Spirit), he might show the Holy Spirit's advent in the baptism of believers."

Jesus was not baptized for His sake, but for John's, and for ours. By Jesus consenting to baptism, John's baptism was given ultimate credibility. By the Lord consenting to baptism, he gave us an example to follow.

The Sacrament of Baptism is the first step in our conversion to being a Christian. We are changed by the

***We are changed by
the grace of God,
through the
baptismal waters.***

grace of God, through the baptismal waters. The change is sealed with the Sacrament of Chrismation, and we receive the Holy Spirit with the anointing of Chrism.

The grace of God sanctifies water on the feastday of Epiphany. The prayers read during the Holy Water Blessing service ask God to bless those who drink, or who are sprinkled with, the water. This is why we bless water at Epiphany, and bless houses, businesses, cars and animals with the holy water, at any time, but particularly at the start of the year.



**St. Haralambos
Greek Orthodox
Church**

www.stharalambos.org

Rev. Michael Pallad

Sunday Worship

Matins: 8:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy: 10 a.m.

Office

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Office@StHaralambosAZ.com
FrMichael@StHaralambosAZ.com

Hours

Monday - Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Parish Council

Evanne Cuccorelli
Kathy Harvey
Timothy Harvey

Russel Skocypec
Russell Zook

Parish Council Election Results

Congratulations to Russell Skocypec who was elected to a 3-year term, beginning Jan. 1, serving on our Parish Council. Russ will be joining Tim and Kathie Harvey, Russ Zook and Evanne Cuccorelli.

Many thanks to outgoing council members Dennis Georgen, who served as

president, and Lali Mekvabishvilli, who served as Treasurer.

From the General Assembly vote this past November, our Parish Council now consists of nine members. At the January meeting, the council will discuss appointing the remaining three vacant seats.

Orthodox Study Group

By Ted Manos

The Orthodox Study group will continue early this year as anticipated, dates will be confirmed later.

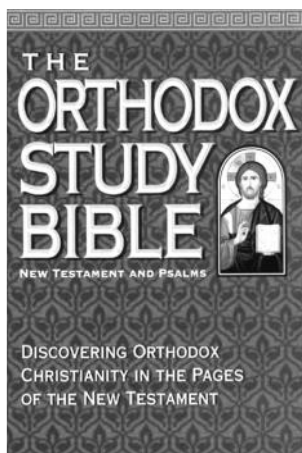
We are now done with reading ACTS in the New Testament. ACTS is the bridge between the Gospels of the Apostles and the Epistles of Paul and we have had a pretty steady group of about 8 people on the Thursday sessions.

Starting this year we will be reviewing the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew is interesting because of all of its rich references to the Old Testament and because we can use it as a point of education on this subject.

I would hope, in this new year, that we can get more participants in our group. As

father has said in the past, and as all the spiritual fathers repeat, reading scripture and the Word of God is one of the most important things we can do to keep our spirituality and relationship with God alive. No matter how many times you read scripture, you come away with new ideas and relationships which help you in your everyday life. Our group is quite diverse and we encourage open discussion from many perspectives. I hope that you will join us in the future, to learn from these discussions.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 928-501-6666 or tedmanos@zona.net.



Name Days

Many years/*Chronia Polla* to those named after the following saints:

St. Basil (1st)	St. Mark (19th)
Epiphany (6th)	St. Euthymios (20th)
St. Gregory (10th)	St. Timothy (22nd)
St. Tatiani (12th)	St. Xenia (24th)
St. Anthony (17th)	St. Gregory (25th)
St. Athanasios (18th)	St. Ephraim (28th)

Forever Young

By Julie Karoutas

Mark your calendar for our January outings:

We begin with our wonderful festival, the Peoria Greekfest Feb. 6-8. Information is in the monthly bulletin. Please offer to help in whatever way you can.

Saturday, Jan. 10 the annual Agape Ball (benefiting "Kids with Cancer, Camp Agape", to be at held Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Phoenix, sponsored by St. Haralambos, Holy Trinity, Assumption and St. Katherine's. Let's gather our friends and help to support this worthy cause. There will be an abundance of good food and good music, and best of all our fellowship, all for this worthy cause. The tickets are only \$40, you would spend more than that at a restaurant for what you will be receiving; not to mention the good feeling of helping to support a worthy cause. Contact Julie

Karoutas at 623-972-2382 or juliekaroutas@gmail.com to make your reservations. If you cannot attend and have an item that you can donate for the raffle or Silent Auction; sponsor a child, the information will be on the church's bulletin.

In February; On Feb. 7 the Arizona Winds Concert Band will perform again and we will also celebrate Chinese New Year the following week. Details to follow.

All who went to the Cliff Castle/Prescott trip had a wonderful day; some even went home with more money than they started off with. Wow! Prescott Square was lite up so beautifully and the "Valley of Lights" was spectacular.

We have much more coming up, concerts, pot-lucks, speakers, join us, do not miss out.

Wishing you All a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Peoria Greekfest Import Booth

The Festival import booth will have a Yia Yia's Attic section and is accepting donations of new or gently used Greek or other cultural items that will add variety to our inventory. If you have any items

that you would like to donate to the import booth, please let me know.

Thank you! Pam Lemons

Sacraments

Congratulations to Mary Levendi and Donna Manos who were recently received into the Holy Orthodox Christian Church through the Sacrament of Chrismation. Both had taken the "Know the Faith: Introduction to the Orthodox Church"

classes, and Mary was Chrismated on Sunday, Nov. 9, and Donna was Chrismated on Sunday, Dec. 14. May God grant them continued progress in faith, and many years of good health and happiness.

Sunday Coffee Hour

Thank you to our coffee hour hosts/sponsors.

December

7: Philoptochos
14: Donna & Ted Manos
21: Despina Medina
28: Helen Yannakopoulos

January

4: Available
11: Available
18: Available
25: Available

Note: due to publication printing deadlines, any changes to the coffee hour listings will be noted in next month's newsletter.



St. Anna's Philoptochos Society

By Valla Wrona, President

"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."
(John 15:12)



Please mark your calendars for Saturday, Jan. 10, for the Agape Ball (details below) at Holy Trinity Cathedral. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 6:30 p.m. with dinner and dancing at 7:30 p.m. We are accepting donations for the silent auction. You may also donate monetarily for Camp Agape. It costs \$300 to send one child to the camp and \$1200 to send a family of four. Please see Valla Wrona or Julie Karoutas for a tax donation letter or if you would like to make a reservation. The tickets are \$40 per person.

Vasilopita Sunday will be Jan. 11, the proceeds from this event go to the Saint Basil Academy, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese home for children in need, and are the main source of funding for their operating expenses.

At our November meeting, the ladies of Philoptochos voted to pay \$750 toward the church beautification project, send \$25 for the St. Nicholas Ranch commitment and \$25 for our BAPSAEF (Bishop Anthony Student Aid Endowment Fund) commitment. At the December meeting, we voted to send \$500 in support of the new Metropolis Strategic

Plan. From this Strategic Plan, ministries are being enhanced and developed in many areas, such as religious education, youth, wellness, and philanthropic outreach and will help provide for the establishment of a new Office of Missions and Outreach with a full-time assistant director to help spread the Orthodox faith and establish new communities throughout the Metropolis.

Each month we have at least one National commitment and a Metropolis commitment almost every month. The ladies of Philoptochos just wanted you to know where the money goes that we receive from the bake sales, coffee hour baskets, cookbook sales, and other projects we have throughout the year. Also, each year, we donate \$1,000 to the mortgage reduction effort. Without your support, none of this would be possible. Your membership dues also help to continue these and many other philanthropic efforts by the Metropolis as well as nationally.

As Fr. Michael and Parish Council President Dennis Georgen both talked about at the General Assembly, all of our time, talent, and treasures are needed. This is our home, and it takes effort from all of us to make it run smoothly. I hope you will consider joining Philoptochos or some other ministry this year to help in

Agapi Ball

Kids 'n' Cancer Camp Agape is a Philoptochos ministry that began at the St. Nicholas Ranch in Dunlap, California and has expanded to camps in: Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Washington; San Diego, California; and Prescott, AZ. Camp Agape offers an all-expense-paid summer camp experience to hundreds of cancer-afflicted children and their families from less fortunate homes. The ministry also supports the Emilio Nares Foundation, which provides oncology transportation programs in San Diego and Orange counties.

Camp Agape is a special place where families have the opportunity to enjoy four carefree summer days, away from the sights and sounds of doctors, laboratories, and hospitals, where they spend so much of their lives. Children and their families engage in hands-on group activities that provide a reprieve from their daily challenges. For children and their families, this is a truly therapeutic camp experience.

The annual Agape Ball is held to support Camp Agape.

ORGANIZATIONS

that regard. Although this arm of the church is philanthropic in nature, it also helps run the church. From the Lenten dinners to coordinating the coffee hours to decorating, Philoptochos has many areas to cover. We need as many hands as we can get. Remember, "Many hands make light work!" But forget the work, the friendships and camaraderie we enjoy will last forever and make me feel that this truly is my home.

Our next meeting will be Jan. 5, at 7 p.m. Due to the festival, we will not hold a meeting in February. And speaking of the festival, don't forget to check the festival baking schedule and come out and help when you can. We always have fun while we work!

Please take notice of the basket just outside the door to the Fellowship Hall as you go in from the food line at coffee hour. This is for our annual diaper drive for Homeward Bound. Homeward Bound serves families with children who are victims of domestic violence and/or homelessness and provides them with transitional housing and social services. This is a wonderful charity that St. Anna's has sought to help for many years.

Philoptochos membership is due:

National dues: \$15

Metropolis dues: \$15

Suggested donation for St. Anna's: \$10

Please see Julie Karoutas or myself for a membership form. You may pay your dues in one check.

Holy Trinity Academy is a Christian parochial school offering preschool for 3 & 4 year olds and Kindergarten located at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral - 1973 E. Maryland Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85016.

Our rich curriculum emphasizes a strong academic foundation along with religious studies, foreign language, computers, and fine arts. At the same time, we make learning interesting and fun through the use of songs, dance, and a variety of hands-on activities!

- Licensed by the Arizona State Department of Health Services
- Accelerated curriculum that meets and exceeds the guidelines set forth by the state of Arizona
- Small class sizes
- Safe and caring environment

Holy Trinity Academy is currently accepting enrollment for all classes. For more information on how you can give your child the advantage of this unique educational opportunity, please call:

602-248-3881

or email us at info@htaphx.org

www.HTAPHX.org

HIA
HOLY TRINITY ACADEMY
Accelerated learning in a nurturing environment



Birthdays



Christine Hollander (2)
Sharon Magnani (3)
Gary Nicholas, Sr. (3)
Esther Christenson, II (4)
Constantine Danos (4)
Spero Pagos (5)
Ruth Panousopoulos (5)
Bella Danos (11)
Peter Stamas (11)
Judy Farr (12)
Tony Papamatheakis (13)
Philemon Russom (13)
Zondra Cooper (14)
Elaine Giannias (14)
Dennis Finch (16)
Cash Moore (16)
Athanasius Romero (19)
Athena Barber (20)
Georgia Pikoula (20)
Naomi Woldesilassie (21)
James Kambanos (27)
Ocbai Tesfay (27)
Catherine Baxter (28)
Frosene Bravos (31)
Reni Milonas (31)

If you don't see your name, or those of family members, and would like to be included on the monthly birthday listing, please send the information to the church office.

JANUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Basil Circumcision of the Lord New Year's Day (Church Office Closed)	2	3
4 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sunday Before Epiphany	5 9:00am Royal Hours of Epiphany 5:30pm Divine Liturgy Epiphany Eve and Blessing of the Waters 7:00pm Philoptochos	6 9:00am Divine Liturgy Epiphany and Blessing of the Waters	7 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. John the Baptist	8 7:00pm Choir	9	10 9:00am Church Music Institute (Assumption Church) 6:30pm Agapi Ball (Holy Trinity)
11 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sunday After Epiphany Vasilopita Sunday	12 7:00pm Parish Council	13	14	15 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	16	17 9:00am Divine Liturgy St. Anthony
18 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy Sts. Athanasios and Cyril IOCC Offering Tray	19	20	21	22 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	23	24
25 8:45am Matins 10:00am Divine Liturgy St. Gregory the Theologian	26 7:00pm Executive Council	27	28	29 7:00pm Bible Study 7:00pm Choir	30 9:00am Divine Liturgy The Three Hierarchs	31

JANUARY 2015 FESTIVAL BAKING SCHEDULE

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1	2 8:30am Tsourekia	3 8:30am Tsourekia
4 Bake Day (if needed)	5	6	7	8	9	10 9:00am Koulouria
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 10:00am Kourambiedes
18 Bake Day (if needed)	19 Bake Day (if needed)	20	21	22	23	24 9:00am Paximadia (limited volunteers needed, to be notified)
25 Bake Day (if needed)	26	27	28	29	30	31
1 Baklava (following Divine Liturgy)						

All pastry prep and baking will be done at St. Haralambos Church. Please contact Desi Medina with any questions at 623-363-1859.

House Blessings

Start the New Year with a special family event, according to the traditions of the Holy Orthodox Church, asking God's blessings for your home and your family!

Please complete the form below to indicate your preferred date and schedule your house blessing. Mail the form to the church office, or bring it with you to church on Sunday. You will be contacted by our secretary to confirm your day and time.



House Blessing Request Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR PREFERENCE

Zone 1: North of Bell Road and West of 99th Ave./Lake Pleasant Pkwy

_____ Wednesday, January 7 _____ Tuesday, January 13
_____ Sunday, January 18 _____ Saturday, January 24

Zone 2: North of bell Road and East of 99th Ave./Lake Pleasant Pkwy

_____ Thursday, January 8 _____ Wednesday, January 14
_____ Tuesday, January 20 _____ Sunday, January 25

Zone 3: South of Bell Road and West of 99th Ave./Lake Pleasant Pkwy

_____ Sunday, January 11 _____ Thursday, January 15
_____ Wednesday, January 21 _____ Monday, January 26

Zone 4: South of Bell Road and East of 99th Ave./Lake Pleasant Pkwy

_____ Monday, January 12 _____ Saturday, January 17
_____ Thursday, January 22 _____ Tuesday, January 27