The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ
December 25

Apolytikion of Holy Nativity

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath shined the light of knowledge upon the world; for thereby they that worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high. O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Kontakion of Holy Nativity

Today, the Virgin bears Him who is transcendent, and the earth presents the cave to Him who is beyond reach. Angels, along with shepherds glorify Him. The Magi make their way to Him by a star. For a new child has been born for us, the God before all ages.
Church Office Summer Hours:
Tuesday-Thursday
9:30 am – 3:30 pm
Closed for Lunch
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Sunday Worship
8:15 am-Orthros
9:30 am-Divine Liturgy
10:40 am – Sunday School

Weekly Bulletin Deadline
12:00 p.m. on the Wednesday, one week prior to publication.

Spirit Deadline
Please note that the deadline for submission of articles or for the Spirit is the 15th of each month for inclusion in the following month’s issue. Please remember all submissions are subject to approval. Also, please help us ensure the accuracy of your material by submitting everything in a Word document or email with pictures attached in JPG form.

Bookstore Hours
Closed until further notice

Church E-mail Addresses
Office: office@st-katherine.org
Church Office Administration– Marjie Thorpe
Stewardship – Gary Boyce, Athena Light

Parish Council

Officers:
President—Evangelia Archuleta
1st VP - Demetrios Deliz
2nd VP– TBD
Secretary - Athena Light
Treasurer-Gary Boyce
Assistant Treasurer– TBD

Members:
Marina Ambus
Zoi Benton
Mike Delos
Vicki Lampropoulos
Rick Schneider
Thom Stewart

Church Ministries
Altar Boys..........Nicholas Kretsedemases
Bookstore.. .Michael & Chryss Danielek
Psalti.....................Thanasis Filippis
Dance Groups..........Lisa Bafaloukos
GOYA.............................TBD
Hrisi Parea............Carol Stathopoulos
JOY/hope............................TBD
Philoptochos..........Marjie Thorpe
Sunday School..........Nicolette Wright
YAL.............................TBD

Church Organizations
AHEPA .........................Daryl Connell
Daughters of Penelope.....Carol Stathopoulos
Greek Festival..............Evangelia Archuleta
Hall Rental..............Evangelia Archuleta

Websites of Interest
Greek Archdiocese of America:
www.goarch.org
Metropolis of San Francisco:
http://sanfran.goarch.org/
Altar Boy Ministry

Why should a boy participate as an Altar Boy in the Orthodox Church?

An Altar Boy is dedicated as a server to the Priest in the Sanctuary. You serve the Priest as the angels serve God. You are as close to the holiest places and to the most sacred actions as any man can be. As an Altar Boy you are enriching your own spiritual life and nourishing love for Christ and His Holy Church. You are continuing a tradition of the early Altar boys who dedicated themselves as servers to the Priest and sacred work in the Sanctuary.

All boys ages 8-18 years of age are encouraged to become an Altar Boy and serve the Lord like the angels that are above. Currently, all boys serving in Altar are required to wear a mask.

In Christ,
Nicholas Kretsedemas

Information on ordering koliva for memorials:

The ladies of St. Irene Philoptochos provide the service of preparing koliva for the Memorial Services of our parishioner’s loved ones. Parishioners may request koliva by calling the church office. Due to the new guidelines, our presentation of the koliva has changed. Individual, sealed packages of koliva will be presented on a tray or in a basket for the service. Once Church Services have ended, the koliva will be moved to the table next to the north-side door for parishioners to pick up a packet as they exit the church.
Christmas: The Gift of Christ

Once again, the season of the Nativity of Christ is upon us. We find ourselves on a familiar path that will ultimately lead us to the cave where our Savior is born. With His Mother, accompanied by Joseph her betrothed, the shepherds, the wise men, the animals and the angelic hosts, we all gaze, awestruck, by what we see before our very eyes, God, no longer the invisible deity, but among us, in the flesh as an infant.

Our familiarity with this great feast day can easily diminish the proper reverence we owe it. It’s not difficult to find our heart, mind and thoughts drifting away from the true meaning of the Nativity. With bombardment of seasonal advertisement our attention quickly turns towards the commercialization that has become deeply associated with Christmas. Companies lure our attention to what they have to offer promising us real happiness and a sense of meaning if only we acquire their products.

It's interesting though, we're more likely to acquiesce to such allurements when we are less spiritually sober. When life is going well, we are more apt to buy in to the snappy tag lines and fanciful images. When faced with difficult and sometimes tragic events, such as poor health or the loss of a loved one, the last thing we want is some sort of product that promises us happiness or a sense of purpose in life. This is why it’s important to keep before our minds eyes that while we are in the world, we are not of it and that to be tied to the things in it is ill advised. Christmas from what we gather from television commercials and department stores is anything but about the gift of Jesus Christ to the world. It’s up to each and every one of us to always remember that what we are celebrating is not what sort of gifts we can receive from others, but the Gift of all gifts, the Son of God becoming man in order to unite His Divine nature with our fallen nature, to unite us with Himself for our salvation.

Products are necessary for us to survive in this world for practical reasons, but many products are unnecessary. The marketing world does a stellar job at convincing us that unless we have a certain product, we are somehow not complete. The reality of course is that we are made complete in and through our life in Christ. What I think most people really desire are things money can’t buy.

If we were to ask most people what they would really like to have for Christmas, if they could truly have anything, we would hear things like: **Hope**, because life throws at us difficult circumstances that create in us feelings of discouragement, doubt, and despair. **Peace**, because many people, couples, parents and siblings are exhausted from conflict, of not feeling heard, or understood. **Healing**, because we, and others we love are hurting from illnesses associated with physical and emotional pain and suffering. **Love**, because sadly, many people don’t really perceive this from others. If they do, it’s something they’ve had to earn, or prove themselves worthy of.

Products that are wanted but not needed can bring us a temporary sense of happiness, and make life seem okay for a while. In the end, though, there is only one source of hope, one source of peace, and one source of healing and love and that’s Jesus Christ who provides us with all of them when we prioritize Him in our life.

St. John Chrysostom said, “happiness can only be achieved by looking inward and learning to enjoy whatever life has, which requires transforming greed into gratitude.” Looking inward, enjoying what life has to offer with gratitude compose the path to the things we truly desire.

The greatest gift the world has ever known and will ever know is the birth of God in the flesh. This is a gift that we can never repay, even if we lived a thousand lifetimes.

Even though they brought gifts to the newborn child, the wise men were the ones who were the true recipients of the greatest gift. May we remember that while we exchange gifts this year on Christmas, we are beneficiaries of the greatest Gift of all, one that will not break or one day become useless, the Gift of the Person of Jesus Christ with whom we have been united, and in Whom we find hope, peace, healing and love.

With love in Christ,

Fr. Timothy
Merry Christmas Parishioners and Friends of St. Katherine,

No doubt, we’ve been and still are challenged both in our spiritual and personal lives with the uncertainty that lies ahead. But one thing that’s constant with St. Katherine is that we “pull ourselves up” by the boot straps and persevere. We’ve become creative, we’ve “ZOOMED” our way into celebrations, conferences, group meetings, established relationships with sister parishes that share common concerns, and have had the opportunities to introduce ourselves and establish a dialogue with our church leaders throughout the country. And let’s don’t forget our live stream liturgies we can attend anywhere in the world from our homes.

As we continue our reopening, we miss many faces; may their memories be eternal. Some of our parishioners are unsure and uneasy about returning to church; we look forward to seeing them soon. Procedures have changed; we will adapt. Yes, we will pull ourselves up, again, by the bootstraps; we will persevere.

On behalf of myself and the Parish Council, we appreciate your continued support, and your commitment and dedication to St. Katherine. We wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and many blessings for the coming year. May you find peace, love, and prosperity always, all that is beautiful and meaningful, and whatever brings you happiness.

Yours in Christ,

Evangelia Archuleta,
President
CHURCH ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES AND RESERVATIONS

As a reminder, “Sign Up” is required for each Sunday liturgy. Our attendance capacity remains at 100 parishioners (includes children) for each service and, lately, we’ve experienced a large number of parishioners who attend services without prior “Sign Up”. For example, on a recent Sunday, there were 32 individuals registered but nearly 70 individuals walked in.

We ask that you take a few moments to “Sign Up” online; your name, phone number, and email is required for all individuals attending. However, families may indicate the number of immediate family members attending. Thank you so much for your cooperation and understanding.

Make a Reservation:

Parishioners wishing to attend the Sunday Divine Liturgy must make a reservation each week, this may be done through the link sent in our “Weekly Update” or through the link on our website. Once you have completed the online form, your reservation is confirmed.

Reservations are accepted beginning Monday mornings, at 9 AM, and parishioners without email access may contact the church office at (480) 899-3330.
Once again this holiday season, the members of St. Irene Philoptochos reached out to the parishioners of St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church for help filling food boxes and providing gift cards for our parishioners in need. Through your generosity, we were able to fill boxes with food items for Thanksgiving dinner and many more meals. We will continue this food drive through Christmas. Thank you to everyone who helped with this project. Your donations will make a difference and provide hope to the individuals receiving these food boxes. A special thank you to Mike Delos and the employees of Brycon for holding a food drive to contribute to our holiday food boxes. We will continue accepting donations for our Christmas Baskets through December 21st. Please contact Kathy Connell 602 524-1959 or Josephine Avaneas, or contact Marjie in the church office.

We are truly blessed by your generosity.
St. Irene Prayer Group

Pray simply. Do not expect to find in your heart any remarkable gift of prayer. Consider yourself unworthy of it – then you will find peace. (Elder Marcarius of Optina)

The St. Irene Prayer Group is a group of St. Katherine’s parishioners committed to pray for the needs of anyone who asks us. It was started as a group of St. Irene Philoptochos but is not limited to our members. We do not meet together to pray – we each pray individually. We are notified by email and each member is committed that when we receive an email we will go as soon as is possible in our own homes, before our own icons and light a lamp or candle if we have such, and pray for the need. The emails are only sent when we receive a request for our prayers, so even though there are many needs inside and outside our parish that we are all probably individually praying about, the emails are only sent when a specific request has been received from an individual or their family. These requests are not only for health concerns but for all sorts of challenges and difficulties that arise.

The Prayer Group is also committed to keeping all prayer requests and concerns confidential unless we have permission from the person for whom we are praying to share it with others.

If you would like us to pray for a specific need or if you would like to join our prayer group, you can reach us through email at: saint.irene.philooptochos@gmail.com or you can call the church office at 480-899-3330 and speak to Marjie who will relay the message to us.
AHEPA Chapter 454 wishes you all a blessed Christmas and a healthy, Happy New Year. New members are always welcome to join us. For more info contact Daryl Connell, President.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

Arizona Hellenic Foundation

The Arizona Hellenic Foundation has several scholarships available for eligible students. For more information and applications please visit our website: https://azhellenic.org/

PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation

We are pleased to share with you that the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation will once again offer $250,000 in scholarship awards to 40 exceptional Greek American undergraduates.

The application is currently available on: https://www.panhellenicsf.org/apply and the deadline to apply is Sunday, January 31, 2021. The scholarships will be distributed at our Awards Ceremony and Gala, which will be held on Saturday, June 19, 2021.

Our scholarship awards are available to all undergraduate students of Hellenic descent. They are offered to recognize students of high scholastic achievement for their accomplishments, and to provide support to those in financial need.

$200,000 are awarded to 20 students based on financial need and academic achievement. $50,000 are awarded to 20 students based solely on academic achievement.
Daughters of Penelope
Aegina Chapter #340 News
December 2020 Spirit

Aegina #340 held another socially-distanced meeting in November in the Community Center at St. Katherine. Michelle Lotakis led us in a fun Thanksgiving Questions & Answer game! You scored points if no one had your same answer.

Dianne Evripidou won “The Boot”! The Boot is passed around monthly. The winner leaves a note about what she enjoyed from that meeting or what her favorite thing is about Daughters of Penelope! Last month’s winner was Georgia Souris.

We have collected over 60 books for the Blue Star Moms/Veteran’s Project. We will keep a box in the Narthex of the Church or contact us if you have any books to donate. They request no political or risqué books. They will also take current magazines-within the year.

Our January meeting will be a baby shower for the VA Moms and Babies Program. We will “shower” them with baby and mom items as listed on their donation list.

AHEPA Family of Chandler will gather to enjoy a Christmas Lights Car Caravan followed by a Christmas Caroling Sing-Along on Monday Evening, December 21. Invitations with details will be mailed out soon. Warm up your vocal chords.

Daughters of Penelope - Aegina 340
Wishes everyone at St. Katherine
A Very Merry and Safe Christmas!
What is the Agape Family Group? It is a branch of our St. Irene Philoptochos that focuses on bringing our family community together for fellowship and philanthropy events. These events are typically designed for our children to participate.

Do I need to be a member of the St. Irene Philoptochos? Nope! Although, we encourage all the women in our parish to join our group, we enjoy giving back to our community together.

What if I want to be part of the St. Irene Philoptochos, but I just can’t commit? As a women’s group we know running a family requires a lot of time. That’s why we accept whatever you’re able to give. No matter how much time that is, we welcome you to be a member! All members have a voice and collectively we come up with new strategies to be the most effective in what we do. Also, we have designed Zoom meeting access for those who are unable to meet in person.

How often does Agape meet? Our goal is to organize monthly events from Sept - May, typically on Saturdays and considering weather and holidays.

Where can I get updates? You can reach out to Nicolette Wright directly at nicolette.wright79@gmail.com and/or REGISTER HERE FOR AGAPE NEWS AND UPDATES!
AGAPE FAMILY

The St. Irene Philoptochos invites our families to participate in our 2020 Ornament Exchange!

To participate you must be signed up! Registration ends Dec. 5th!

- Ornaments are hand made and Orthodox inspired!

- Each family makes one ornament for each participating family.

- Ornaments must be dropped off at the church by Dec 18 so we can have them to the families by Christmas!
WELCOME TO
SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Our **Wednesday Prayer Package** has been providing a digital lesson preparing families for the upcoming Sunday's Gospel. We encourage families to participate in these activities together. Our digital lessons will commence through the end of the 2020 year. Please make sure you are receiving our weekly emails!

**GREAT NEWS!!!** We are back and taking ALL youth from PreK-12th grades for in-person learning!

**PreK - 2nd grade**, please meet us after Holy Communion in the Community Center for 20 minutes. Teachers: Nicolette Wright and Lisa Bafaloukos

**3rd - 6th grade**, please meet us after Holy Communion at the playground steps for 20 minutes. Teacher: Kathy Waldo

**7th-12th grade**, please meet us in the front pews following liturgy for 15 minutes. Teacher: Fr. Timothy Pavlotos

Don’t forget! **YOU MUST BE REGISTERED!**

The link is provided [here](#).

Love,

Marina,
Karen, Antigoni
and Nicolette

REGISTER HERE!
St. Katherine Sunday School
COVID Measures:

- We are opening “Phase 1” on November 1st, which includes Pre-K - 2nd grades only.
- Students will proceed directly to the Community Center following Holy Communion.
- Class will be from approximately 11:00 - 11:20.
- Masks are required for all students and teachers; extra masks will be on hand should any student forget to bring one.
- Class areas are set up to allow for physical distancing.
- Doors will remain open during class.
- Hand sanitizer will be used upon entry and exit of the classroom.
- Snacks and water will **not** be provided.

To our parents, please make a family commitment to regular participation and attendance in this crucial ministry. Discuss with your children the importance of attending the Divine Liturgy in a timely, prepared, and proper way, and of them investing their lives in Christ and His Church. Know that our teachers and volunteer staff recognize as most treasured and precious the responsibility of instructing Christian youth, and strive to maintain the goals of meeting each of their needs in prayer, faith, and love!
St. Katherine Sunday School 2020-2021

Weekly distribution of Sunday School lessons will be provided electronically from October - December 2020.

In-person begins Jan. 2021 (schedule is subject to change):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 3</th>
<th>Holiday Break No Sunday school</th>
<th>March 14</th>
<th>Sunday school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 10</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Sunday of Orthodoxy Bring Icons to church!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 17</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 24</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 7</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Palm Sunday No Sunday School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 21</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Pascha No Sunday School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>End of Year Ceremony!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School starts right after communion at 10:45. All classes will end at 11:45.
Merry Christmas
And
Happy New Year!
From the members of Hrisi Parea

Καλά Χριστούγεννα
και
Ευτυχισμένο το Νέο Έτος

Hrisi Parea Seniors
50+ Years Young
St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church - Chandler, AZ
St Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
Stewardship Families
Updated October 2020

Jacob Affolter
Nia & Eric Amazeen
Terry & Marina Ambus
Georgia Anapolis
Bill & Themis Apergis
Spiridon Apergis
Evangelia Archuleta
Marina Arciniaga
Dean & Pauline Argeros
Philip & Maria Armstrong
Meskel Assefa & Dawit Solomon
Frances Attwood
Josephine Avanias
Anthony & Jacklyn Bafaloukos
Christopher Bafaloukos
Dorothy Bafaloukos
Gust & Mena Bafaloukos
Harry & Carol Bafaloukos
Nick & Lisa Bafaloukos
Dimitri Benton
Zoi Benton
Akash & Antigoni Bhatia
Anco & Linda Blazev
Mary Bowen
Mary & Gary Boyce
Kalen & Garrison Campbell
Christopher Chesny
George Christakis
John Chrisagis
Daryl & Kathy Connell
Gloria & Pamela Corcovelos
Kathy Corcovelos-Sky
Mary Courtney
Mary Culver-Harris & Roger Harris
Bobby Dalacas
Maria Dalacas
Patricia Dalacas
Cynthia Dandelles
Constantine Daskalakis
Demetrios Deliz
Michael & Kathy Delos
John & Mary Demetropoulos
Katherine Drapaniotis & Gualdino Sousa
Alexander Drosos
Argyris & Lynn Drosos
Dean & Audra Drosos
Aristotelis & Dianne Evripidou
Panayiotis & Theresa Fardelos
James & Peggy French
Demetrios & Barbara Georgousis
Jeremy & Athena Gonzales
William & Mary Lou Grias
Andrew & Elaine Hatupis
Michael & Angela Ingram
Naaman & Najwa Jalaf
Christos Kagadis
Prokopios & Helen Kagadis

Elessa Kantzos
Andy Karantinos
Frances & Peter Katsiris
Peter & Linda Kotsakis
Kiriaki Kotsogiannis
Demetrios & Katherine Kretsedemases
Nicholas & Dionisia Kretsedemases
George & Jill Kyroudis
Vasiliki Lampropoulos
Joy Larson
Tom & Sylvana Lecometros
Jon & Athena Light
Michele Lotakis
Martin Maciejewski & Maria Pappas Maciejewski
Thomas & Patsy Morden
Andrew Moreno
Yury & Irina Moroz
Kristina & Alexander Myer
Anthony Nicolausakis
Jason & Karen Nicolausakis
Litsa Ntatsos
Peter & Pat Orphanos
Alex & Eathel Pallas
Kosta & Irene Papaioannou
Jordan & Wendee Papandreou
Tia Patsavas
Michael & Patricia Perikly
Maria Perparos & Family
Georgia Roumanidakis
Aaron & Danielle Scherbak
Rick & Luann Schneider
Anna & John Selles
George & Donna Sideris
Zoe Simbles
John & Eugenia Smyros
Panagiota Soublis
Peter & Georgia Souris
Lucy St. Armour
Carol Stathopoulos
Atanas & Fotini Steryo
Olga Strickland
Seth Suppappola & Antonia Papandreou-Suppappola
Magdaline Thomas
Glenn & Marjorie Thorpe
Georgia Trakas
Ann Trikas
Helen Tsiakolos
Gerard & Athena Vasilatos
Billy & Despina Vigil
Stephen & Frances Weber
Elizabeth Whalen
Kevin & Tina Wilder
Mike & Christina Wombacher
Nicolette & Todd Wright
George & Stella Xenakis
Sophia Zemke

(If you are a Steward and your name is not listed please contact the office)
Parish Facility and Property Use

As ministries are reconnecting and re-launching programs within our parishes, questions have arisen as to the accessibility and use of parish facilities and meeting spaces. Provided are guidelines to assist our parishes in this area:

For any in-person meetings, regardless of the situation, the parish must adhere to the following guidelines at all times for all events:

- Comply with all local health and meeting capacity guidelines for both indoor and outdoor meetings.
- Ensure proper social distancing, wearing of masks and hand sanitizing at all times.
- Ensure that all facilities and materials used during meetings or gatherings are properly cleansed both before and following each use.

The following guidelines are intended to provide event-specific guidelines:

- **Meetings** When approved, parish ministries may meet and utilize parish facilities for the conduct of their respective missions upon receiving appropriate approvals.

- **Approval to Meet** The final decision to open for an in-person meeting should be agreed upon by the respective Proistamenos, the parish’s Re-opening Team, its Health Officer, and the Parish Council. Ministries, or groups, may not conduct “in-person” gatherings or meetings until they have received the blessing of the Proistamenos on behalf of the above parties.

- **Modified Greek Festivals** These events, typically reduced to pre-ordered drive-through food festivals, are approved.

- **Sunday School** Special care must be taken when considering the re-opening of live instruction for Sunday Schools, both for the students, but also for their teachers, staff and respective family members.

- **Coffee Hour/Food** “To-go” pre-packaged single-serving food items and lidded beverages (not self-served from common container or machine) may be provided. Social distancing guidelines must be observed; seating is not recommended.

**Outside Rentals** Situational approval, but not generally recommended. Renting to outside organizations will require significant consideration, as the outside organization must be able to agree, and demonstrate, it will abide by all local health guidelines in the conduct of their event. In addition, the parish needs to consider potential perceptions or reactions within the local community when staging events or approving rentals.

Effective October 15, 2020
**Place your business ad here!**
Contact the Church Office
(480) 899-3330

Prices will begin the first month your add will run and will run for 11 issues!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Pricing (11 issues) Per Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Page</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>½ Page</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>¼ Page</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Card</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Square Ad</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Click here to get the December Calendar online:
St. Katherine Community Center

Facility Amenities
- Seating capacity for 350 plus dance floor, stage, and bar
- Full kitchen with walk-in refrigerator
- Plenty of parking
- Tables and chairs available
- Auditorium seating for 400 people
- Reception packages available

Facility Uses
- Wedding Receptions
- Baptism Receptions
- Quinceniera Receptions
- Wedding & Baby Showers
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Banquets
- Business Meetings & Conferences
- Inside Basketball Court

Call us today to book your Special Event!

For contact information regarding availability and costs, please call the Church Office at: (480) 899-3330