The Spirit

November & December 2016
Fr. Philp Armstrong

St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
2716 N. Dobson Rd., Suite 101
Chandler, Arizona 85224
Office: (480) 899-3330  Fax: (480) 812-9669  Website: www.st-katherine.org
Rev. Philip Armstrong, Proistamenos

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Closed for Lunch
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Sunday Worship
8:30 am-Orthros
9:30 am-Divine Liturgy
10:45 am – Sunday School

Weekly Bulletin Deadline
Wednesday, one week prior to publication.

Bookstore Hours
Sundays following Liturgy
(in the upstairs room adjacent to choir loft)

Church E-mail Addresses
Office: office@st-katherine.org
Fr. Phil: priest@st-katherine.org

Stewardship – Gary Boyce

Parish Council
President—Demetrios Deliz
1st Vice President—Jim Dedakis
2nd Vice President—LaDane Vandenberg
Secretary—TBA
Treasurer—Elaine Hatupis
Assistant Treasurer—Evangelia Archuleta

Fran Attwood
Josephine Avaneas
Mena Bafaloukos
John Demetropoulos
Athena Light
Thomas Morden

Church Organizations
Altar Boys.......................... Andre Gib
Bookstore.................. Michael & Chryss Danielek
Dance.............................. Jackie Bafaloukos
Greek Festival.................... Vange Archuleta
Hrisi Parea........................ Linda Kotsakis
Hall Rental.................... Vange Archuleta
JOY/HOPE..................... Fr. Phil Armstrong
Philoptochos.................... Linda Blazev
Sunday School.................... Dean Argeros
YAL............................. Stephanie Venetis
GOYA..................... Nick & Lisa Bafaloukos

Reminder to All Groups & Organizations

Deadline for articles or information for the Spirit are:

Dec. 19 (for January-February)
Feb. 16 (March-April)
April 17 (May-June)
June 19 (July–August)
Aug. 17 (September)-October
Oct. 16 (November-December)

Please send information to:
office@st-katherine.org
JOY/HOPE
Instruction in the Orthodox Faith for children ages 5-12
On the 1st Wednesday of each month
4:15-5:45 p.m.
Dinner served and parental supervision provided
All children welcome!

ST. IRENE PHILOPTOCHOS
Meets the first Monday of each month.
If you are interested in joining St. Irene Philoptochos, please contact:
Linda Blazev
480 766-9487

Daughters of Penelope
Meets the third Monday of each month.
To join call Stacey Greib, 480-899-1729 or Georgia Souris, 480-813-9031 for membership information.

Aegina Chapter #340 of the Daughter’s of Penelope is celebrating their 40th anniversary in May this year! Our chapter was founded May 18th, 1976. Congrats Aegina Chapter #340!

Seniors Wanted!
50 and over
Come join us every 2nd Wednesday of the month.
Membership fee is $5.00 per year
We have lots of activities!

HRISI PAREA
Call Linda Kotsakis

AHEPA
Meets the third Monday of each month in the Community Ctr.
If interested in joining call:
Jim Dedakis
415-509-1434
MESSAGE FROM FATHER

“Jesus is the Reason for the Season”

Christmas means many things to many people. To the child it means Christmas trees, presents and Santa Claus.

High school and college students view it as a time for socializing and catching up with friends during the Christmas break. Parents see it as a time for family reunions. Grandmothers see Christmas as their opportunity to prepare those special holiday dishes that tantalize the taste buds. Grandfathers view it as a time to tell their tall tales. To the athletically inclined it means an endless blur of holiday bowl games. To the artistic, it’s a time to use their creative skills in decorating their homes with the appropriate holiday décor. There are many other things that come to mind when we think of this important holiday. Not all of our associations with Christmas may be happy ones. For those who are widowed, single, divorced or orphaned, it may mean a time of loneliness and depression. I hope that for most Christmas will evoke warm and joyful images.

All of these images and feelings that Christmas arouses are basically good. God wants us to enjoy the fullness of life. However, when Christmas becomes a blur of sporting events, successive feasts or a trail of continuous social events, something is lacking— a sense of spiritual balance. When we divorce our observance of Christmas from its spiritual roots, we are missing the boat. If time is not taken to ponder the ramifications of the birth of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, our observance will amount to little.

The joy of our Christmas activities finds its roots in the birth of God’s Son—the Savior of the world. It is this joyous proclamation which the angel reveals to us in the gospel account: “For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord” (LK 2:11). It is the profound hope that is made possible by this infant Child and His holy mission that emanates hope and joy to all people in all generations. Here is where we find the roots of the festiveness and spirited activities that we observe during this special season.
As we observe our varied holiday traditions this season, let us endeavor to bring Jesus into central focus. Share with your children the original Christmas story. Give your crèche and icons a place of importance. Establish a tradition of singing the inspiring spiritual carols and hymns that we have learned from childhood. Attend the church services as a family. Allocate a number of presents for the poor. Donate food and money to the many community organizations that will allow the less fortunate to share in the joy of the season. Offer prayers of thanksgiving at our sumptuous meals. Visit those in our community who are confined to home or convalescent facility. Through these and other efforts our Christmas celebrations will maintain their spiritual grounding; the spiritual dimension of our Lord’s Nativity will be preserved. May this Christmas prove to be a spiritually uplifting time for you and your families.

Merry Christmas!
Christ is born! Glorify Him!

Fr. Phil
SACRAMENTS AND OTHER SERVICES

Holy Baptism

September 17, 2016  David Michael Baynes
Parents: David Baynes & Kimberly Paxton
Sponsor: Preston Callos

Holy Matrimony

October 1, 2016  David Baynes & Katherine Becka
Koumbara: Anastasia Eresman
(At Assumption G.O.C. in Scottsdale)

October 15, 2016  Athanasios David Curtis & Evthalia
Katherine Orlando
Koumbara: Linda Blazev

Funeral

September 12, 2016  James Kanellos
Survived by: daughter Theodora Kanellos -Zwiernik

Forty Day Blessing

September 18, 2016  Angie Xenakis & newborn daughter, Natalya

September 25, 2016  Fotinie Karatzias & newborn son, Demetre

October 16, 2016  Tatiana Fitzpatrick & newborn son, Mihail
St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
2716 N. Dobson Road
Chandler, Arizona 85224, Ste. 101
480 899-3330

Request for Blessing of Home or Business

Name:__________________________
Phone #:________________________
Address:__________________________

Nearest Major Intersection:__________________________

To assist Fr. Phil in scheduling his visit, please check the time(s) you are most likely available:

___Anytime  ___Daytime  ___Evening  ___Weekend

Please complete this form and return it to the Church Office or place it in the Narthex tray.
St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church will be honored by a visit of this miraculous myrrh streaming icon on:

**Sunday, November 13th, 2016 at 6:00pm**

A Paraklesis Service will be celebrated and following the service those in attendance will have the opportunity to venerate the icon and be anointed with the myrrh that streams forth from it.
St. Katherine Stewardship Families
2016

(If you have completed and submitted a 2016 Pledge Card but your name is not on this list please inform the office)
Fr. Josiah Trenham to Give an Exclusive Nativity Retreat  
“The Good Husband & The Good Wife” 11-19-16

Event Details:
Date: 11-19-2016  
Time: See Schedule Below  
Location: St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church, 916 S. 52nd St, Tempe, Arizona 85281  
Cost: $10/person includes Lunch

Important Links:
In-person retreat registration & payment: https://goo.gl/KFpf6H  
Live streaming retreat registration: https://goo.gl/8DISUl

This Nativity season, all are invited to enter more deeply into the “great mystery” of the relationship between Christ and His Church (Eph 5:30) as reflected in the high calling of God for husbands and wives in Christian marriage. The webinar retreat will be based on Fr. Josiah’s lecture series, “The Good Husband and the Good Wife: Five Lectures on the Christian Ideal.”

Please register and pay online at https://goo.gl/KFpf6H by Monday, November 7th. Registrations will be accepted at the door, but advanced registration is appreciated.

This event will also be a live streaming webinar for those who cannot attend in person. You may register for the free webinar retreat and watch from anywhere in the world at: https://goo.gl/8DISUl. Online attendees will also have the great opportunity to participate in the Q&A sessions via live chat.


Saturday 11-19-16 Retreat Schedule is as follows:  
9:30am Registration & Refreshments  
10:00am-11:00am | Session #1: The Good Husband (TGH)  
11:00am-11:15am | 15 min Break  
11:15am-12:30pm | Session #2: "TGH" Continued followed by Q&A  
12:30pm-1:30pm | Lunch (no live streaming during this hour)  
1:30pm-2:30pm | Session #3: The Good Wife (TGW)  
2:30pm-2:45pm | 15 min Break  
2:45pm-4:30pm | Session#4: "TGW" continued followed by Q&A  
5pm-5:45pm | Great Vespers

Fr. Josiah, an archpriest in the Antiochian Archdiocese, is an internationally sought after speaker and champion of marriage and family life. He is the founder and director of Patristic Nectar Publications, an organization dedicated to "nourishing the spiritually thirsty with the sweet teachings of the Holy Fathers." Fr. Josiah is the author of numerous articles and books such as “Marriage and Virginity According to St. John Chrysostom” and “Rock and Sand: An Orthodox Appraisal of the Protestant Reformers and Their Theology.” Fr. Josiah's weekly homilies and theological reflections are listened to by thousands around the world on The Arena podcast on Ancient Faith Radio.

For more information please email: info@stjohnaz.org
Many thanks to all for your generous donations and support of our 2016 “A Taste of Greece” Fall Festival held on September 30, October 1 & 2. Our festival was a huge success in spite of the rainy weather. The food was excellent, the dancers were awesome, and our hospitality was immeasurable.

Success is not always measured in dollars; it takes the cooperation and help of everyone to prepare before we can reap the benefits of our hard work. No doubt, our time is invaluable in today’s busy world but so critical to St. Katherine. If each one of us devotes 2 hours per day to our festival from start to finish, the results will reach beyond our expectations.

“The ole’ gray mare she ain’t what she used to be “and each year becomes more and more challenging. Our longtime and dedicated leaders and volunteers work tireless hours each year. And I would be remiss not to recognize our out of state non-orthodox volunteers and local high school students who show up year after year to devote their time to St. Katherine. Let’s ask ourselves how we can help to ease each other’s load.

We sincerely hope you had the opportunity to participate in one way or another and to be a part of such an awesome event. Your suggestions, comments, and/or concerns are always welcome and invaluable.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee and its chairpersons,

Evangelia Archuleta,
2016 Festival Chairman
“Generosity in Giving to the Church”

“Ask not what God has done for me, but what I have done for God”

There is a story about a seminary graduate who thought it would be a good idea to be a policeman for a few years before getting ordained. I guess he thought that a little experience of the “real world” would deepen his ministry. He easily passed the physical and written exams, and was now being given an oral test of his reactions under pressure. A question was directed his way: “What would you do to disperse an unruly crowd?” Thinking only for a moment, the seminarian shot back: “I’d take up a collection!”

Most of us tend to think that money is some kind of necessary evil in the church. We all know that bills have to be paid— but if only we could get on with the real job of church life! Ideally, we think money ought not even mentioned.

You may be surprised to learn that Jesus Christ Himself spends more time talking about money than He does prayer! Since that is true, it would seem important for us to spend time once in a while thinking about our money from God's point of view. And that is why I want to offer three reasons for giving a generous portion of our income to Christ and the work of His church.

**Generosity is a sign of faith in God...**

Faith is not the same thing as belief. It is closer in meaning to trust. God tells us that we are to return to Him a portion of what He gives us. We'll do that only if we trust Him.

Some time ago, I received a string of calls from investment brokers who urged me to invest by phone. I didn’t trust them. But I do trust God. I can offer Him a generous portion of my resources because He is worthy of my faith. Here’s the question: Do we have enough faith in God to give generously to His work?

**Generosity is a sign of our hope in God's promises...**

God promises us great blessings if we obey His rules for giving: “Bring all the tithes into the storehouse...and prove me now in this...If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it” (Malachi 3:10).

God is promising us a lot of blessing here! If our hope is in God's promises, we grow in confidence in His Word. The result of confidence in His Word will be our generous giving.

**Generosity of giving is a sign of our love for God...**

Several years ago, I attended one of the nation's largest stamp exhibits. One well-known stamp dealer had a special booth showing his extremely rare stamps— some costing over $100,000! But the most astonishing thing is that there were people there interested in buying these rarities.

We may not be willing or able to hand over $100,000 for a bit of paper. But all of us will spend our money on what we love. We will always give to what is important to us. Even if we only store everything away in a savings account, we have to put our money where it is important to us. Here’s another question: Do we have enough love for God to give generously and sacrificially for His Church?

You may have never thought of giving in these ways. You may have thought in terms of the parish’s needs or the priest’s salary or the monthly mortgage payment on the church hall.

Continued on page 13
The key to stewardship is thinking, not about giving to the church, but about giving to God.

From How to Why

1. **God loves a cheerful giver**... *(2 Corinthians 9:7)*

   Giving needs to be from the heart—not grudgingly, but cheerfully. God does care about our hearts. He cares for them at all times, but especially in the area of giving. God wants us to arrive at the point of giving out of love, not out of guilt or some other motive.

2. **Our giving needs to be proportional to our income**...

   “No man should appear before the Lord empty-handed. Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you” *(Deuteronomy 16:16-17)*. God does not believe in “dues or fairshare” giving. Proportionate giving means that the poor person is not expected to give as much as the wealthier person but everyone regardless of their income is challenged to set aside a definite percentage of his or her resources for God’s work.

3. **Our giving needs to be regular and methodical**...

   This means that we must commit ourselves to weekly giving *(see, for example 1 Corinthians 16:2)*. The check to the church shouldn’t be an after thought. It should be the first one written each week, as a way of saying that God comes first. Don’t skip weeks— it will destroy your spiritual exercise in godly giving.

4. **Our gift ought to be sacrificial**...

   Do you remember the Lord pointing out the widow’s gift of two coins into the temple treasury? Even though her gift was paltry by comparison to the wealthy, it was a real sacrifice for her. Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all of these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty has put in all the livelihood that she had” *(Luke 21:1-4)*. Poor as she was, she gave %100 of her money! It must have hurt a little, but that’s the meaning of sacrifice.

_Holy Giving...Cheerful, Proportional, Methodical and Sacrificial._

These are the four principles of holy giving. If we apply them with sincerity and commitment, God will bless us, individually and communally. “Test me in this,” He says, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room for it” *(Malachi 3:10)*. **That's God's word—and His word never fails.**

(an excerpt from the Orthodox Church Newsletter “The Basil Leaf”

Fr. Phil
PHILOPTCHOS CORNER

FAITH + HOPE + LOVE
Service Opportunities – For both our Philoptochos Members and Friends
Nobody can do it all, but everybody can do something!

If you would like to participate contact the Church Secretary and she will put you in touch with the appropriate person.

1. Everybody Deserves a Warm Night Sleep – Sleeping Bag Project
   - Donate a sleeping bag or blanket
   - Donate money to purchase sleeping bags
   - Volunteer to deliver bags to the Phoenix Rescue Mission for distribution

2. Thanksgiving Food Collections for Chandler Christian Community Center
   - Donate canned goods or other imperishable food. Place in the green collection bin in the entrance to our St. Katherine’s community center.

3. St. Katherine's Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets for parish families
   - Donate money towards providing a Thanksgiving dinner to families in our parish who might not otherwise be able to have a nice dinner.

5. St. Irene Shut-in Ministry
   - Perhaps you can make a phone call, or write a greeting card, or take an hour or so to visit someone on our list who would appreciate a visit.

6. Welcome New-Comers
   - Perhaps you would be willing to sit at a WELCOME NEW-COMERS table during fellowship hour some Sunday after church. This is a ministry that we have wanted to start for sometime. We just need friendly people willing to participate = perhaps one Sunday a month.

7. Join St. Irene’s Prayer Group
   - This is an e-mail group. Whenever we receive a request for prayer an email is sent to those in the group. If you join you will be asked be faithful to say a prayer each time you receive a request. This is such a wonderful ministry – and we have seen numerous answers to our prayers in the last year.

8. Help with Pastry Baking for Bake Sale to raise money for our Philoptochos Projects.
ST. IRENE PHILOPTOCHOS

HOLIDAY BAKE SALE

Sunday, December 11th
+
Sunday, December 18th

Pre-order your Greek pastries now so you have them for the holidays.

To order contact:
Mena Bafaloukos
Phone – 480 786-0655
E-mail - greekladym@gmail.com

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**Holiday Bake Sale Order Form**

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<th># of Packages</th>
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<td>Melomakarona – 1 Dozen</td>
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<td>Baklava - 6 Pieces</td>
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<td>Baklava - 1 Dozen large Pieces</td>
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<td>Baklava - 2 Dozen petite pieces</td>
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<td>Sweet Bread - 1 Loaf</td>
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Total

Name________________________ Phone #________________
Please help us provide a special holiday dinner for families in our community who have been affected by the economic crisis.

Please see Maria Morton or Zoi Benton to make a donation.

All donations are greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU!
The Agape Group of St. Irene Philoptochos

Presents..

Everyone Deserves
A Warm Night’s Sleep

The Sleeping Bag Project

Donate a new or gently used sleeping bag or blanket.

Spread the gift of warmth and love to someone in need.
Each sleeping bag will be accompanied by a card with a prayer of protection.

so far we have collected about 30 bags and blankets thanks to the
love and generosity of the people of St. Katherine’s. We will continue to collect
and will deliver them to the Phoenix Rescue Mission to be given to those who
are in need of some warmth on a cold night. Here is a picture of some of the
Agape Group
women and kids preparing the bags at our last meeting. Thanks for
participating!
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<td>14 St. Philip the Apostle 9:30am-Divine Liturgy 6:30-Parish Council Meeting</td>
<td>15 Nativity Fast Begins 6:00-7:10PM-Inquirer’s Class 7:10pm-Bible Study/YAL</td>
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<td>24 Thanksgiv-ing Day 7:00pm-Great Vespers for St. Katherine</td>
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December 2016

Gifts for our Orthodox faithful during this most Holy Season. Please visit us upstairs after Divine Liturgy. Why not surprise a loved one with a religious gift for Christmas this year?

MasterCard and VISA accepted. Special orders upon request and availability (shipping & handling added to special orders).
Congrats to our DOP Aegina Chapter #340 officers for 2016-2017! L-R Stacey Grieb Vice President, Georgia Souris President, Kathy Sky Secretary & Francis Weber treasurer.

Congrats to Past Grand Maids of Athena Advisor Niki Pallas, our DOP District 20 Penelope of the Year!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 11</td>
<td>1st day of Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 18</td>
<td>Sunday school</td>
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<td>September 25</td>
<td>Sunday school</td>
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<td>October 2</td>
<td>Festival</td>
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<td>October 9</td>
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<td>October 16</td>
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<td>October 30</td>
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<td>November 6</td>
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<td>November 13</td>
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<td>November 20</td>
<td>Sunday school</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 27</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break – No Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 4</td>
<td>Practice for Christmas Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 11</td>
<td>Practice for Christmas Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 18</td>
<td>Christmas Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 25</td>
<td>Christmas Break – No Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 1</td>
<td>Christmas Break – No Classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 8</td>
<td>Sunday school</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>Sunday school</td>
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<td>January 22</td>
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<td>February 19</td>
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<td>February 26</td>
<td>Sunday school</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>Sunday of Orthodoxy (Icon Sunday) – Bring Icon</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
<td>Sunday school</td>
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<td>March 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>Sunday school</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>PALM SUNDAY – No classes</td>
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<td>April 16</td>
<td>PASCHA – No classes</td>
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<td>April 23</td>
<td>Sunday school</td>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>Sunday school</td>
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<td>May 7</td>
<td>Sunday school</td>
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<td>May 14</td>
<td>Sunday school</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>End of Year Ceremony and Celebration</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sunday school starts right after communion around 11AM.
Preschool - 3rd grade classes are 30 minutes long ending at 11:30AM.
4th-12th grade classes are 45 minutes long ending at 11:45AM.
All Art classes are 45 minutes long ending at 11:45AM.
***Classes may run longer depending on time of Communion***
2016-2017 Dates for Valley Orthodox Youth Events

November 18-20: “YES” Focus Weekend Event at St. Ignatius

December 3: Caroling & Ugly Christmas Sweater Party hosted by Holy Trinity

January 13-15: Winter Retreat hosted by Assumption

February 25: Event at St. Katherine

March 18-19: Lenten Retreat at Holy Trinity

April 22: Outreach/Philanthropy Project Event at Sts. Peter and Paul

May 20: End of Year Pool Party/Barbeque at the home of Phoenix area family

June TBD: All Saints Summer Camp
From the Office:

Would you like to receive the Spirit by email?

Just send a request to: office@st-katherine.org and we’ll add you to our distribution list.

Have you moved recently?
Please help us save money on postage by updating your address with the office.
Place your business ad here!

Contact the Church Office
(480) 899-3330

Full page-$300
1/2 page-$150
1/4 page-$80
Business Card-$50

The above prices are for the 6 issues of the Spirit
(1 year)
Call us today to book your Special Event

One of the best and largest facilities available in the East Valley!

**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
- Quinceniera Receptions
- Baptism Receptions
- Banquets
- Business Meetings & Conferences
- Inside Basketball Court

For information on fees & availability call:

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