

The Desert



Messenger

"Behold, I send My messenger before Your Face, who shall prepare Your way..." (Matthew 11:10)

Volume 18, Issue 5 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

May 2020

**From
Father
John**

Beloved in Christ:

HAVE YOU HEARD THE GOOD NEWS?

Fewer people are contracting and dying from COVID 19. There is finally a vaccine for this virus. It is safe to go outside our homes again. We can see our family members, loved ones and friends again. We are able to go to hospitals and clinics to receive procedures and treatments. Our stimulus checks from the US Government have arrived. The economy is on the up-swing again. We can go back to work and school. We are permitted to work out at the gym or go swimming or golf. We can walk into our favorite restaurants and dine, and to our favorite stores and shop. We can get our hair cut . . . our nails done . . . our pets groomed. We can freely go wherever we want and do whatever we want to do – without any restrictions. We do not have to wear gloves when going to the gas stations. We do not have to wear masks or practice social distancing. We can finally come back to Church and receive the Holy Sacraments again. We can shake hands, kiss and embrace one another . . . without fear!



BUT HAVE YOU HEARD THE GOOD NEWS?

CHRIST IS RISEN! The Risen Lord is the heart of the Ευαγγελιον (Evangelion) – the Greek word for Gospels, which literally means “Good News!” Without the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ there is No Gospel . . . No New Testament . . . No Church . . . No Sacraments . . . No Love . . . No Forgiveness . . . No Salvation . . . No Union with God . . . NO LIFE! To quote St. John Chrysostom, from his beloved Paschal Sermon which is read annually on Anastasi: “Death, where is your sting? Hades, where is your victory? Christ is Risen and you are overthrown! Christ is Risen and demons have fallen! Christ is Risen and angels rejoice! Christ is Risen and Life rules! Christ is Risen and not one dead remains in the tomb!”

IF YOU ARE LIKE ME, YOU HAVE HEARD THE GOOD NEWS!

BUT HAS THE GOOD NEWS OF THE RISEN CHRIST TRULY PENETRATED OUR HEARTS AND MINDS? The imposed sheltering in place has given all of us a longing for freedom – especially a freedom in movement – to go where we want to go and to do what we want to do . . . ON OUR TERMS: This includes going to Church to worship, receive the Holy Mysteries, and share fellowship. However, if this longing for freedom – even if it includes coming back to Church – is not rooted in and finding its fulfillment in THE GOOD NEWS OF THE RISEN CHRIST, then this new-found freedom will most likely lead us to putting “God and Church” in yet another category of things WE WANT TO DO: Like eating out, or shopping, or traveling, or going to school or work, or to the gym or beach, or getting our hair cut. Moreover, and worse yet, this new-found freedom can also lead us to rebellion against God, engaging in sinful behaviors or habits, and living merely in a self-centered and self-pleasing manner: Without being centered in Christ, we will quickly find ourselves back at square one again, in spiritual exile, partaking of Death, rather than LIFE . . . Christians in a nominal sense, but not in essence!

(Continued on Page 3)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays: 8:45 am Orthros ~ 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

All our Divine Services are Available on Live-Stream!

*Access the Live-Stream on <http://youtube.com/vegasgreekorthodox>
or through our Website: www.vegasgreekorthodox.com*

Sunday, May 3/ 3rd Sunday of Pascha: The Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women/St. Joseph of Arimathea and St. Nicodemus/Martyr Timothy and Mavra

Orthros: Tone Two

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:1-12

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

Gospel: Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8

Sunday, May 10/ 4th Sunday of Pascha: The Paralytic/St. Simon the Zealot and Apostle

Orthros: Tone Three

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:13-35

Epistle: Acts 9:32-42

Gospel: John 5:1-15

Sunday, May 17/ 5th Sunday of Pascha: The Samaritan Woman/Ss. Andronikos and Junia the Apostles and Martyrs

Orthros: Tone Four

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:1-10

Epistle: Acts 11:19-30

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Thursday, May 21/ Ss. Constantine and Helen, Equal to the Apostles

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 26:1, 12-20

Gospel: John 10:1-9

Sunday, May 24/ 6th Sunday of Pascha/ The Blind Man/St. Symeon the Stylite

Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:11-18

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34

Gospel: John 9:1-38

Wednesday, May 27/ Holy Ascension of Our Lord (Observed)

5:00 pm Orthros

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 1:1-12

Gospel: Luke 24:36-53

Thursday, May 28/ Holy Ascension of Our Lord Liturgy on the Preceding Evening

Sunday, May 31/ Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council/St. Hermias the Martyr/St. Evstathios, Patriarch of Constantinople

Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 21:1-14

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Gospel: John 17:1-13

LIGHTING A CANDLE FOR YOU

As Church attendance is now restricted, your Priests are also here to light a candle for you and your loved ones on a request basis: Please call Karen at the Church Office with your request. Any offering you can make during these challenging times, though not required, will be most appreciated.

*Christ is Risen from the dead,
by Death trampling down upon death,
and to those in the tombs He has granted Life!*



Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory!

Christos Patsis on March 29, 2020. Funeral on April 6.

Andreas Christou on April 3, 2020. Funeral in Southgate, Michigan.

From Father John (Continued from Page 1)

HAVE WE TRULY HEARD THE GOOD NEWS?

If so, then let us LIVE IN RESPONSE TO THE GOOD NEWS OF THE RISEN CHRIST – even now as we are sheltered in place! Once the angel of the Lord releases us from the imprisonment of our homes, let us have the zeal, joy and courage of the Holy Apostles and all those who received and followed OUR RISEN LORD in the days after His Resurrection – through repenting, proclaiming THE GOOD NEWS, loving one another and forgiving all things, and seeking the LIFE that comes only in JESUS CHRIST! “To Him be the glory and the dominion, forever. Amen.”

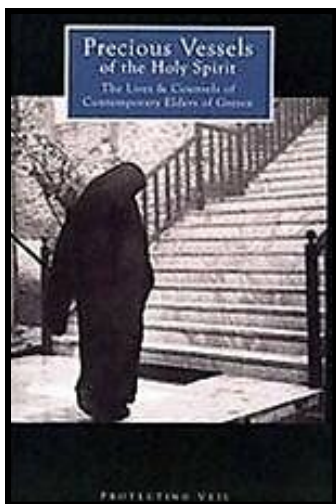
With Much Love in the Risen Christ,

Father John



Orthodox Bookstore

Christos Anesti! Greetings from the Bookstore!



This month, we find ourselves still in the midst of a lockdown, with questions burning inside us. Where will we find the answers?

To address some questions, we are featuring, *Precious Vessels of the Holy Spirit: The Lives & Counsels of Contemporary Elders of Greece*. Some of the elders featured in this book are canonized as Saints. A short biography is given about each of the elders, followed by some of their spiritual counsels. Here are a few excerpts:

“The goal of reading is the application, in our lives, of what we read. Not to learn it by heart, but to take it to heart. Not to practice using our tongues, but to be able to receive the tongues of fire and to live the mysteries of God. If one studies a great deal in order to acquire knowledge and to teach others, without living the things he teaches, he does no more than fill his head with hot air. At most he will manage to ascend to the moon using machines. The goal of the Christian is to rise to God without machines.”

~ Saint Paisios the Athonite

“The present transitory life is like the sea, we are the ships. Just as the ships at sea, we don’t encounter only peace, but many times we meet with strong winds and great storms, scandals, temptations, sicknesses, sorrows, distress, persecutions, and various dangers. We mustn’t lose courage, however. We must be bold, courageous, and faithful. If we lose courage in the face of dangers, as timid humans of little faith, let us call on Christ as Peter did, and He will reach out His hand and help us.”

~ Elder Philotheos

Precious Vessels is an enjoyable read. The book gives us a taste of different elders’ counsels on a variety of topics. Some of the elders included are: St. Joseph the Hesychast, St. Paisios, St. Porphyrios, St. Iakovos of Evia, and many more.

Until next month, God willing, Mary Pursell and the Bookstore Team

Jesus said, “Do you want to be healed?” (John 5:6)

Parish Council Report

Christos Anesti

After months of virtually nothing but bad news, it appears there is now some light at the end of the tunnel. Many States in the US are beginning to end their stay-at-home orders and are reopening businesses, albeit in phases. Many other States are now finally looking at doing the same in the very near future. Hopefully and very soon, this world lockdown will end, and we can eventually resume our normal lives again. It is more important than ever to pray for courage in our leaders and policy makers at all levels to make sound decisions based on facts, wisdom and trust in God, and *not* based on fear. As William Shakespeare said, “Extreme fear can neither fight nor fly” – therefore, we need to put fear behind us and move forward with courage, faith, and sound decision-making. We can no longer continue this current path based on fear and the unknown, for the toll is just too enormous. It is at times like this that Faith in God and Prayer become paramount.

As we continue to face this invisible threat from COVID 19, we often hear that we are all in the same boat, and the simple truth is we are not. We are all in the same virulent tempest but on different vessels. Some of us are sailing along with our jobs, health and lives in tact, some of us are barely managing to eke by, and some of us are suffering some real economic hardship and devastation from the loss of jobs and businesses. Thus, it is more important than ever that we continue to look after one another, and reach out to those who may need help. Through our Priests, the Parish Council, the Ladies Philoptochos and the Outreach Committee, an effort has been made to call and check on everyone in the Parish, and to make sure everyone is doing all right. We would like to thank everyone who has been part of this effort, and we urge everyone to continue checking on others to see if they are okay.

With our present situation, there are a lot of questions pertaining to the operation of our Church. Because of the inability to hold services with everyone present due to COVID 19, we have lost and are continuing to lose significant revenues we normally receive from passing the Trays and from the sale of Candles. We also lost a significant amount of revenue we usually receive during Holy Week and from the Agape Picnic. Moreover, many of our Parishioners have lost their jobs and other sources of income, and are now unable to contribute as they normally would: This makes it difficult for the Church to make ends meet. Thankfully, many Parishioners have stepped up and contributed to the Church’s operating account. In addition, many Parishioners are sending in checks to cover amounts they would normally contribute to the Trays and for Candles. These contributions are a Godsend, and we thank everyone for helping in these difficult times. We ask that you all continue looking into your hearts and continue helping.

Unfortunately, another problem facing us is the significant possibility that we will not have a Greek Food Festival this year. As stated last month, we will be moving forward with the planning but without financially obligating the Church. At some point in the next couple of months, we will have to make a decision one way or another on whether to go forward and have the Festival. If we had to make the decision today, we would be canceling this year’s Festival. As most are aware, Festival revenues have covered the financial shortfalls in operating the Church over the last couple of decades. If we have to cancel the Festival, which may be more likely than not, we must plan accordingly to cover the impending financial shortfalls we will suffer, not only from the loss of Festival revenues but also from the loss of the other above-mentioned revenues.

Initially, to cover some of the impending financial shortfalls, the Parish Council recently voted to submit an application to obtain a *“forgivable”* small business loan pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). This action by the Parish Council was taken under the guidance and recommendations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco. Under the CARES Act, our Parish qualifies for a *“forgivable”* small business loan. The details of this loan were sent out a couple of weeks ago in an email to everyone on our distribution list. To sum it up, this loan is completely *“forgivable”* if we use it for mostly for payroll, and we keep all employees on the payroll for at least eight weeks after receiving it. We had to submit separate applications for our Priests because, technically, they are independent contractors. We are told by our Bank that all of our paperwork is good to go, and we should be getting money in the coming days. We would like to thank John Karas for all his efforts in working on and submitting these applications.

(Continued on Page 5)

Parish Council Report *(Continued from Page 4)*

Of great import, the *forgivable* loan through the CARES Act will not suffice to cover all our financial shortfalls. In the coming month or two, we will be directly addressing these shortfalls to make sure we can meet the operating costs our Church. Much of what we decide and plan for will hinge on whether we are able to have a Food Festival this year.

Please note that we will continue live-streaming all our Church Services, which we are doing through YouTube <http://youtube.com/vegasgreekorthodox>. For information on each of the live-streamed Church Services, please go to our Church Website at <https://www.vegasgreekorthodox.com/>. We would like to again thank Bill and Erin Bruninga for making this happen. Also, please note that you can have candles lit by contacting the Church Office and making arrangements.

As stated last month, please pray for those afflicted with this dreaded disease, for our medical personnel who are on the front lines fighting it, for our first responders, for those in the laboratories working on treatments and cures, for those who are working to provide much needed resources such as medical equipment and supplies, for our leaders to learn from mistakes and continue making the right decisions, for strength and toughness to endure these strange and challenging times and, most of all, for a speedy victory and end to the effects of this dreaded disease. We look forward to the time when we can all worship in Church together in person. In the meantime, we urge everyone to be safe, and to comply with the guidelines and mandates for dealing with and defeating COVID 19. We also urge everyone to take care of one another during these taxing times. The more we allow God to direct and guide our lives, the more power and blessings we are going to have. Again, pray for the strength of our Country and World to defeat this threat. Faith and Prayer will defeat this enemy. We may be experiencing pressure today, but we will not be defeated by it. God Bless!

In Christ, Gus Flangas, Parish Council President



Come, receive
the light from
the Light that is
never overtaken
by night, and
glorify Christ
Who is risen
from the dead.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Constantin Petriuc & Ramona Tasios
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Parish Council: Gus Flangas

Philoptochos: Benita Beeman

Stewardship & Community Outreach:
Justina Szukiewicz

Choir: Athena Mertes

Chanters & Youth Choir:
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Church School: Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers: Father John

GOYA:
Kouli Pouridis & June Likourinou

Orthodox Family Fellowship:
Jelena Boskovic & Amy Khuri

Young Adults:
Fr. Seraphim & Melissa Fleetwood

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek School: Paula Kelesis

Mr. & Mrs.:
Fr. John, Fr. Seraphim & Presvyteres

Kali Parea: Demetrious Asim &
Joy Wolfenbarger

Adult Basketball:
TBD

Forerunners: Victoria Xikis

Orthodox Bookstore:
Constantine Frangakis,
Paisios & Mary Pursell

Greek Food Festival: Gus Flangas

Hellenic Historical Society:
Nitsa Filios, Cheryl Pandelis &
Susan Stamis

Photography: Bill Bruninga

Philoptochos News

Dearest Sisters of Philoptochos and the St. John Community,
Christos Anesti!

Though we were not able to be together for Holy Pascha, we were united in love, hope and the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ and the defeat of death.

We were truly blessed to be able to watch the beautiful live-streamed Holy Week and Pascha Services. It was a time to turn our minds away from the outside worldly happenings and instead cherish the holiest of holidays. We all received the joyous light of Easter, the Light of Resurrection, which illuminates the world proclaiming the Glory of our Risen God.

During this time, we – as Philoptochos sisters and brothers – and many in our community have been reaching out to one another and continue to do so by phone, text and FaceTime. Let each of us not forget that warm feeling we had when we either received or made the call. I know, for me, I felt the love from every person I had the opportunity to speak with. Please make the time to continue the outreach to one another.

Philoptochos Board Members will have a Zoom Meeting *on Tuesday, May 5 at 6:00 pm*. Karen and I will send you the link and password to get into the meeting.

I pray that we will soon be together again and share warm embraces, gain strength from our faith and continue the “normal” calendar of our Church, Philoptochos and community.

With Love in Christ, Benita Beeman, Philoptochos President

Stewardship and Community Outreach

Christos Anesti!

I hope this finds everyone doing well! We should all find a bit of comfort in knowing that through connecting with one another on the phone, FaceTime, via email and Zoom meetings, our beloved Parishioners and Fathers have been able to maintain our bond of community – at least at a basic level – with one another, even when we are not permitted to be together at the Church. Indeed, we humans need face-to-face, physical contact to fully express our love and adoration for one another, and more importantly for Christ – through the Holy Sacraments, especially the Eucharist!

May we all remember the very temporary nature of the stay-at-home quarantine and do our best to continue to show our support for St. John the Baptist Church through extra prayers, reaching out to one another to stay connected and, as we become aware, providing for the needs of our fellow Parishioners.

In closing, we send a HUGE “Thank You!” and “Bless Your Heart!” to all those who have remembered, and continue to support our Church in many special ways during this time. It is so greatly appreciated!

With Love in the Risen Lord, Justina Szukiewicz, Stewardship and Outreach Committee



*Holy Week
in the
Home
Churches*



From Father Seraphim

“Bless God in His Churches, the Lord from the sources (well-springs) of Israel.” (Psalm 67:27)

It is not without purpose that the theme of water is woven throughout the whole *Pentecostarion* (the liturgical book used between Pascha and All Saints Sunday). This period of fifty days follows the Resurrection of Christ and leads up to the Great Feast of Pentecost (*Πεντηκοστή*, the Greek word meaning “fifty”). Fifty days after the Jewish Passover, the Israelites departed from Egypt over the Red Sea toward the Promised Land, and arrived at Mt. Sinai where Moses ascended in fire and smoke to receive the Ten Commandments. In the light of Christ’s Resurrection, we know that the Old Testament events are all types, previewing and foreshadowing the realities of the New Testament revealed in Christ. So the *true Passover* is the Pascha of Christ from death to Life; the *true Pentecost* was not the “festival of booths in the desert” but the Pentecost on the fiftieth day after Christ’s Resurrection, on which the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Apostles and the Church – enlivening and strengthening them to preach the Gospel in every place and for all time.

Another example of the type giving way to the reality is the Old Testament moment when the Israelites were thirsty in that same desert and demanded water from both Moses and God. God commanded Moses to strike a rock so that water miraculously gushed out for the people. (*Exodus 17:6*) A great Church hymnographer, St. John of Damascus (who wrote the canons for Pascha, Thomas Sunday, Ascension and Pentecost), takes this ancient event and grounds its fulfillment in Christ: “Come and let us drink a new drink, not one marvelously issuing from a barren rock, but one that Christ from the tomb pours out, incorruption’s very source. For we are established in Him.” (*Heirmos, Ode Three of the Katavasies of Pascha*) On the Feast of Mid-Pentecost, we ask the Lord to “give our thirsty souls to drink from the waters of piety.” (*Apolytikion for the Feast*) Thus, the true thirst of the human soul for love, transcendence, meaning and eternal life is not fulfilled by any physical water, but from the Living Water Himself, Who calls to each of us in the Gospel of Pentecost Sunday: *“If any man thirsts let him come to me and drink.” (John 7:37)*



In Bright Week following the Resurrection, we celebrate the Life-Giving Spring of the Theotokos, and the countless recorded and unrecorded miracles of the Holy Water from that 5th Century Shrine in Constantinople. On the Sundays following the Resurrection of the Lord we are found at the Sheep’s Pool (The Paralytic), the Well of Jacob (The Samaritan Woman), and the Pool of Siloam (The Blind Man). We hear during this Holy Paschal Season the Voice of Jesus speaking about *“the living water”* – if one drinks from this, *“he will never thirst, for the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” (John 4:13-14)* Without Christ, through His Life-Giving Crucifixion and Resurrection, in the words of St. Justin Popovich: “Our world is a noisy display of revolting stupidity and despair, for neither in Heaven nor under Heaven is there a greater stupidity than this world without the Resurrection; and there is not a greater despair than this life without immortality.”

Water is a precious element. Without it there is no life. In Genesis we learn that all life began in the waters and is sustained by water. On Pentecost we look forward to having the Divine Grace of the Holy Spirit rain down upon us again, irrigating and watering our parched souls and bodies that we might bud forth and have a great harvest of virtue and salvation. This is confirmed on the Sunday of All Saints, when we remember the harvest of all God’s holy ones through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. During this Holy Paschal Season, may we, as saints in the making, seek daily spiritual replenishment and renewal – and open our thirsty souls to be quenched by the true *“living water”* which flows forth freely from our Risen Lord and the abundant grace of the Life-Giving Spirit.

With Love in the Living God,

Father Seraphim

Ministry News

Church School

Christos Anesti!

I hope everyone is doing well during this stay at home order. We all miss you so much. With the current situation of COVID 19, we have decided to cancel Commencement this year. However, we will be honoring our 2020 High School Graduates with a gift.

I have gathered some excellent Orthodox resources that are websites, blogs, podcasts, and crafts. Please look at these links and get your children to learn more about our wonderful faith.

<https://www.goarch.org/departments/religioused>

<https://myocn.net/>

<https://www.dlucscollection.com/publications>

<https://www.orthodoxmarketplace.com/esss/category/bibles>

<https://sparks4orthodoxkids.com/>

<https://saintkosmas.com/>

<http://dce.oca.org/page/mini/>

<http://www.antiochian.org/online-resource-list-parents-and-teachers>

<https://www.ancientfaith.com/>

Please feel free to reach out to me if you need anything.

Love in Christ, Eileen Koutsulis, Church School Director (702) 521-6516 or vivaleenie@cox.net

GOYA - For Teenagers

Christ is Risen!

As we are still under quarantine and socially-distancing, we are not yet able to gather in person in large groups. Please join us therefore for another Zoom GOYA Night Video Chat *on Sunday, May 3 at 5:00 pm*. We will be both emailing and texting you the information to get on to the call. So, if you would like to be included on our email or text blast list and are not currently on, please let us know at frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com.

Young Adults

Christos Anesti!

As we are still under quarantine and socially-distancing, we are not yet able to gather in person in large groups. Please join us therefore for another Zoom Young Adult Video Chat *on Sunday, May 3 at 7:00 pm*. We will be both emailing and texting you the information to get on to the call. If you are between 18 and 30 years-old, and would like to be included on our email or text blast list and are not currently on, please let us know at frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com.

Attention, Graduates

We want to share the good news of your commencement in the June issue of *The Desert Messenger*! If you (or your child) will be graduating soon from high school or university, please email the following to frjohn@vegasgreekorthodox.com *by May 15*:

- School from which you are graduating,
- The degree you will receive, including honors,
- What your plans are, and what you will study if pursuing further education, and
- Most importantly, a photo of you in JPG format!





Things You Can Do At Home to Stay Connected to God

Keep the Joy of Pascha Alive! *For 40 days, greet each person you contact with “Christ is Risen!” Chant “Christos Anesti” daily before each meal, or just because! “Encourage one another and build one another up” with the joy, hope and love of the Resurrection! (1 Thessalonians 5:11)*

Pray and Give Thanks! *Every day light your incense and your candle, and pray before your icons. “Give thanks in all circumstances!” (1 Thessalonians 5:18)*

Read the Bible! *During the Paschal period, read daily from the Acts of the Apostles and the Gospel of St. John.*

Say the Jesus Prayer! *Even if you do not have a prayer rope, you can still find some time to quietly say, “Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me.”*

Read the Lives of the Saints or a Spiritual Book! *Let us feed our souls!*

Stream Our Church Services Online! *Liturgical Texts are available on www.goarch.org under “Chapel.”*

Go for a Walk and Marvel at the Beauty of God’s Creation! *David tells us in the Psalms that, “The Heavens declare the Glory of God.” Take the time to gaze upon the majesty of God’s handiwork.*

Practice Outreach! *Many people are struggling, whether they lost a job or fear going outside. Every person is a child of God, especially our Seniors, and could really use a call, groceries, or an encouraging word during this difficult time.*



2020 Stewardship Report (as of 4/27/20)

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$389,607 (\$401,683 in 2019)
 Stewardship Gifts Received: \$234,719 (\$189,539 in 2019)
 Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$154,887 (\$212,144 in 2019)
 Stewardship Families Pledged: 333 (338 in 2019)
 Average Pledge to Date: \$1,169 (\$1,188 in 2019)
 Average Pledge Needed: \$2,989 (333 Families)

Church Account Summaries - April 2020


Nevada State Bank Accounts	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	4.24.20	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$52,352.52	\$52,914.56	\$2,195.83	\$40,024.92	\$6,056.40	\$61,381.59	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$7,535.68			\$1,000.00		\$6,535.68	
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$1,891.00		\$56.40	\$304.33		\$1,643.07	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$298,670.92	\$9,249.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,877.38	\$2,195.83	\$305,846.71	
Folk Dance Group	\$17,974.00					\$17,974.00	
Hellenic Historical Society	\$3,300.94					\$3,300.94	
Designated Funds	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	4.24.20	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$9,634.95	\$199.00		\$1,627.38		\$8,206.57	
Ornaments	\$1,169.41					\$1,169.41	
Restricted Funds	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	4.24.20	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
ICON	\$140,007.76	\$50.00				\$140,057.76	
Library Account	\$1,470.77					\$1,470.77	
Giving Tree	\$0.91					\$0.91	
Line of Credit Reserve	\$12,000.00		\$4,000.00			\$16,000.00	
Building Fund	\$24,119.26					\$24,119.26	
Landscaping	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00			\$2,195.83	\$5,804.17	
Youth Choir	\$2,989.18					\$2,989.18	
Church School	\$1,306.37					\$1,306.37	
Three Priests	\$42,683.49			\$2,250.00		\$40,433.49	
Roof Appeal	\$58,637.22	\$5,000.00				\$63,637.22	
Baptismal Water Heater	\$69.24					\$69.24	
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$142.36					\$142.36	
Designated, Restricted, and Other Total	\$298,670.92	\$9,249.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,877.38	\$2,195.83	\$305,846.71	
Other Funds	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	4.24.20	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$70,650.45					\$70,650.45	

April 2020 Candles \$2,226.00
 April 2020 Trays \$330.00
 April 2020 Candles - Holy Week \$745.00
 April 2020 Trays - Holy Week \$150.00
Total April Candles & Trays \$3,451.00



MAY 2020 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm GOYA Zoom Meeting 7:00 pm Young Adults Zoom Meeting	4	5 6:00 pm Philoptochos Board Zoom Meeting	6	7	8	9
10 Mothers Day 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	18	19 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting	20	21 Ss. Constantine and Helen 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	22	23
24 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	25 Memorial Day  Church Office Closed	26	27 5:00 pm Orthros 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Ascension Observed)	28 Holy Ascension of Our Lord (Observed 5/27)	29	30
31 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy						

The Desert Messenger

*St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
5300 South El Camino Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89118-1922*

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THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord

You were born, as You yourself so willed;
You appeared, as You yourself so wished.
You suffered in the flesh, O our God;
You rose from the dead, having trampled
death. You were taken up in glory,
You Who fill the universe;
and You sent us the divine Spirit,
that we might extol and glorify
Your Divinity.
(Doxastikon, Orthros of the Ascension,
Translated by AGES Initiative)

