

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 18, Issue 11 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

November 2020

From
Father
John

Beloved in Christ:

During this month of Thanksgiving, please be assured that *“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy...”* (Philippians 1:3-4) I am equally grateful to Jesus Christ our God for granting us many opportunities in November, on Sundays and weekdays, to partake of His precious and Life-giving Body and Blood in the Divine Liturgy. Finally, I am thankful for the many of you who have faithfully

and patiently prepared during this pandemic to finally be received into the Holy Orthodox Church through Baptism and Chrismation:

Just witnessing the long line of newly illumined members of the Body of Christ approaching the Holy Chalice brings great joy to my heart, giving me more reason to thank God!

On November 8 we commemorate the Synaxis of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel, as well as all the Heavenly Bodiless Powers that surround the Throne of God, ceaselessly glorifying the Holy Trinity. Most of us are ever mindful of the two leading Archangels, Michael and Gabriel, because we see their holy icons on every Iconostasis in every Orthodox Church, usually on the Deacon’s doors: We know Michael as the Captain of the Heavenly Hosts who will usher in the Second Coming of Christ, and Gabriel as the Messenger of our salvation, having brought the good tidings to the Virgin Mary of the Incarnation of our Lord.

Of all the ranks of Angels, the one most personally connected to each of us is our Guardian Angel, who was granted to us by prayer on the day of our Baptism: *“Wed him (her) in life to a radiant Angel, to safeguard him (her) from every plot of the adversary, from every evil encounter, from destruction that wastes at noonday and from evil visions.”* How often we remember our Guardian Angel when we get in a vehicle – be it an automobile, jet or ship – and pray for protection, yet we forget that the real intent of our Angel is to pilot us safely toward the Heavenly harbor of our true salvation! So integral is our Angel to our spiritual life and growth, that in every Orthodox Service, including the Divine Liturgy, the priest prays this petition: *“For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.”* There is a need for this petition to our merciful God, because we are so often mindless of the continual 24/7 labor of our Guardian Angel for our growth in virtue and the salvation of our souls, and heedless to his ongoing task of keeping us from participating in evil and sin.



Of all the ranks of Angels, the one most personally connected to each of us is our Guardian Angel, who was granted to us by prayer on the day of our Baptism: *“Wed him (her) in life to a radiant Angel, to safeguard him (her) from every plot of the adversary, from every evil encounter, from destruction that wastes at noonday and from evil visions.”* How often we remember our Guardian Angel when we get in a vehicle – be it an automobile, jet or ship – and pray for protection, yet we forget that the real intent of our Angel is to pilot us safely toward the Heavenly harbor of our true salvation! So integral is our Angel to our spiritual life and growth, that in every Orthodox Service, including the Divine Liturgy, the priest prays this petition: *“For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.”* There is a need for this petition to our merciful God, because we are so often mindless of the continual 24/7 labor of our Guardian Angel for our growth in virtue and the salvation of our souls, and heedless to his ongoing task of keeping us from participating in evil and sin.

(Continued on Page 3)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

*All our Sunday Divine Services are Available on Live-Stream!
Access the Live-Stream on <http://youtube.com/vegasgreekorthodox>*

Sunday, November 1/*5th Sunday of Luke/
Holy Unmercenarys Cosmas and Damianos/
St. David of Evia*

Orthros: Tone Four

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:27-31; 13:1-8

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Memorials: Dina Delalis (40 days); James Manoussos (40 days) and Sophia Manoussos

Sunday, November 8/*7th Sunday of Luke/Synaxis
of the Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel*

Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 21:14-25

Epistle: Hebrews 2:2-10

Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

Memorials: Mack Malpee (1 year) and Michael Frangos (2 years)

Monday, November 9/*St. Nectarios of Pentapolis
the Wonderworker*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:9-13, 24-28

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

Sunday, November 15/*8th Sunday of Luke/
Holy Martyrs and Confessors Gurias, Abibus, and
Samona/St. Thomas II, Patriarch of Constantinople*

Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Matthew 28:16-20

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Memorials: George Chanos (1 year); Nick Joseph Pandelis; and Departed Members of Chagares Family

Nativity Fast:

November 15 through December 24

Saturday, November 21/*The Entrance of the Most
Holy Theotokos into the Temple*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Hebrews 9:1-7

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Sunday, November 22/*9th Sunday of Luke/
Holy Apostle Philemon of the 70/St. Iakovos of
Evia/St. Kallistos, Patriarch of Constantinople*

Orthros: Tone Seven (Grave Tone)

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Mark 16:1-8

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22

Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

Wednesday, November 25/*Great Martyr
Catherine/Thanksgiving Liturgy*

5:00 pm Orthros

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy and Artoclasia

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5

Gospel: Mark 5:24-34

Sunday, November 29/*13th Sunday of Luke/
Holy Martyrs Paramonos, Philoumenos and 370
Compantions/St. Nicholas, Archbishop of
Thessaloniki*

Orthros: Tone Eight (Fourth Plagal)

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Mark 16:9-20

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-7

Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

Monday, November 30/*First-Called Apostle
Andrew (Patron Saint of our Ecumenical
Patriarchate)*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

Gospel: John 1:36-52



From Father John (Continued from Page 1)

Our Guardian Angel's work is surely daunting, given our inclination to misuse or abuse our God-given free will. Moreover, our Angel is absolutely selfless and driven by holy love, for he does not give up on us even as we regularly offend him and undermine all his efforts on our behalf. Our Angel takes his task most seriously, knowing that this earthly life is all he is granted to guide our conscience toward repentance and to encourage within our hearts a genuine desire for union with God. Our Angel is acutely aware of Christ's sober teaching in His Parable of the Rich Man and Lazaros, which illustrates the role that Angels have in carrying our souls into the Kingdom before they punch out their time card: Our Guardians know that this life is our only chance to change our godless ways, for "a great chasm has been fixed" between Heaven and Hell. (Luke 16:19-31) Like our loving Creator, Who entrusted our Guardian Angel to each of us, our lifelong bodiless partner's only longing is for us to be granted citizenship eternally in God's Kingdom.



As we take the time to pray to the Trinitarian God, seeking the intercessions of the Holy Theotokos and our Patron Saint, let us also offer the following prayer to our Guardian Angel: *Holy Angel, attendant on my wretched soul and my afflicted life, forsake me not, as sinner, nor depart from me because of my lack of self-control. Give no place to the wicked demon to dominate me through prevailing over this mortal body of mine. Hold my wretched and feeble hand, and lead me on the way of salvation. Yes, O holy Angel of God, the guardian and protector of my wretched soul and body, forgive me everything that I have done to trouble you all the days of my life, and if I have sinned in anything today. Shelter me tonight, and preserve me from every prank of the enemy, that I not anger God by any sin. And intercede with the Lord on my behalf, that He strengthen me in the fear of Him, and that He make me a worthy servant of His goodness. Amen. (Translated by Hieromonk Seraphim Dedes)*

With Love in Christ,

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

2020 Christmas Card Submission Form

Name and Phone or Email:

Print Your Name as you wish it to appear on the card (names only - no greeting, please):

Donation: \$25 per family. Deadline: Sunday, December 6, 2020.

Please submit form and payment to Philoptochos c/o St. John the Baptist Church.

Parish Council Report

We want to again thank everyone who has worked so hard and contributed so much of their time, talents and treasures to keep our Church going during these most difficult of times. We urge each and every one of you who have the means, to continue contributing to help provide for and maintain the future of our Church.

As many of you already know, the limit for the amount of people allowed to attend Church has been recently increased from 50 to 250 Parishioners. This is great news for all us because it affords us more opportunity to worship in our Faith. It also means that reservations for seating in the Church are no longer required. However, even with the limit being raised to 250 Parishioners, we are still required to maintain the appropriate social distancing pursuant to CDC and State guidelines for COVID as well as our Parish Reopening Plan. This means that we will only be able to seat around 150 people at a time in the Church. We still have seating in Panos Hall, where we have been live-feeding Church Services onto a large video screen. We can seat up to 250 in Panos Hall for Services. As we have been doing, Holy Communion will also be offered in Panos Hall during the Liturgy. Please note that pursuant to the COVID guidelines, everyone still needs to continue wearing masks which cover their noses and mouths, unless a specific medical condition makes it untenable to do so.



Please note again that we will continue live-streaming our Sunday Church Services, which we are doing through YouTube. To access the live-stream please go to <http://youtube.com/vegasgreekorthodox>. Again we would like to thank Bill and Erin Bruninga, Skip Ruffner, and Steve and Juliana Likourinou for making this happen.

We have a Parish Assembly for Parishioners in Good Standing scheduled for *Sunday, November 22, following the Liturgy*, in Panos Hall. We will have the room arranged with seating that complies with social distancing requirements. Parish Assemblies are extremely important for the Church, and we urge everyone to attend to learn about the future direction of the Church, participate in approving the annual budget for 2021, nominate Parishioners for election to the Parish Council, learn about the external and internal audits of the Church finances, and other issues affecting our Church. Please be there. On another note, we are looking at the possibility of having some capability to allow a limited number of Parishioners to attend via Zoom (video) Conferencing. If we are able to accomplish this, it will be limited in its application. We will keep you informed.

Elections to the Parish Council are scheduled for *Sunday, December 6*, following the Liturgy until 3:00 pm. Pursuant to the Uniform Parish Regulations, and the Parish Bylaws, you must vote in person. Voting by Absentee Ballots is allowed, but the ballots must be received by the Church Office no later than *Friday, December 4* at 5:00 pm. No proxy ballots are allowed. Again, please note that in conducting the voting, and as mandated by the Metropolis, we need to comply with COVID guidelines, which includes social distancing while standing in line, and wearing masks covering noses and mouths.

We are still looking at the weekend of *May 14 through 16, 2021* as the dates for the Greek Food Festival. September of 2021 will still be our fallback date. As previously stated, we should be in better position in December of this year to make a final decision as to the new dates. Hopefully, with a lot of prayer, it will take place in May. On another note, we respectfully request that any monies you would have expended this year at and for the Festival, be donated to the Church operating account. Every single offering helps immensely in meeting our obligations.

As we prepare to go into 2021 with the uncertainty of COVID, and its devastating impact on all of our lives, we must still go forward with optimism and the strong belief that we will overcome, and things will absolutely be better. This past year with all the tumult, we have all learned of the importance of our Faith in God, and of our Church, and the need to still look to the future of our Church with a positive vision that will continue to provide a religious life for ourselves and more importantly our youth. Such a vision requires Stewardship.

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Parish Council Report *(Continued from Page 4)*

With all that has transpired, the importance of Stewardship cannot be over emphasized. We know that times are tough, but in contemplating your Stewardship contributions, please remember the many Blessings you have received and thoughtfully look to "Giving Back," with your time, talents and treasures. As has been stated many times, Stewardship provides with us with a place to worship in our Faith, a place to enjoy and participate in the Sacraments, a place to enjoy Fellowship, a place to enjoy and participate in the Ministries, and a place to have a sense of Community. As you look at your Stewardship Pledge, please pray and look into your heart, and contribute not only with your time and talents, but also with your treasures. It takes contributions from everyone to keep our Church going and to foster a Vision.

We again urge everyone to pray to for those afflicted with this dreaded disease which has so profoundly affected our world, 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 over and end to the effects of this dreaded disease. Lastly, we ask everyone to pray for an end to the various maladies affecting our Nation and for everyone to come together as fellow human beings and Americans, and work toward a better life for everyone. It is only through working together that problems are solved.

In closing, we look forward to the time when we can all worship in Church together in person without fear and without restrictions. We urge everyone to be safe, and to comply with the guidelines and mandates for dealing with and defeating COVID-19, and we 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.

God Bless and Happy Thanksgiving!
Gus Flangas, Parish Council President

Since October 1, 2020, our Church has been open for the scheduled Divine Services, on a first come/first served basis. You no longer need to call in advance to reserve. Once our Church has reached capacity, per the State of Nevada health regulations, our Parish members will be directed to Panos Hall. There will be no Fellowship Hour or Kollyva until the restrictions are lifted. For the health and safety of all, please follow the posted guidelines.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5300 S. El Camino Rd.
Las Vegas, NV 89118

Rev. Father John Hondros
frjohn@vegaskgreekorthodox.com

Rev. Father Seraphim Ramos
frseraphim@vegaskgreekorthodox.com

Karen Rawlinson
Administrative Assistant

Michelle Eugenio
Bookkeeper

Mara Braun
Catering & Events

Constantin Petriuc & Ramona Tasios
Maintenance & Grounds

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Telephone: (702) 221-8245
www.vegaskgreekorthodox.com

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

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek School: Paula Kelesis

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

Kali Parea: Demetrious Asim

Adult Basketball:
TBD

Forerunners: Victoria Xikis

Orthodox Bookstore:
Paraskevi Santamaria

Greek Food Festival: Gus Flangas

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

Photography & Live-Streaming:
Bill & Erin Bruninga

Stewardship and Community Outreach



Greetings in the Lord!

When preparing this month's article for *The Desert Messenger*, I was planning to list the Saints whom the Church commemorates during November, for the consideration of "giving thanks" for all they "gave" to Holy Orthodoxy. However, there are too many to list! I encourage you to seek out an Orthodox Christian source on the internet or visit our Parish Library to research and learn about our Saints and, if I may say, be inspired by their lives to serve Christ in like manner, as good Stewards of the Faith.

Here is a brief quote from *St. John Chrysostom, who is commemorated on November 13*: "You cannot pray at home, like you can at Church, where there is a great multitude; where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: The union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of priests."

As the Parish of St. John the Baptist continues in the process of "reopening" and allowing for more of the Faithful to attend our Divine Services, we ask that you please join us, as we miss our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ who have not yet returned. However, if you are unable to attend and would like a home visit, please call the Church Office and Karen will arrange for our beloved priests to come to you. As well, our Community Outreach Committee will gladly make a visit. We are just a phone call away at *(702) 221-8245*.

Love in Christ, Justina Szukiewicz and the Stewardship and Outreach Committee

Notice of Parish Assembly

Sunday, November 22, 2020

Following the Divine Liturgy in Panos Hall

AGENDA:

- Call to Order/Opening Prayer
- Election of Assembly Chair
- Approval of Minutes (November 17, 2019)
- Stewardship Report & 2021 Stewardship Commitment Drive
 - Financial Review
 - Approval of 2021 Budget
 - Internal Audit Report (for 2019)
 - CPA Audit Report (for 2019)
 - Election of 2021 Audit Committee
- Elect Nominations/Election Committee
- Nominations for Parish Council 2021-22
 - Closing Prayer/Adjournment

*Everyone is encouraged to attend, although only Pledged Stewards for 2020 may vote.
Please see a Parish Council Member, a Stewardship Committee Member
or call the Church Office to become a Steward.*

Philoptochos News

Dear Sisters of Philoptochos and the St. John the Baptist Community,
I greet you with love in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As the COVID-19 pandemic has affected every aspect of our lives, I pray for all of us to acquire the essence of prudence, humility, patience and love. I offer my heartfelt wish of health, safety and strength.

On behalf of our entire Philoptochos Chapter, I express our deepest condolences to our President Benita Beeman and family for the recent passing of Karl. May God grant your beloved husband and father a place in His Kingdom, where there is no pain, sorrow or suffering. May his memory be eternal.

Our Philoptochos is an exemplary sisterhood and the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Church. We offer nourishment for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, medical assistance to the infirmed, and friendship to the lonely. Our *Social Services* – being the heart of our philanthropic mission – has made during the past few months the following donations: *\$500 to Serving our Kids Foundation*, to supplement food and personal care items for the weekend bag program for children; *70 activity bags and “treasure chest” toys to UMC Children’s Hospital*, which has been well received as the playroom is closed and visitations limited due to the pandemic; *\$700 to Project 150* (\$500 for food and \$200 for undergarments and hygiene items); *\$500 for meals at the LV Rescue Mission*; *\$1,000 to the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation for Camp Cartwheel*, the largest summer camp in the Western US for critically ill children and their siblings – this year the camp was virtual and bags with many items were delivered to the children; and finally, *\$500 to Peggy’s Attic benefitting Child Haven*, specifically for blankets and duffle bags for the children as they transition into Foster Care. Our sincere gratitude to Geri Kypreos, our Social Services Chair, and her committee members, Paraskevi Santamaria and Cheryl Pandelis, for their continuous philanthropic commitment and dedication.

We live in extraordinary times which require extraordinary response. As the need continues to rise, any contributions you can make for any of our very worthwhile programs will bring some comfort and respite to those most vulnerable.

National Philoptochos Sunday on November 1 – the blessed feast of our Patron Saints, the Holy Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damianos: Philoptochos will make an appeal for your support of the Ecumenical Patriarchate and specifically its programs for orphans, the poor, the infirm at the Baloukli Hospital, the elderly, and historic schools and parishes. Your donations can be made at Church, or by sending a check or calling in your credit card info to the Church Office.

St. John Community Christmas Card 2020: Our Philoptochos Chapter is again offering all our Parish Members the opportunity to express the glorious message of our Lord’s Nativity and greetings to all on our large mailing list. Please complete the form *on Page 3* and return it with your payment of \$25 to Philoptochos, or call Karen at the Church Office for more information. *The deadline for the Christmas Card name submission is Sunday, December 6.*

Philoptochos Christmas Raffle: Due to the pandemic, our Chapter had to suspend most of our projects and fundraisers this year. We invite you to participate in our Virtual Raffle by purchasing a ticket for \$50 each. Three fabulous prizes will be given away at the drawing *on Sunday, December 20 at 6:00 pm:* 1st Prize – a beautiful 14 K gold and diamond Cross; 2nd Prize – Las Vegas Raiders basket with autographed memorabilia and two 2021 season game tickets (TBD); and 3rd Prize – a lovely icon of the Nativity of Christ made by the Sisters of the Life-Giving Spring Monastery in Dunlap, CA. Proceeds benefit our many charities. Tickets can be purchased by emailing lasvegasphiloptochosstjohn@gmail.com or calling Karen at (702) 221-8245. If paying by check, please make it payable to Philoptochos, and write “Christmas Raffle” in the memo.

Christmas Bake-less Pastry Support: Due to COVID-19 concerns, our primary fundraiser – Christmas Pastries – has been canceled this year. As our fundraising capabilities have been substantially diminished, while the many charities and people we help have not, we kindly ask the members of our community to donate whatever you can, knowing that every offering will go to the assistance of individuals and families in need. Thank you as always for all that you do each and every day in helping those in need by your continued support of our Philoptochos. May you have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

With Love in Christ, Dora Hart and the Philoptochos Board

Ladies Philoptochos
of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

1st Prize: A beautiful Cross with Mother of Pearl and Diamonds set in 14 Carat Gold (Value \$1,630).

2nd Prize: Las Vegas Raiders Basket with autographed memorabilia, two tickets for the 2021 season (game TBD), and other Raider items.

3rd Prize: A glorious 14x8 Icon of the Nativity of Christ made by the Sisters at the Monastery of the Holy Theotokos – the Life-Giving Spring, in Dunlap, CA.

Tickets are \$50 each.

Virtual Drawing on Sunday, December 20 at 6:00 pm.

Purchase tickets . . .

By email at lasvegasphiloptochosstjohn@gmail.com

By phone at (702) 221-8245 (Office Hours M-F, 9-5)

By check payable to – Philoptochos, memo – Christmas Raffle

Mail to St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church,

5300 S. El Camino Road, Las Vegas, NV 89118

“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done.” (Proverbs 19:17)

Ministry News

Church School

Hi Everyone!

I hope you are all doing well. We had a trial run with in-person Church School: As we did not receive much response for the younger grades, we decided to put that on hold for now and revisit in-person classes after the New Year.

We will still be offering the Teen Class on *Wednesday nights from 5:00 to 6:00 pm*, taught by Father John and Father Seraphim. We have 12 participants, which was what we aimed for and it is going well. That program is called the Faithtree Relationship Project.

As far as the younger grades, please take the time and go over our new program that we purchased called *Orthodox Journeys*. This is a fantastic curriculum which follows the Church calendar. There are many resources including Holy Scriptures, Traditions, Feasts and some links for online resources. Karen will be sending out the lessons weekly so please try to spend time with your children to keep Orthodoxy alive in your homes.

Please reach out to the following teachers listed if you have any questions regarding the lessons.

Level 1 (Grades K-2, Ages 5-7): Romina Chomakos rominachomakos@hotmail.com

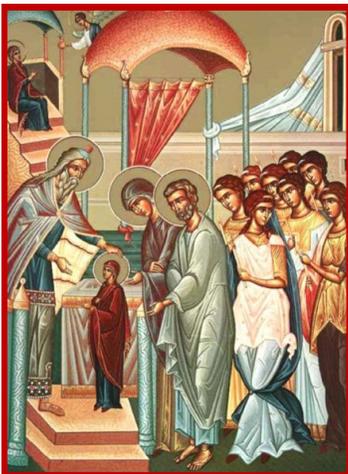
Level 2 (Grades 3-5, Ages 8-10): Eileen Koutsulis vivaleenie@cox.net

Level 3 (Grades 6-8, Ages 11-13): Sam Koutsulis vivasammers@cox.net

Level 4 (Grades 9-12, Ages 14-18): Dr. John Nixon nx100@cox.net

The teachers and I miss seeing all of the children in Church and class. It is a challenging year, but we must remember to keep our faith strong, be kind and loving to each other, and that everything is in God's Hands. **With Much Love in Christ, Eileen Koutsulis, Church School Director**

Orthodox Family Fellowship



Please join us *on Sunday, November 15 at 3:00 pm* for a Zoom Meeting to discuss the Great Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple. Information regarding the meeting login and ID will be emailed out to everyone on our list.

If you do not receive these emails and would like to be added, please contact Father Seraphim at frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com. See you soon! God Bless You! Amy Khuri, Jelena Boskovic and Father Seraphim

GOYA - For Teenagers

Please join us *on Sunday, November 15 at 5:00 pm* for a Zoom Meeting to discuss the Great Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple. Information regarding the meeting login and ID will be emailed out to everyone on our list. If you do not receive these emails and would like to be added, please contact Father Seraphim at frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com. Happy Thanksgiving!

Love in Christ, Father Seraphim, Kouli Pouridis and June Likourinou

Greek School

I miss you and hope you and your families are well. Although we are not having in-person Greek School, the publisher of our textbooks, Papaloizos Publications, has many resources and education materials available for both children and adults in book form or digitally. Please check out www.greek123.com. If you need any help, please contact me at (702) 249-4740 and I will gladly help you. Please keep looking in *The Desert Messenger* for updates on Greek School here at St. John the Baptist Church. **Paula Kelesis, Director**

Ministry News

Young Adults

Please join us for a Zoom Meeting *on Sunday, November 8 at 5:00 pm* to discuss the life, work and miracles of St. Nectarios of Pentapolis. Information regarding the meeting login and ID will be emailed out to everyone on our list. If you do not receive these emails and would like to be added, please contact Father Seraphim at frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com. We hope to see you there!

May you have a Blessed Thanksgiving! In Christ, Father Seraphim

Forerunners - The Seniors of St. John the Baptist

We have missed you and hope you are staying well and healthy. Since we cannot be together for the holiday season, we wanted to continue our tradition that our dear Ruth Plentzas started by helping the Homeless Teens in Las Vegas. Faye, Paula and I met and decided to donate \$500 to Project 150, which helps local homeless teens. We matched the donation that the Ladies Philoptochos made to Project 150! This has been greatly appreciated by them and many needed items have been procured already.

Recently, our sister in Christ, Dina Delalis, fell asleep in the Lord. The Forerunners made a donation to St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago, IL, in her memory. I wanted to share the following letter I received back from Father John Kalomas regarding the donation.

Dear Victoria and the St. John Greek Orthodox Church Senior Forerunners:

I am personally writing to you to express our deepest heartfelt thanks for your donation in memory of your and our beloved friend and member, Dina Delalis. She was a very dedicated individual here at our community of St. Andrew, in which she raised her children and gave her time, talents, and treasures faithfully and unselfishly. It seems that she was just as much loved as well as dedicated there at St. John in Las Vegas.

I am not sure if you followed the service which was live-streamed, but we did the best to make it a beautiful day honoring Dina's memory and her legacy. I ended her eulogy with a story called "The Train of Life" and will end this letter with that story.

"At birth, we boarded the train of life and the first individuals we met were our parents, and we believe they will always travel on our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone.

"As time goes by, other people will board the train, and they will be significant, i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of your life. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats.

"This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

"The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty, we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life."

If Dina was present in front of all of you, she would probably say, "I'm wishing you a joyful journey on the train of life. Reap success and give lots of love. More important, thank God for the journey." Her final message to all of you would be, "Lastly, I thank all of you for being one of the passengers on my train."

Thank you again for your kind and generous gift honoring your dear friend Dina. May her memory be eternal and may all of you continue enjoying your journey on your train of life.

With Paternal love and respect, Father John Kalomas

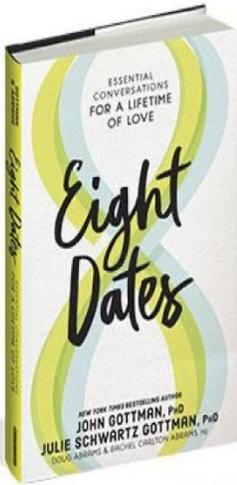
I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. I will close with best wishes and prayers to all our friends. Please stay safe and healthy and have a blessed Thanksgiving.

With Love in Christ, Victoria Xikis for the Forerunners



METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES

“ESSENTIAL CONVERSATIONS
FOR A LIFETIME OF LOVE”



Join us and other couples in our Orthodox community for 1-hour virtual sessions twice a month, in a complimentary series featuring discussions from *Eight Dates* by John Gottman, Ph.D., designed to strengthen your commitment to one another and to God.

THURSDAYS AT 6:30PM PST

OCTOBER 15	NOVEMBER 12	DECEMBER 3	JANUARY 7	FEBRUARY 4
OCTOBER 29	NOVEMBER 19	DECEMBER 17	JANUARY 21	FEBRUARY 18

VISIT EITHER WEBSITE BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.gosfyouth.org
www.familywellnessministry.org



YOUTH &
YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRIES



Family Wellness Ministry



Tatiana Grant, Iconography



*“For God has not destined us for wrath,
but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
Who died for us so that whether we wake or sleep
we might live with Him.
Therefore encourage one another
and build one another up, just as you are doing.”
(1 Thessalonians 5:9-11)*

From Father Seraphim

November is a month of many great Saints; however, I would like to share the life of one recently canonized Serbian Saint of whom you probably have never heard. Born in San Francisco during the presidency of Abraham Lincoln, *St. Sebastian Dabovich* has the distinction of being the first person born in America to be ordained as an Orthodox priest, and also the first native born American to be tonsured as an Orthodox Monk. Besides many trips abroad to spread the Gospel, he ceaselessly traveled back and forth across the American continent, using every available mode of transportation – from stagecoach to railroad and on foot.

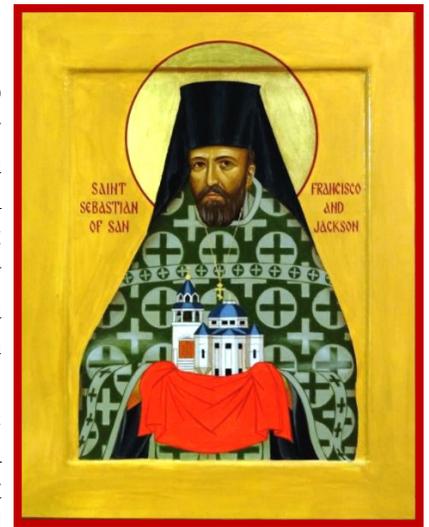
Given the name Jovan at birth (June 21, 1863), St. Sebastian was the fourth of seven children and as a child was part of the Greek-Russian Orthodox community that formed in the San Francisco Bay Area just six years prior to his birth. Although they had no priest, and despite the “gold rush” chaos, the faithful would gather often and especially for all major feasts of the Church. After Alaska became part of the United States in 1872, Bishop John Mitropolsky came to San Francisco and erected the Cathedral of St. Alexander Nevsky, where young St. Sebastian began attending every service. From that young age, it is recorded that he was like a “modern St. Nicholas” in his love and generosity for the poor.

After graduating from high school he was assigned to work in Sitka, Alaska at St. Michael’s Cathedral (established by St. Innocent of Alaska). Among the natives in Alaska, St. Sebastian began to discover his evangelical zeal. He and some Orthodox Tlingits (a native Aleut/Eskimo tribe) taught Orthodox Christianity to those in present day Juneau and three years later began the Church of St. Nicholas there: It remains the oldest continuously functioning Church in Alaska! During his stay in Alaska he furthered his theological studies; after traveling to St. Petersburg in Russia, he was tonsured as a monk, ordained as a deacon and given the name Sebastian.

After returning to San Francisco, St. Sebastian served under Bishop Vladimir who became his mentor. He learned from him that “When the Orthodox Faith is brought to a new territories, it must be made available in the local language.” Bishop Vladimir required his priests to learn and serve in English. In fact, St. Sebastian developed the first English translation of the Divine Liturgy in the US. After his ordination to the priesthood, St. Sebastian reported that there were some 1,500 Orthodox Christians residing in California and the Pacific Northwest without Churches or regular access to the Holy Sacraments, and asked to be assigned to minister to these believers. Within a week of being granted his request, he began his travels to as far north as Vancouver and as far south as San Diego, eventually covering 3,000 miles. St. Sebastian spoke tirelessly to countless individuals, making friends on all levels of society, from the common man to the highest strata of American social and political life. He initiated discussions with non-Orthodox churches. Because of these dialogues, some Western Rite parishes were later received into the Orthodox Church.

Although of Serbian descent he knew his task was to minister to all. Fluent in English, Serbian, Russian as well as Greek, he brought back to the Orthodox Faith many immigrants who had come under Protestant, Uniate and Catholic influence, and provided the Sacraments and spiritual guidance for the Russian, Serbian, Bulgarian, Greek, Syrian, or Arab Orthodox Christians he came across. In 1893 St. Sebastian baptized a child in Jackson, CA, and seeing the Christian families there, began the mission parish of St. Sava the Enlightener of Serbia. Today this is the oldest standing Orthodox Church in the Western contiguous United States.

St. Sebastian greatly venerated his holy missionary predecessors. He wrote the first English translation of the life of St. Innocent of Alaska and wrote about St. Herman 72 years before he was formally canonized. In fact, St. Sebastian worked with another apostle and saint, Bishop Tikhon Ballavin, when he was appointed as the only Orthodox Bishop in North America in 1898. During these years together, St. Tikhon raised St. Sebastian to the rank of abbot and then archimandrite.



(Continued on Page 13)

From Father Seraphim (Continued from Page 12)

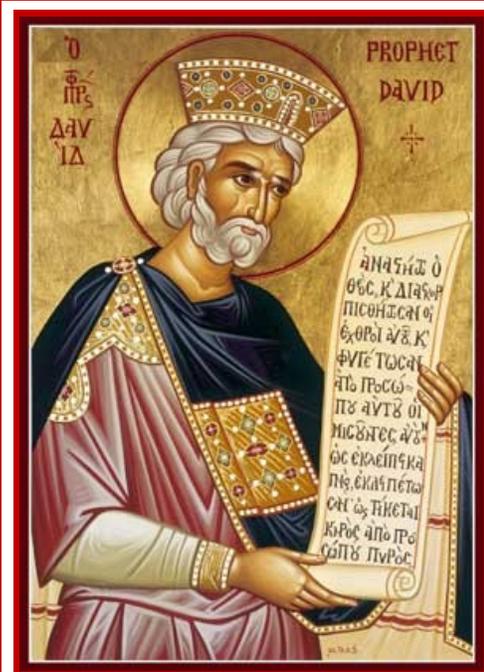
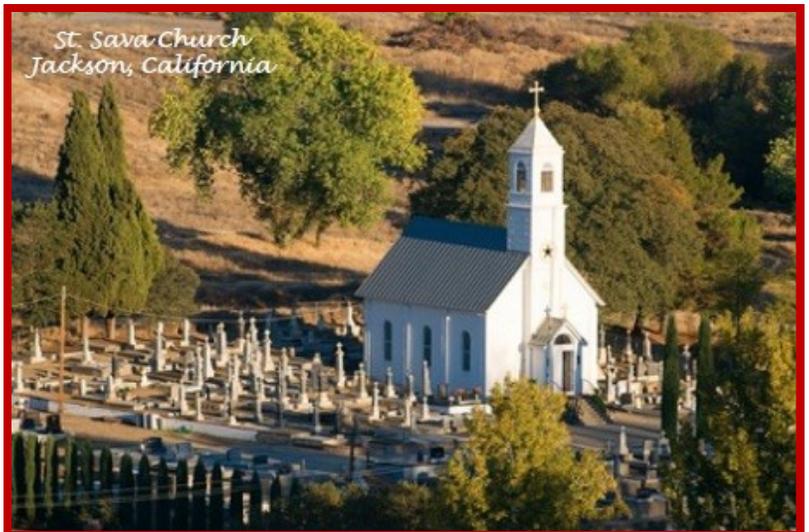
St. Sebastian again asked to go abroad to minister to the people in Europe when World War I began. After the war, while Russian and Serbian tension in the Orthodox Church in America had finally ceased (due to the distractions of the Russian Revolution), the elderly St. Sebastian stayed in Serbia where he reposed on November 30, 1940. At the time of his death he owned nothing but a gold cross, some books, and a few personal mementos. He had long since given away any significant personal possessions to the poor, choosing for himself a life of poverty, simplicity, and missionary service.

Today the holy relics of St. Sebastian can be found in the Serbian Orthodox Church in Jackson, CA. They were brought over from Serbia on September 1, 2007 after many long years of humble obscurity – the majority of St. Sebastian’s apostolic labor took place in America and he was relatively unknown in Serbia, where Communism had taken over just six years after his repose. On September 5, 2015 St. Sebastian was officially canonized and his name was entered into the list of the Righteous Saints, Miracle Workers and God Pleasers of the Holy Orthodox Church. This simple missionary to America who labored so long to bring Orthodoxy to the immigrants and natives of America was called, “A viceless man,” by St. Nikolaj Velimirovic.

I had the great blessing to learn about his life recently and also to venerate his wonderfully fragrant relics in Jackson. If you are ever traveling East of the Bay Area, be sure to contact Father Marko Bojovic (317-490-5379) to schedule a tour and venerate the holy relics of St. Sebastian, who is glorified and living forever in the Kingdom of God and interceding for us as we also strive to live and spread the Orthodox Faith in America.

With Love in Christ,

Father Seraphim



*“My heart is steadfast, O God,
my heart is steadfast!
I will sing and make melody!
Awake, my soul!
Awake, O harp and lyre!
I will awake the dawn!
I will give thanks to You, O Lord,
among the peoples,
I will sing praises to You
among the nations.
For Your steadfast love is great
above the heavens,
Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.”
(Psalm 108:1-4)*

Orthodox Bookstore

Greetings from the Bookstore!

On November 13, we celebrate Saint John Chrysostom, one of the most beloved Orthodox Church Fathers who composed our oft-celebrated Divine Liturgy and was well known for his powerful preaching and public speaking – hence the name “Chrysostomos,” meaning “golden mouthed.”

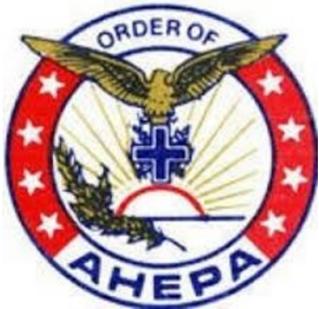
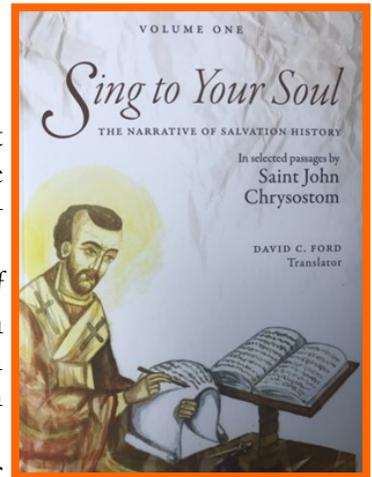
In this month’s featured selection, *Sing to Your Soul: The Narrative of Salvation History*, translator David C. Ford takes us on a homiletic voyage through time (and eternity) in selected passages from St. John himself, beginning with Creation and on through to the Heavenly Life. Regarding the latter, and from *Sing to Your Soul*, Saint John proclaims:

“What then, could be more blessed than this life? There is no poverty or disease to fear there; there is no one treating anybody unjustly or being treated unjustly . . . no one bemoaning the loss of a position of dignity or power. For all the tempest of the passions in us will be quelled and brought to nothing; everything will be suffused with peace and gladness and joy . . .”

This of course sounds pretty “golden” and more so when lived in the here and now in Christ as presumed by St. John’s many teachings covered in this first volume of the series from St. Tikhon’s Monastery Press – and aptly titled. “Therefore, meditate on all these things continually, sing to your soul and you will be able to scatter this dust.” (*Letter 8 from St. John Chrysostom to Saint Olympia*)

To purchase your copy, please make an appointment during the week with Karen or stop by on Sundays after Divine Liturgy (masks and physical distancing required).

Serving you with Love in Christ, Paraskevi Santamaria, Bookstore Director



AHEPA Las Vegas Chapter 314

We hope everyone is safe and well. Please reach out if you or anyone from our AHEPA family has any needs. We will not meet this month. Our next meeting via Zoom will be **on Tuesday, December 1 at 6:00 pm**. Your Chapter would sincerely appreciate your continued active participation. Please, give this matter your most immediate attention.

DUES NOTICE FOR 2021 . . . \$75

There are options for your dues payments this year. You may pay your dues by check or credit card. If you would like to pay by check please make check payable to: **AHEPA 314**, and remit to: **Order of AHEPA, 11214 Grants Landing Court, Las Vegas, NV 89141**.

If you would like to pay by credit card you may do so at: ahepa-314-las-vegas.square.site. We are also **trying to update our files regarding contact information**. If you are not receiving emails, please respond to ahepa314@gmail.com so that we may update your email address.

Thank You, Steve Liaos, Acting Chapter President (702) 518-8018

Daughters of Penelope

The Daughters of Penelope celebrated nationally their 90th Anniversary on November 16, 2019. On October 23, 2020, our Chapter celebrated their 73rd Anniversary! We may be small in number, but we are strong in Hellenic pride. It is our hope to return in 2021 to support our Parish and community with philanthropy. OPA! In Theta Pi, Bessie Chachas, Panope Chapter President



Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun!

Matthew (Jessie) Alvarado on October 2, 2020 (Adult Baptism).
Godparent: Joseph Szukiewicz.

Anthony (Kristian) Thomas on October 3, 2020 (Adult Baptism).
Godparent: George Zaharioudakis.

Lukas (Amari), son of Nicole Demas, on October 7, 2020.
Godparent: Athena Pitts.

Anastasia, daughter of Sophocles and Thekla Frangakis, on October 4, 2020,
at St. Anthony Monastery. Godparent: Christina Kakavulias.

Elias (Eli) Rivera on October 24, 2020 (Adult Baptism).
Godparent: Efstathios Tzelalis.

Nina (April) Rivera on October 24, 2020 (Adult Baptism).
Godparent: Efthimia Eliades Lekar.

Evangelia (Evelyn), daughter of Eli and April Rivera on October 24, 2020.
Godparent: Kassiani Bieker.

Chrismations

Theodore (Travis) Neal on October 25, 2020.
Sponsor: Samuel J. Koutsulis.

Christina (Crystal) Neal on October 25, 2020.
Sponsor: Daniela Yurkov.

Marriages: Na Zisete!

Richard Paul Acovino and Angela Evangelia O'Donnell on October 6, 2020.
Koumbaros: John A. Nixon.

Andrew Mehas and Samantha Corey on October 17, 2020.
Koumbaros: Nicholas Mehas.

Sam Galanis and Donna Lally on October 23, 2020.
Koumbaros: Oscar Anthony Andary.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory!

Karl Joseph Beeman, Sr. on October 14, 2020. Funeral on October 26.

***“May the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly . . .”
(1 Thessalonians 5:23)***

With Gratitude to God for Our Pledged Stewards in 2020
If you wish to become a Parish Steward, please fill out Pledge Form and return to Karen

Acovino, Richard and Angela	Chondrakis, Dimosthenis and Kragerud, Kaaren	Frangakis, Sophocles and Tara	Katsikakis, Evangelos
Adamy, Marina	Christian, Chloe +	Garza, Everardo and Eliades, Eleni	Kelesis, Paula
Albertson-Reizakis, Yianna	Christou, Andreas + and Toni	Gebreamlak, Efreem and Mihret	Kiflezgi, Rahel
Alcala, Georgia	Ciulla, Anthony and Kleri	Geiger, Dan and Hart, Dora	Kinard, Panorea
Alex, Steve	Cocores-Ely, Caron	Gekakis, George	Kirchner, Gary
Alexander, Eleni	Collins, David	Generales, John and Arlene	Kleanthis, George and Zanetta
Alford, Cynthia "Mary"	Cominos, Ted	George, Pete and Georgia	Koliambas, Eleni
Alvarado, Jessie and Cokotis, Julie	Conger, William and Alexia	Georgis, John	Konsolakis, Eleni
Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine	Costacos, John	Georgis, Peter and Keshia	Konsolakis, George and Sophia
Anastasiou, Andrew and Kathleen	Cosulas, Fr. Basil and Presv. Samantha	Ghebreamlak, Daniel and Ghermay, Selam	Kontos, Diana
Andary, Oscar	Cotsilis, Jenny	Gialketsis, Bill and Shelli	Kostopoulos, Georgia
Andrews, Catherine	Crist, Adam and Kanistra	Gialketsis, Julie	Kountanis, Panagiota
Andrews, Chris and Pamela	Cromwell, Michael and Allison	Gialketsis, Steve	Koupais, Mario and Cheri
Andrews, George	Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	Gialketsis, William	Koupais, Pat
Andricopoulos, Margo	Dalacas, Eleni	Gianakoulis, Nick and Magda	Koutsulis, John and Eileen
Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette	Dalacas, Georgia	Gideon, Jesse and Sara	Koutsulis, Sam and Effie
Anton, Mike and Carol	Daskalos, George and Voula	Giouzelis, Sasa	Kratky, Frank and Constance
Antonopoulos, Dimitri	Daughters of Penelope	Goodman, Robert and Linda	Kushnir, Christina
Arbuiso, Elizabeth	DeMangus, Joanne	Gott, C. Thomas and Kitty	Kushnir, Stephanie
Aristides, George and Diana	Demas, Spiro and Rita	Green, Michael and Susan	Kypreos, George and Lesley
Asim, Demetrious	Demolas, Maria and Nour, Reza	Gruber, Ernest and Zoe	Kypreos, Peter and Geri
Athens, Maria and Centers, Scott	Demoleas, Spero and Grace	Gutierrez, Connie	Kyriazopoulos, Constantine Jr.
Ayoub, Bashar	Demoleas, Stephanie	Gutierrez, Daniel	Lakkis, Christina
Bacon, Ken and Dianne	Demopoulos, Vasiliki	Hadzoglou, Christos	Lamancusa, Lisa
Balaouras, Helen	Dimitri, Patricia, Martha and Janet	Hamilton, Mary	Lambros, Kyriakos and Mary
Balaouras, Paris	Dominguez, Eric and Amalia	Hamilton, Paul and Brandi	Latelle, Penny
Balason, Voula	Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia	Hanna, Robert and Julie	Lavine, Frederik
Baldwin, Richard and Vivi	Dramitinos, Mary	Harrison, Angie	Lekar, Caroline
Balodimas, James	Earl, Christine Michaelides	Hastings, Teri	Lekar, Michael and Effie
Barbarino, Dee and Nick	Eliades, Artemis	Hemmers, Oliver and Pantelas, Anne	Leong, Marissa
Bartzos, Eugenia	Eliades, Telly and Caroline	Henderson, Jimmie Laverne	Leonis, Nick and Sophia
Beeler, Mike and Carolyn	Eliades, Gregory and Maria	Herman, Martin and Diane	Leontis, Tishe
Beeman, Karl Jr. and Ivana	Eliades, Harry and Agapi	Hertberg, Jennifer	Leventis, Naomi
Berendji, Jim and Vivian	Eliakis, Peter and Glenda	Hetzl, David and Joanne	Leventis, Nicholas and Christina
Bernier, Micah and Alissa	Eliakis, Varthie and LeeAnn	Hoadrea, Jimmy and Monci	Liaos, Jim and Tina
Berta, Irene +	Eyler, John and Elizabeth	Hondros, Catherine	Liaos, Steven and Francine
Bieker, Adam and Cassie	Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean	Hondros, Christina	Likourinou, Angie
Birtas, Helen and Ann	Farren, Anthony and Maritsa	Hondros, Christopher and Darlene	Likourinou, Steve and June
Bledsoe, Lori	Felecos, Nektaria	Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria	Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine
Booth, Alina	Fenlason, Nathan and Zmina-Fenlason, Jennifer	Houlis, Ila and Debbie	Loughton, Dustin and Rena
Brennan, Peter and Maria	Filios, George and Nitsa	Howard, William and Willie	Malamatos, Kindina
Britten, Ronald and Carol	Filios, Spiridon and Eleni	Iteen, Robert and Sophia	Malpee, Kalliope
Brown, Faye	Fischer, Bob+ and Cheryl	Jensen, Matthew and Michelle	Manakides, Tommy and Ginger
Bruninga, Bill and Erin	Fitzgerald, Norman and McCullen, Sandra	Kachikis, Ernestine	Maniatakos, Ted and Maria
Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Flangas, Gary and Amanda	Kakavulias, George and Helen	Manolakis, Catherine
Cahill, Irene	Flangas, Gus and Tamara	Kakavulias, John and Elizabeth	Manos, Constantine and Michele
Campbell, Theodore and Cheryl	Flangas, Marilyn	Kakavulias, Christina	Manteris, Arthur and Sue
Cappony, Martha	Fleetwood, Thomas and Melissa	Kalkas, John and Rena	Maravic, Marija
Carabas, Stephen and Linda	Fletes, Richard and Herzig, Stephanie	Kambouris, Litsa	Markakis, Joseph
Carahalas, John and Constance	Foster, Kyle and Pierro, Maria Elena	Kanis, Constantinos and Katie	Markakis, Sandy Kiriaki
Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	Fotopoulos, John and Barbara	Kaptain, Emmanuel	Markantonis, Demos and Kate
Carrico, William and Alexandra	Fountas, Constantine	Karalias, Petros and Constance	Markantonis, George and Sarah
Carter, Maria	Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia	Karas, James	Markantonis, Victoria
Chachas, Bessie	Frangakis, Constantine	Karris, Mark and Suzanne	Matsis, John and Rebecca
Chachas, James	Frangakis, John	Katopodis, Efstratios	Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki
Chagares, Kiki		Katris, Nick and Theana	Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debra
Chamie, Elie, Emil and Claudine		Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon	Mavros, Alex and Jen
Chandrinios, Alexia			Mavros, Debbie
Chanos, Jennifer			Mavroudis, Frank
Chomakos, Dean and Tammy			McManus, Jeanette
			McKinney, Michael and Mersene
			McPherson, Robert and Marie
			McSweeney, Farolyn

With Gratitude to God for Our Pledged Stewards for 2020

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| Mehas, Andrew and Samantha
Melton, Don and Susan
Menegatos, James
Merritt, Devin and Sonia
Minas, Arthur and Eva
Mitchell, Tom
Moffett, Todd and
Eliopoulos, Tina
Monoyudis, Jim and Julie
Monroe, Guy and Joanne
Moore, Brenda
Mulopoulos, George and Jenny
Murray, Christopher and
George, Veneta
Myers, Stella
Neal, Travis and Crystal
Neocleous, Plato
Newell, Ronald and Maria
Nicholas, Christina
Nicholas, John and Estella
Nichols, George and Tereza
Nichols, Mary
Nichols, Stella
Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra
Nixon, John and Ellyn
Pahigiannis, Nikon
Paikos, Tom and Elizabeth
Pajak, Scott and Angela
Palivos, Peter and Vicky
Pallis, Paul
Pan-Arcadians
Pandelis, Cheryl
Panos, William and Jeanne
Papalois, John and Maria
Papas, Christian and Nicole
Papas, Peter and Rita
Pappas, Panagiotis and Andrea
Pappas, Rita
Pappas, Spiros and Libby
Pappas, Stella
Paschalis, Evangelos and Maria | Paton, Mia and Kirani, Laura
Paul, Janet
Payan, Luis and Eleni
Pelletier, Michael
Pendleton, Tricia
Peratikos, Tony
Pertsinides, Irene
Petriuc, Constantin
Petro, Aleko and Georgia
Petrou, Jim and Penelopi
Philippou, Demetrios and
Luanne
Philoptochos Society
Pierro, Joe and Rhonda
Pitts, Anton and Athena
Polimerou, Angeline
Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra
Poulis, Chris and Frances
Poulos, Christine
Pouridis, Kouli and Para
Powers, Russell and Rebecca
Punsalan, Basil and Sophie
Pursell, Robert and Mary
Radosta, Athena +
Ramos, Fr. Seraphim and
Presv. Olenka
Raptis, Presv. Evonne
Rasmussen, Scott and Rebecca
Rigas, Anthony and Mary
Rigas, Evie
Rihani, Gary and Linda
Rihani, Fr. Malek and Presv. Dina
Robison, Patricia and Diane
Rivera, Eli and April
Rodis, Dimitri and Angie
Rodis, Sophia
Rosenthal, Joseph and Stephanie
Rotas, Beatrice
Rowe, Eleni
Rudolph, Brandon
Ruffner, Skip and Kathy | Sakkas, Georgios and
Stavropoulos, Bessie
Salon, Janelle
Salonikis, Valentinos and Sophia
Santamaria, Jennifer and Robert
Savvas, Savva
Setian, Gary and Marie
Shive, Brian and Mary
Sirhan, Michael and
Khuri, Imtisal
Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia
Skandros, Stephanie
Skaris, John and
Spyropoulos, Helen
Smith, Kathleen
Snow, Adrienne
Snow, Clifford and Christina
Snowden, Robert and Niki
Sorkhabi, Arian and
Habiba, Maha
Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette
Spotti, Peter and Alexandra
Staubs, Douglas and Anastasia
Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki
Stefanatos, Michael and Tami
Stinis, Pam and Greg
Stransky, Mark
Stransky, Jack and Rachel
Szukiewicz, Alex
Szukiewicz, Joseph and Justina
Tackley, Richard and
Manteris, Stephanie
Tafoya, Steven and Irene
Takas, Andrea
Tasios, Ramona and Pete
Taxopoulos, Bobby and Marylou
Thanos, Nicholas and Victoria
Theros, James and Kathryn
Thompson, Maggy
Thompson, Steve and Aliki
Tohme, Tony and May | Tsarouhas, Maria
Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katerina
Tsolis, Christos and Panagioula
Tsolis, Panagioti
Tsortanidis, Sophia
Turman, Maria and Lucas
Tzelalis, Steve
Tzortzis, Maria
Varinos, Nick and Vasiliki
Wadlow, Nicholas and Pamela
Wainscott, Betty
Wallace, Robert and Katerina
Walter, Vernon and Alice
Ward, Curtis and Angeliki
Waterhouse, David and Aleighjza
Webb, Taylor
Welles, Brigitte
Wheeler, Charles and Alyce
Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina
Williams, Anthony and Anna
Wilson, Kelly and
Egi, Junichiro
Wilson, Lori
Wilson, Steven and Cleo
Womack, Karl
Womack, Kimberly
Wood, Nadine
Wronski, Chuck
Xenios, Anthony
Xerogiannes, Nick and Nikki
Xikis, Victoria
Yfantis, Evangelos
Yurkov, Andre, Nikolina and Dani
Zaferatos, Ted
Zaharoudakis, George and Anna
Zarkos, Nick and Dina
Zarras, Nick and Chery
Zervas, Dionisios
Zimmerman, Paul and Angela
Zmina, Stephen and Cynthia |
|--|---|--|---|

Please Print Name(s), Address, Phone, & Email

2020 VISION

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
Las Vegas, Nevada

As a blessed member of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, I/we commit to \$ _____
per week/month, with the total amount for the year 2020 of \$ _____.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Greek Orthodox: Yes No

Greek Orthodox: Yes No

Others sharing in the gift (children): _____

LIGHTING A CANDLE FOR YOU:

Your Priests are 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.



**2020 Stewardship Report
(as of 10/28/20)**

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$460,560 (\$458,908 in 2019)
 Stewardship Gifts Received: \$414,284 (\$380,408 in 2019)
 Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$46,276 (\$78,500 in 2019)
 Stewardship Families Pledged: 399 (411 in 2019)
 Average Pledge to Date: \$1,154 (\$1,117 in 2019)
 Average Pledge Needed: \$2,494.34 (399 Families)

Church Account Summaries - September 2020

Nevada State Bank Accounts	August	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	September	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$60,127.65	\$42,114.12	\$55,960.67	\$8,449.48	\$63,980.70	\$85,772.26	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$5,527.68				\$5,300.00	\$227.68	Transfer to pay for Annual Commitment
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$4,691.47			\$15.00	\$4,500.00	\$176.47	Transfer to pay for Annual Commitment
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$264,044.15	\$2,200.00	\$4,000.00		\$46,241.26	\$224,002.89	Transfer to pay for Annual Commitment
Folk Dance Group	\$17,966.00					\$17,966.00	
Hellenic Historical Society	\$3,292.94					\$3,292.94	
Designated Funds	August	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	September	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$12,039.29	\$2,150.00			\$10,090.59	\$4,098.70	Transfer to pay for Annual Commitment
Ornaments	\$1,169.41					\$1,169.41	
Restricted Funds	August	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	September	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
ICON	\$140,317.76	\$50.00				\$140,367.76	
Library Account	\$1,470.77					\$1,470.77	
Giving Tree	\$2,000.91				\$63.94	\$1,936.97	
Line of Credit Reserve	\$32,000.00		\$4,000.00		\$36,000.00	\$0.00	Transfer to pay for Annual Commitment
Faithtree	\$2,850.00				\$12.61	\$2,837.39	
Building Fund	\$25,169.26					\$25,169.26	
Landscaping	\$4.88				\$4.88	\$0.00	Transfer to pay for Annual Commitment
Youth Choir	\$2,989.18					\$2,989.18	
Church School	\$1,306.37					\$1,306.37	
Three Priests	\$39,033.50					\$39,033.50	
Roof Appeal	\$3,041.22					\$3,041.22	
Baptismal Water Heater	\$69.24				\$69.24	\$0.00	Transfer to pay for Annual Commitment
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$142.36					\$142.36	
PPP Loan - W2	\$0.00					\$0.00	Transfer to GOA for payroll & associated expenses
PPP Loan - Fr John	\$0.00					\$0.00	Transfer to GOA for payroll & associated expenses
PPP Loan - Fr Seraphim	\$0.00					\$0.00	Transfer to GOA for payroll & associated expenses
Designated, Restricted, and Other Total	\$264,044.15	\$2,200.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$46,241.26	\$224,002.89	
Other Funds	August	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	September	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$70,650.45					\$70,650.45	

September 2020 Candles **\$1,943.00**
 September 2020 Trays **\$3,101.00**
Total September Candles & Trays \$5,044.00



NOVEMBER 2020 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>1 Ss. Cosmas and Damianos /National Philoptochos Sunday 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 5:00 pm Teen Class: Faithtree Relationship Project</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Holy Archangels 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm Young Adult Zoom</p>	<p>9 St. Nectarios 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 100th Anniversary of St. Nectarios' Repose: Pray for Us, Holy One!</p>	<p>10 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting in Kokkos Hall</p>	<p>11 5:00 pm Teen Class</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 Nativity Fast Begins 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 3:00 pm OFF Zoom 5:00 pm GOYA Zoom</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 5:00 pm Teen Class</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy</p>
<p>22 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Parish Assembly</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 St. Catherine/ Thanksgiving Liturgy 5:00 pm Orthros 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy and Artoclasia No Teen Class</p>	<p>26 Thanksgiving </p>	<p>27 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>30 St. Andrew 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy</p>					

The Desert Messenger

*St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
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The Way of the Lord



“Confession must be voluntary and sincere in order for it to be true and effective. A rushed and insincere confession is fruitless, since it is not a revelation of the heart, an expression of deep remorse, and an indication of yearning for treatment.

Confession must be performed without embarrassment and reservation, but with boldness and self-reproach, because boldness is an expression of the abandonment of sin and a disposition to expose sin; bashfulness confirms that there exists a lack of courage.

Confession must be carried out with contrition of heart. This confirms a true change of mind and expresses sorrow for the transgression of God’s commandments, Whom one is seeking to propitiate. Confession without contrition of heart confirms the lack of a deep feeling of guilt for the transgression of the Divine Law.”

(St. Nectarios, Repentance and Confession)