

# The Desert



# Messenger

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

Volume 17, Issue 6 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

June 2019

**From  
Father  
John**

Beloved in Christ:

**Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!**

What an amazing Paschal season it has been, and especially so with the installation of the new and magnificent iconography in the four exedras and over the main entrance doors into the nave of our Church. Our gifted iconographer, Andromachi Voutsina, and her talented crew worked around the clock beginning on Palm Sunday and in five short weeks completed the project we had patiently (and sometimes, not so patiently) anticipated for over two years. Now as we approach the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, which falls this year **on Thursday, June 6** (observed in our Parish **on Wednesday evening, June 5**), our eyes and our souls ascend even further toward God's Kingdom each time we enter our Church to offer a prayer, and participate in worship and the Holy Mysteries.

These new holy icons provide us with a vibrant and theologically rich visual reminder of the spiritual reality that exists – a reality which the eyes of our souls often have difficulty seeing, as they are clouded by our sins and worldly distractions. As we enter the Church now, both visually and spiritually, we become clearly aware that ***"we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses"* (Hebrews 12:1)** – that is, the holy Saints – whom we are called to emulate and who continuously offer intercessions to Christ on our behalf. Looking up into the four domed areas of the exedras, we can visually experience the historical reality of Christ our God's saving work for each and every one of us: Through the icon of the Birth of the Forerunner, who was ***"the prophet of the Most High,"*** we encounter a major event which prepared the way for Christ's coming (***Luke 1:57-79***); through the icon of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple, we learn about the event which, according to Holy Tradition, prepared her spiritually to be "the throne" that would receive and give birth to the Incarnate King of All; through the icon of the Baptism of our Lord, we see the event recorded in the Gospels which paved the way for our own participation in His Death and Resurrection through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism; and finally, through the icon of the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos, we witness the Mother of Life passing to eternal life in God's Kingdom, giving us the hope and assurance that this Door will also be opened to all of us who faithfully ***"hear the word of God and keep it."* (Luke 11:28)** Through the "Anapason" icon of our Lord over the nave doors, we are reminded every time we exit the Church that He Who keeps us ***"will neither slumber nor sleep."* (Psalm 121:4).**

The holy icons, as we see, are more than beautiful adornments for our Church: They teach us, remind us, inspire us, bring us into the Presence of God and His Saints, and keep us focused on the glory that awaits all those who love Him to the end. Our icons, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, are sacramental in nature, for they are vessels allowing us to prayerfully enter into communion with Christ, His Angels and His Saints – that is, to be united with the Kingdom of God. It is most fitting that our iconography project is now completed as we prepare to conclude the Paschal season with the Great Feast of Pentecost on **Sunday, June 16**: For on the fiftieth day after Pascha, as we bend our knees in prayer, we will do so in the company of the saints – those of us in the making and (as our new icons make us fully aware) those who have been glorified – and we will implore the Holy and Life-Creating Spirit to "Come and abide in us!"

With Deepest Love and Gratitude in Christ,

*Father John*



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Sunday, June 2/6th Sunday of Pascha/The Blind Man/Holy Fathers of the Second Ecumenical Council/St. Nikephoros of Constantinople

Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)

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

Epistle: Titus 3:8-15

Gospel: John 9:1-38

Wednesday, June 5/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, June 6/Holy Ascension of Our Lord Liturgy on the Preceding Evening

Sunday, June 9/Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council/St. Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria

Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)

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

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

Gospel: John 17:1-13

Saturday, June 15/Saturday of Souls

8:00 am Orthros

8:45 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

Gospel: John 21:14-25

*For You are the Resurrection, the Life and the repose of Your departed servants, Christ our God...*

Sunday, June 16/Holy Pentecost/St. Tychon of Cyprus

Festal Gospel (Orthros): John 20:19-31

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11

Gospel: John 7:37-52

*Kneeling Vespers follows Liturgy*

*Pentecost Week: Fast-free*

Sunday, June 23/Sunday of All Saints/St. Agrippina the Martyr of Rome

Orthros: Tone Eight (Fourth Plagal)

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

Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30

*Apostles Fast: June 24 - 28*

Monday, June 24/Nativity of St. John the Baptist

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14, 14:1-4

Gospel: Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76, 80

Saturday, June 29/Ss. Peter and Paul the Apostles

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:21-33; 12:1-9

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19

Sunday, June 30/Synaxis of the 12 Holy Apostles/Holy Fathers of Mt. Athos

Orthros: Tone One

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

Gospel: Matthew 9:36; 10:1-8



*“They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”  
(Isaiah 40:31)*

## ***SUNDAY SCHEDULE***

### ***JUNE 2***

Ushers: Adam Bieker, Spiros Filios, Gus Flangas, Bessie Stavropoulos,  
John Nicholas and Skip Ruffner

Memorial: Carnation Andary (1 year)

Fellowship: Kakavulias Family, for Mortgage Principal

### ***JUNE 9***

Ushers: Demetrious Asim, John Matsis, Mark Karris, Stacy Mavrantonis,  
Justina Szukiewicz and John Koutsulis

Memorial: Minas Markantonis (40 days)

Fellowship: Amy and Tiebe Girmay

### ***JUNE 16: PENTECOST SUNDAY - HAPPY FATHERS DAY!***

Ushers: Gus Flangas, Skip Ruffner, Bessie Stavropoulos, Spiros Filios,  
Demetrious Asim and John Nicholas

Fellowship: Philoptochos

### ***JUNE 23***

Ushers: Justina Szukiewicz, John Koutsulis, Adam Bieker, Stacy  
Mavrantonis, Mark Karris and John Matsis

Memorial: Goldie Eliopoulos (1 year)

Fellowship: Forerunners, the Seniors of St. John the Baptist

### ***JUNE 30***

Ushers: Adam Bieker, Spiros Filios, Gus Flangas, Bessie Stavropoulos,  
John Nicholas and Skip Ruffner

Fellowship: Irene Pertsinides, in Memory of Her Parents



### ***Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisi***

Nikolay, son of Diyan Nedelchev and Britzel Herrera, on May 18, 2019.

Godparent: Zhivko Nedelchev.

Vasiliki (Julia), daughter of Paul and Kelly Howse, on May 25, 2019.

Godparent: Maria Kaltcheva.

### ***Marriage: Na Zisetel***

Peter Brennan and Maria Duran on May 26, 2019.

Koumbara: Efthimia Eliades Lekar.

## **ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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

Rev. Father John Hondros  
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Victoria Barrena  
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Mara Braun  
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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:  
Vicky Palivos & 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:  
Nicholas Asim & Elizabeth Arbuiso

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek School: Paula Kelesis

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

Kali Parea: Demetrious Asim

Adult Basketball:  
Nate Dallas

Forerunners: Vicki 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

***"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord  
has risen upon you. . . And nations shall come to Your light,  
and kings to the brightness of Your rising." (Isaiah 60:1, 3)***



## Parish Council Report

Christos Anesti! After a long hard fight, our Iconography is completed and the scaffolding finally no more. Seeing our Church being adorned with the new Iconography was definitely a once in a lifetime experience, and it was a true privilege to watch the Iconographers do their work. The Iconography is stunningly beautiful, and the level of detail and the artistic brilliance is truly a labor of love inspired by God.

This last Sunday's Liturgy was the first one held with the Iconography completed. Father John and Father Seraphim gave a very informative and amazing talk about the significance of the Iconography and its meaning. Following their talk, a small celebration was held outside to commemorate the completion of this major project. We would like to thank the Ladies Philoptochos for their efforts and contributions in hosting this celebration. We would also like to thank Constantin Petriuc and his team for their monumental efforts in cleaning the Church and making it ready after the scaffolding came down. The amount of work they did in preparing the Church was amazing.

The celebration of the *60th Anniversary of our Church is set for November 9 and 10, 2019*. We urge everyone to come and revel in our history, and be part of acknowledging our colorful past. As part of the celebration, it is our fervent hope that we will be able to finally retire the mortgage. Cheryl Pandelis and Nitsa Filios have been working tirelessly and tenaciously to make this a reality. If you have not yet done so, please get behind this very important effort and make your pledge – there is also the option of fulfilling your pledge through monthly payments. By retiring our mortgage early, we can save tens of thousands of dollars per year.

We would like to congratulate all of our graduates this year and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Seeing so many young people going on to bigger and better things is truly gratifying for the entire community.

Stewardship continues to be a problem. At this juncture, we have pledges in the amount of \$391,234. This puts us at only about 40% of the amount needed to fully cover the Church's operating costs for the year, leaving us with a tremendous shortfall. As we move into the summer months, this shortfall adversely affects our ability to meet our financial obligations. As we have stated over and over again, every summer we end up having to move funds around from different accounts to make ends meet. Last year, we had to use the Greek Food Festival pre-sale proceeds to cover operating costs and subsequently ended up having to take a line of credit from the bank to cover the pre-Festival expenses. Because of this shortfall, the Parish Council has moved to institute a few austere measures to save money, one of which will include having Sunday Fellowship outside so we will not have to spend money for cooling down Panos Hall. If you have not done so, please look into your hearts and make your Stewardship Pledge and contribution. We have a lot of very positive things happening with our Church and we are on a good path; however, we all really need to work together on improving our Stewardship.

On a brighter note, we are working hard and steady on the *Greek Food Festival* and, as always, our mission is to provide a very "high energy" and "festive" event, replete with the sights, sounds, tastes and aromas of Greece. The dates for the Festival this year are *Friday, September 27 through Sunday, September 29*. The first *Festival Meeting* will be on *Sunday, June 2 at noon* (following Liturgy) in Kokkos Hall. Please attend to learn about the Festival and to provide us your ideas.

The repairs on the roof over the kitchen and storage areas have been completed. The contractor did a great job for us. Again, thank you to those who donated their treasures to get this repair job done.

In closing and as usual, we want to thank the various Church ministries and organizations, and the many individuals for all the work they do and have done to help us secure the future of our Parish. We know a lot of things are always happening, but each ministry and event is extremely important. Please step forward whenever you can and pitch in, and get involved as we move forward to make our Church better.

May God Bless! Gus Flangas, Parish Council President

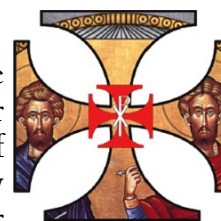
*"For I know their works and their thoughts, and I am coming to gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and shall see My glory." (Isaiah 66:18)*



## Philoptochos News

Dearest Members of Philoptochos,

Christos Anesti! As summer begins, I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is hard to believe that another Ecclesiastical Year is coming to a close. Once again, the women of



Philoptochos met our commitments and fulfilled our mission. This year we significantly increased our income through our various successful projects and were able to increase our local, Metropolis and National contributions. I would like to express my appreciation to my Board and all Philoptochos members for their love, support and hard work throughout the year.

On May 5 we attended the annual Agape Celebration of Love in Newport Beach. All proceeds benefitted Kids 'n' Cancer Camp Agape, which is one of the beloved ministries in our Metropolis assisting children afflicted with cancer. The children and their families are invited to Camp Agape and offered an all-expense paid camp experience led by the compassion and love of the Philoptochos team. Camp Agape offers an incredible opportunity for connecting with others fighting this battle, mutual support, as well as laughter, dancing, singing, swimming, spa treatments and many other activities. We watched videos and looked at



many photos, which allowed us to understand the difference Camp Agape makes in the lives of these beautiful and talented children. Sadly, two children who attended the camp lost their lives to cancer this year.

Thank you to everyone who has donated toward this worthy cause. Through your generosity our Panagia Chapter presented a check in the amount of \$5,000 to Kids 'n' Cancer Camp Agape. May God cure all these precious children and keep them cancer-free.

On May 14 we had our last Philoptochos General Meeting for the Ecclesiastical Year. Many reports were presented on the programs and projects for the year. We also held elections for the new Philoptochos Board for the 2019-2021 term. Congratulations to the new Board, and we pray for your great success in continuing the sacred mission of Philoptochos.

On May 19 we held the Bartsas Memorial. This was a day of remembrance and appreciation to our benefactor, Mary Bartsas – her generosity continues through her family, allowing us to sustain and grow our Social Services Program and its benevolent outreach. We were pleased and appreciative that Mary Bartsas' nephew and his wife attended the memorial service. Our appreciation to our Social Services Chair, Geri Kypreos, for chairing the Fellowship and to the ladies who helped set up and provided delicious food and fruit. A big thank you also to Steve Tzelalis and Sam Koutsulis for making the tasty potato salad!



On the evening of May 20 we hosted the President's Dinner. My profound gratitude to my Vice President, Dora Hart, for hosting this beautiful event in my honor, as well as to Geri Kypreos and Bernadette Anthony for their assistance. I was overwhelmed by all the love with which I was embraced by everyone. I am most appreciative of receiving the beautiful icon of Panagia Paramithias, which I will treasure forever. Additionally, my appreciation to Father John and Father Seraphim for their love and support. The Kairos Award recipients were Presvytera Maria Hondros and Bessie Chachas, for their incredible service to the community and Philoptochos. Congratulations to these beautiful and well deserving ladies!



*(Continued on Page 6)*

## Philoptochos News *(Continued from Page 5)*

Our sincere appreciation to Eileen Koutsulis, the Church School Director, and all the students for their participation in Missions Possible. The students collected the record amount of \$1,271.69! The proceeds from Missions Possible were sent to the Metropolis of San Francisco to support the worthy work of Missions and Evangelism. Funds from Missions Possible are used to foster Parish growth, educate the faithful, potential converts and inactive Orthodox Christians, consonant with the Great Commission of Christ. Funds are also used to start bookstores in mission Parishes and, when needed, to assist mission or small Parishes with clergy expenses. Eileen has done a great job with the Church School children in teaching and motivating them from a young age to do philanthropic work through Missions Possible.

### Upcoming Events:

**Thursday, August 15: The Dormition of the Theotokos, the Feast Day of the Panagia Chapter:** Women are needed to chair and serve at the Fellowship.

**September 27 – 29: Greek Food Festival.** Philoptochos will once again have a booth, greeting and welcoming the many thousands of guests who will be arriving to experience our Greek hospitality. Please contact Jennifer Chanos, the Booth Chair, at (702) 371-1786 or via email [jlinn777@aol.com](mailto:jlinn777@aol.com) to volunteer a few hours of your time.

**November 9 – 10: 60th Anniversary Celebration of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church:** Please plan on participating in the weekend festivities. Again I remind you that each of us is called to participate and prayerfully give from our precious resources to assist in paying off the mortgage of our Church. Our Church is the place where we worship God, hold fast to our ancient Faith, are healed and renewed by the Sacraments, and maintain our culture. Please contact the Chairwomen, Cheryl Pandelis and Nitsa Filios, to offer your pledge!

**Philoptochos Membership:** As we are still in the Philoptochos membership enrollment period, I appeal to you to please renew your stewardship or, if you have never been a member, you are invited and encouraged to become a steward. All ladies and gentlemen are welcome to join our wonderful organization for the support of our charities. We would like to welcome all the new members and the ones who have renewed their membership.

In closing, it has been a great honor for me to serve as your president the past two years. During this period we have accomplished a lot by working together and, as my term ends, I want to thank all of you for your many contributions and talents. Without your assistance and support, we could not have helped so many individuals and organizations – through our service we have touched and changed so many lives, and we have also been personally transformed.

Looking to the future, I will be traveling more often because of family commitments. I am sure you have heard that I am a proud grandma to a beautiful baby boy, with whom I am in love. No matter where I am, my thoughts, prayers and assistance will always be with all of you. Thank you again for all your love and support to me personally and to our Panagia Chapter. I love and appreciate all of you.

I hope all of you have a wonderful and safe summer.

With Love in Christ, Vicky Palivos, Philoptochos President



The AHEPA Las Vegas Chapter 341 will not be having a meeting during the summer months. We will return to our regular meetings beginning in September. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

We are actively seeking to fill ALL Executive Board Positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Thank you, Kouli Pouridis, Chapter President

[pouridis5@cox.net](mailto:pouridis5@cox.net) or (702) 604-0885

## Stewardship and Community Outreach

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Christ is Risen! Glory be to God for all things.

Ah yes, June! Kids are out of school. Families are finalizing plans for vacations to Europe, the Asia Pacific region, the Holy Land, and across this great nation of ours. The plans have been in the works for months or even years as the necessary funds have been saved in special accounts to be used on these well-deserved respites from the day-to-day routine of our lives.



With that in mind, what do you think should be the 2040 vision for the future of our Parish? What kind of spiritual future do we want to plan for our children and grandchildren? What do we want to do to provide for and support those in our Parish who are in need? Even though we struggle year in and year out to make ends meet, these questions are of the utmost importance. It is important that we not be as the foolish virgins in *Matthew's Gospel (25:1-13)* who squandered God's gifts on themselves, including the talents they received from the Lord and the time He gave them on Earth.

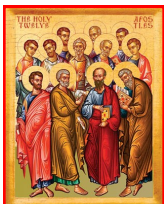
Do we want to have a parochial school? Do we want to have some form of housing for the elderly in our community who do not have family to support them? Do we want to look for additional property in order to expand what is offered to our community? Do we want a parking facility nearby to support our annual Las Vegas Greek Food Festival? Do we want to purchase blocks of plots at a cemetery? What additional ministries do we want to have available for adults, young adults, and our children?

All of these things and more are possible if we work together as a community instead of thinking someone else will take care of whatever need there is in our Parish and on our Church grounds. While it is true that we often focus on treasures when referring to Stewardship, offering our time and talents can also be of great spiritual help to ourselves and our Orthodox community. For starters, one area that could significantly help our Parish would be members of the community offering their time and talents to address our many maintenance and structural repair needs. One family is already offering their time and talent by maintaining the cleanliness of the beautiful fountains on our Church grounds. Another family is helping maintain our aging Church and Community Center air conditioning units. Yet, there are many more areas where your time and talents are needed.

Are you a professional painter? Would you be willing to offer your time and talents to paint the Church and/or Community Center? Do you work in construction and have expertise in stucco work? Plenty of areas of the Church and Community Center exterior are in need of work. Do you have professional experience laying carpet? The Church is in need of new carpeting. Do you have professional expertise working with asphalt? Our parking lot looks like a scene from an earthquake movie and is in dire need of repair. Do you work in landscaping? There is a continual need to help maintain the beautiful grounds of our campus. The floors in Panos Hall and Kokkos Hall are in dire need of refurbishing. Do you have the expertise to offer your time and talents?

By offering our time and talents to these projects and others, funds will be freed up to allow our Parish to better meet day-to-day operating expenses. This will enable us to set aside funds for future Church projects. *"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."* (1 Peter 4:10)

In Christ, Stewardship and Outreach Committee



*O Holy Apostles, intercede with the merciful God,  
that He may grant remission of the offenses of our souls.  
(Apolytikion of the Holy Apostles, June 30)*



## *Congratulations to Our Graduates!*

### Alexandra Dominguez

Alexandra, daughter of Eric and Amalia Dominguez and granddaughter of Peter and Glenda Eliakis, will be graduating from West Career and Technical Academy this year with an Advanced Honors diploma from the Biotechnology Program. Throughout high school Alex has been involved in many activities, including volleyball, piano, National Art Honors Society, American Red Cross Club, and We the People. She will be attending the University of Florida, and will be majoring in Psychology. Go Gators! Alex was baptized at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, and was involved in the community from a young age.



### Natalia Daskalos

Natalia, daughter of George Daskalos and Katerina Eliades is graduating from Nevada State High School on June 1. Natalia will be attending the University of Nebraska – Kearney in the Fall. Natalia has been active at St. John the Baptist Church from a young age, particularly in Greek Folk Dance, in which she has participated as a dancer and director.

### George Filios

George, son of Spiros and Eleni Filios, will be graduating from Bishop Gorman High school with a High Honors Diploma. He plans to attend UNLV in the fall and major in Computer Sciences with a Minor in Finance. George will continue to be an advocate for the JDRE and do charity work for Three Square, the Las Vegas Rescue Mission and other charities. George was raised from infancy at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, where he has enjoyed volunteering at the Greek Food Festival with his parents and grandparents.

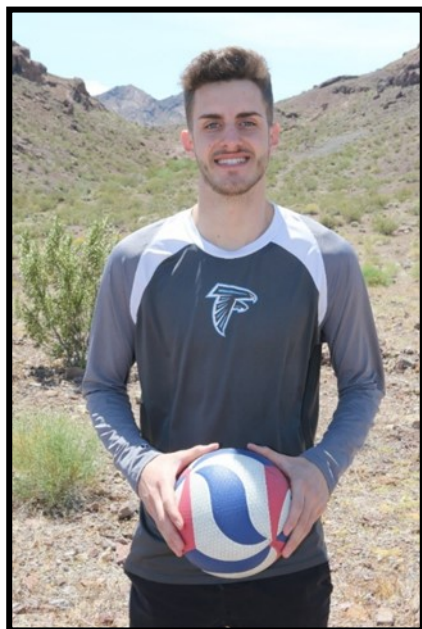


*Class of 2019***Alexandra Liaos**

Alexandra, daughter of Steve and Francine Liaos, is graduating from Desert Oasis High School with an Advanced Honors Diploma with an AP Seal, and the Diamond in the Desert Award. Alexandra was very active at her high school as a member of the Cross Country and Track and Field teams earning a varsity letter in each, in addition to receiving the Scholar Athlete award. She was also a National Honors Society member and participated in Student Council all four years. Alexandra has been involved at St. John the Baptist Church as a member of GOYA, and a participant in Church School and Youth Choir. She has been active in the Folk Dance ministry as a dancer for 13 years, and has been a Director for three years. Alexandra will attend Arizona State University in the fall and plans to major in Biomedical Engineering.

**Phoebe Orlando**

Phoebe Orlando, daughter of Alleck and Jennifer Orlando, will graduate from Centennial High School, having earned an Advanced Honors Diploma, and the High Honors Award. Phoebe kept busy in high school and "Lettered" multiple years in both Student Leadership and Academics. But her heart has always been here at St. John Church, where she has treasured singing and dancing, teaching and learning, working and most of all worshipping beside her Church friends and family. Phoebe will continue her education this fall at Arizona State University, where she has been admitted to the Forensic Psychology program.

**Brandon Szukiewicz**

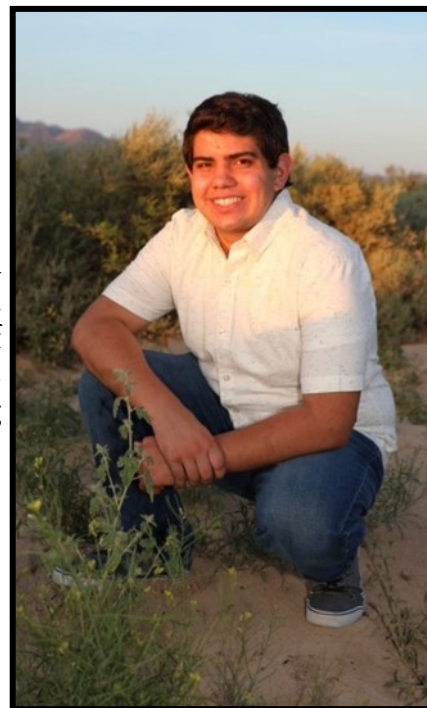
Brandon, son of Joseph and Justina (Jennia) Szukiewicz is a graduate of Foothill High School. He was a member of the varsity wrestling and volleyball teams. Brandon has been an active participant of St. John the Baptist Parish his entire life, and has served in the Altar as an Acolyte for 10 years. He has also been involved with several ministries and activities in our Parish community, including Church School, Youth Choir, GOYA and the Greek Food Festival. Brandon plans to attend UNLV, beginning this summer, and will be playing on the men's volleyball team.



## *Congratulations, Grads!*

### Alexander Philippou

Alexander Demetrios William Philippou, son of Demetrious and Luanne Philippou is graduating from Shadow Ridge High School with a College and Career Ready Diploma. He plans to attend the College of Southern Nevada to pursue a degree in Automotive Technology. Alex has been active at St. John the Baptist Church from a young age, participating in Church School, GOYA, Greek Folk Dance and the Greek Food Festival.



### Vangeli Zimmerman

Vangeli (Evangelos), son of Paul and Angela Collins-Zimmerman, is graduating Valedictorian of his class with an Advanced Honors Diploma from Spring Valley High School. Vangeli is a four year varsity letter winner and captain of the varsity tennis team. He is Student Body Vice President and he represented Spring Valley at the National Student Council Leadership Conference. He has served as an Acolyte at St. John the Baptist Church for nine years and participated in the Folk Dance ministry, Youth Choir, and Greek Food Festival. Vangeli will attend UCLA in the fall and plans to major in Business Economics.

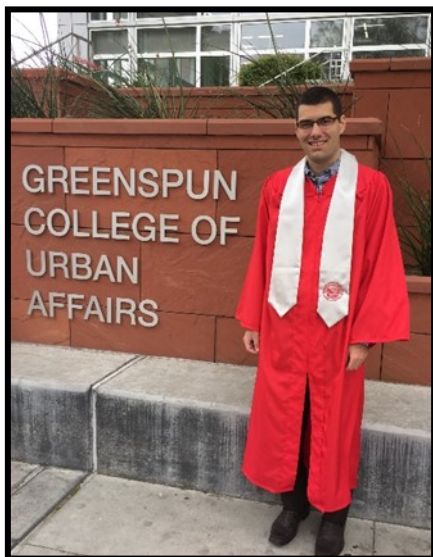
### *Kokkos Scholarship Recipients*

*Congratulations to Alexander Philippou and Phoebe Orlando, this year's recipients of the Fofa Kokkos Scholarship. John Matsis, William Carrico and Ellyn Nixon served on the Kokkos Scholarship Committee. May God grant Alex and Phoebe continued success in their future studies.*





## Our College Graduates



**Nicholas Asim**

Nicholas (Niko) Asim graduated from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban Studies. He plans to utilize his degree to help address some of the most pressing issues facing society today, such as affordable safe housing and city planning, as well as examining other governmental issues.



**David Eyler**

David, son of John and Elizabeth Eyler, graduates with a Bachelor of Science in communications, with a focus on Public Relations from Boston University.



**Jonathan Liaos**

Jonathan Liaos, son of Jim and Tina Liaos will be graduating from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He will be receiving a Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training. He was named on the Dean's Honor List several times throughout his four years at the university. His plan after graduation is to work for Select Physical Therapy as a full-time Athletic Trainer at one of the local high schools. Eventually he plans on getting his Master's in Education, so he can teach Biology or Sports Medicine at one of the local high schools as well.



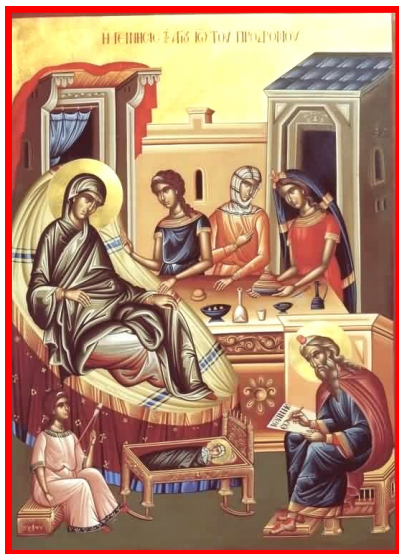
**Demetrios Philippou**

Demetrios, son of Demetrios and Luanne Philippou is graduating from UNLV with a Bachelor of Science degree with a concentration in Marketing. He plans to pursue his MBA.

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,  
plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon Me  
and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you."  
(Jeremiah 29:11-12)*

## From Father Seraphim

The Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, *commemorated on June 24*, comes this year like a call to memory for humanity. A memory of reality and a reminder of truth in these current times, in which many in our society have forgotten the importance of life, pregnancy, and the value of children in the womb. We celebrate the birthday of a man who was completely dedicated to Christ our Savior and who was “*great in the sight of the Lord*” (Luke 1:15) even as an unborn child. The life of St. John inspires us and shows just how amazing a human life can be and was meant to be.



In his ministry the Forerunner directed everyone to Christ. He feared no worldly authority that threatened him, and yet he is an example of pure humility. To his own disciples he said, “Go! There He is! He who takes away the sins of the world! Attach yourselves to Him! *Behold the Lamb of God!*” (John 1:29) John’s ministry climaxed when he gave up his own head to the executioner because he boldly confronted the immoral and adulterous political powers of his time. He was not only brave in his following of the Law of God and immovable belief that Jesus is the Messiah, but also in the fact that he gave up his life for virtue and a moral conscience *before* he saw death conquered by Christ on the Cross. St. John was made perfect through his asceticism and love; he who had no evil in himself, went to Hades and continued to turn the hearts of God’s people to righteousness. The demons could have no influence on him in life, and now he was face to face with the devil, still relentlessly announcing the mercy, truth, and glory of God.

In all his actions the Baptist proclaimed and preached the Word of God. When St. John leapt for joy inside the womb, his mother Elizabeth was six months along – but the Virgin Mary was carrying the only recently-conceived Christ in her womb. St. John recognized that which today has been labeled as “unrecognizable” in the minds of many. By his leaping in the womb of his mother, St. John already began to fulfill his role as “the voice.” (John 1:23) St. Maximos the Confessor expounds on what “the voice” means, and writes that St. John’s ministry continues in the Church in two ways even after his death. This voice is first our conscience in the wilderness of our life. Every believer through their own life and priorities reveals their intentions, and those around us hear the voice of our actions. In this way we can boldly preach without even using words. Secondly, the Church herself is the voice of repentance in the world. We carry the message of Christ. No one else does.

The Church alone is God’s voice to the world. Orthodoxy is the answer, the voice of reason; it is the glue that can hold together the chaos of the contemporary American scene. Today’s heated abortion discussions are filled with isolated truths that on their own are misinterpreted or simply incomplete. Like scattered stitches on a tapestry, arguments such as “My body, my rules,” and gender-blaming are unable to heal the deep pain of so many in our country. The Faith however, connects us to a much greater Tradition which offers meaningful and life altering possibilities, and fills in the holes where the current insistence on the “rights” of humans falls short. The Church is each stitch completed, each truth in its proper place and the total image comprehensible. In celebrating both conceptions and births with Feast Days year after year we show forth the sanctity of these events themselves. As God said to another of His prophets, “*Before I formed you in the belly I knew you; and before thou came forth out of the womb I sanctified you, and I ordained you a prophet unto the nations.*” (Jeremiah 1:5)

Within the Faith of the Orthodox Church, every human created in the image of God finds wholeness. In honor of St. John and his Birth, we must talk, reach out, love, and pray for all those whom the Lord God is preparing to receive His message. Even today when our attention is regularly turned away from God, St. John comes and turns our heads to where healing and truth lies. Follow St. John’s eyes and hands in the icons as they proclaim: “*Look! Behold the Lamb of God!*”

Through the Prayers of the Forerunner,

*Father Seraphim*



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**REMINDER - REMINDER - REMINDER**

By God's Grace, The Ladies Philoptochos Society Panagia Chapter has been entrusted with the chairmanship of the  
**60th Anniversary Celebration of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, November 8, 9 and 10, 2019.**

Last October, as a forerunner to the 60th you were presented with a

**"\$300,000 One Year Plan"**

which outlined the means by which our beloved Church Community can be **debt free by November, 2019.**

We have **FIVE MORE MONTHS** to raise an additional \$124,000 to bring this goal to fruition.

We are most thankful to our fellow parishioners listed below who have so generously made their contributions.

With a generous heart, please review once again, the packet sent to you on October 15, 2018

and choose the plan best suited to you so that we may include your name on this list.

**ANY AND ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NEEDED AND WELCOME**

Your sisters in Christ,

**Vicky Palivos, President**  
Ladies Philoptochos Society  
Panagia Chapter

**Nitsa Filios, Chairwoman**  
702 595-6888  
nitsalv@aol.com

**Cheryl Pandelis, Chairwoman**  
702 338-1601  
cheryl.pandelis@outlook.com

AHEPA  
Bacon, Ken and Diane  
Berendji, Jim and Vivian  
Chagaras, Kiki  
Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia  
Dalacas, Georgia  
Dimopoulos, Steve  
Dounis, Dina, Kiki and Georgia  
Earl, Christine Michaelides  
Filios, George and Nitsa  
Filios, Spiros and Eleni  
Flangas Memorial Fund, William "Bill"  
Flangas, Gus and Tamara  
Flangas, Marilyn  
Fountas, Constantinos  
Gialketsis, Babe and Terry+  
Gialketsis, Julie  
Hamilton, Mary  
Hamilton, Paul and Brandi  
Hart, Dora and Geiger, Dan  
Hetzel, David and Stephanatos-Hetzel, Joanne  
Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria  
Jandete, Johanna  
Kakavulias, George and Helen  
Kanis, Constantinos and Katie  
Karas, John and Marcie  
Karris, Mark and Suzanne  
Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon  
Kouretas, Daniel  
Kypreos, George, Lesley and Athanasia  
Kypreos, Peter and Geri

Kypreos, Sophia, AP and Peter  
Ladies Philoptochos Society, Panagia Chapter  
Makris, Apostolos  
Maravic, Marija  
Matsis, John and Rebecca  
Moffet, Todd and Eliopoulos, Tina  
Monoyudis, Jim and Julie  
Murray, Christopher and George, Veneta  
Nixon, John and Ellyn  
Palivos, Peter and Vicky  
Pan Arcadians  
Pandelis, Cheryl  
Panos, William and Jean  
Papas, Christian, Nicole and Luka  
Papas, Peter and Rita  
Poulos, Christine  
Powers, Russell and Rebecca  
Ramos, Fr. Seraphim and Presv. Olenka  
Rotas, Beatrice  
Ruffin, Lee  
Senior Forerunners  
Setian, Gary and Marie  
Smith, Litsa  
Snow, Clifford and Christina  
Stephanatos, Michael and Tami  
Tsolis, Panagioti  
Velimirovic, Nikolaj  
Wilson, Steven and Cleo  
Xikis, Vicki  
Zaferatos, Theodore  
Zamir, Talor and Michelle





ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**\$300,000 ONE YEAR PLAN**

***SUGGESTED DONATIONS***

*Please choose one*

Plan 1:	\$1,000	_____ pay in full or	_____ \$83.33 per month for 12 months***
Plan 2:	\$2,000	_____ pay in full or	_____ \$166.67 per month for 12 months
Plan 3:	\$5,000	_____ pay in full or	_____ \$416.67 per month for 12 months
Plan 4:	\$7,500	_____ pay in full or	_____ \$625.00 per month for 12 months
Plan 5:	\$10,000	_____ pay in full or	_____ \$833.33 per month for 12 months
Plan 6:	\$15,000	_____ pay in full or	_____ \$1,250.00 per month for 12 months
Plan 7:	\$25,000	_____ pay in full or	_____ \$2,083.33 per month for 12 months
Plan 8:	\$50,000	_____ pay in full or	_____ \$4,166.67 per month for 12 months

**\*\*\*300 Contributors participating in Plan 1: \$1,000 over the course of 1 year,  
or \$83.33 per month for 12 months, would abolish our \$300,000 debt!  
Please think about what \$83.33 per month represents to you and  
find a way to help make it happen!**

These are "SUGGESTED" donation plans, however

***ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOME***

FOR ASSISTANCE IN DESIGNING A PERSONALIZED PLAN

OR TO SET UP A MONTHLY PAYMENT SCHEDULE

please call or email

Cheryl Pandelis 702 338-1601  
cheryl.pandelis@outlook.com

Nitsa Filios 702 595-6888  
nitsalv@aol.com

**THANK YOU!**



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**\$300,000 ONE YEAR PLAN**

*Please fill out and return this form to St. John Church in the enclosed envelope*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ MOBILE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**IN FULL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ OR 12 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_ EACH**

**CHECK\*** Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CREDIT CARD\*\*** AMEX \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Please make check payable to St. John Greek Orthodox Church*

*\*\*If you prefer, please call Karen directly at the Church Office 702-221-8245 with your credit card information*

**ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOME**

FOR ASSISTANCE IN DESIGNING A PERSONALIZED PLAN

OR TO SET UP A MONTHLY PAYMENT SCHEDULE

please call or email

Cheryl Pandelis 702 338-1601  
cheryl.pandelis@outlook.com

Nitsa Filios 702 595-6888  
nitsalv@aol.com

**THANK YOU!**



**St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church  
Young Adults Invite You to a**

# BBQ COOKOUT

**Sunday, June 2 at 2:00 PM**

**Bring a side dish, drinks or dessert!**

**Burgers and Hot Dogs Provided! Meet at  
the Field on the Church Grounds and enjoy  
volleyball, soccer and fellowship!**

**RSVP with Fr. Seraphim at [frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com](mailto:frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com)**

Made with PosterMyWall.com



# Hot Sun? Cool Down!

**Come to the Parish-Wide  
Potluck Picnic at  
Mt. Charleston  
Saturday, June 8  
10:30 am – 3:30 pm**

**Everyone is invited!**

Join us as we escape the heat in Vegas and soak up the cooler temperatures among the pine trees.

Please bring a main dish or side dish to share and enjoy a communal picnic – then go hiking, exploring, or just relax!

Lawn chairs are encouraged! Jackets are also recommended, just in case.

FYI, cell phones don't work in Lee Canyon.

## **DIRECTIONS:**

**Lee Canyon, Foxtail Group Picnic Area, "Northern Flicker" Site**

*For mapping programs use one of these addresses:*

*"Forest Road 106, Las Vegas, NV 89124" or "NF-106, Las Vegas, NV 89124."*

- Take 95 North from Las Vegas.
- About 15 minutes outside of town, turn LEFT on NV 156 / Lee Canyon.
- Drive 15.9 miles to the Foxtail Group Picnic Area, on the LEFT
- Tell the gate attendant you're with the "St. John" group
- Drive to the "Northern Flicker" site.

**Carpooling is encouraged!**

**QUESTIONS? Call or e-mail Fr. Seraphim at 702-768-7480 or  
frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com**

## Youth and Family Ministries

### Church School

Christ is Risen!

What a wonderful school year we have had! Commencement was a lovely event and a great way to acknowledge our students. A special thank you to the Ladies Philoptochos for sponsoring our pizza and refreshments following Commencement again this year. Congratulations to our high school graduates, whom we honored at our Commencement: We are so proud of them and pray that whatever path they choose, they continue to grow in their faith and love of Christ.



We had an amazing Lenten collection for "Missions Possible," for the benefit of our mission parishes in the Metropolis of San Francisco. Thanks to your generosity, our children collected \$1,271.69!

I would like to say thank you to everyone who helped our ministry this year: Our excellent and self-sacrificial teachers, our substitute teachers, the parents, Presvytera Maria, Father John, Father Seraphim, and Karen. We could not run this large ministry without your participation and support. A huge thank you to a few of our teachers who will be leaving us, whom we will greatly miss: We appreciate Jenn Orlando for her many years of teaching our young kids; additionally, Phoebe Orlando is going off to college, and Thomas and Melissa Fleetwood will be focusing on other roles in our Church.



Our first day of class next year will be *Sunday, September 8*, the Nativity of the Theotokos.

Please keep an eye out for the registration form in the July/August issue of *The Desert Messenger*. See you during the summer!

With Love in the Risen Lord,  
Eileen Koutsulis, Church School Director  
(702) 521-6516 or [vivaleenie@cox.net](mailto:vivaleenie@cox.net)

### Youth Choir News

Christos Anesti!

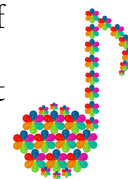
Thanks to all who chanted on Mothers Day! We were a small but mighty bunch of voices. Many people have commented on your singing.

The Youth Choir will chant the Divine Liturgy *on Sunday, June 9*. Please be in the front right exedra *by 9:40 am*. After more than two years we will finally have our spot back! Hooray!

We will then take a two month hiatus before we begin the New Church Year in September.

Love in the Risen Christ, Presvytera Maria

*"Their voice goes out through all the earth." (Psalm 19:4, Romans 10:18)*

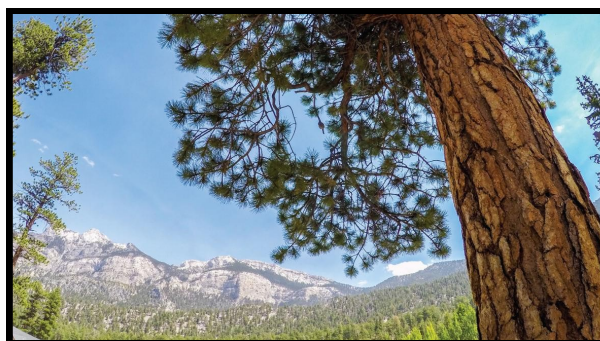




## GOYA ~ For Teenagers

Dear GOYANs,

Christos Anesti! This month we will be heading up to Mt. Charleston *on Saturday, June 8 from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm*. We will be having an incredible barbeque and potluck: Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided; please bring a side dish, salad, drinks or dessert for everyone's enjoyment. After we eat, there will be opportunities for hiking, relaxing, and exploring the incredible mountain scenery and trails.



For more information and directions, please see the flyer! RSVP with Father Seraphim so we can get a head count – we hope to see you there!

If you are planning on attending Summer Camp at the St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center, we will be heading to *Session One from July 7 to 13*. Please let Father Seraphim know if you will be needing transportation to Dunlap, CA from the Church this year in the rental van. Please note: We will not provide transportation back to Las Vegas from Summer Camp.

Finally, congratulations to our graduating seniors who will be sorely missed! Blessed journey toward college, and may God prosper your every endeavor and guide your paths!

With Love in Christ, Kouli Pouridis and June Likourinou, GOYA Advisors

## Orthodox Family Fellowship

Christ is Risen! In June we will be escaping the heat of Las Vegas and ascending to Mt. Charleston on *Saturday, June 8 from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm*. We invite you to participate in the parish-wide hike and potluck. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided on the grill, so please bring a side dish to share or something else to grill! We encourage carpooling, so if you would like to ride together please coordinate with Father Seraphim. We will leave from the Church Parking lot *at 9:30 am sharp*. For additional information and directions, please see the flyer!

If you are planning on attending Summer Camp at the St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center, we will be heading to *Session One from July 7 to 13*. Please let Father Seraphim know if you will be needing transportation to Dunlap, CA from the Church this year in the rental van. Please note: We will not provide transportation back to Las Vegas from Summer Camp.

Have a great and safe summer and enjoy your break from school!

With Love in Christ, Amy Khuri and Jelena Boskovic, OFF Advisors

## Greek Language Program

Dear Community of St. John the Baptist,

Christos Anesti! A big thank you for your support at the May Fellowship, which we held along with the Pan-Arcadians for the benefit of the Greek Language Program: We raised \$400!

On Tuesday, May 21, the Greek Language students had their end-of-the-year party! We had a great year and I thank all of our teachers for their hard work.

We are in desperate need of teachers! We need a minimum of four teachers, in order to continue offering Greek Language Classes. If you are able to donate your time and talents by teaching our youth the Greek language, please see me.

Paula Kelesis, Greek School Director





## Adult and Young Adult Ministries

### *Young Adults*

Christ is Risen! *On Sunday June 2, at 2:00 pm*, we will be gathering for a summer kick-off Picnic on the grounds of St. John Church! We will be enjoying time together playing volleyball, soccer, football, frisbee, as well as having an interesting discussion.

Please bring a side dish, dessert or beverage to share with others – the hot dogs and hamburger will be provided by Niko and Elizabeth! Please RSVP with Father Seraphim so that we may know what item you will be bringing. Hope to see you all for an awesome afternoon of outdoor fun!

In Christ, Niko Asim and Elizabeth Arbuiso, YA Advisors

### *Kali Parea - "Good Company" for the 40+ Crowd*

Christ is Risen!

Please join us as we make the trek up to Mt. Charleston *on Saturday, June 8 from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm*. We will be barbequing, hiking, making memories, and escaping the heat up on the mountain! Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided, and everyone is invited to bring a side dish, drinks, salad, or dessert to share. See the flyer for additional details, and we look forward to seeing you there!

In Christ, Demetrious Asim, Kali Parea Advisor

### *Mr. & Mrs. - A Couples Fellowship*



Dear M&Ms,

Christos Anesti!

Join us for a summer kick-off BBQ at the home of Jason and Alis Lovaas on *Saturday, June 22 at 6:00 pm*. Please bring a side dish, dessert or beverage to share as we enjoy a great evening filled with delicious BBQ, fellowship and discussion. Please RSVP with Father Seraphim or Alis.

In Christ, Father John, Father Seraphim, and their Presvyteres

### *Forerunners - The Seniors of St. John the Baptist*

Christos Anesti! It is unbelievable how fast time flies! Here we are approaching June for our last Luncheon and Fellowship until next season.

Our May Luncheon honored all the ladies for Mothers Day and was well attended. Each lady received a small magnet with the Panagia and Christ Child. The lunch was a fabulous moussaka prepared by our Master Chef Sam and his crew. A special thank you to Eleni Kakavulias for the scrumptious cherry cake for dessert.

This month our Luncheon will be *on Monday, June 10 at 11:30 am in Kokkos Hall*. At this Senior Luncheon we will honor all gentlemen for Fathers Day: Being our last luncheon until October, our own Teddy Kaye will entertain us with his great repertoire of Frank Sinatra songs and more! As usual, we will have door and raffle prizes and Bingo. Mark your calendars for this very special gathering. Our last Sunday Fellowship for this season will take place *on Sunday, June 23*.

We sincerely pray and hope that you all enjoy a wonderful summer. Please take care of yourselves and remember to stay hydrated in our summer heat. A reminder to also sign up and help at our *Greek Food Festival September 27-29*.

Have you taken some time to call or visit one of our ailing brothers or sisters? Please do so, as it makes a world of difference to those not feeling well. As always, our prayers and love go out to all who are home bound, in hospitals or other facilities.

Kalo Kalokairi! See you again in October! Love in Christ, Victoria Xikis for the Forerunners

## Notes from the Choir Loft



Christos Anesti!

As we approach *Pentecost (Sunday, June 16)*, we will have a short rehearsal *on Sunday, June 2 after Liturgy*. Please plan to attend, so we are prepared to sing the special hymns. If you are interested in joining the Choir, please come up to the loft any time!

A special thank you to Faye for planning a lovely going away dinner for our dear Foula, who recently moved away. We will miss having her in the Choir Loft!

Athena Mertes, Choir Director



## Adult Basketball

Join us for a pick-up basketball game *every Monday at 7:00 pm*. Please call *Nate Dallas at (347) 364-0313* for more information, or to be included in our Facebook group.  
Christos Anesti! Nate Dallas

## Orthodox Bookstore

### SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS

Christ is Risen!

Summertime is here! Are you ready to read? Pack your beach bag or getaway bag with one of these easy-to-read and entertaining books.

*Saint Nektarios, Saint of the Century*: An exciting and thorough book exploring the life of this exceptional saint. It reads like a Greek Tragedy. It tells the story of how St. Nektarios' saintly approach to life helped him endure endless persecution by his envious peers.

*Saint Porphyrios, Wounded by Love*: This emotional book tells the story of St. Porphyrios' life and many miracles, in simple, deeply reflective and profoundly wise words.

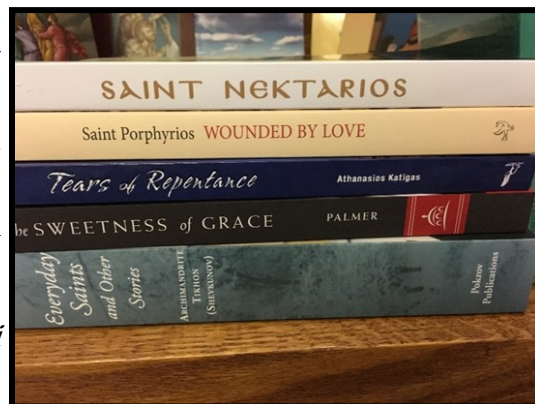
*Tears of Repentance, True Experiences in a Greek Taxi Cab*: Ride along with a devout Greek Orthodox taxi driver, as he changes the lives of his customers through the love of Jesus Christ.

*Sweetness of Grace*: A collection of stories from various trips to monasteries and other miraculous encounters. A follow-up book from the author of *The Scent of Holiness*.

*Everyday Saints and Other Stories*: Laugh and cry through these miraculous stories from the Pskov Caves Monastery during the communist years as your faith is strengthened and revived.

Going on a road trip? Pick out a CD from Father Kosmas of Australia and learn more about our incredible Orthodox Faith. We also carry a selection of Children's Books as well! We hope to see you before you leave for your travels.

Mary Pursell and the Bookstore Team



*Blessed are You, O Christ our God, Who have made the fishermen most wise  
by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit.  
And through them, You have drawn the world into Your net,  
O Lover of Mankind, Glory to You!  
(Apolytikion of Pentecost Sunday)*



*All Good Things Come to Those Who Wait Patiently on the Lord . . .*





*Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!*



## *STEWARDS OF THE FAITH - 2019*

Adamy, Marina	Cocores - Ely, Caron	Gianakoulis, Nick and Magda	Kypreos, Peter and Geri
Alexander, Eleni	Cokotis, Julie	Gianoukakis, Andrew and Anna	Kypreos, Sophia
Alford, Cynthia "Mary"	Collins, David	Gideon, Sara	Lagomarsino, Victor and Sophia
Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine	Cominos, Ted	Giouzelis, Anastasia	Lakkas, Christina
Anastasiou, Andrew and Kathleen	Conger, William and Alexia	Goodman, Robert and Linda	Lamancusa, Lisa
Andary, Oscar	Costuros, George and Marsha	Gott, C. Thomas and Kitty	Lambros, Kyriakos and Mary
Andrews, Catherine	Cosulas, Fr. Basil and Presv. Samantha	Gousdovas, Nikos+	Latelle, Penny
Andrews, Chris and Pamela	Cotsilis, Jenny	Green, Todd and Susan	Lavelle, Eleissa
Andrews, George	Coutris, Angela	Gruber, Ernest and Zoe	Lavine, Frederick
Andricopoulos, Margo	Crist, Adam and Kanistra	Gutierrez, Connie	Lazarakis, John and Panagiota
Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette	Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	Gutierrez, Daniel	Lekar, Caroline
Anton, Mike and Carol	Dalacas, Eleni	Hadzoglon, Christos	Lekar, Michael and Effie
Antonopoulos, Angela	Dalacas, Georgia	Hamilton, Mary	Leonis, Nick and Sophia
Arbuiso, Elizabeth	Daskalos, George and Voula	Hamilton, Paul and Brandi	Leonis, Tishe
Aristides, George and Diana	Daughters of Penelope	Hastings, Teri and Audra	Leventis, Nicholas and Christina
Asim, Demetrious	Demoleas, Spero and Grace	Hayes, Tulla	Lewis, Foula
Asim, Niko	Demoleas, Stephanie	Hemmers, Oliver and Pantelas, Anne	Liaos, Jim and Tina
Athens, Maria and Centers, Scott	Demopoulos, Vasiliki	Henderson, Jimmie Laverne	Liaos, Steven and Francine
Bacon, Ken and Dianne	Diamantis, Filippas	Henneforth, Rula	Liaos, William+ and Irene
Balaouras, Panos and Helen	Dimitri, Janet	Herman, Martin and Diane	Likourinou, Angie
Balason, Anna	Dimitri, Martha	Hertberg, Jennifer	Likourinou, Steve and June
Balason, Voula	Dimitri, Patricia	Hetzel, David and Joanne	Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine
Balodimas, James	Dominguez, Eric and Amalia	Hoadrea, Jimmy and Monci	Loughton, Dustin and Rena
Barbarino, Demetra	Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia	Hondros, Catherine	Lovaas, Jason and Dokakis, Alis
Bartzos, Eugenia	Dudunakis, Michael	Hondros, Christina	Makris, Apostolos
Beeler, Mike and Carolyn	Earl, Christine Michaelides	Hondros, Christopher and Darlene	Malamatos, Kindina
Beeman, Karl, Sr. and Benita	Eliades, Artemis	Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria	Maland, Tim+ and Donna
Beeman, Karl Jr. and Ivana	Eliades, Gregory and Maria	Houlis, Ila and Debbie	Malpee, Mak and Kalliopi
Berendji, Jim and Vivian	Eliades, Harry and Agapi	Howard, William and Willie	Maniatakos, Ted and Maria
Bernier, Micah and Alissa	Eliades, Katerina	Howse, Paul and Kelly	Manolakos, Catherine
Berta, Irene	Eliades, Peter	Hristopoulou, Spiridoula	Manos, Constantine and Michele
Bieker, Adam and Cassie	Eliakis, Peter and Glenda	Hunter, Zach and Krystle	Mansour, Muna
Bieker, Georgea	Eliakis, Varthie and LeeAnn	Itean, Robert and Sophia	Manteris, Arthur and Sue
Birtas, Helen and Birtas, Ann	Eyler, John and Elizabeth	Kachikis, Ernestine	Margaretis, John and Lucila
Bizani, Katia	Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean	Kakavulias, Christina	Markakis, Sandy
Bledsoe, Lori	Filos, George and Nitsa	Kakavulias, George and Helen	Markantonis, George and Sarah
Bochanis, George and Enid	Filos, Spiridon and Eleni	Kakavulias, John and Elizabeth	Matsis, John and Rebecca
Booth, Brian and Effi	Fischer, Bob and Cheryl	Kaltcheva, Maria	Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki
Boskovic, Jelena	Fitzgerald, Norman and McCullen, Sandra	Kambouris, Litsa	Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debra
Bougalis, Nickolaos	Flangas, Marilyn	Kanis, Constantinos and Katie	Mavros, Debbie
Brennan, Peter and Maria	Flangas, Gary and Amanda	Kapla, Mary	Mavroudis, Frank
Britten, Ronald and Carol	Flangas, Gus and Tamara	Karalias, Petros and Constance	McKinney, Michael and Mersene
Brown, Faye	Fleetwood, Thomas and Melissa	Karas, James	McManus, Jeanette
Bruninga, Bill and Erin	Fotopoulos, John and Barbara	Karas, John and Marcie	McSweeney, Farolyn
Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Foster, Kyle and Pierro, Maria	Karris, Mark and Suzanne	Melton, Don and Susan
Capre, Julio	Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia	Katopodis, Efstratios	Menegatos, James
Carabas, Stephen and Linda	Frangakis, Constantine	Katris, Nick	Merrin, Maria
Carahalios, John and Jillian	Frangakis, John	Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon	Mitchell, Thomas
Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	Frangakis, Sophocles and Tara	Kelesis, George	Moffett, Todd and Eliopoulos, Tina
Carrico, William and Alexandra	Frantzen, Robert	Kelesis, Maritza	Molina, Adriana and Elhamy, Kirollos
Carter, Maria	Franzi, Jack	Kelesis, Paula	Monoyudis, Jim and Julie
Chachas, Bessie	Fountas, Constantinos	Kleanthis, George and Zanetta	Mulopulos, George and Jenny
Chachas, James	Garanyants, Sergey and Bilali, Markella	Kofinas, Maria	Myers, Stella
Chagares, Kiki	Garza, Everardo and Eliades, Eleni	Kokkinis, Peter and Jennifer	Nedelchev, Diyan
Chandrinios, Alexia	Gauvin, Chad and Marissa	Koliambas, Eleni	Nedelchev, Zhivko
Chanos, Jennifer	Geiger, Dan and Hart-Geiger, Dora	Konstantarakis, Michelle	Neocleous, Plato
Chio, Napoleon	Gekakis, George	Kontos, Diana	Newell, Ronald and Maria
Chomakos, Dean and Tammy	Generales, John and Arlene	Koroni, Tara	Nicholas, Christina
Chomakos, Jeremy and Romina	George, Peter and Georgia	Kostopoulos, Georgia	Nicholas, John and Estella
Chondrakis, Dimosthenis and Kragerud, Kaaren	Georgoulakis, Mary Ellen	Kountanis, Panagiota	Nichols, George and Tereza
Christian, Clair and Chloe	Ghebreab, Daniel and Ghermay, Selam	Koupais, Mario and Cheri	Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra
Christou, Andreas and Toni		Koupais, Pat	Nixon, John and Ellyn
Ciulla, Anthony and Kleri		Koutsulis, John and Eileen	Olmsted, Travis and Marilyn
Ciulla, Dina		Koutsulis, Sam and Effie	
		Kypreos, George and Lesley	



## STEWARDS OF THE FAITH - 2019

Oustian, Ararat and Juliette  
 Pahigiannis, Nikon  
 Palivos, Peter and Vicky  
 Pallis, Paul  
 Pan-Arcadians  
 Pandelis, Cheryl  
 Panos, William and Jeanne  
 Papas, Peter and Rita  
 Papas, Christian and Nicole  
 Pappas, Antonia  
 Pappas, Libby  
 Pappas, Rita  
 Pappas, Stella  
 Paul, Janet  
 Payan, Luis and Eleni  
 Pelletier, Michael  
 Pendleton, Trisha  
 Pertsinides, Irene  
 Petro, Aleko and Georgia  
 Petrou, James and Penelopi  
 Philippou, Demetrios and Luanne  
 Pierro, Joe and Rhonda  
 Pierro, Joseph and Christine  
 Pitts, Anton and Athena  
 Platis, Anna  
 Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra

Polimerou, Angeline  
 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, Presvytera Evonne  
 Rigas, Anthony and Mary  
 Rigas, Evie  
 Rihani, Gary and Linda  
 Rodis, Dimitri  
 Rodis, Sophia  
 Rosenthal, Joseph and Stephanie  
 Rotas, Beatrice  
 Ruffner, Skip and Kathy  
 Sakkas, Georgios and Stavropoulos, Bessie  
 Salon, Janelle  
 Salonikis, Valentinos and Sophia  
 Santamaria, Jennifer and Robert  
 Savvas, Savva  
 Schildmeyer, Christine  
 Serafim, George and Tzeleki, Roxani

Serpentini, Athanasia  
 Setian, Gary and Marie  
 Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia  
 Skandros, Stephanie  
 Snow, Adrienne  
 Snow, Clifford and Christina  
 Snowden, Robert and Niki  
 Song, Adrienne  
 Sparkuhl, Alexander and Antoinette  
 Staubs, Douglas and Anastasia  
 Stefanatos, Michael and Tami  
 Stenos, Louis  
 Stevens, Charles and Mary  
 Stransky, Mark  
 Stransky, Jack and Gladys  
 Szukiewicz, Alex  
 Szukiewicz, Joseph and Jennia  
 Szukiewicz, Joe  
 Tafoya, Steven and Irene  
 Takas, Andrea  
 Tasios, Ramona and Pete  
 Taxopoulos, Bryan and Irene  
 Thanos, Nicholas and Victoria  
 Thompson, Maggy  
 Thompson, Steve and Aliki  
 Tohme, Tony and May  
 Tsarouhas, Maria

Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katerina  
 Tsolis, Christos and Panagioula  
 Tsolis, Panagiote  
 Tsortanidis, Sophia  
 Turman, Maria  
 Tzelalis, Antonia  
 Tzelalis, Steve  
 Wadlow, Nicholas and Pamela  
 Wallace, Robert and Katerina  
 Walter, Vernon and Alice  
 Waterhouse, David and Aleighzja  
 Welles, Brigitte  
 Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina  
 Williams, Anthony and Anna  
 Wilson, Steven and Cleo  
 Womack, Karl  
 Womack, Kimberly  
 Wood, Nadine  
 Wronski, Chuck  
 Xerogianes, Nick and Nikki  
 Xikis, Victoria  
 Zaferatos, Ted  
 Zamir, Talor and Michelle  
 Zervas, Dionisios  
 Zimmerman, Paul and Angela  
 Zmina, Stephen and Cynthia



*“He who keeps you will  
 not slumber.  
 Behold, He Who keeps  
 Israel will neither  
 slumber nor sleep.”  
 (Psalm 121:3-4)*

*Iconography Phase 3  
 Photos by  
 Bill Bruninga*



## TRADING ACCOUNT: ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT OUR PARISH

Looking for ways to financially support our Parish? Have you considered offering stocks, mutual funds, or cash from your IRA accounts as your Stewardship or a general donation to the Church? Doing so will benefit the Church and you can avoid paying taxes on any capital gains.

For this very purpose, the Parish Council has set up a trading account with UBS. If you are interested in offering a donation this way, please contact the Church at (702) 221-8245 and ask to speak to John Karas. He will work with you to get your generous Stewardship or general donation processed.



### 2019 Stewardship Report (as of 5/29/19)

**Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$391,234 (\$345,948 in 2018)**  
**Stewardship Gifts Received: \$231,051 (\$188,505 in 2018)**  
**Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$160,183 (\$157,443 in 2018)**  
**Stewardship Families Pledged: 361 (345 in 2018)**  
**Average Pledge to Date: \$1,076 (\$1,003 in 2018)**  
**Average Pledge Needed: \$2,703 (Decreases with More Pledges)**

## Church Account Summaries - April 2019

Nevada State Bank Accounts	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$15,057.78	\$83,021.84	\$24,672.00	\$32,175.40	\$38,062.99	\$52,513.23	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$6,060.51	\$11,250.00		\$5,065.25		\$12,245.26	Recurring Le Royal Dreams / Bedspread
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$11,156.47	\$10,020.00		\$119.93	\$10,000.00	\$11,056.54	Payment past due bills 2015-2018
							LOC Payment
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$329,369.69	\$7,994.00	\$3,636.31	\$19,150.39	\$9,574.20	\$312,275.41	
Folk Dance Group	\$14,683.23	\$200.00				\$14,883.23	
Hellenic Historical Society	\$3,200.94					\$3,200.94	
Mortgage Account	\$31,332.38			\$5,201.14		\$26,131.24	Monthly Mortgage Payment
Designated Funds	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$6,778.14		\$2,008.00	\$723.80	\$26.96	\$8,035.38	Purchases / CC Charges
Ornaments	\$1,077.41					\$1,077.41	
Restricted Funds	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
ICON	\$246,785.09	\$250.00	\$100.00	\$8,786.59		\$238,348.50	\$5,306 House Rental, \$1,380 Scaffolding
Library Account	\$1,470.77					\$1,470.77	Account owed \$21,000. Funds used to make
Miscellaneous	\$0.00		\$100.00		\$96.80	\$3.20	payroll and pay bills in 2015
Giving Tree	\$8,450.91					\$8,450.91	
Building Fund	\$1,161.13	\$850.00			\$52.27	\$1,958.86	
\$300,000 One Year Plan	\$0.00	\$6,894.00	\$1,428.31		\$8,322.31	\$0.00	Funds collected/sent for Mortgage
Youth Choir	\$2,989.18					\$2,989.18	
Church School	\$1,306.37					\$1,306.37	
Three Priests	\$3,768.33				\$1,075.86	\$2,692.47	Bishop's Staff
Roof Appeal	\$55,000.00			\$9,640.00		\$45,360.00	Prestige Roofing
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$142.36					\$142.36	
<b>Designated, Restricted, and Other Total</b>	<b>\$329,369.69</b>	<b>\$7,994.00</b>	<b>\$3,636.31</b>	<b>\$19,150.39</b>	<b>\$9,574.20</b>	<b>\$312,275.41</b>	
Other Funds	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$60,859.77	\$5,018.85				\$65,878.62	Market Value Increased

**April 2019 Candles \$4,216.00**  
**April 2019 Candles Holy Week \$14,307.00**  
**April 2019 Trays \$2,800.00**  
**April 2019 Trays Holy Week \$9,202.00**  
**Total April Candles & Trays \$30,525.00**



# JUNE 2019 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

*Sunday*

*Monday*

*Tuesday*

*Wednesday*

*Thursday*

*Friday*

*Saturday*

							<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy <i>Adult Choir Practice</i> <i>Follows Liturgy</i> 12:00 pm Food Festival Meeting in Kokkos Hall 2:00 pm Young Adults Picnic on Church Field	<b>3</b> 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 5:00 pm Orthros 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy <i>(Holy Ascension of Our Lord Observed)</i>	<b>6 Holy Ascension of Our Lord</b> <i>(Celebrated Preceding Evening)</i>	<b>7</b>		<b>8</b> 10:30 am Parish Wide Picnic at Mt. Charleston
<b>9</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy <i>Youth Choir Chants</i>	<b>10</b> 11:30 am Forerunner Luncheon in Kokkos Hall 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	<b>11</b> 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting in the Library	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>15 Saturday of Souls</b> 8:00 am Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial
<b>16 Pentecost Sunday</b> <b>Fathers Day</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy and Kneeling Prayers	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>22 Enthronement of Archbishop Elpidophoros at Holy Trinity, NYC</b> 6:00 pm Mr. and Mrs. BBQ at Lovaas' Home
<b>23 All Saints</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	<b>24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist</b> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	<b>25</b> 6:00 pm Folk Dance Board in Library	<b>26</b> 10:00 am Stewardship and Outreach Comm. in Library	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>29 Ss. Peter and Paul</b> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
<b>30 Holy Apostles</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	<b>Apostles Fast June 24—28</b>						

# *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*

*“And it will come to pass afterward that  
I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;  
your sons and your daughters shall  
prophesy, your old men shall dream  
dreams, and your young men shall see  
visions.” (Joel 2:28)*

*With gratitude to God for our Iconographers  
who have granted us a vision of the Kingdom.*

