

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 15, Issue 8 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV September 2017

**From
Father
John**

"Let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God."

Beloved in Christ:

On September 1 we embark on a New Ecclesiastical Year, and for us Orthodox Christians it is imperative this month that we not only revitalize, but also reinvest in our commitment to Jesus Christ and His Holy Church. During the summer months many of us have taken some time off from our usual activities and we have put our time, efforts and resources toward our personal pleasure – thank God for this blessing. Now with the New Church Year, we are challenged to get back on track, spiritually speaking, and to invest our souls completely in the sacramental life and ministries of the Church – for the Church is the true treasure of the heart, *"where neither moth nor rust destroys."* (Matthew 16:20)

My greatest joys have been linked to my active life in the Orthodox Church (yes, there have been struggles, trials and some sorrows – but the joys far outweigh these): In the Church I found my true identity, and the more I invested in my life in the Church, the more our Lord has blessed me beyond my furthest imaginings. My parents provided the groundwork by baptizing me and establishing me during my formative years in the Greek Orthodox Church. During the years when I challenged my faith and "organized religion," the prayers of my yiayia and the non-judgmental love of my parish priest brought me back to my spiritual home. Through the encouragement of my priest and the blessings of my Bishop (both of blessed memory), I entered Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, where I evolved into my calling. Immediately after graduation, I was blessed with a woman of unfeigned and abiding faith – and very soon after our wedding, I was ordained to the Holy Diaconate and Priesthood. And finally, the greatest joy of all, God blessed us with two children, who are now young adults.

Not only because I am a priest, but because my wife and I share the same core value of faith's role in our life, we have made it our priority to invest the years God grants us, our marriage, and especially our family in the Orthodox Church: Our 30 years together of service, ministry, compassion, vision, financial commitment, praying, chanting, confession, forgiving and asking forgiveness, receiving the Holy Mysteries, and nurturing our children in the Faith have produced amazing fruits. Indeed, the latest and greatest blessing is that we will not only witness, but moreover participate in the wedding early this month of our son, Christopher, and his lovely and faith-filled fiancée, Darlene Katherine. One particular prayer of the Orthodox Wedding Service sums up my desire for them: "May there come upon them the joy of the blessed Helen when she found the Precious Cross." I pray that they may have that same vision and investment of their lives and resources as St. Helen toward serving and building up Christ's Church, and may enjoy both the spiritual and physical fruits of their labors and fidelity to the Lord and each other.

I hope my personal reflection will in a small way inspire you, my beloved spiritual family of St. John the Baptist, to renew your commitment in every way toward experiencing the fullness of life in Christ's Holy Orthodox Church. Having received from our loving God the forgiveness of our sins and the free gift of eternal life, how can we do anything less for ourselves and our loved ones than putting Christ and His Church above all else?

With deepest love in Christ, 

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*Sundays: 8:45 am Orthros - 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Church School follows Holy Communion*

Sunday, September 17 Only: 8:30 am Orthros - 9:30 am Divine Liturgy (No Church School)

Sunday, September 3/*13th Sunday of Matthew/
Holy Hieromartyr Anthimos, Bishop of Nicomedia*
His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, Celebrant
Orthros: Tone Four
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Mark 16:1-8
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24
Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

Friday, September 8/*Nativity of the Theotokos*
8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Sunday, September 10/*Sunday Before Holy Cross/
Pulcheria the Empress*
Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Mark 16:9-20
Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18
Gospel: John 3:13-17

Wednesday, September 13
5:30 pm Sacrament of Holy Unction

Thursday, September 14/*Universal Elevation of
the Life-Giving and Holy Cross (Strict Fast)*
8:00 am Orthros
Procession of the Cross at Doxology
9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24
Gospel: John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30

Sunday, September 17/*Sunday After Holy Cross/
Sophia and Her Daughters: Faith, Hope, and Love*
8:30 am Orthros - 9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:1-12
Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20
Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

Sunday, September 24/*1st Sunday of Luke/Thekla
Equal to the Apostles, Silouan of Mt. Athos*
Orthros: Tone Seven (Grave)
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:13-35
Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15
Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 3

Ushers: Bessie Stavropoulos, Gus Flangas, Mike Beeler, Demerious Asim, Stacy Mavrantonis and Skip Ruffner

Memorials: Stratos Hondros, Theodoros Evgenikos

Fellowship: Hondros Family in Celebration of Chris and Darlene's Wedding (please no gifts)

SEPTEMBER 10

Ushers: John Koutsulis, Pete Tsois, Mark Karris, Skip Ruffner, George Bochanis and Justina Szukiwicz

Fellowship: Ladies Philoptochos Society, benefitting Holy Cross Seminary

SEPTEMBER 17: 45th Annual Greek Food Festival

8:30 am Orthros - 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

No Fellowship

SEPTEMBER 24

Ushers: Demetrious Asim, Stacy Mavrantonis, Gus Flangas, John Koutsulis, Pete Tsois and Kouli Pouridis

Fellowship: Pan-Arcadians



O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance!



It's Like
Taking a Trip
to **Greece**
Without Leaving
Las Vegas!

45th Annual Las Vegas

GREEK

FOOD
FESTIVAL



3 EXCITING DAYS

Fri, Sept. 15th, 3^{PM} - 11^{PM}
Sat, Sept. 16th, Noon - 11^{PM}
Sun, Sept. 17th, Noon - 10^{PM}



A FAMILY ORIENTED FUN EVENT!

LOCATED AT AND SPONSORED BY
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5300 S. El Camino Rd.
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89118
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- Live Music & Dancing
- Greek Cuisine
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- Tour Our Magnificent Byzantine Church
- Greek Folk Dance Performances
- Kids Fun Zone



Plenty of free parking.
Check our website
for more specific
information.

Parish Council Report

We want to thank His Grace Bishop Ilia for filling in while Father John went on a much deserved vacation with Presvytera Maria. We really enjoyed his visit and we also were able to celebrate his 80th Birthday with a luncheon in his honor. We thank Peter Papas and his crew for putting on the luncheon and the Ladies Philoptochos Society for organizing and orchestrating the event. Also, while Father John was away we were privileged to witness the newly-ordained Father Seraphim celebrating many Sunday and weekday Divine Liturgies.

We also thank John Koutsulis for his work on putting together the Panagia Luncheon, as well as his father, Sam Kousulis, Steve Tzelalis and their crew for cooking the feast – a job well done. We appreciated the lively Greek music which was generously provided by Steve Likourinou.

Pertaining to the Iconography, we are still encountering much difficulty in getting the Iconographers here to Las Vegas due to immigration issues. We have had people in high places all around the United States trying to help us with this. The latest is that the Iconographers have once again been denied entry into the US. The main reason given to us for their denial by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is that we are not a recognized charitable organization. In other words, we are not a 501(c)(3) organization. However, this is not exactly true: Under the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Guidelines, as a Church we are a recognized charitable organization and are not required to have a 501(c)(3) designation. Unfortunately, the INS does not recognize the IRS Guidelines and has determined that we still need to be a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Instead of fighting this ridiculous nonsense, we have decided to take the path of least resistance. Therefore, we have hired a lawyer who specializes in forming 501(c)(3) charitable organizations to get us our needed designation. This process should take around two months to complete. Once this is done, we will again work on getting the Iconographers here to Las Vegas. According to information we have received, the reason for all the bureaucratic balderdash is that some organizations here in the US operating as churches have brought in people from other countries and abused them as “slave laborers.” We hope to finally have the Iconographers here in the near future, and we are working diligently on it. In conjunction with this effort, we are in the process of updating our Church Bylaws to meet the requirements set forth by the IRS.

The Greek Food Festival is around the corner and we have less than a month to go. The dates are *Friday, September 15 to Sunday, September 17*. The Festival promises to be a high energy event with great attendance, great food, great music and great fun. The planning is fully complete and all that is left to do is to bring the 1,000 moving parts together at one time and at the same place. We really need everyone to help with this effort. Please, we need your help with selling raffle tickets and coupon books. We especially need everyone to sign up to help. The more people who step up, the easier it is for all involved. The Festival is a community effort; it is the showcase of our Church and our great Greek Culture. With everyone (and we mean everyone) kicking in, we can improve on last year and make this year’s Festival, once again, a resounding success. Please do not hesitate to step up with your time, talents and treasures. Also, please pray for great weather.

In conjunction with the Festival, we are conducting our annual 26.2 mile Torch Relay Run to benefit Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and the Fisher House Foundation in Las Vegas. JDRF is the leading global organization funding type 1 diabetes (T1D) research; their mission is to accelerate life-changing breakthroughs to cure, prevent and treat T1D and its complications. The Fisher House Foundation is best known for a network of comfort homes where military and veterans’ families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment. We need runners and we need people to help provide funds to sponsor runners for these very important charitable organizations. The run starts at 2:00 pm on Friday of the Festival at Tivoli Village and ends at 7:00 pm on the Church grounds, where we will light the Torch as the ceremonial kick-off of the Festival.

As we continue to move forward with our Church, it is important to remember Stewardship. We ask that you look into your heart, pray, and give back accordingly to help our Church. We absolutely have to get Stewardship fully on track where it covers most, if not all of our operating expenses. The importance of this cannot be overemphasized. So please help with the effort and contribute.

(Continued on Page 5)



“Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith”

Please join us for this popular six-week course!

*Starting Wednesday, September 20
7:00 - 8:30 pm - in Kokkos Hall.*

*We welcome Orthodox Christians, Catechumens, Seekers,
and those curious to learn more about the ancient Apostolic Faith.
For more information, please contact Father John or Father Seraphim.*

Bill G. Andrews Library

The beloved Father Constantine Raptis, recently reposed in the Lord, generously donated his personal collection of spiritual books, patristic texts, and saints' lives to supplement the Church Library. Having recently reorganized the library space, we are pleased to announce that these additional volumes are now available for check out weekdays 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. Our Library collection focuses on titles on the Orthodox Faith and Hellenic Culture. Please stop by to browse, read, and bring home a book which will deepen your faith, increase your devotion, and enlighten your heart and mind. *“Even the presence of a Gospel (or spiritual book) in a room drives away the demons; because of the potential for divine grace within it when picked up and read.”* (St. John Chrysostom)

Parish Council Report *(Continued from Page 4)*

Please note that we are working on having a New Years Eve Party in Panos Hall. We are looking to have live music, dancing, great food and a fun time. We are trying to make this party the place to be to ring in the New Year.

Many of you may have noticed that we have students in our classrooms during the week. We recently leased out our classrooms to the Nasri Academy, a school for gifted students. They hold classes for their students, Monday through Friday from around 8:30 in the morning to 3:00 in the afternoon.

As we move into September, here are few quick notes: We recently repaired the air conditioning in Panos Hall by installing a new compressor and charging the systems with Freon. Thanks to the efforts of Eddie Howard, we saved thousands of dollars. The floor in Kokkos Hall has finally been refinished properly: It took several iterations, but it is now done and looks beautiful, thanks to the efforts of Constantin Petriuc and Ramona Tasios. As stated last month, we had to put fixing the parking lot on hold; we will not be able to fix it prior to the Festival and will have to wait until late September or early October before we can complete it. Also, as stated last month, we have started the process for the outside audit of the Church finances so that everyone can clearly see the full picture and have confidence in our financial procedures with complete transparency. Lastly, we ask that when you write a check to the Church, please designate the purpose of the Check (i.e., Stewardship, Trays, Candles).

In closing and as usual, we want to again 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 the Church for ourselves and, most importantly, our children. It clearly takes a lot of work from the entire community to maintain our parish. Please get involved as we move forward to make our Church better.

May God Bless, Gus Flangas, Parish Council President

Philoptochos News

Dearest Ladies of Philoptochos:

As summer draws to a close, I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer.

On July 30, we celebrated Bishop Ilia Katre's 80th birthday. It was a beautiful, very well attended luncheon, honoring His Grace, and gave us the opportunity to express our profound love and gratitude for his dedicated service of fourteen



years to our St. John Church, and even more years to our Orthodox Church, nationally and abroad. On behalf of our Philoptochos, His Grace was presented with a Las Vegas City Proclamation and a birthday gift. May God bless him with many more years of health!

On August 15, we celebrated the Dormition of our Most Holy Theotokos, which is also the feast day of our Panagia Chapter. Our gratitude is extended to Ernestine Kachikis, who on behalf of our Philoptochos, has devoted her service with reverence and love for the past sixteen years, designing and coordinating the flowers for our holy days. Once again the Icon of the Dormition, with fresh red carnations and white anthuriums, was magnificent!

Additionally, with joy and appreciation we welcome and embrace our two newer members, Farolyn McSweeney and Jennifer Santamaria, who hosted the beautiful and colorful Fellowship for Panagia, with energy and enthusiasm. They

started at 7:30 am to set up assorted fruit and pastries, and by 9:00 am they were in Church attending the service! We thank both of these women for their efficiency, vitality and generous offering to our chapter, as well as to the ladies who baked, contributed and assisted with the Fellowship.

On Sunday, August 20, the Parish Council hosted a lovely and well attended "Panigyri tis Panagias" Luncheon. Everyone enjoyed the food, fellowship and music. Our appreciation to chairman John Koutsulis and his committee for organizing and executing this beautiful event, and to our Philoptochos Vice President Dora Hart and all the ladies who responded with short notice and assisted with the luncheon.



Following, are the upcoming Philoptochos events:

September 10, Sunday before the Holy Cross: After the Divine Liturgy, Philoptochos will hold a basket, making an appeal for donations to benefit Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. Supporting HC/HC is one of the Philoptochos Society's principal national ministries, and all the women of Philoptochos throughout the Archdiocese hold this institution close to their heart. They remain ever determined to offer support as long as its prime goal continues to be the education of our much needed future priests and lay leaders in America. Philoptochos has been and continues to be extremely proud of the young men and women who are the products of our beloved *skoli*. ***Please be generous in your contributions.*** Fellowship will be hosted by our immediate past president, Bernadette Anthony.

September 15, 16 and 17, Greek Food Festival: Our biggest event of the year is very much anticipated, and our Philoptochos will once again have a booth. We will greet the many thousands of guests who will be arriving to enjoy our Greek hospitality. Please contact Jennifer Chanos, booth chairperson, at (702) 371-1786 or jlinn777@aol.com, to volunteer a few hours of your time.

May our Lord and Panagia continue to bless our work and ministry in the days, months and years to come, so that our actions of love will glorify and praise God.

With Love, Vicky Palivos, Philoptochos President

From Father Seraphim

*“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the earth declares the work of His Hands.”
(Psalm 19:1)*

September 1 has been selected and dedicated by His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew as a day of prayer for the protection of the environment. Every year he writes a formal address, “To the Plenitude of the Church,” at the start of the New Ecclesiastical Year, and this began from his first year as Patriarch in the early 90s. One address boldly stated that, “For human beings to cause species to become



extinct and to destroy the biological diversity of God's creation; for human beings to degrade the integrity of the earth by causing changes in its climate, by stripping the earth of its natural forests, or by destroying its wetlands; for human beings to injure other human beings with disease by contaminating the earth's waters, its land, its air, and its life, with poisonous substances – all of these are sins.”

When I first found this out – that we had a “Green Patriarch” – I was confused: Is our Church leader simply a social activist? As a parish under his spiritual care and omophorion we should take the time to reflect on what exactly this day and call to prayer entails. In so doing we will see the great insight and depth of our Spiritual Father in Constantinople.

In the Orthodox vision of God's relationship to the world we see a closeness without confusion or division, for God only comes to be united with us in the Church through *physical means*! This vision of God and His world is drastically different than the “Watchmaker God” of Newton, the Deists, and much of our world today (even many Christians!). God did not just “set the world going and walk away.” We are clothed in Christ in the *water* of Baptism as He acts now, today breaking into our space and time. We are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit with Holy Chrism – an *olive oil* and balsam based liquid compound with over sixty natural ingredients. Finally, we see the spiritual potential of matter, the world, and nature as we receive God's gift of the elements of the earth and offer them back to Him in the Divine Liturgy. He accepts our gifts (bread and wine) to Him from His own gifts (grapes and wheat) together with our thankfulness, and through the vehicle of matter in the form of the fruits of the earth we are united to God and saved in the Holy Eucharist.

The Church is an environment where the spiritual potential of nature is realized: It is a place where everything we encounter is different than the natural world. Think about the music, the clothing of priests, the iconography, the architecture . . . everything! Christ enabled the world itself to enter His Church along with us as He becomes mystically and truly present in the breaking of the bread each Sunday and every Liturgy. Without the world there would be no Liturgy, no Church, and no Communion between God and man. We believe that one day the Church will expand to house and embrace the entire universe, and then, *“God will be all in all.” (1 Corinthians 15:28)*

This is the reason that our Ecumenical Patriarch has radically stated, “To commit a crime against the natural world is a sin.” How can someone say that? Well, if a person understands themselves as primarily a consumer, “I buy, or, I eat, therefore I am,” then the world is just a soulless resource to be harvested and exploited, and such a statement about sin makes little sense. We are called rather to be priests of all God's creation, and offer this world back up to God in prayer and thanksgiving. We are invited this month and for the rest of our lives to receive the gift of creation as we would receive an icon: Not fixating on the surface appearance, but searching out the inner meaning and depth where we find the Word (*Logos*), Christ our God, in all things.

Yours in Christ,

Father Seraphim

Stewardship and Community Outreach

Can summer really be over already, and autumn on its way? As each new season rolls around I usually stop for a moment and ponder: "Where does the time go, and how did I spend it?" Personally, the question of where I spend my time is most always answered with "caring for my family." However I have to remember that the four precious loved ones living with me are not the only family I need to care for and minister to: Being a member of Jesus Christ's "One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church" means that our family is a much larger group. Is this not what it is to be a truly good steward? Please join me and prayerfully consider how much more we can all do to care for *our* St. John the Baptist family (and the even larger community of "family" in the City of Las Vegas) through good works and charitable giving.

This article was originally published in the September 2015 issue of *The Desert Messenger*. It is a timeless thought to consider. Although some personal details change in our everyday lives, the constant focus on Christ and His Church truly is a lifelong endeavor filled with much beauty and fullness – if we can just remember to keep our eyes on Him!

Blessings, Justina Szukiewicz on behalf of Stewardship and Community Outreach



"I know My own and My own know Me." (John 10:14)

*Please prayerfully fill out and return your
2017 Stewardship Pledge Card.*

Our Community Registry

Baptized into Christ: Na mas zisi!

Alexander, son of Michail Getsov and Severina Gesheva, on July 1, 2017.
Godparents: Pavlin Yordanov and Elena Filcheva.

Chrismations

Ourania (Renee) Parker on August 13, 2017. Sponsor: Eleni Bruninga.
Andrew (Robert) Dziuba on August 27, 2017. Sponsor: Sophocles Frangakis.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory!

Angela Thomas on July 8, 2017. Funeral on July 20.
Barbara Hadzoglon on July 14, 2017. Funeral on July 25.
Nicholas Salon on August 11, 2017. Funeral on August 19.



"He who loves his wife loves himself." (Ephesians 5:28)

Greek Language Classes



The new year of Greek Language Classes begins on *Tuesday, September 19 at 4:30 pm*. Please note that we are changing the day of the class BACK to TUESDAYS! As always, the classes are free for current Stewards of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church; if not a Steward, please see Karen in the Church Office to become one. Non-stewards will be assessed a \$200 fee. Classes are every Tuesday through May.

If you would like to become a Greek School Teacher, please contact me at (702) 249-4740. I cannot wait to see all of you for another wonderful year! Paula Kelesis, Director

GREEK LANGUAGE REGISTRATION FORM 2017-2018

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

Beginning Tuesday, September 19, 2017 through May 2018

Classes sponsored by the Pan-Arcadian Alea Chapter #115

There will NOT BE ANY charge for students whose parent or grandparent are current Stewards of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church.

Enrollment form must be completed and returned to Karen at the Church Office no later than ***Friday, September 8, 2017.*** Please do not delay as materials need to be ordered.

Class Times:

Ages 5 - 18 ~ 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm - Tuesdays

4 year olds will be allowed if able to stay in classroom for 90 minutes ~
as determined by Director and Teacher.

Classes will take place in the Community & Education Center

Please complete one registration form for each student, print clearly.

Student Full Name _____

Birth Date _____

Name in Greek: _____

Parents' or Guardian's Names: _____

Steward of St. John the Baptist? (yes/no) _____

(If no, please contact Church Office to become a Steward, if not a \$200 fee will be assessed)

Address _____ City/Zip _____

E-mail _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

If applicable, what area, town or village is your family from in Greece?

Does anyone at home, read, write or speak Greek? _____

Any Medical, Physical or Allergy concerns? Please list and explain: _____

Youth and Family Ministries

Church School

Hi Everyone!

Church School started on Sunday, August 20. It was so nice to see so many of our faithful students ready to start a new school year and learn about our wonderful Faith. Please make sure that your child is registered. The forms are on the bulletin boards, online from our recent parish wide email, or from Karen during the week. Every student must have his or her form completed before starting class.

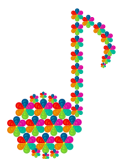
Please remember that in order to start into our program your child must be 4 years-old before September 30. We follow the Clark County School District calendar for grade level. Here is the breakdown of classrooms and teachers: Pre-K: Jennifer and Phoebe Orlando; Kindergarten/First Grade: Melissa and Thomas Fleetwood; Second-Third Grade: Caroline Lekar and Rahel Kiflezgi; Fourth-Fifth Grade: Marina Adamy; Sixth-Seventh Grade: Eileen and Sam Koutsulis; Eighth-Ninth Grade: June Likourinou; Tenth-Twelfth Grade: Dr. John Nixon.

We will not have class on **Sunday, September 17** due to our annual Greek Food Festival. As always, we encourage our students and their parents to sign up to volunteer their time to help. "Many hands help ease the load." Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

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



Youth Choir News



We welcome all the students back to a New Ecclesiastical Year. The Youth Choir will chant the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, September 10**. Please meet at the front right pew at 9:40 am. New voices are welcomed! Come join us during Liturgy; you will learn as you go along.

Love in Christ, Presvytera Maria

Orthodox Family Fellowship



Dear Faithful Families of Our OFF Ministry,

Welcome to another great year! I would like to first of all thank our Ministry Advisors, Jelena Boskovic and Imtisal "Amy" Khoury, for helping to coordinate our events and communicate with many of the families in our parish with young children. We had two wonderful and successful events over the summer: Going to a brand new community pool in July, and celebrating the final days before school with a trampoline park excursion in August!

We hope everyone will pitch in and join together as a Church family to volunteer for the Greek Food Festival which will take place September 15-17. We are cordially inviting you and your children to this month's event: On **Saturday, September 23 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm** we will be having a **potluck gathering at Exploration Peak Park (9700 S. Buffalo Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89178)**. Contact Father Seraphim at frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com with a food item you will bring to share.

With Love in Christ, Father Seraphim

GOYA ~ For Teenagers

Dear Faithful Members of our GOYA,

Welcome to the start of another great Ecclesiastical Year! As I begin to walk in the shoes and continue the ministry of our beloved Father Matthew, I would like to personally thank our GOYA Advisors, June Likourinou and Kouli Pouridis, for stepping up and helping make my transition into this ministry as smooth and easy as possible. I first met some of our GOYAn's on the long ride to Summer Camp at St. Nicholas Ranch in July, and we had a blast at the Likourinou's home in August as they hosted the annual Photo Scavenger Hunt and Pool Party. We look forward to our *first monthly GOYA meeting on Sunday, September 10 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm*. We will have games, dinner and a short discussion.

I encourage all of us to volunteer for our Soda Booth at the Greek Food Festival this month, which is truly a rewarding and high-energy experience. Finally, we invite you to join us for a GOYA Hike in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area! *We will be hiking the Pine Creek Canyon Trail on Saturday, September 30 at 9:00 am*. We definitely need a few volunteers who enjoy the outdoors to help chaperone. Please remember to bring sunscreen, water, snacks, and appropriate hiking shoes, socks and clothing. There is a \$7 entrance fee to the park per vehicle. I will be leaving from the Church at 8:15 am to carpool, if anyone else would like to minimize our cost by riding to our hike and trailhead together.

I truly look forward to getting to know both the parents and the youth of our beloved parish here at St. John the Baptist, and I pray God allows us a fruitful time together as we grow in love for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and also come to both know and love each other.

In Christ, Father Seraphim

Greek Folk Dance

We are back from our summer vacation! Registration for all children (4 years-old and up) is now open! Please fill out and return the registration forms *on Pages 14-15*, or pick one up at Sunday Fellowship or with Karen at the Church Office. We invite you to participate in our wonderful ministry and learn traditional Greek dances and culture in a fun and spiritual environment.

Our returning dancers are hard at work practicing for their performance at the Greek Food Festival. New dancers will begin practicing after the Greek Food Festival on *Tuesday, September 19 at 6:00 pm*. We are looking forward to a wonderful year!

Greek Folk Dance Board

Moms & Tots



Happy Birthday Moms & Tots!

September marks our one year anniversary of establishing this ministry. Come celebrate with us and help us discuss and plan the next year of events including, adding in a weekend day to allow for more moms and tots to attend, and to plan the next moms night out (those details will be discussed during our next meeting).

Please join us after the Greek Festival on *Tuesday, September 19 at 10:30 am* in Kokkos Hall. Please RSVP to attend our one year celebration at momsandtotsstjohnngoc@gmail.com.

In Christ, Cassie Bieker

Altar Servers

We are looking for a few good men . . . to serve in the Holy Altar! Altar Servers are 8 years-old and older and assist the Priests during the Divine Liturgy and other liturgical services.

To learn more, please contact Alex or Eric, our Altar Captains. Once you have made the commitment to serve, please contact Father John for a blessing.

Alex and Eric Szukiewicz, Altar Server Captains

"I desire therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands . . ." (1 Timothy 2:8)

Adult and Young Adult Ministries

Young Adults

Hello Young Adults!

We hope you had a wonderful and blessed summer! First, we want to thank Thomas and Melissa Fleetwood for opening their home and hosting last month's get-together! Let the fun and fellowship continue, and mark your calendars once again for ***Sunday, September 24 at 4:00 pm at Sunset Park (2601 East Sunset Road, Las Vegas, NV 89120)***. Join us for a Volleyball-Picnic-BBQ-Potluck with ultimate Frisbee and more! The Church will be providing hamburgers and hot dogs, so if everyone else could please bring a side dish, salad, drinks or dessert . . . all will depart satisfied.

Next month we will be hiking ***Gateway Canyon at Red Rock on Saturday, October 21. We will meet at 8:30 am, and hit the trail at 9:00 am.*** There is no entrance fee because the parking lot for this hike is *before* the entrance to Red Rock proper. After the hike, we will all decide on a place to eat and replenish. More details will be provided in next month's issue of *The Desert Messenger*.

Please encourage any other Young Adults you know to join us for both events: The more the merrier!

Please contact Father Seraphim, Niko or Fani to RSVP for these events or if you have questions.

Love in Christ, Niko Asim and Fani Mavrantonis, Young Adults Advisors

Mr. & Mrs. ~ A Couples Fellowship



Thank you to Mike and Carolyn Beeler for hosting a wonderful fasting dinner in August – we had a great discussion as well! During September we encourage our couples to please volunteer at the Greek Food Festival, and we will pick up again in October.

Our next gathering will be at ***John and Ellyn Nixon's home on Saturday, October 21 at 6:00 pm.*** Please RSVP with John, Ellyn, or Father Seraphim.

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

Kali Parea ~ "Good Company" for the 40+ Crowd

I hope everyone had a great summer. Our next fun event will be at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park Super Summer Theatre to see the musical comedy, "Young Frankenstein" on September 23 at 7:00 pm. Ticket prices: Advance \$15, or \$20 at the gate. This play is selling out quickly.

This event is open to all in the parish. Bring your picnic basket of food and drinks to share! Chair rental is only \$1 or bring your own. If you want to purchase advance tickets, visit the Spring Mountain Ranch State Park Super Summer Theatre website to purchase tickets. We will have a blast, so please join us!

Demetrious Asim, Kali Parea Advisor



Notes from the Choir Loft



Over the summer, we were happy to welcome a few new members into the Choir. As always, if you would like to sing, please come up to the Choir loft anytime! Next month, we will be celebrating National Church Music Sunday on Sunday, October 1, the feast of St. Romanos the Melodist. We are planning an afternoon of lunch and fellowship. More information will be announced in the next few weeks. No Wednesday rehearsals will be scheduled this month. Please offer your time and talents to help with the Greek Food Festival!

Athena Mertes, Director

Forerunners - The Seniors of St. John the Baptist

Summer has flown by fast, the heat has been excessive, and our Community had quite a busy schedule. We said farewell to Father Matthew and his family at a luncheon on Sunday, June 3; we had the Ordination of our new second priest, Father Seraphim on Father's Day, June 18; His Grace Bishop Ilia was here filling in while Father John and Presvytera Maria were on vacation, and we celebrated the Bishop's 80th Birthday with a wonderful luncheon on Sunday, July 30.

Marie and Gary Setian, our fearless leaders, are enjoying their summer in Massachusetts. Ruth Plentzas is visiting family in Canada, and so many others are vacationing elsewhere.

This month I encourage everyone to volunteer for the Greek Food Festival, as this is the biggest fundraiser for our Church.

Our Forerunners will resume activities on **Monday, October 9 at 11:30 am** with a luncheon and fellowship in Panos Hall.

We sincerely hope that all our Seniors are doing well, and as always, we send our love and prayers to all who are hospitalized or homebound.

Love in Christ, Victoria Xikis, for the Forerunners – the Seniors of St. John the Baptist

Orthodox Bookstore

Greetings from the Bookstore.

This month we are featuring *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers*, translated by Benedicta Ward. It is a collection of sayings of the early Christian Fathers of the deserts of Egypt.

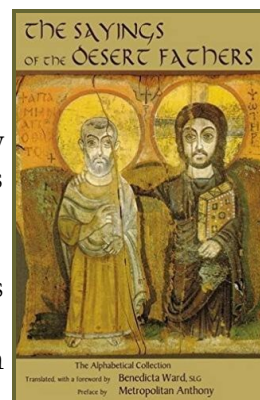
From Abba Nilus:

Abba Nilus said: "Everything you do in revenge against a brother who has harmed you will come back to your mind at the time of prayer."

Also: "If you want to pray properly, do not let yourself be upset or you will run in vain."

And: "Do not be always wanting everything to turn out as you think it should, but rather as God pleases, then you will be undisturbed and thankful in your prayer."

Until next month, God willing, ICXC NIKA, Constantine Frangakis, Bookstore Director



With gratitude to our parish members who offered their time and talents for our "Panigyri tis Panagias" Luncheon.



2017 Stewardship Report (as of 8/22/17)

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$346,146 (\$400,948 total in 2016)

Stewardship Gifts Received: \$252,335

Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$93,810

Stewardship Families Pledged: 379 (443 total in 2016)

Average Pledge to Date: \$913 (\$905 in 2016)



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
GREEK FOLK DANCE MINISTRY

2017-2018 REGISTRATION FORM

One Registration Form Required for Each Dancer
Registration Deadline: September 24, 2017

Dancer's Name: _____ Age: _____ Birth Date: _____

Minimum Age: 4 years old by September 30, 2017

Address: _____

City: _____, Nevada Zip Code: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Father's Name: _____

Contact Information (Please fill out **completely and legibly**):

Phone Numbers: Mother's Cell: _____ Father's Cell: _____

Dancer's Cell: _____ Home: _____

If you DO NOT want your child to be contacted by text message, please check this box: ☐

Email Addresses: Mother: _____

Father: _____

Dancer (if applicable): _____

If you DO NOT want your child to be contacted by e-mail, please leave this blank.

I understand and accept the following requirements for participation in the Greek Folk Dance Ministry:

1. The dancer must be Baptized and Chrismated in the Orthodox Church. Proof of Baptism or Chrismation must be provided for each dancer (or previously verified by Fr. John).
2. The parent(s) must be Steward(s) of St. John Church for 2017 **before their child(ren) attend any dance practice** and Steward(s) for 2018 by January 1. **Please check one box:**
 - ☐ I am already a 2017 Steward. (This will be verified with the Church Office.)
 - ☐ I am attaching my Stewardship Commitment Card to this registration form.
3. The dancer must **on a regular basis participate** in Divine Liturgy on Sunday, throughout the year, and in Church School (if he or she is of age), **August through May**. Infrequent participation is a basis for removal from the program.
4. The dancer must arrive to practice **on time** and be **respectful**.

(Continued on back)

5. The dancer and parent(s) are expected to participate in **all fundraising activities** of the Greek Folk Dance Ministry.
6. Dancers who have excessive absences may be subject to removal from the program.
7. The Folk Dance Festival will take place January 11-15, 2018 in San Francisco, CA. The dancer and parent(s) must determine by October 31, 2017 if they will attend FDF. Dancers who elect not to go to FDF may only participate in dance practices through the end of December.
8. The dancer and parent(s) agree to meet all financial responsibilities assigned to the participants by the St. John Greek Folk Dance Ministry and the Folk Dance Festival (FDF).
9. Registration fees are:
 - a. Competitive Dance Groups: \$150 per dancer, or \$125 for each additional sibling, due by **September 24**. (No registrations will be accepted after this date.)
 - b. Liondaria (non-competitive) Dance Group: \$75. (Must be at least 4 years old by September 30.)
10. Registration can **only** be accepted when all of the following are turned in:
 - a. Registration form
 - b. Non-refundable registration fee
 - c. Proof of Baptism/Chrismation (unless verified by Fr. John)
 - d. Stewardship Commitment Card (unless verified by Church Office)
11. Dancers from previous years must re-register. **Dancers are prohibited from practice until their registration is complete and until their parent(s) become Steward(s) for 2017.**

First Folk Dance Practice for Returning Dancers: Tuesday, August 22, 2017

First Folk Dance Practice for New Dancers: Tuesday, September 24, 2017

For information on the St. John Greek Folk Dance Ministry, please contact the Folk Dance Board at stjohngreekdance@gmail.com or the Church at (702) 221-8245.

MAKE OUT CHECKS TO "ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH,"
WITH "FOLK DANCE GROUP" IN THE MEMO LINE.

Signature of Dancer

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Date

FOR DANCE BOARD USE:

Payment Received On: _____ Check #: _____ OR Cash: _____

Stewardship Card Received: _____ Proof of Baptism/Chrismation: _____

"I know My own and My own know Me." (John 10:14)

Adamy, Marina	Costacos, John	Gialketsis, Bill and Shelli	Kunard, Derek
Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine	Costas, Charles and Louise	Gialketsis, Julie	Kypreos, George and Lesley
Anastasiou, Andrew and Kathleen	Costuros, George and Marsha	Gialketsis, Steve	Kypreos, Peter and Geri
Andrews, Catherine	Cosulas, Fr. Basil and Presv. Samantha	Gialketsis, William	Kypreos, Sophia
Andrews, Chris and Pamela	Cotsilis, Jenny	Giouzelis, Anastasia	Kyprianou, Gilbert and Alexis
Andricopoulos, Margo	Coutris, Angela	Gianakoulis, Nick and Magda	Kyriannis, Justin and Linda
Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette	Crescenti, Stephen and Katherine	Goltsos, Andreas and Sofia	Lagomarsino, Victor and Sophia
Anton, Mike and Carol	Crist, Adam and Kanistra	Goodman, Linda	Lakis, Antoinette
Arcamuzi, Georgia	Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	Gott, C. Thomas and Kitty	Lamancusa, Lisa
Aristides, George and Diana	Dalacas, Eugenia +	Gousdovas, Nikos	Lambros, Kyriakos and Maria
Asim, Demetrious	Dalacas, Nick + and Georgia	Grillas, Roula	Latelle, Penny
Asim, Nicholas	Daskalos, George and Carrie	Gruber, Ernest and Zoe	Lazarakis, John and Panagiota
Austgen, Harold Max	Daskalos, George and Voula	Gutierrez, Connie	Lekar, Caroline
Balaouras, Panos and Helen	Delalis, Dina	Hadzoglon, Christos and Barbara+	Lekar, Michael and Effie
Balason, Anna	DeMangus, Joanne	Hall, Elizabeth	Lemper, Brian and Betsy
Baldwin, Richard and Vivi	Demetriou, Demetrios and Bessie	Hamilton, Mary	Leonis, Nick and Sophia
Balodimas, James	Demolas, Maria and Nour, Reza	Hamilton, Paul and Brandi	Leonis, Tishe
Barbarino, Demetra	Demoleas, Spero and Grace	Harrison, Angie and Schildmeyer, Christine	Leventis, Naomi
Bartzos, Sam and Eugenia	Demoleas, Stephanie	Hayes, Tulla	Lewis, Foula
Bather, Crissie	Demopoulos, Vasiliki	Hemmers, Oliver and Pantelas, Anne	Liaos, Jim and Tina
Bauck, Jeremy and Amy	Diamantis, Filippos	Henneforth, Rula	Liaos, Steve and Francine
Beeler, Mike and Carolyn	Dimitri, Patricia and Martha	Hetzel, David and Joanne	Liaos, William and Irene
Beeman, Karl, Sr. and Benita	Dominguez, Eric and Amalia	Howard, Jimmy and Monci	Likourinou, Angie
Beeman, Karl, Jr. and Ivana	Dornin, Christopher and Marcella	Hondros, Christina	Likourinou, Steve and June
Berendji, Jim and Vivian	Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia	Hondros, Christopher	Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine
Bernier, Micah and Alissa	Doukakis, Panagiotis and Chrisi	Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria	Little, Martin and Kaytia, Patricia
Berta, Irene	Dounis, Dina	Hoover, Patrick and Pauline	Lymberopoulos, Mary
Bieker, Adam and Cassie	Dounis, Georgia	Houlis, Ila and Debbie	Maddox, Thomas and Maria
Bieker, Georgea	Dounis, Kiki	Howard, William and Willie	Malamatos, Kindina
Birtas, Helen and Ann	Dramitinos, Mary	Hristopoulou, Spiridoula	Maland, Tim and Donna
Bochanis, George and Enid	Earl, Christine Michaelides	Ignadiou, Marios	Malpee, Mack and Kalliope
Bratta, Georgene	Eliades, Aristotelis and Caroline	Iteen, Robert and Sophia	Maniatakos, Ted and Maria
Brilis, George and Satoko	Eliades, Artemisa	Kachikis, Paul and Ernestine	Manos, Constantine and Michele
Britten, Ronald and Carol	Eliades, Harry and Agapi	Kakavulias, Christina	Mansour, Muna
Brown, Faye	Eliakis, John	Kakavulias, George and Helen	Manteris, Arthur and Sue
Bruninga, Bill and Erin	Eliakis, Peter and Glenda	Kakavulias, John and Elizabeth	Margaretis, John and Lucila
Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Eliakis, Varthie and LeeAnn	Kalkas, John and Rena	Markakis, Catherine
Cahill, Irene	Eliopulos, Goldie	Kambouris, Litsa	Matsis, John and Rebecca
Camel, Joseph	Exarhos, Sharon	Kanis, Constantinos and Katie	Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki
Campbell, Theodore and Cheryl	Eyler, John and Elizabeth	Kanis, Georgios	Mavrantonis, Theofania
Capre, Julio and Betty	Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean	Kaptain, Catherine	Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debra
Carabas, Stephen and Linda	Farren, Anthony and Maritsa	Karalias, Petros and Constance	Mavros, Michael+ and Debbie
Carabas, Thymios and Sotiroulla	Filios, Spiridon and Eleni	Karas, John and Marcie	Mavroudis, Frank and Vess, Olga
Carahalas, John and Jillian	Fischer, Bob and Cheryl	Karris, Mark and Suzanne	McClain, Gavin and Jaymee
Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	Fitzgerald, Norman and McCullen, Sandra	Katopodis, Efstratios	McManus, Jeanette
Carrico, William and Alexandra	Flangas, Bill and Marilyn	Katris, Nick	McKinney, Michael and Mersene
Carter, Maria	Flangas, Gary and Amanda	Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon	McSweeney, Farolyn
Cero, Dean	Flangas, Gus and Tamara	Katsikakis, Evangelos	Melton, Donald and Susan
Chachas, Bessie	Fleetwood, Thomas and Melissa	Kelesis, John, Vickie and Niko	Minas, Arthur and Ewa
Chachas, James	Foster, Kyle and Maria	Kelesis, Paula	Moffett, Todd and Eliopulos, Tina
Chagares, Kiki	Fotopoulos, John and Barbara	Kiflezgi, Rahel	Monoyudis, Jim and Julie
Chandrinis, Alexia	Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia	Kimball, Sarah	Moore, Brenda
Chanos, George	Frangakis, Constantine	Kinard, Panorea	Mulopulos, George and Jenny
Chanos, Jennifer	Frangakis, John	Kleanthis, George and Zanetta	Myers, Stella
Chomakos, Dean and Tammy	Frangakis, Sophocles	Koliambas, Eleni	Neocleous, Plato
Chomakos, George and Nikki	Funk, Helen	Kostopoulos, Georgia	Nestlebusch, Marissa
Chondrakis, Dimos	Garza, Evarardo and Eliades, Eleni	Koutoulis, John and Eileen	Newell, Eric and Devona
Christian, Clair and Chloe	Geiger, Dan and Hart, Dora	Koutsulis, Sam and Effie	Newell, Ronald and Maria
Christou, Andreas and Toni	George, Pete and Georgia	Kratky, Frank and Constance	Nicholas, John and Estella
Christou, Eleni	Georgis, John and Kaliopi		Nichols, George and Tereza
Ciulla, Anthony and Kleri	Georgoulakis, Mary Ellen		Nikitas, Rigas and Aphrodite
Collins, David	Gialketsis, Barbara		Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra
Cominos, Ted			Nixon, John and Ellyn
Conger, William and Alexia			Olmsted, Travis and Marilyn
			Osborn, Pearl

*Please contact the Church Office or
a Parish Council Member for a Pledge Card!*

Ostis, Sotirios
Pahigiannis, Nikon
Paikos, Thomas and Elizabeth
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, Constantine and Karina
Pappas, Spiro and Libby
Pappas, Rita
Patrick, Ernest
Payan, Luis and Eleni
Pelletier, Michael
Pendleton, Patricia
Pentogenis, Katherine
Peredera, Maria
Petersen, Todd and Diane
Petro, Aleko and Georgia
Petro, James and Penelopi
Pierro, Joe and Rhonda
Pierro, Joseph and Christine
Pitts, Anton and Athena
Platis, Anna
Plentzas, Spiros + and Ruth
Polimerou, Angeline
Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra
Poulos, Christine
Pouridis, Kouli and Para
Powers, Russell and Rebecca
Prokopis, Ritsa +
Punsalan, Basil and Sophie
Pursell, Robert and Mary
Radosta, Athena
Radza, Mike
Ramos, Fr. Seraphim and
Presv. Olenka
Raptis, Fr. Dean+ and
Presv. Evonne
Rifakes, John

Rifakes, John
Rigas, Evie
Rihani, Gary and Linda
Robison, Diane and Patricia
Rodis, Dimitri
Rodis, Sophia
Rosenthal, Joseph and Stephanie
Rotas, Beatrice
Rouvas, John and Keri
Rudolph, Brandon
Ruffner, Skip and Kathy
Salon, Nicholas + and Janelle
Salonikis, Valentinos and Sophia
Santamaria, Jennifer
Savvas, Savva
Senior Forerunners
Setian, Gary and Marie
Simpson, Brian and
Zacharias, Julie
Sinclair, Bill
Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia
Skarlatos, Nick
Smith, Kathleen
Snow, Adrienne
Snow, Clifford and Christina
Snowden, Robert and Niki
Sparangis, Spyro and Helen
Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette
Stamatakis, Christine
Staub, Douglas and Anastasia
Stavropoulos, Bessie
Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki
Stefanatos, Michael and Tami
Stenos, Louis
Stransky, Mark
Stransky, Jack and Gladys
Strong, Karlie
Struzas, Maria
Swehla, Fr. Matthew and
Presv. Annie
Szukiewicz, Joseph and Jennia
Szukiewicz, Joseph
Tafoya, Steven and Irene

Takas, Andrea
Tasios, Ramona and Pete
Temple, Jonathan and Voula
Thompson, Maggy
Thompson, Steve and Aliki
Touroutoglou, Nikolaos
Tsarouhas, Maria
Tsiralidis, Kosmas and
Katerina
Tsolis, Christos and Panagioula
Tsolis, Panagiote
Turman, Lucas and Maria
Tzortzis, Maria
Vafiadis, Victoria
Vervilos, James and Anna
Vlahos, Thomas and
Demas, Rita
Vreeland, Chandler
Wadlow, Nicholas and Pamela
Wallace, Robert and Katerina
Walter, Vernon and Alice
Waterhouse, David and
Aleighza
Weisman, Diane
Wheeler, Charles and Alyce
Wilcox, Thalia
Wilkerson, Chuck and
Kristina
Williams, Anthony and Anna
Wilson, Steven and Cleo
Wixom, Penelope
Wolfenbarger, Joy
Womack, Karl
Womack, Kimberly
Wood, Nadine
Wronski, Chuck
Xerogianes, Nick and Nikki
Xikis, Victoria
Zaferatos, Ted
Zarkos, Nick and Dina
Zarras, Nick and Chery
Zimmerman, Paul and Angela



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

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

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Administrative Assistant

Rebekah Black
Bookkeeper

Mara Braun
Catering & Events

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Maintenance & Grounds

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www.vegaskgreekorthodox.com

Parish Council: Gus Flangas

Philoptochos: Vicky Palivos

Stewardship & Community Outreach:
Justina Szukiewicz

Choir: Athena Mertes

Chanters & Youth Choir:
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Church School: Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers: Alex & Eric Szukiewicz

GOYA:
Kouli Pouridis & June Likourinou

Orthodox Family Fellowship:
Jelena Boskovic & Amy Khuri

Moms & Tots:
Cassie Bieker

Young Adults:
Nicholas Asim & Fani Mavrantonis

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek School: Paula Kelesis

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

Kali Parea: Demetrios Asim

Adult Basketball: George Chomakos

Forerunners: Marie & Gary Setian

Orthodox Bookstore:
Constantine Frangakis

Greek Food Festival: Gus Flangas

Hellenic Historical Society:
Cheryl Pandelis and Susan Stamis

Photography: Bill Bruninga



Greek Food Festival Baking Dates:

Saturday, September 9: Pasta Flora and Karidopita

Please come for Pastry Pre-Packing and Baklava Cutting
Tuesday, September 12 - Thursday, September 14

Greek Food Festival: September 15 - 16 - 17

Your Stewardship of Time is Encouraged!

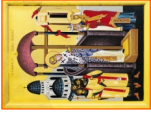
"Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might." (Ephesians 6:10)

Church Account Summaries - July 2017

Nevada State Bank Accounts	May	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	July	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$16,646.87	\$60,806.16	\$94,575.09	\$42,605.94	\$106,879.52	\$22,542.66	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$31,661.89	\$17,370.25	\$0.34	\$15,101.46	\$27,494.58	\$6,436.44	
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$11,861.79	\$26,165.00	\$5,345.00	\$1,204.47	\$32,272.98	\$9,894.34	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$325,189.73	\$8,554.66	\$899.00	\$10,157.47	\$3,609.23	\$320,876.69	
Folk Dance Group	\$10,000.54					\$10,000.54	
Mortgage Account	\$20,892.64				\$10,402.28	\$10,490.36	
Designated Funds	May	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	July	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$9,205.14	\$2,175.00	\$899.00		\$195.73	\$12,083.41	
Ornaments	\$1,077.41					\$1,077.41	
Restricted Funds	May	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	July	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
ICON	\$270,115.33	\$625.00				\$270,740.33	Iconography In Memory Donations
Library Account	\$1,470.77					\$1,470.77	Account owed \$21,000. Funds used to make payroll and pay bills in 2015
Giving Tree	\$3,450.91					\$3,450.91	
Building Fund	\$35,639.24	\$5,754.66		\$10,157.47	\$3,413.50	\$27,822.93	Replacing Carts, Floor Refinishing, Roof Repair
Youth Choir	\$3,069.82					\$3,069.82	
Church School	\$1,206.37					\$1,206.37	
Misc. D & R Deductions	-\$535.26					-\$535.26	
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$50.00					\$50.00	
Designated, Restricted, and Other Total	\$325,189.73	\$8,554.66	\$899.00	\$10,157.47	\$3,609.23	\$320,876.69	
Other Funds	May	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	July	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$55,859.07		\$2,310.77			\$58,169.84	Change in Value of Investments



SEPTEMBER 2017 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						1	2
3 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Hierarchical Liturgy w/Met Gerasimos	4	5 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting in Library	6 6:00 pm Greek Food Festival Meeting 7:00 pm Adult Study	7	8 Nativity of the Theotokos 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	9	16
10 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy <i>Youth Choir Chants</i> 1:00 pm Dance Practice 5:30 pm GOYA Dinner in Panos Hall	11	12	13 5:30 pm Holy Unction 6:30 pm Food Festival Meeting	14 Elevation of the Cross (Strict Fast) 8:00 am Orthros Procession of the Cross at Doxology 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	15	Greek Food Festival September 15-17	
17 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Greek Food Festival	18	19 10:30 am Moms & Tots in Kokkos Hall 4:30 pm 1st Day of Greek School 6:00 pm Greek Folk Dance Practice Begins	20 7:00 pm Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith: Class #1: What We Believe	21	22	23 3:00 pm OFF at Exploration Peak Park 7:00 pm Kali Parea at Spring Mountain Ranch Summer Theater	30 9:00 am GOYA Hike at Keystone Thrust Trail
24 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 4:00 pm Young Adults BBQ at Sunset Park	25	26 4:30 pm Greek School 6:00 pm Greek Folk Dance Practice 6:00 pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	27 7:00 pm Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith: Class #2: History of the Church	28	29		

The Desert Messenger

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTMASTER : DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE EXPEDITE

THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord

“Live as members of one Body, as children of God,
in love, harmony, tranquility and above all in peace,
esteeming one another, being indulgent to
one another, as the Lord is indulgent to us.
Do not be proud, do not envy, do not bear ill will,
do not be slothful in prayer, begin and end the day
with fervent prayer to God, to the Virgin Mary
and the Saints and pray for all as yourself,
wish well to all as yourself, and the peace
that passes all understanding will live in your heart.”
~ St. John of Kronstadt

