

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 15, Issue 10 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

November 2017

From Father John

Beloved in Christ:

As we gathered in our beloved Church early Monday evening, October 2 – after what was for many of us a sleepless night – there was a profound sense of unity in prayer among the 160 who were present. In 2017 our country has been facing one tragedy after another, with increased violence and “unnatural” catastrophic disasters, but who would have thought the largest shooting massacre in US history – which left 58 dead and hundreds wounded – would occur just three miles away from our Church? Not only our city, but our parish was directly affected: Teens, young adults and adults were present at the Route 91 Harvest Festival and witnessed the unthinkable; our parish members were among the first responders, doctors, nurses and counselors who tended to the wounded and, sadly, the departed; moreover, many lined up to donate blood for the victims. Even in this darkest period for our city and, yes, country, our Lord Jesus Christ was present through the selfless acts of love and courage offered by so many.

With the holiday season approaching this month, we are given a wonderful opportunity with the *Christmas Fast*, which *begins on November 15*, to revisit our priorities and renew our relationship with Christ and His Holy Orthodox Church – and through this spiritual renewal we will understand that we have so much to be thankful for as we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. Renewal and gratitude . . . these may seem an abnormal response when facing tragedy and suffering. Yet in the prophecies of the Old Testament it was in the context of destruction and anguish that the holy prophets reassured the ancient Israelites that God was with them: *“For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but My steadfast love shall not depart from you, and My covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, Who has compassion on you.” (Isaiah 54:10)* However, while speaking hopefully of God’s love and fidelity toward His creation, there was the underlying prophetic call to repentance – that is, the need for God’s people to change their minds and hearts and return to Him.

How much more true in our times is the need for each of us – as the members of Christ’s Body – to pause prayerfully . . . and reflect on the evil and disorder that abounds . . . to be honest about the ways that we who are made in God’s image and likeness participate in evil or behave unnaturally by succumbing to the passions, bad thoughts, unkind words and sinful actions . . . to genuinely be sorry for our sins and bad habits . . . and to repent, confess and ask forgiveness from God and those whom we have offended. Through the process of repentance we – personally and as a community – can experience in a real and powerful way the love and mercy of Christ our God, Who came in the flesh to redeem us, deliver us and reconcile us with Him and one another in His Kingdom.



Just as so many of us were eager to prayerfully, empathetically and selflessly rise to the occasion a few weeks ago, let us continuously toil to live as *“a people of His own who are zealous for good deeds.” (Titus 2:14)*

With love and thanksgiving,

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Wednesday, November 1/*Holy Unmercenaries
Cosmas and Damianos/St. David of Evia*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

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

Gospel: Matthew 10:1, 5-8

Sunday, November 5/*5th Sunday of Luke/
Ss. Galaktion and Episteme of Emesa*

Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)

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

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Wednesday, November 8/*Synaxis of the Holy
Archangels Michael and Gabriel*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Hebrews 2:2-10

Gospel: Luke 10:16-21

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

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-14

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Sunday, November 12/*8th Sunday of Luke/
St. John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria*

Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)

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

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Monday, November 13/*St. John Chrysostom,
Patriarchate of Constantinople/St. Anthousa*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2

Gospel: John 10:9-16

Wednesday, November 15/*Nativity Fast Begins*

Sunday, November 19/*9th Sunday of Luke/
Prophet Obadiah/St. Barlaam of Ceasarea*

Orthros: Tone Seven (Grave)

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

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22

Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

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

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Hebrews 9:1-7

Gospel: Luke 8:38-42; 11:27-28

Wednesday, November 22/*Thanksgiving Liturgy/
St. Amphilochios, Bishop of Iconium*

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy and Artoclasia

Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17; 3:1-5

Gospel: Luke 18:31-34

Saturday, November 25/*Great Martyr Catherine/
Leavetaking of the Entrance of the Theotokos*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

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

Gospel: Mark 5:24-34

Sunday, November 26/*13th Sunday of Luke/
St. Alypius of Adrianopolis*

Orthros: Tone Eight (Fourth Plagal)

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

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-7

Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

Wednesday, November 29

5:00 pm Orthros

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Holy Apostle Andrew)

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

Gospel: John 1:36-52

Thursday, November 30/*Holy Apostle Andrew
Liturgy celebrated on previous evening*

**"Beloved, do not imitate evil, but imitate good.
He who does good is of God; he who does evil has not seen God."
(3 John 11)**

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 5

Ushers: Kouli Pouridis, Skip Ruffner, Bessie Stavropoulos, George Bochanis, Demetrious Asim and Pete Tsolis

Fellowship: Forerunners, Seniors of St. John the Baptist

NOVEMBER 12

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

Memorials: Betty Hallis (40 days); Angelica Karakoli (40 days); Michael Prinari (40 days), Helen and Dimitrios Prinari; Nick Dalacas (6 months); Departed Members of the Chagares Family

Fellowship: Folk Dance Groups

NOVEMBER 19: PARISH ASSEMBLY

Ushers: Bessie Stavropoulos, George Bochanis, Demetrious Asim, Kouli Pouridis, Skip Ruffner and Mark Karris

Fellowship: Philoptochos Annual Bake Sale

NOVEMBER 26

Ushers: John Koutsulis, Pete Tsolis, Justina Szukiewicz, Skip Ruffner, Gus Flangas and Stacy Mavrantonis

Fellowship: Daughters of Penelope

Notice of Parish Assembly Sunday, November 19

Following the Divine Liturgy in Panos Hall

AGENDA:

- Call to Order/Opening Prayer
 - Election of Assembly Chair
- Stewardship Report & 2018 Stewardship Commitment Drive
 - Greek Food Festival Report
 - Financial Review
 - Approval of 2018 Budget
- Iconography Update & 501(c)(3) Status
 - Parish Bylaws
- Elect Nominations/Election Committee
- Nominations for Parish Council 2018-19
- Audit Report & CPA Audit (for 2016)
 - Election of 2018 Audit Committee
- Closing Prayer/Adjournment

*Everyone is encouraged to attend, although only Pledged Stewards for 2017 may vote.
Please see a Stewardship Committee Member or call the Church Office to become a Steward.*


Vegas Strong: A Community in Prayer

*For the Repose of the 58 Who Fell Asleep in the Lord and
the Hundreds Wounded in the Massacre in Las Vegas on October 1, 2017*



Photos by Joy Wolfenbarger





The 2017 Annual Ladies Philoptochos Society Christmas Pastry Sale

Delicious, traditional Greek Christmas Pastries
Lovingly baked and packaged in a decorated box for \$22.

Please note that quantities are limited.

Guarantee your order by pre-ordering and pre-paying.

Send your order and check made payable to the
Ladies Philoptochos Society, attention Christmas Pastry Sale
5300 El Camino Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89118.

Name _____

Day _____ Cell or Evening Phone _____

Email _____

Number of boxes _____ x \$22 _____

Check enclosed _____

Or please call Karen at the Church Office (702) 221-8245 to pay by credit card.

Orders will be ready for pickup at St. John Church on Sunday, December 3, 2017,
following Divine Liturgy.

Your generous support of this and all Philoptochos projects are returned to the many
ministries and needs of St. John the Baptist, the Las Vegas community and around the world.



ANNUAL

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS

AUTUMN BAKE SALE

Delicious baked cookies, cakes, pastries and decorated Christmas trees will be available for sale.

Sunday, November 19, 2017

12:00 pm after Divine Liturgy

Please join us in this fundraising event to benefit our local charities. If you have any questions, please call Rahel Kiflezgi (702) 704-4654.



Parish Council Report

As I write this month's column, I do so with a heavy heart knowing that our great community recently suffered a terrible, heinous act of terror perpetrated by an individual consumed with nothing more than pure evil. Although many are searching for answers as to why this evil coward rained down a hail of bullets upon people merely out to enjoy themselves with an evening of music and fun, the reasons may never be known, other than just pure vile evil. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the many victims and their families. For those who were lost, may their memories be eternal. In offering prayers, it is important to remember the first responders who did so much that night and to remember the people who had to process the scene the next day to try and figure out what happened; let us pray to give them all courage and strength. It is also important to remember in prayer those who were there and witnessed firsthand the tragic events unfold, because they are going to carry it with them forever, especially the young people present. Some teens and young adults from our Church Community were there and we hope and pray they fully recover from the upheaval they witnessed and experienced, and know that there is still good in the world. It is also important to remember the many people who gave their time, talents and treasures to help out after this anguishing ordeal. We also offer our sincere gratitude to the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) for sending us the four wonderful Priests who were part of the crisis team. They were a true blessing for our Church and the Las Vegas Community, and we cannot thank them enough.

We have a *Parish Assembly* scheduled for *Sunday, November 19*, in Panos Hall, shortly after the Liturgy. We strongly urge you all to attend, learn about the operation of our Parish, and provide input into our administration. At the Assembly, we have a very important agenda to discuss and act upon (see Page 3). Primarily, we will be discussing and approving the Parish Budget for Fiscal Year 2018, nominating Parishioners for election to the Parish Council, nominating and electing an internal Audit Committee, and receiving reports on the 2017 Greek Food Festival, the current financial status, Iconography and results of the internal and external audits of the Parish finances. In addition, we are going to be discussing and approving new Parish Bylaws. Our current Bylaws are decades old and are in dire need of being updated. The proposed Parish Bylaws have been reviewed in depth and approved by the Parish Council. They now need to be approved by the Parish Assembly and then submitted to the Metropolis for final approval. It is vital that you look at them prior to the Assembly and have your questions and suggestions ready. The Bylaws were drafted pursuant to the Uniform Parish Regulations, Nevada Law, IRS regulations, and our Parish's norms and customs. Again, please come to the Parish Assembly and actively participate.

We are presently getting ready to start our *2018 Stewardship Drive*, beginning with the *Stewardship All Star Luncheon* scheduled for *Sunday, December 3*, immediately after the Liturgy in Panos Hall. We will honor Sophia Leonis, Kiki Mavrantonis and Ramona Tasios. Please attend and enjoy the great food and fellowship.

It is vitally incumbent on everyone to get behind our Stewardship Program. Stewardship is the method or program St. John Greek Orthodox Parishioners have agreed to use for the operation of the Church. Without the Stewardship Program, we cannot meet our financial obligations, and cannot support the various Church programs and ministries. Stewardship contributions go toward administrative expenses, clergy salaries, employee salaries, utilities, insurance, health insurance, Church ministries, youth ministries, religious education, Archdiocese Commitments, Metropolis Commitments, Clergy Laity Conferences, maintenance, Church supplies, office supplies, and many other items. To become a Steward requires only that you complete a Stewardship Pledge Card each year and fulfill your commitment. The amount of the pledge is an individual decision governed solely by your heart (the Archdiocese recommends optimally but does not mandate ten percent of gross income).

As a Parish, without sugar coating it, we have been sorely lacking in our Stewardship commitments to say the least for decades. We strive year after year to reach very moderate goals with limited success. A lot of hard work has gone into making the Stewardship Program work; however, every year is merely a repeat of the previous year. It is well past time for all Parishioners to take a hard look at what the future holds for our Church. We cannot continue with business as usual regarding Stewardship.

(Continued on Page 8)

Parish Council Report *(Continued from Page 7)*

Stewardship should **completely** fund the entire operating account for our Church. Funds we receive from the Greek Food Festival each year are supposed to be used **solely** for capital expenditures, such as paying the mortgage, repairing our buildings or constructing new facilities. Unfortunately, Festival funds get diverted each year to cover shortfalls in the operating account and this severely impacts our ability to expand or even properly maintain our beautiful facilities and grounds. The perpetual shortfall in our Stewardship continually and significantly limits what our Church can do going forward in the way of capital improvements, greater funding for our ministries, maintaining and repairing our facilities and fulfilling our visions for the future, especially with our youth.

Here are some simple hard facts. In our current configuration, it will take approximately **\$950,000** in 2018 to operate our Church. Usually we receive around roughly **\$400,000** in Stewardship pledges. Our usual receipts will equate to only approximately **42 percent** of the Operating Account at most; thus, leaving us woefully short by **58 percent** of where we should be in a perfect world. We absolutely have to get Stewardship fully on track where it covers most if not all of our operating expenses. The choice comes down to what type of Church you want and what type of future you want for the Church. To have a Church takes a highly dedicated and intense Community effort. So please look into your heart, pray, and give-back accordingly to help our Church in this coming year. As you ponder the foregoing and your decision on Stewardship, please remember that Stewardship is about vision and making that vision come to fruition.

Pertaining to the Iconography, we are moving on it with all due haste by working on obtaining certification as a 501(c)(3) organization. We have submitted virtually all the necessary paperwork. The only thing now lacking is an approved 2018 budget. As previously stated, we hired a lawyer who specializes in forming 501(c)(3) charitable organizations to get us this designation. Once this is done, we will again work on getting the Iconographers here to Las Vegas in the very near future.

In closing, we want to again thank the various Church ministries and organizations, and the many individuals for all the work they do and have done for our Church. May God Bless.

Gus Flangas, Parish Council President

2017 Stewardship Report (as of 10/19/17)

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$364,696 (\$400,948 total in 2016)
 Stewardship Gifts Received: \$300,829
 Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$63,867
 Stewardship Families Pledged: 423 (443 total in 2016)
 Average Pledge to Date: \$862 (\$905 in 2016)



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

2017 Christmas Card Submission Form



Name & Phone or Email: _____

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

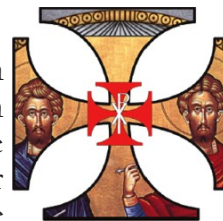
Donation: \$20 per family - Deadline: Sunday, December 3, 2017

Please submit form & payment to Philoptochos c/o St. John Church.

Philoptochos News

My Dearest Sisters of Philoptochos,

What a month it has been since the horrible tragedy which took place in Las Vegas. We continue to pray for those who mourn the loss of their loved ones, those injured, and so many who are coping with what they have experienced. We thank Father John and Father Seraphim for helping our community through their prayers and love. We are an incredible city and I have never seen so much generosity and kindness from so many people. A big thank you to all our policemen, firefighters, doctors, nurses and everyone that responded during this disaster.



On October 3 we had our first Philoptochos General Meeting. It was well attended and we welcomed three wonderful priests from International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) – Father Jon Hedges, Father Dimitrios Kyritsis and Father Haralambos (Bob) Fox – who traveled to our city to assist with the needs of the victims in Las Vegas and their families. They shared some of their personal experiences and gave words of comfort and counsel.

We want to thank our new Membership Chairwoman Christina Snow for accepting this position, and we welcome our new members, Presvytera Olenka Ramos, Johanna Jandete and Janet Paul.

Benita Beeman and Jennifer Santamaria will be our lovely Chairwomen coordinating our Fellowships – we appreciate them. Cheryl Pandelis and Nitsa Filios presented an amazing plan to pay off our Church's mortgage and we are so excited to adopt this incredible project! More information to follow!

Here are our exciting upcoming events:

***November 4 – Pastry Baking Day in the Kitchen at 8:00 am.** We are grateful to Eleni Kakavulias who once again accepted to be in charge of baking our Christmas cookies. Please come and help us as we need many hands on that day! To order your pastries, please fill out the form on Page 5, and return.

***November 5 – Baby Shower for Presvytera Olenka Ramos immediately after Divine Liturgy.** Let's shower Presvytera Olenka with our love by attending her baby shower (Amazon Registry).

***November 5 – Community Christmas Card.** Once again we have Andrea Takas in charge of our Christmas Card project. We appreciate all her help! Please fill out the form (see Page 8) and return it with your payment to Andrea.

***November 12 – General Meeting and Hands-On Project after Liturgy.** Join us for our second General Meeting. Lunch will be provided and our hands-on project will be packing food bags for Edna Hinman Elementary School. We thank our Social Services Chairwoman Geri Kypreos for always bringing us all the necessary supplies for those in need.

***November 19 – Autumn Bake Sale and Christmas Décor Sale.** Please see Rahel Kiflezgi, our energetic Chairwoman, to offer your baked goods (see Page 6).

***December 3 – Pastry Packing Day.** Amanda and Tamara Flangas are again our wonderful Chairwomen for our pastry packing day. Please sign up and help us as we need many hands!

***December 5 – Christmas Party at 6:00 pm.** Jelena Boskovic is our creative Chairwoman for our holiday party, which will take place at Maggiano's, for \$50 a person. Please make your reservation with your payment early as seating is limited.

To order your pastries, please fill out the form on Page 5, and return it to Church along with your payment. Your support of this fundraiser is truly appreciated.

Please join us in participating and supporting all our events!

With Love in Christ, Vicky Palivos, Philoptochos President

***“Beloved, it is a loyal thing you do when you render any service to the brethren, especially to strangers, who have testified to your love before the Church.”
(3 John 5-6)***

Stewardship and Community Outreach

Just three miles away.

From the high of a successful Greek Food Festival to the low of a horrific mass murder on the Strip, our community has, in less than a month, indeed had a high high and low low. It is difficult to get our heads around it all, let alone get in the proper mindset for Thanksgiving.

The contrast between extremes: Highs and lows, good and evil, love and hate, light and darkness; these themes ring true for this past month as clearly as they have throughout the Biblical millennia, the only difference being it striking so very close to home – just three miles away. Just three miles away.

Κύριε, ελέησον. Κύριε, ελέησον. Κύριε, ελέησον.

This appalling crime has shown us, once again, that Satan is active and that evil is present in this world, in this country, and in this valley. He desires to drive a wedge between us and God, to destabilize our community, to plunge our world into darkness. We must combat this evil with unity, with communion, and with love. With God's help, we must reject the folly of living as a collection of individuals and recognize our Church community as the blessing and source of strength which it is.

Κύριε, ελέησον. Κύριε, ελέησον. Κύριε, ελέησον.

Living and departed faithful are called the Church militant and the Church triumphant, respectively.

Militant because we are called to be soldiers of Christ battling the forces of sin and evil in our fallen world, and triumphant because they now enjoy eternal happiness through union with God in Heaven. God desires that we struggle in our faith and for our faith. Our work is clear-cut – the battle against the Adversary is real, requiring us all to engage with our community to bring love and light where there is hate and darkness. Our work is unending, requiring us all to participate in real sustained effort year round. Our work is vital, requiring us all to make hard choices and offer real sacrificial giving of ourselves, our time, and our possessions. May we all come together in unity and love to tackle this work for the building up of God's kingdom here in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Κύριε, ελέησον. Κύριε, ελέησον. Κύριε, ελέησον.

Even in these difficult times we may truly and sincerely give thanks to God, for through His abundant mercies our forefathers instilled the discernment in us to recognize evil, that we might be outraged by senseless violence and that we, in turn, might instill the same in our children. Now, let us resolve together to stand against evil in this world and soldier on for Christ.

Δόξα τῷ Θεῷ.

Mike Beeler, for the Stewardship and Outreach Committee



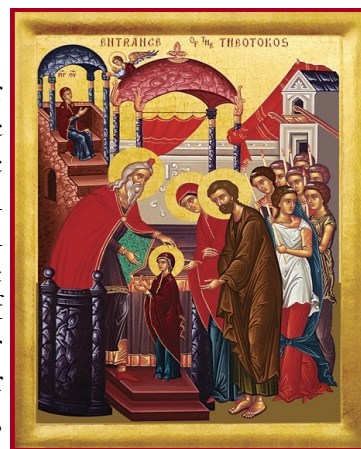
"I know My own and My own know Me." (John 10:14)

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

"And this is love, that we follow His commandments." (2 John 6)

From Father Seraphim

This month on *November 21* we celebrate one of the Twelve Major Feasts of our Church, *the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple*. The young Virgin was brought by her parents to dwell in the Holy of Holies, where the glory of the Lord dwelled. It is as if we were to allow a young girl to live in the Holy Altar. In fact, it may seem even more curious, because only the High Priest could go into the Holy of Holies and even then just once a year: A rope was tied around his ankle, so that if he died – overcome by the awe and power of God – he could be dragged out without another needing to enter in after him. This event that we gather to celebrate is really very strange! The three-year old Mary enters and lives where angels of the Lord ascend and descend. So then, what is the importance of this unique event for her, for the Church, and for us?



St. Gregory Palamas answers this question saying that this feast exemplifies the fruit of a life of prayer and stillness. Some believed that humanity was not able to have true contact with God; St. Gregory argued that with preparation this was indeed possible – even for our youngest children! He tells us that the Virgin is the example of this, *par excellence*: “While the holy Maid dwelled in the innermost sanctuary, she made high ascents in her heart, which reached as far as the heavens themselves, and drew the heavenly Lord from there to us.” Through these ascents she herself became the true Holy of Holies. Her whole life became a preparation for receiving the Lord. The significance of this feast is that we recognize human cooperation with divine grace and the accomplishment of our salvation. Indeed, all of us are called to co-work with God and to prepare for His coming into our lives, especially through Holy Communion.

We must try, as we are able, to prepare for such a glorious happening. We have no rope tied around our ankle if we approach unworthily. Holy Communion requires preparation and it “burns the unworthy” as we say in our prayers at every Liturgy. The Theotokos prepared herself through a life lived in secret within the Holy of Holies. In stillness, prayer, fasting, and reading of the Divine Scriptures she was made ready. Through her entrance into the Temple she gave entrance to the Lord into her womb, into this world and into our hearts. In our preparation for receiving Holy Communion we are likewise called to *lift up our gates that the King of Glory may enter. (Psalm 24:9)*

Today, the glory of the Lord does not dwell in the Temple of Solomon, as it has been destroyed; nor is He found in the womb of the Virgin, for Christ has been born. The glory of the Lord dwells humbly within the human heart. The heart has become the seat of the King and, as St. Gregory says, it has become the “Throne of Grace.” In receiving Communion the King is enthroned and granted dominion over our hearts. Ultimately during this Feast we celebrate the mercy and love of God toward humanity and its preparation to receive the gift of Christ and, with Him, abundant life. We are called to prepare, as we are able, through means such as prayer, fasting and reading, to receive the Lord; to cultivate a humble disposition of heart since it was the humility of the Virgin (even at such a young age) that allowed her to enter the Temple, and God to enter her womb.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, from this sacred Feast we see the profound measure in which God communes with all ages. As we prepare ourselves for our most important encounter each week in Holy Communion, let us not exclude our children from the preparation for the banquet feast of God’s Kingdom as well. If Christ Himself was brought by the Virgin Mary into the temple at just forty days old (the basis of our service of Churching the Child before Baptism), and if the Panagia entered the Temple to live in purity from just three years of age – how much more should we, in imitation of her holy parents Joachim and Anna, bring our children into the Church even from their infancy! It is not knowledge, status or gray hair that Christ requires in order for Him to come, live within a person, and fill them with His abiding presence: Christ, the King of Glory, resides in the heart that is humble, transforming it into His throne of grace.

With Love in Christ,

Father Seraphim

Youth and Family Ministries

Church School

Hi Everyone!

We are having a great Church School year so far: We have almost 100 students registered. Parents, if you have not done so yet, please make sure that your children are registered. The forms are on the bulletin boards and can be given to the teachers or myself on Sundays, or to Karen during the week. Please remember that the student must be 4 years-old by September 30 to be enrolled in our Pre-Kindergarten Class.

Just a reminder that the Community Center will remain locked during Church School for the safety of our students. If you arrive late please enter through Panos Hall Foyer or, if your child has an outside door in their classroom, he or she can go directly to that door.

Please take a look at the lesson plans on the bulletin boards outside of the classrooms. This is a perfect opportunity to find out what your child is learning in Church School.

It is also nice to get your children involved in our many other parish youth ministries. Notices of those events appear in *The Desert Messenger*, and these many ministries provide a great way for your children to connect with their fellow Orthodox peers.

Save the Date: Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 17.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

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

Youth Choir News



On Sunday, October 8 we had a wonderful and enthusiastic group chanting the Divine Liturgy! We also got to sing Happy Birthday to Father John! New voices are also joining our ranks – there is always room for new members. Thank you to the parents for bringing our Youth Choir members on time.

Our next practice will be on ***Sunday, November 5*** after Church School at ***12:15 pm***. We will chant the Divine Liturgy on ***Sunday, November 12***. Please show up at the front right pew ***no later than 9:40 am***. More Sunday practices may be added, especially now for the Nativity season; look out for those Youth Choir email blasts and Sunday notes on the classroom dry-erase boards.

Love in Christ, Presvytera Maria

Moms & Tots



“I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.” (Luke 10:16-21)

It was such a pleasure seeing all our moms and tots last month! We had our very first Church tour led by Father Seraphim. The children got to experience an up close and personal connection with the iconostasis, lit candles in the narthex, and even got to explore the censor and why the priest censures the Church. It brings about much joy and spiritual happiness to witness our children radiate purity of heart as they draw a connection to the Church and with our Lord Jesus Christ. Children are a constant reminder of how we should keep our faith and unreserved love for our Lord.

Our next meeting will be on ***Tuesday, November 14 at 10:30 am*** in Panos Hall Foyer. Please bring a light snack for all to share. We will again go into the Church to offer prayer and allow the children to explore and appreciate our beautiful place of worship and welcome the Nativity Fast full of love and joy.

In Christ, Cassie Bieker

“Contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.” (Jude 3)

Orthodox Family Fellowship

Every month OFF families gather to have educational and fun events and experiences, and we invite you to join us! Just recently we met on our beautiful Church grounds for our annual "Greek Olympic Games," also known as Family Fun Day, which was well attended and enjoyed by all.

On Saturday, November 18 we are scheduled to visit with local police officers who will give us an exclusive tour of the *Downtown Area Command Police Station (621 N. 9th St., Las Vegas)*. We will meet at the Church at *12:45 pm sharp (our tour begins at 1:30 pm)*, and then carpool together. Following our visit to the Police Station, we will also have the opportunity and privilege of touring our local *SWAT Office (4511 W. Cheyenne, Suite 401, Las Vegas)* at *3:00 pm*.

Please keep in mind law enforcement is unpredictable and situations arise that may require immediate action, especially with SWAT: We will keep you posted with a back-up event should this occur. We thank Lieutenant Sophia Kypreos for helping us to coordinate this month's event.

December is the time when even those who never eat sweets simply cannot resist the flavor of chocolate. In next month's issue of *The Desert Messenger* we will have details about our OFF tour of the Ethel M Chocolate Factory in Henderson. Join us in celebrating our Orthodox spirit as families together!

Jelena Boskovic and Amy Khuri, OFF Advisors

GOYA ~ For Teenagers

Greetings GOYANs!

Since school started we have held our first Sunday of the month GOYA Night meetings, we have hiked in Red Rock Canyon and participated in the Family Field Day/Olympics here at Church. This month we will refocus, offering Thanksgiving to God for all our many blessings, before once again enjoying a beautiful Christmas Party in December!

What does refocus mean? Well, GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America) is the ministry for teenagers for the purpose of fellowship, worship, service, and witness. It is important that we maintain a healthy balance of our activities and meetings, so that we fulfill the four-fold purpose of GOYA, while keeping our teens connected to Christ, His Church and each other.

For November we will rekindle a project of service. *On Friday, November 10 at 4:30 pm* we will gather at the *Las Vegas Rescue Mission (480 W. Bonanza Road Las Vegas, NV 89106)* to serve meals to people suffering from the effects of homelessness. We should be done cleaning up by 6:00 pm. Additionally, we will have our monthly *GOYA Night on Sunday, November 5 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm*. See you there!

In Christ, Father Seraphim and GOYA Advisors, June Likourinou and Kouli Pouridis



Greek Language Classes



Greek School students along with their teachers jumped right into the fall semester. We recently had our Halloween Greek costume party where the children and adults dressed up as a mythological or traditional Greek person. Everyone had a good time and they all learned some Greek history and culture, along with enjoying some treats!

There will be no class the week of Thanksgiving (Tuesday, November 21).

Paula Kelesis, Director

Greek Folk Dance

Hello All!

We are preparing for the upcoming holiday season! On *Friday, December 15 and Saturday, December 16*, the children of our ministry will be going from home to home spreading Christmas cheer as we participate in our annual *Christmas Caroling* event. We will be singing traditional Greek and English carols and look forward to singing for as many people as possible.

If you would like to arrange a visit to your home, please contact Sia Dalacas at (951) 285-4970, or email stjohnsgreekdance@gmail.com. Or you can fill out and return the flyer (see Page 15) to Sia at Church.

On *Sunday, December 17*, we will be hosting our annual *Fasolada Soup Fellowship* in Panos Hall. Please support our ministry as we continue with our ongoing preparations for the Annual Folk Dance Festival, taking place in January 2018.

Again, many thanks to all the parents for all your continued support!

Finally, we are deeply appreciative of the kind expressions of support for our parish and community following the horrific shootings on October: Especially by the thoughtful handmade cards sent by the folk dancers of the Nativity of Christ Church in Novato, CA, and the huge box of treats sent to our youth from the dancers of St. Demetrios Church in Camarillo, CA. We are truly a connected family through folk dance!

With Much Gratitude, the Folk Dance Board



FAITH. DANCE. FELLOWSHIP.

January 11 - 14, 2018 Marriott Marquis Hotel San Francisco

For Registration and Hotel Reservations, Go to www.yourfdf.org

Daughters of Penelope

The Daughters of Penelope will be hosting *Fellowship on Sunday, November 26*, honoring our founder, Alexandra Apostolides Sonenfield, who started the Daughters on November 16, 1929. Proceeds will benefit Father John's Discretionary Fund. Please be generous in your offering.

The Daughters support many projects, including the St. Nicholas Shrine at Ground Zero, Saint Basil Academy, cancer research, seeing-eye dogs and disaster relief.

Respectfully, Kathy Pentogenis, DOP President



The children of the St. John Folk Dance Ministry are celebrating the spirit of Christmas!
Please invite us into your homes to spread some Christmas cheer and help the children by
supporting our annual fundraiser!

Christmas Caroling

The children will sing traditional Greek and English Christmas carols and the program
will last approximately 15 minutes.

If you would like to have the children come to your home, please fill out the following and
return to any Folk Dance Board Member or the Church office by December 10, 2017

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Friday, December 15, 2017

OR

Saturday, December 16, 2017

(Please circle one date)

****You will be contacted 3 days prior in order to confirm the time we will arrive****

Questions? Contact Sia Dalacas at aeconomy@hotmail.com or 951-285-4970

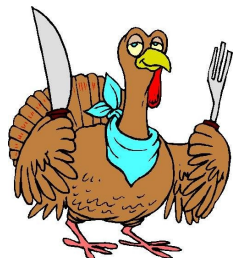
YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Adult and Young Adult Ministries

Young Adults

Hello, Young Adults!

Thanks for coming out for our October Hike through the stunning Calico Basin landscape: Even more, thanks to those of you who offered your time and love to help facilitate our Family Field Day afterwards.



Please join us for November's Young Adults meeting that happens to be a pre-Thanksgiving celebration! The fellowship gathering and spiritual discussion will be at Elizabeth Arbusio's home on **Saturday, November 11 at 6:00 pm**. A real "Friendsgiving" turkey, dessert and drinks will be provided. Please bring your favorite Thanksgiving side dish to share with others! Come and share the Thanksgiving season's spirit with all of the St. John Church Young Adults. Please RSVP with Elizabeth.

We look forward to seeing you there!

With love, Niko Asim and Fani Mavrantonis, Young Adults Advisors

Mr. & Mrs. - A Couples Fellowship

Dear M&M's,

We definitely missed getting together officially in September, and we are so grateful to get back on track with Octobers' meeting graciously hosted by the Nixon's at their home!

This month we look forward once again to being together on **Saturday, November 18** at the home of Roulla and Thymios Carabas, where dinner and discussion will begin at **6:00 pm**. As usual, please bring a side dish, drink, salad or dessert and contact Roulla Carabas or Father Seraphim for questions or to RSVP with what you will be bringing.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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



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

November is the beginning of the bustling holiday season. We need to remember that the November and December holidays are not for stressing about money and gifts. It is first and foremost about celebrating the Holy Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, then about enjoying our family and friends' company and giving thanks for what we have.

This month Kali Parea will focus on being with friends and enjoying the stress-less activity of watching a movie together on **Sunday, November 12 at 2:00 pm** at Demetrious Asim's Home. For December we are tentatively planning to go to Opportunity Village. We welcome all to join us.

If you have any ideas, please see or email Demetri Asim at demetrivegas@yahoo.com.

Catherine Manolakos for Demetrious Asim, Kali Parea Advisor

Adult Basketball



Join us for a pick-up basketball game *every Monday evening (except for holidays) from 7:00 to 9:00 pm in Panos Hall*. Please call *George Chomakos at (702) 523-8675* to be added to the basketball email list.

***"I can do all things in Christ Who strengthens me."
(Philippians 4:13)***

Forerunners - The Seniors of St. John the Baptist

Our first luncheon took place on Monday, October 9. It was nicely attended, and we all enjoyed fellowship as well as a great lunch offered by Atria Senior Living.

I am sure this month's luncheon and gathering on *Monday, November 13 at 11:30 am* will be well attended as our own Sam Koutsulis is cooking.

At the time of this writing, I have been sadly informed that one of our Forerunners, Barbara Gialketsis, has fallen asleep in our Lord. May her memory be eternal!

I was completely surprised to learn that many of our Seniors are not aware of the service that is available to them through the RTC transportation company. If you no longer drive or if you are handicapped in any way, you can make use of their service. All you need to do is call RTC at (702) 228-4800, and direct your call to eligibility and verification information. RTC will pick you up free of charge to take you to your verification appointment, and return you home free of charge also. Once you have been verified, you can ride the RTC bus for \$3 each way door to door. There are over 80,000 Seniors in Las Vegas making use of this service, and I urge you to look into this so you can stay connected to our ministry and beloved Church.

As always, our prayers and good wishes to our Seniors in facilities, hospitals, or homebound.

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

Serving Dinner to the Homeless

The Community of St. John the Baptist is invited to serve dinner to the homeless at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission on *Friday, November 10, starting at 4:30 pm*.

Please join us and see why *"it is more blessed to give than to receive."* (Acts 20:35)

Our Community Registry

Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun!

Zoe (Zoella), daughter of Connor Rickerson and Alexandra Kilgore, on October 14, 2017.

Godparents: Nicolena Milicevic and Alexander Szukiewicz.

Kalliope (Brigitte) Welles (Adult Baptism), on October 15, 2017.

Godparent: Tamara Flangas.

Athena, daughter of Brigitte Welles, on October 15, 2017.

Godparents: Gus and Tamara Flangas.

Marriages: Na Zisetel

Peter Luis Moneo and Mayela Del Carmen Nava-Albarran on September 30, 2017.

Koumbara: Consuelo Moneo Onks.

Chad Athanasios Gauvin and Marissa Angela Nestlebusch on October 7, 2017.

Koumbaros: Paul Steven Hamilton.

Michael Beeler and Carolyn Jones on October 9, 2017.

Koumbara: Eileen Koutsulis.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory!

Michael Dimitrios Prinaris on October 8, 2017. Trisagion on October 18.

Betty Hallis on October 9, 2017. Funeral on October 17.

Notes from the Choir Loft



Thank you to everyone for a successful National Church Music Sunday! We would like to thank Vicki Xikis for organizing the luncheon and Father John and Father Seraphim for their wonderful prayers and support. Everyone enjoyed the great food and fellowship following Liturgy.

We will begin rehearsing for the Christmas services in December. As always, we welcome new voices.

Thank you! Athena Mertes, Director



Photo by Bill Bruninga



Adult Study with Father John:



Continuing with . . .

*A Spiritual Psalter
or Reflections on God by
St. Ephraim the Syrian*

(Available in the Bookstore)

Starting Again on November 8

Wednesdays 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Church

*“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”
(Matthew 9:37-38)*



**The Priests, Parish Council and the
Stewardship & Community Outreach Committee
Invite You to Join Us for the Annual**

Stewardship



Luncheon

**Honoring Sophia Leonis,
Kiki Mavrantonis
and Ramona Tasios**

**Sunday, December 3
Following Divine Liturgy
Panos Hall**

**Join us as we pay tribute to three MVPs . . .
Most Valuable Parishioners!**

Free-Will Offering

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

Adamy, Marina	Cokotis, Julie	Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia	Karas, John and Marcie
Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine	Collins, David	Frangakis, Constantine	Karris, Mark and Suzanne
Anastasiou, Andrew and Kathleen	Cominos, Ted	Frangakis, John	Katopodis, Efstratios
Andrews, Catherine	Conger, William and Alexia	Frangakis, Sophocles	Katris, Nick
Andrews, Chris and Pamela	Constantinou, Magdalini +	Franzi, Jack	Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon
Andricopoulos, Margo	Costacos, John	Funk, Helen	Katsikakis, Evangelos
Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette	Costas, Charles and Louise	Garza, Evarardo and	Kelesis, John, Vickie and Niko
Anton, Mike and Carol	Costuros, George and Marsha	Eliades, Eleni	Kelesis, Paula
Arcamuzi, Georgia	Cosulas, Fr. Basil and	Gauvin, Chad and Marissa	Kiflezgi, Rahel
Aristides, George and Diana	Presv. Samantha	Geiger, Dan and Hart, Dora	Kimball, Sarah
Asim, Demetrious	Cotsilis, Jenny	George, Louis	Kinard, Panorea
Asim, Nicholas	Coutris, Angela	George, Pete and Georgia	Kleanthis, George and Zanetta
Austgen, Harold Max	Crescenti, Stephen and Katherine	Georgis, John and Kaliopi	Klocek, Jerald
Bacon, Ken and Dianne	Crist, Adam and Kanistra	Georgoulakis, Mary Ellen	Kofinas, Maria
Bagatelos, Michael	Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	Gialketsis, Barbara +	Koliambas, Eleni
Balaouras, Panos and Helen	Dalacas, Eleni	Gialketsis, Bill and Shelli	Konsolakis, George and Sophia
Balason, Anna	Dalacas, Eugenia +	Gialketsis, Julie	Kontos, Diana
Baldwin, Richard and Vivi	Dalacas, Nick + and Georgia	Gialketsis, Steve	Kostopoulos, Georgia
Balodimas, James	Daskalos, George and Carrie	Gialketsis, William	Kotonias, Patricia
Barbarino, Demetra	Daskalos, George and Voula	Giouzelis, Anastasia	Kountanis, Pat
Bartzos, Sam and Eugenia	Daughters of Penelope	Gianakoulis, Nick and Magda	Kourlos, Georgia
Bauck, Jeremy and Amy	Delalis, Dina	Goltos, Andreas and Sofia	Koutsulis, John and Eileen
Beeler, Mike and Carolyn	DeMangus, Joanne	Goodman, Linda	Koutsulis, Sam and Effie
Beeman, Karl, Sr. and Benita	Demetriou, Demetrios and Bessie	Gott, C. Thomas and Kitty	Kratky, Frank and Constance
Beeman, Karl, Jr. and Ivana	Demolas, Maria and Nour, Reza	Gousdovas, Nikos	Kunard, Derek
Berendji, Jim and Vivian	Demoleas, Spero and Grace	Grabovoi, Daphne	Kypreos, George and Lesley
Bernier, Micah and Alissa	Demoleas, Stephanie	Grillas, Roula	Kypreos, Peter and Geri
Berta, Irene	Demopoulos, Vasiliki	Gruber, Ernest and Zoe	Kypreos, Sophia
Bieker, Adam and Cassie	Diamantis, Filippas	Gutierrez, Connie	Kyprianou, Gilbert and Alexis
Bieker, Georgea	Dimitri, Patricia, Martha and Janet	Hadzoglou, Christos and Barbara+	Kyriannis, Justin and Linda
Birtas, Helen and Ann	Dominguez, Eric and Amalia	Hall, Elizabeth	Lagamarsino, Victor and Sophia
Bochanis, George and Enid	Dornin, Christopher and Marcella	Hamilton, Mary	Lakis, Antoinette
Bourell, Peter and Amanda	Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia	Hamilton, Paul and Brandi	Lamancusa, Lisa
Bratta, Georgene	Doukakis, Panagiotis and Chri	Harrison, Angie and	Lambros, Kyriakos and Maria
Brilis, George and Satoko	Dounis, Dina	Schildmeyer, Christine	Lampro, Xeno and Asvesta, Ioanna
Britten, Ronald and Carol	Dounis, Georgia	Hayes, Tulla	Latelle, Penny
Brown, Faye	Dounis, Kiki	Hemmers, Oliver and	Lazarakis, John and Panagiota
Bruninga, Bill and Erin	Dramitinos, Mary	Pantelas, Anne	Lekar, Caroline
Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Earl, Christine Michaelides	Henneforth, Rula	Lekar, Michael and Effie
Cahill, Irene	Eliades, Aristotelis and Caroline	Hetzel, David and Joanne	Lemper, Brian and Betsy
Camel, Joseph	Eliades, Artemisa	Hoadrea, Jimmy and Monci	Leonis, Nick and Sophia
Campbell, Theodore and Cheryl	Eliades, Gregory and Maria	Hondros, Christina	Leonis, Tishe
Capre, Julio and Betty	Eliades, Harry and Agapi	Hondros, Christopher	Leventis, Naomi
Carabas, Stephen and Linda	Eliades, Katerina	Hondros, Fr. John and	Lewis, Foula
Carabas, Thymios and Sotiroulla	Eliakis, John	Presv. Maria	Liaos, Jim and Tina
Carahalios, John and Jillian	Eliakis, Peter and Glenda	Hoover, Patrick and Pauline	Liaos, Steve and Francine
Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	Eliakis, Varthie and LeeAnn	Houlis, Ila and Debbie	Liaos, William and Irene
Carrico, William and Alexandra	Eliopoulos, Goldie	Howard, William and Willie	Likourinou, Angie
Carter, Maria	Eliopoulos, Goldie	Hristopoulou, Spiridoula	Likourinou, Steve and June
Cero, Dean	English, Marika	Hurley, Heather	Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine
Chachas, Bessie	Exarhos, Sharon	Ignadiou, Marios	Little, Martin and Kaytia, Patricia
Chachas, James	Eyler, John and Elizabeth	Iteen, Robert and Sophia	Lymberopoulos, Mary
Chagares, Kiki	Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean	Jackson, Jeff and Sophia	Maddox, Thomas and Maria
Chandrinou, Alexia	Farren, Anthony and Maritsa	Jensen, Matthew and Michelle	Makris, Apostolos
Chanos, George	Filios, Spiridon and Eleni	Kachikis, Paul and Ernestine	Malamatos, Kindina
Chanos, Jennifer	Fischer, Bob and Cheryl	Kakavulias, Christina	Maland, Tim and Donna
Chomakos, Dean and Tammy	Fitzgerald, Norman and	Kakavulias, George and Helen	Malpee, Mack and Kalliope
Chomakos, George and Nikki	McCullen, Sandra	Kakavulias, John and Elizabeth	Maniatakos, Ted and Maria
Chomakos, Jeremy and Romina	Flangas, Bill and Marilyn	Kalkas, John and Rena	Manos, Constantine and Michele
Chondrakis, Dimos	Flangas, Gary and Amanda	Kambouris, Litsa	Mansour, Muna
Christian, Clair and Chloe	Flangas, Gus and Tamara	Kanis, Constantinos and Katie	Manteris, Arthur and Sue
Christou, Andreas and Toni	Fleetwood, Thomas and Melissa	Kanis, Georgios	Margaretis, John and Lucila
Christou, Eleni	Flores, Michael	Kaptain, Catherine +	Markakis, Catherine
Ciulla, Anthony and Kleri	Foster, Kyle and Maria	Karalias, Petros and Constance	Matsis, John and Rebecca
	Fotopoulos, John and Barbara	Karas, James	Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki

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

Mavrantonis, Theofania
Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debra
Mavros, Michael+ and Debbie
Mavroudis, Frank and Vess,
Olga
McClain, Gavin and Jaymee
McManus, Jeanette
McKinney, Michael and
Mersene
McSweeney, Farolyn
Melton, Donald and Susan
Miller, Joshua and Sevasti
Minas, Arthur and Ewa
Moffett, Todd and Eliopulos,
Tina
Monoyudis, Jim and Julie
Moore, Brenda
Mulopulos, George and Jenny
Murray, Christopher and
George, Veneta
Myers, Stella
Neocleous, Plato
Newell, Eric and Devona
Newell, Ronald and Maria
Nicholas, John and Estella
Nichols, Mary
Nichols, George and Tereza
Nikitas, Rigas and Aphrodite
Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra
Nixon, John and Ellyn
Olmsted, Travis and Marilyn
Orlando, Alleck and Jennifer
Osborn, Pearl
Ostis, Sotirios
Oustian, Ararat and Juliette
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
Paton, Mia
Patrick, Ernest
Payan, Luis and Eleni
Pelletier, Michael
Pendleton, Patricia
Pentogenis, Katherine
Peredera, Maria
Petersen, Todd and Diane
Petro, Aleko and Georgia
Petrou, James and Penelopi
Pierro, Joe and Rhonda

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
Rigas, Evie
Rihani, Gary and Linda
Robison, Diane and Patricia
Rodis, Dimitri
Rodis, Sophia
Rosenthal, Joseph and Stephanie
Rotas, Beatrice
Rouvas, John and Keri
Roy, Ravi and Joan
Rudolph, Brandon
Ruettiger, Edward and Mary
Ruffner, Skip and Kathy
Salon, Nicholas + and Janelle
Salonikis, Valentinos and Sophia
Samoli, Eleftheria
Santamaria, Jennifer
Savvas, Savva
Serafim, George and
Tzeleki, Roxani
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
Spotti, Peter and Alexandra
Staubs, Douglas and Anastasia
Stavropoulos, Bessie
Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki
Stefanatos, Michael and Tami
Stenos, Louis
Stransky, Mark

Stransky, Jack and Gladys
Strong, Karl
Struzas, Maria
Swehla, Fr. Matthew and
Presv. Annie
Szukiewicz, Alex
Szukiewicz, Eric
Szukiewicz, Joseph and Jennia
Szukiewicz, Joseph
Tadich, Milisav and Andrea
Tafuya, Steven and Irene
Takas, Andrea
Tasios, Ramona and Pete
Temple, Jonathan and Voula
Thanos, Nick and Victoria
Thompson, Maggy
Thompson, Steve and Alik
Thome, Tony and May
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
Aleighzja
Weisman, Diane
Welles, Brigitte
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**

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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

"He who does good is of God." (3 John 11)

Orthodox Bookstore

Gift Cards!

The Bookstore is now offering gift cards for sale. They make great gifts for any occasion. Available in any amount.

This month we are featuring *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* by Saint John Climacos.

From Step 22 – On Vainglory:

“Like the sun which shines on all alike, vainglory beams on every occupation. What I mean is this. I fast, and turn vainglorious. I stop fasting so that I will draw no attention to myself, and I become vainglorious over my prudence. I dress well or badly, and am vainglorious in either case. I talk or I hold my peace, and each time I am defeated. No matter how I shed this prickly thing, a spike remains to stand up against me.”

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



#VEGAS STRONG. ORTHODOXY STRONG.

Church Account Summaries - September 2017

Nevada State Bank Accounts	August	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	September	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$42,256.54	\$22,471.02	\$164,843.00	\$10,284.64	\$74,924.02	\$144,361.90	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$1,926.08	\$3,410.00	\$9,427.25	\$10,275.25	\$2,671.00	\$1,817.08	
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$28,349.94	\$650,498.25	\$245,372.86	\$221,777.58	\$179,074.40	\$523,369.07	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$312,588.46	\$5,517.00	\$50,000.00	\$3,503.80	\$51,847.56	\$312,754.10	
Folk Dance Group	\$10,000.54	\$1,431.11			\$375.00	\$11,056.65	
Mortgage Account	\$5,289.22				\$5,201.14	\$88.08	
Designated Funds	August	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	September	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$10,540.86	\$5,092.00				\$15,632.86	
Ornaments	\$1,077.41					\$1,077.41	
Restricted Funds	August	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	September	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
ICON	\$271,040.33	\$425.00				\$271,465.33	
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	\$20,677.25			\$3,503.80	\$1,847.56	\$15,325.89	Exit Lights, Bulbs, Compressor, Staff
Youth Choir	\$3,069.82					\$3,069.82	
Church School	\$1,306.37					\$1,306.37	
Misc. D & R Deductions	-\$535.26					-\$535.26	
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$50.00					\$50.00	
Designated, Restricted, and Other Total	\$312,588.46	\$5,517.00	\$0.00	\$3,503.80	\$1,847.56	\$312,754.10	
Other Funds	August	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	September	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$55,859.07		\$2,310.77			\$58,169.84	Change in Value of Investments



NOVEMBER 2017 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Greek Folk Dance Practices: Sunday: Liondaria 12:45-1:30 pm, Delfinia & Elliniki Iperifania 1:00 -2:45 pm Tuesday: Delfinia & Elliniki Iperifania 6:00-7:30 pm						
5 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:15 pm Youth Choir Practice 12:30 pm Presv. Olenka Baby Shower in Foyer 5:30 pm GOYA Meeting	6 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	7 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes	8 Holy Archangels 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Adult Study: A Spiritual Psalter	1 Ss. Cosmas and Damianos 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy No Adult Study	2	3
12 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Youth Choir Chants 12:00 pm Philoptochos General Meeting in Kokkos Hall 2:00 pm Kali Pareia Movie at Demetri Asim's	13 St. John Chrysostom 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Forerunners Luncheon in Panos Hall 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	14 10:30 am Moms & Tots in Panos Hall Foyer 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting in Library	15 Christmas Fast (Advent) Begins 7:00 pm Adult Study	16	17	18 1:30 OFF at Downtown Police Station/SWAT 6:00 pm Mr. and Mrs. at Thymios and Roulla Carabas Home
19 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Autumn Bake Sale Parish Assembly	20 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	21 Entrance of the Theotokos into Temple 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	22 Thanksgiving Liturgy 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy and Artoclasia No Adult Study	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25 St. Catherine the Great 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
26 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	27 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	28 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes	29 5:00 pm Orthros 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy (St. Andrew) 7:00 pm Adult Study	30 Holy Apostle Andrew (Liturgy on 11/29)	31	

The Desert Messenger

*St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
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Las Vegas, Nevada 89118-1922*

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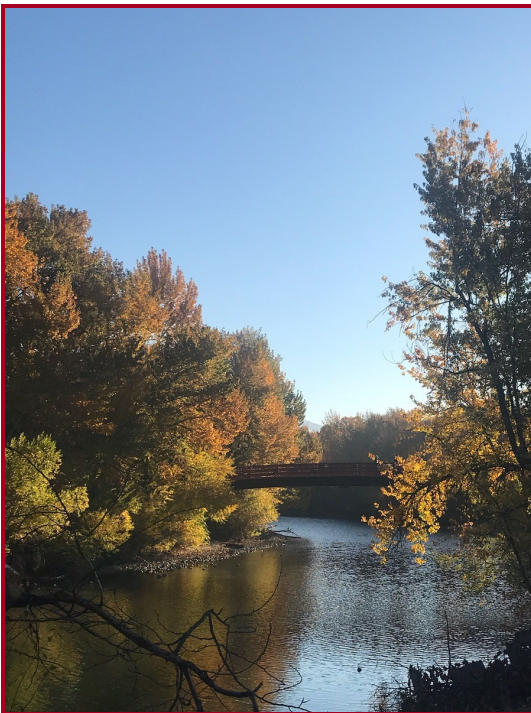
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THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord



*“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels,
but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.*

*And if I have prophetic powers,
and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,
and if I have all faith, so as to move mountains,
but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have,
and if I deliver my body to be burned,
but have not love, I gain nothing.*

*Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful;
it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;*

it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right.

*Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.*

Love never ends.

(1 Corinthians 13:1-8)