

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 16, Issue 6 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

June 2018

From Father John

Beloved in Christ:

Our Lord Jesus Christ personally chose and called His Twelve Disciples at the beginning of His three-year public ministry with the invitation to *“Follow Me.” (Matthew 4:19)* As His Disciples showed their immediate willingness to do so, they increasingly became eyewitnesses to His preaching, teachings, healings and wondrous signs. During our Lord’s Passion, after washing His Disciples’ feet and breaking bread with them – and when Judas had left to betray Him – He promised that He would not leave them desolate: *“The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My Name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (John 14:26)* On the Sunday of Pentecost, Christ’s promise was fulfilled when the Holy Spirit was distributed and rested upon the heads of each of them (including Matthias, the Disciple who was chosen by lot to replace Judas): From that point on they became known as “the Apostles” – literally, the ones who were sent by God to *“go forth”* and fulfill His Great Commission to *“make disciples of all nations.” (Matthew 28:19)*

Empowered by the Life-creating Spirit, the Apostles traveled to countless places, preaching the “good news” of the Resurrected Christ, challenging people to repent of their sins, baptizing in the Name of the Holy Trinity those who embraced their Christian teachings, establishing His Church wherever they went, living in poverty even though they were the leaders and “first bishops” of the Church, suffering persecution everywhere they traveled, and – despite their suffering – increasing the number of believers day by day until they gave up their spirits. St. Paul, who together with St. Peter was considered chief among the Apostles, offered this powerful job description of what it meant (and should still mean) to be a servant-leader of Christ’s Church: *“When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world . . . I urge you, then, be imitators of me.” (1 Cor. 4:12, 16)*

For most of the month of June the Orthodox Church will be in a period of fasting, honoring the work, ministry and lives of the Holy Apostles. Perhaps the lesser known of fasting seasons, the Apostles’ Fast commences the Monday after the Sunday of All Saints – one week after Pentecost – and ends on June 28, inclusive, the day before the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. This fasting period can be anywhere from a few days to an entire month: This year the fast is lengthy, beginning on **Monday, June 4**. While our Church Calendar provides a guideline for the physical fast, the Apostles’ Fast is unique in that it does not have special worshiping services designed specifically for the season (as with Lent and the Dormition Fast) and moreover does not have any restrictions regarding the celebration of Sacraments: Weddings are permitted during this fasting period, and in fact are commonplace during the month of June.

As the Ancient, Apostolic Orthodox Church established this fasting period to honor the Holy Apostles, it is spiritually prudent for us to approach it with a desire and effort that strives to emulate the lives of these champions of the Faith: May we use this fast as a time to pray more . . . to know Christ more by reading daily from the Holy Gospel . . . to study the lives of the Apostles . . . to discern our God-given spiritual gifts and utilize them in the service of others and for the good of His Church . . . to live more modestly . . . to show compassion, especially toward those who are sick and suffering . . . to endure with more faith our personal struggles . . . to repent daily . . . to boldly and humbly speak the truth of Christ . . . to be a willing and active participant in the growth of His Church . . . and finally, to love in all circumstances, thus becoming imitators of God’s Holy Apostles.

With love in Christ,

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Pentecost Week: Fast-free

Sunday, June 3/Sunday of All Saints/Holy Fathers of the Second Ecumenical Council

Orthros: Tone Eight (Fourth Plagal)
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Matthew 28:16-20
Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2
Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30

Apostles Fast: June 4 - 29

Sunday, June 10/2nd Sunday of Matthew/Holy Fathers of Mount Athos/Ss. Alexander and Antonina the Martyrs

Orthros: Tone One
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Mark 16:1-8
Epistle: Romans 2:10-16
Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

Sunday, June 17/3rd Sunday of Matthew/St. Isaurus the Martyr/Ss. Manuel, Sabel and Ishmael

Orthros: Tone Two
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Mark 16:9-20
Epistle: Romans 5:1-10
Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33

Sunday, June 24/4th Sunday of Matthew/Nativity of St. John the Baptist/St. Athanasios of Paros

Orthros: Tone Three
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:1-12
Epistle: Romans 13:11-14, 14:1-4
Gospel: Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76, 80

Friday, June 29/Ss. Peter and Paul

8:00 am Orthros
9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:21-33; 12:1-9
Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19

Saturday, June 30/Synaxis of the 12 Holy Apostles

8:00 am Orthros
9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16
Gospel: Matthew 9:36; 10:1-8

O Holy Apostles, intercede with the merciful God that He may grant remission of the offenses of our souls.



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

JUNE 3

Ushers: John Nicholas, Demetrious Asim, George Bochanis, John Matsis, Justina Szukiewicz and Adam Bieker

Memorials: Alexander Plentzas (40 days), Daniel DeCuyper; Elizabeth Goddard (1 year); Constantine, Kyriaki and Gregory Xikis; Haralambos and Eleni Demoleas and Benito Parrelli

Fellowship: Folk Dance Groups

JUNE 10

Ushers: Gus Flangas, Mike Beeler, Mark Karris, Stacy Mavrantonis, Bessie Stavropoulos and John Koutsulis

Memorials: Alexander Kropochev (40 days)

Fellowship: The Kypreos Family - Proceeds to benefit the Mortgage Fund

JUNE 17 - HAPPY FATHERS DAY!

Ushers: Justina Szukiewicz, George Bochanis, John Matsis, John Nicholas, Demetrious Asim and Mark Karris

Memorial: Zaharias Pertsinides (1 year) and Photini Pertsinides; Robert Joseph Johnson (3 years)

Fellowship: Hosted by the Pertsinides Family, in memory of their departed loved ones

JUNE 24

Ushers: John Koutsulis, Adam Bieker, Bessie Stavropoulos, Mike Beeler, Gus Flangas and Stacy Mavrantonis

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

Parish Council Report

Once again, I am writing this column in the shadow of tragedy: A school shooting which occurred in Texas last week, perpetrated by a young man who has been identified as being Greek Orthodox. Whatever drove this young man to commit this heinous act, it is more important than ever to learn from it and teach our children that they can turn us as parents, to our clergy, and to the teachings of our Church, for guidance and understanding. In this ever growing culture of social media, 24-hour news cycles, entitlement mentalities, and declining morals and ethics, it is becoming more common for many of our youth to feel more isolated, disenchanted and alone. It is vitally imperative that we keep our kids meaningfully involved in the worship of God through our Church, and that we not only educate them about the teachings of our Church, but how to live them out as well. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the many victims and their families. For those who lost their lives, may their memories be eternal.

Because of the rash of shootings across our nation, the various incidents of theft from our Church here locally and the several incidents of vandalism we have suffered, we have been working hard with various experts on putting together a comprehensive security plan. The security plan will involve a complete and total revamp: An expansion of our video surveillance system, continued implementation of common sense security measures based upon prevention, and a crisis response plan. We presently have three solid bids for the video surveillance system. All three systems we are presently considering will cover virtually the entire extent of the Church grounds, both inside and outside. We anticipate selecting the appropriate company in the next few weeks and will then get the ball rolling as soon as possible. The video surveillance system coupled with common sense measures and a response plan should make things safer for us; however, it is important to realize that no plan is fool proof and we must all be vigilant.

By now, many of you have received the letter I sent out regarding our Church Operating Finances and Stewardship. If you have not had a chance to read it or have not received a copy, please request a copy from Karen and read it.

Many of our Parishioners fully realize and recognize the financial needs of the Church and contribute generously with their time, talents and treasures, and their contributions are tremendously appreciated. Unfortunately, there seems to be some apparent apathy among many who simply assume that our Church and Community Center Facilities will always be readily available and accessible, regardless of whether they contribute to the Church or not. While the support, care and concern for the well-being of our Church by approximately 450 Stewards has allowed us to meet the spiritual needs of the Greek Orthodox Faithful in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Area, the reality is that there are a large number of uncommitted stewards whose lack of participation affects our ability to operate and maintain our Church as well as our ability to put together and maintain a viable vision for the future.

For the past couple of decades, we have been in a constant state of tumult to make ends meet, especially during the late spring and summer months which tend to be leaner in financial receipts. Every year, we experience the same vicious cycle. To make ends meet, starting in the early spring months and continuing through the summer months, the Parish Council resorts to reallocating cash flow receipts and moving funds around to cover shortfalls. In other words, robbing Peter to pay Paul. In many of the years, the Parish Council has even had to use pre-sale funds that have been collected for the year's upcoming Festival to cover the shortfall. It is way past time to end this incessant vicious cycle of financial shortfall and get our Church on track for not only for the present but also for the future. Our future and especially our youth are depending on what we do now. Although the Church has always managed to pay its bills despite the perpetual shortfall in Stewardship, it has come at a very steep price. It has left us very little in terms of capital expenditures and we are left with little to properly maintain and improve our facilities. Plainly speaking, this absolutely affects our future viability. We need to break this vicious cycle.

Stewardship is our way of showing our gratitude to God, giving back to Him by supporting His Church, and willingly participating in the life of His Church. Please look into your hearts, pray, and find inspiration to contribute to the present and future of our Church.

(Continued on Page 4)

Parish Council Report *(Continued from Page 3)*

We are grateful to the Forerunners – our Seniors – for their recent generous “Stewardship” contribution of \$3,000. May God bless them for their continued support!

Pertaining to the Iconography, the final package for our 501(c)(3) certification has been submitted to the IRS. As reported last month, we anticipate that this will take two to three more months which takes us into August and the Food Festival season. We are told that after we receive our Certification, it will be another two to three months for Immigration to issue the Iconographers their necessary Visas. Our current target date for the Iconographers to arrive here is late October or early November. I will continue to endeavor to keep everyone informed as more information becomes available. Please understand that this is a very fluid situation that changes frequently.

For the Greek Food Festival, we are in high gear. We really need everyone to pitch in and help with the pre-sales. Pre-sales include Raffle Ticket Sales, Coupon Book Sales, and Souvenir Magazine Sales. With everyone working together, we will have a great Festival again this year. The dates are *Friday, September 14 through Sunday, September 16*.

To keep you further informed, we repaired the Church air conditioners by replacing the motors and they seem to be working great. Projects we are presently working on include completing further roof repairs on the Church, which should be completed by the middle of June, re-finishing the outside Church doors and preparing the landscaping for summer.

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 Church. Please step forward whenever you can and pitch in. We know a lot of things are always happening; but, they are extremely important. Please get involved as we move forward to make our Church better. May God Bless.

Gus Flangas, Parish Council President

2018 Stewardship Report (as of 5/13/18)

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$319,926
 Stewardship Gifts Received: \$175,310
 Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$144,616
 Stewardship Families Pledged: 337
 Average Pledge to Date: \$943



Philoptochos in Action

Kids ‘n’ Cancer Fundraiser



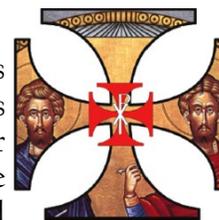
“Agape Celebration of Love”



Philoptochos News

Dearest Members of Philoptochos,

As summer begins, I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is hard to believe that another Ecclesiastical Year is coming to a close. Once again the women of Philoptochos met our commitments and fulfilled our mission. This year we significantly increased our income through our various successful projects and were able to increase our Local, Metropolis and National contributions. I would like to express my appreciation to my board and all of our Philoptochos members for their love, support and hard work throughout the year.



On May 1, our Philoptochos received an award from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department for outstanding community involvement.

On May 6, we attended the annual Agape Celebration of Love at Newport Beach. All proceeds benefit the Kids 'n' Cancer/Camp Agape Ministry which is one of our beloved ministries in the Metropolis of San Francisco, benefitting children afflicted with cancer. The children and their families are invited to Camp Agape and offered an all-expense paid experience led by the compassion and love of the Metropolis-wide Philoptochos team. Camp Agape offers an incredible opportunity for children and their families to connect with other kids and families and to see that they are not alone fighting this battle against cancer. They share laughter, dancing, singing, swimming, spa treatments and so many other activities together. Even by watching the videos and viewing the pictures of these beautiful and talented children, we can see the difference that Camp Agape makes in their lives. Congratulations to our Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos President, Jeannie Ranglas, for her endless hard work and commitment toward the kids and Camp Agape. Thank you to everyone who has donated toward this worthy cause. May God continue to guide the doctors who care for all these beautiful children and help to make them cancer free.

On May 8, we had our Philoptochos General Meeting. It was intimate and productive, with much discussion about new ideas and projects.

On Mothers Day we held the Bartsas Family Memorial and, thanks to the chairmanship of Bessie Chachas, hosted a lovely Fellowship. This was a day of remembrance and appreciation to our benefactor, Mary Bartsas: Her annual generous donations, which continue through her family, significantly support our Social Services Program and its benevolent outreach.

Our sincere appreciation to Eileen Koutsulis, the Church School Director, and all the students for their participation in "Missions Possible." The students collected a total of \$968.17, which was donated to the Missions and Evangelism Department of the Metropolis. Eileen has done a great job teaching and motivating the Church School children to do philanthropic work through the Missions Possible appeal.

Upcoming Events:

- ***The Dormition of our Most Holy Theotokos – Wednesday, August 15:*** Women are needed to chair the Fellowship after Liturgy.
- ***Greek Food Festival – September 14 – 16:*** Our annual and biggest event of the year is very much anticipated and our Philoptochos will once again have a booth, greeting and welcoming the many thousands of guests who will be arriving to experience our Greek hospitality. Please contact our chairwomen, Jennifer Chanos at (702) 371-1786 or jlinn777@aol.com, or Alis Dokakis (415) 378-2192 or alis.dokakis@gmail.com, to volunteer a few hours of your time.
- ***National Hellenic Society Heritage Weekend and Classic at the Four Seasons Hotel, Las Vegas – October 4 – 7:*** The National Hellenic Society's focus is on the promotion of Hellenic Heritage and the furtherance of Hellenic ideas through the sponsorship of scientific, educational programs. For more info, please visit www.nationalhellenicsociety.org.
- ***Philoptochos Membership:*** We are still in the Philoptochos membership enrollment period, so again I appeal to you, if you have never been a member, please become a new member, or renew your stewardship. All ladies and gentlemen are invited to join our philanthropic organization. We welcome all the new members and the ones who have renewed their membership.

Have a wonderful and safe summer! With Love in Christ, Vicky Palivos, Philoptochos President

Stewardship and Community Outreach

If I was a betting man, I would wager the great majority of parishioners strongly prefer their technology to theology, their sports to spirituality, and their celebrities to Church worship. Current evidence indicates a growing preference to avoid thinking about God, to avoid exercising a meaningful prayer life, and to avoid engaging with Church community. In other words, not to put too fine a point on it, to avoid living a truly Christian life.

Not that this condition is entirely unique. For nearly two thousand years Christ has provided the example we should follow, the Church has provided instruction and guidance in our Holy Tradition, and the Saints have provided inspirational examples of living a truly Christian life. Yet here we remain, living flawed lives in a fallen world, surrounded by broken people struggling to live according to self-conceived precepts which ultimately fail us all. Christ says our path will not necessarily be easy, *“Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (Matthew 7:14)* Christ also says that if we wish to follow Him we must take up our cross daily *(Luke 9:23)*, but He also beckons us to come and take up His yoke for it *“is easy and My burden is light.” (Matthew 11:30)*

You are probably thinking, “Ugh! Another Stewardship appeal, another plea for introspection, reflection, and sacrificial giving.” Well, yes, me too (see ‘cross’ above). But, as wise King Solomon observed hundreds of years before Jesus’ ministry: *“What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done. There is nothing new under the sun.” (Ecclesiastes 1:9)* Until we reach a healthy, sustaining level of giving you may count on us to tackle the Vesuvian task of growing Stewardship. Whether it is a monthly article in *The Desert Messenger* or an urgent missive “blasted” via email to everyone on our contact list, we will endeavor to: 1) catch your eye, 2) catch your mind, and 3) catch your heart.

Remember the amount, “two-thirds.” For talking purposes, of the locals who claim this Greek Orthodox Church as their own and who attend a service at St. John the Baptist at least once or twice a year, *maybe* two-thirds show up more frequently. Of the two-thirds who show up more frequently, *maybe* two-thirds appear on the list of Stewards. Of the two-thirds who appear on the Stewards list, *maybe* two-thirds give at a level exceeding \$1 per day. Returning to my bet, I would wager the great majority of parishioners spend over \$1 per day on their cell phone, over \$1 per day for their cable TV, and over \$1 per day to be entertained by or to look like their idols – we even spend more than \$1 per day on toilet paper! At a guess, I would say the first three categories together might easily reach \$10 per day or \$70 per week. We fritter away this money on worldly things which we put before God, before our Church, and before our Faith. It costs roughly \$18,300 per week to cover current Church operating expenses, and if we had at least 450 Stewards who desired to pull their weight, and if they would make a commitment of just \$41 per week, then we would be able to pay our bills and use Greek Food Festival funds for actual facility improvements.

Through joint participation in creating and maintaining a vibrant St. John the Baptist Church community, with bills being paid and with improvements being undertaken, we could invigorate our relationship with God, revive our relationship with our Church family, and refocus our efforts on building up God’s Kingdom here in Las Vegas, Nevada by living the Christian lives we are meant to be living.

I would certainly like to be in that position and, if I was a betting man, I would wager you would too.

Mike Beeler, on behalf of the Stewardship and Community Outreach Committee

Notes from the Choir Loft

If you are interested in joining the Choir, we always look forward to welcoming new members!

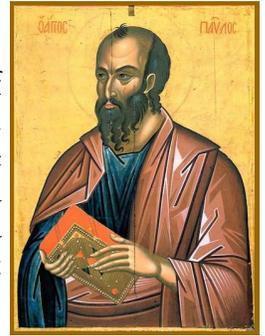
There will be no scheduled rehearsals this month. If you would like any assistance or extra practice with the music, please let me know and we can schedule a time!

The Youth Choir will be singing on *Sunday, June 10.*

Athena Mertes, Choir Director



From Father Seraphim



St. Paul is a figure whose importance for Christianity is second only to that of Christ Himself. The portrait we receive of him from the Acts of the Apostles is that of a heroic missionary of at least five incredible journeys, a fearless preacher and miracle worker. We also learn in his letters of the Apostle's dramatic conversion experience and his vision of the divine light, his self-identification with Christ, his ascent to the third heaven, his gift of divine grace and wisdom and his eventual martyrdom by beheading at Rome. It is almost impossible to imagine Christianity without the "Thirteenth Apostle," St. Paul, who was the first person to bring Christianity to Europe and beyond.

In the life and letters of Paul, St. Gregory Palamas saw what he and other faithful Byzantines had seen in all their saints: A human life overwhelmed by God, transformed by divine grace, and caught up from the present aeon into another beyond it. The reception of St. Paul and Pauline theology began in the first century (*2 Peter 3:13-16*), and continued through the final years of the Byzantine Empire and beyond. Paul wrote roughly one-third of the New Testament, and once his letters were taken up into the canon of scripture, they received widespread attention in sermons, commentaries, theological debates, ascetical literature, and of course in the Divine Liturgy, the Sacraments, and the lectionary cycle, which features Paul's letters for ten months of the year.

Paul was born in the pagan city of Tarsus in the beginning of the first century, the son of a tentmaker. Excelling in his elementary studies of the Torah at the synagogue in Tarsus, Paul was sent to Jerusalem in his teens and became a disciple of Gamaliel, a moderate, highly respected and wise first century Rabbi and Pharisee who urged caution in persecution against the early Christian Apostles. (*Acts 5:34*) Present at the execution by stoning of the first deacon, St. Stephen, Paul traveled to Damascus to imprison more Christians; on that road he underwent the experience and encounter that would both change his life – and the entire course of human history forever. If it is difficult to imagine Christianity without St. Paul, it is even more difficult to imagine St. Paul without the encounter that so radically altered his destiny on the road to Damascus (*Acts 9:1-22*), where he was called to serve as the Apostle to the gentiles. (*Acts 26:18*)

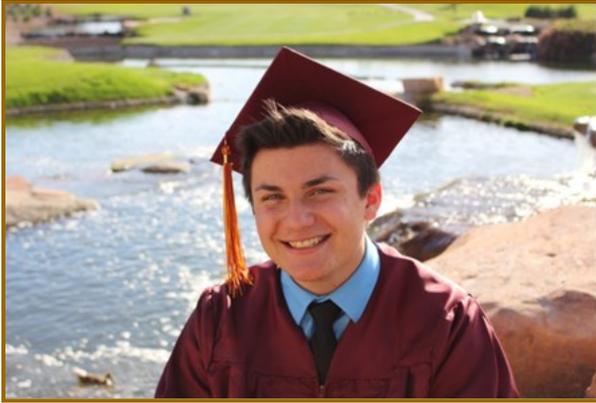
After hearing the voice of Jesus Christ, and his conversion, baptism and reception into the Church, St. Paul quickly became the supreme example of the moral and spiritual potentialities of human life. At the beginning of his life in Christ he proclaimed, *"The good that I want to do, I do not do, and the evil that I hate, this I do. Oh what a wretched man am I! Who will save me from this body of death?" (Romans 7:19, 24)* Paul progressed however, and at the end of his incredible life of service to Christ, after being beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, hungry, imprisoned, and undefeated by any evil he said, *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* (*Galatians 2:20*) He lived in the same world as we do, shared our nature, and had a body subject to all the same limitations as ours. So we must believe that what the grace of God achieved in the life of Paul, it can achieve in us. No greater incentive to holy life could be desired or imagined.

Let us open our ears to the words of St. John Chrysostom as he calls us all to take St. Paul's legacy to heart and stand nobly, for Paul was a man, partaking of the same nature with us, and having everything else in common with us, yet he showed such great love toward Christ that he went up above the heavens, and stood with the angels. And so if we too would rouse ourselves up even a little, and kindle within ourselves that fire, we too shall be able to emulate that holy man. If this was impossible, he would never have cried aloud and said, *"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."* (*1 Corinthians 11:1*) Let us not then simply admire him, or be struck by him, but also imitate him, so that we too, when we depart from this life, may be counted worthy to see him, and to share the glory unutterable, which is in Jesus Christ, through Whom and with Whom be glory to the Father and the Holy Spirit forever. Amen!

With Love in Christ,

Father Seraphim

Congratulations to Our Graduates!



Nikolas Baldwin

Nikolas, son of Richard and Vivi Baldwin, is graduating from Faith Lutheran High School. He will be attending Arizona State University majoring in Biochemistry with an emphasis in medicinal chemistry.

Niko has been active in Greek Folk Dance from a young age at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church. He has also participated in Church School, Youth Choir and GOYA.

Alexandra Demoleas

Alexi, daughter of Spero and Grace Demoleas, is graduating from Green Valley High School with Honors. She is currently undecided about which college offer to accept, but is leaning toward the University of Nevada, Reno. Alexi would like to pursue a major related to the medical field.

Alexi was a member of the Youth Choir and a Myrrh Bearer in our Parish. She has been volunteering in the Kafenion at the Greek Food Festival for years.



Richard Kilgore

Richard, son of Eleni Kilgore and Richard Kilgore, is graduating from Centennial High School, where he will receive an Advanced Honors Diploma and the designation of a High Honors Graduate. Richard has been heavily involved in sports his whole life, and played football and wrestled in high school – he was a four year varsity wrestler. He has received various awards throughout his high school years including Dean's List, Scholar Athlete Award, Academic Letter Award, Coach's Award, Most Valuable Defensive Player, Most Valuable Upper Weight, and the Triple Crown Winner in Greco-Roman, Freestyle and Folkstyle wrestling. He was the runner-up in the Nevada High School State Wrestling Tournament for 170 lbs., made the 2nd Team All-State, and is being honored by Nevada Preps and the Review Journal.

Richie will be attending UNLV in the fall. He was accepted into the Mechanical Engineering program, and plans to receive both his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in this field. Richie received the Millennium Scholarship, UNLV Excellence Scholarship and the UNLV Top Ten Percent Scholarship.

Richie was baptized and grew up at St. John the Baptist Church, where he has participated in the Teen Lenten Retreats for years. He also is active in community service, specifically in assisting the homeless.

Class of 2018



Nicholas Kilgore

Nicholas, son of Eleni Kilgore and Richard Kilgore, is graduating from Centennial High School, where he will receive an Advanced Diploma. He has been heavily involved in sports his whole life, and played football and wrestled in high school. Nicholas was a two year varsity wrestler and joined the varsity track team his senior year. He has received various awards throughout his high school years, including Dean's List, Scholar Athlete Award, Academic Letter Award, Coach's Award, Quality Student Athlete Award, and he was the Champion for Greco-Roman, 2nd Freestyle, and 3rd in Folkstyle wrestling. He qualified for the Fargo Nationals Wrestling Tournament. He qualified for track regionals preliminaries, finishing 2nd in the 100 and 200 meters and 1st in the 4 x 100 relays. He qualified for track finals at the Nevada High School State Tournament in Carson City and was runner up in the 4 x 100 relay and the 4 x 200 relay.

His team also got overall State runner up.

Nico will be attending CSN in the fall, where he was accepted into the EMT program. He plans on also joining the Firefighter Explorer Program and eventually wants to be a firefighter. Nicholas has received the Nevada Promise Scholarship for CSN and is a candidate for many track scholarships.

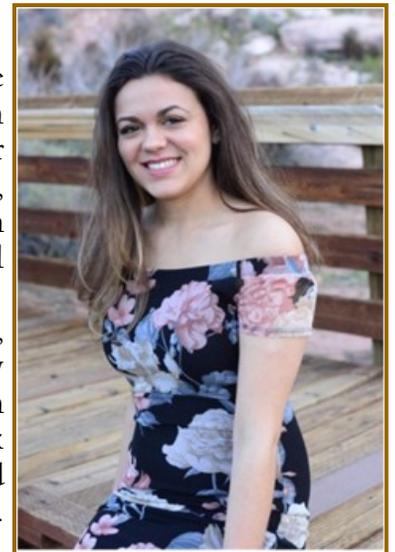
Nico was baptized and grew up at St. John the Baptist Church. He has been involved in the Teen Lenten Retreats for many years as well as in the larger community, providing service to the homeless.

Juliana Marie Likourinou

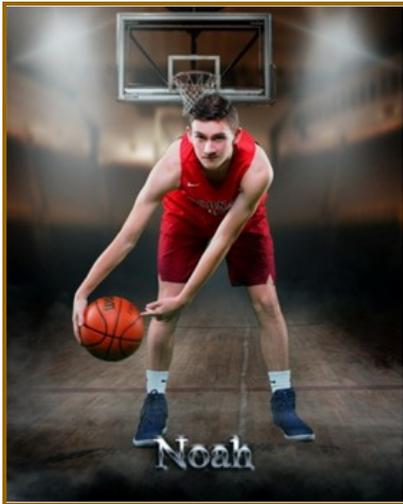
Juliana, daughter of Steve and June Likourinou, and Godchild of Angie Likourinou, graduated from Coronado High School with High Honors and an Advanced Honors Diploma. She also received the President's Award for Academic Excellence and the Dean's Award from Arizona State University, where she will pursue a degree in Geography, with an emphasis in Meteorology and Climatology. Her career goal is to work with the National Weather Service.

Bishop Ilia Katre (then Father Katre) baptized Juliana on December 3, 2000. Juliana enjoyed HOPE & JOY Ministries in her preschool/elementary school years, and continues to have lifelong relationships with her friends from Church. She learned how to read and write Greek at St. John Church's Greek School. Juliana attended Church School from Pre-K through 12th grades and has also been active in the GOYA ministry in middle school and high school. She has also been a Myrrh Bearer for many years.

While attending ASU, Juliana will be attending Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Scottsdale, to continue living out her Orthodox Faith – although St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Las Vegas will always be “home.”



Congratulations, Grads!



Noah Nobert

Noah, son of Philip and Tanja Nobert, is graduating from Coronado High School.

He will be attending the University of Nevada, Reno on a Pack Scholarship and will major in Business.

Noah has grown up in St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church and participated in Church School and the Teen Lenten Retreats. He is known for his kindness, intelligence, character and creativity.

Matthew Pendleton

Matthew, son of Patricia Pendleton and the late Matthew Pendleton, is graduating from Palo Verde High School with an Advanced Honors degree. Matthew has been involved in the Air Force ROTC program throughout his four years; in his senior year he was part of the Leadership Staff supervising the cadets.

Matthew wrestled throughout high school and lettered his senior year. Matthew and his girlfriend Carlee were chosen as Prom King and Queen this year. Matthew will be attending UNR in the fall and majoring in Engineering.

Matthew has grown up in St. John the Baptist Church and participated in various youth ministries, including Church School and GOYA.



Paul Stavro Tafoya

Paul, son of Steven and Irene Tafoya, will graduate from Silverado College Preparatory and Career Technical High School with an Advanced Honors Diploma. He will be attending University of Nevada, Reno majoring in Computer Science with a minor in Cyber Security.

Paul has been active at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church from a young age, and has participated in Church School, Youth Choir, Greek Folk Dance, GOYA and Basketball.

Our College Graduates

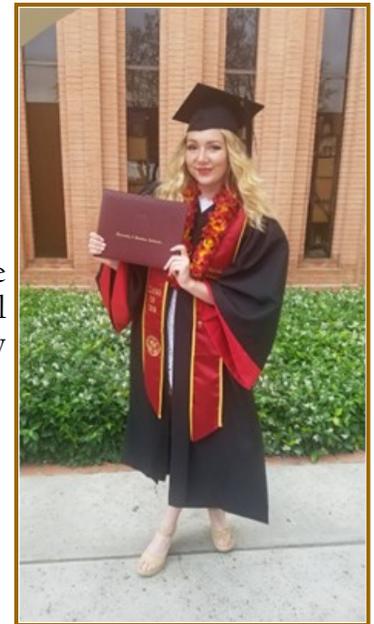


Andrew Flangas

Andrew, son of Gus and Tamara Flangas, and grandson of Bill and Marilyn Flangas, graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with an Electrical Engineering Degree, a minor in Mathematics and Computer Science, and an emphasis in BioMed. He was an Eagle Scout. Andrew will be attending UNR an additional year to complete work on a degree in computer science.

McKenna Gatski

McKenna, daughter of Frank and Tammy Gatski, graduated from the University of Southern California with a Bachelor of Science from the Marshall School of Business. She is currently employed full time with the company Insomniac, where she manages and produces music festivals.



Morgan Mavroudis

Morgan, daughter of Frank Mavroudis, graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado with a Bachelor of Science in Business and Management and a commission as Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. Morgan is a Superintendent's List Recipient, for achieving a 3.0 GPA and excelling in military performance and physical education. She was the Squadron Commander for CS-36 and served as the highest ranking cadet in charge of 104 other cadets. Morgan will be a personnel officer stationed at Edwards Air Force Base in Lancaster, California.

Youth and Family Ministries

Church School

What a wonderful school year we have had! Commencement was a lovely event and a great way to acknowledge our students. A special thank you to the Ladies Philoptochos for sponsoring the pizza at our Commencement this year.

Congratulations to our soon-to-be high school graduates, whom we honored at our Commencement. We are so proud of them and pray that whatever path they choose, they are happy and continue to grow in their faith.

We had an amazing Lenten collection for "Missions Possible," for the benefit of our mission parishes in the Metropolis of San Francisco. Thanks to your generosity, our children collected \$968.17!

I would like to say thank you to everyone who helped our ministry this year: Our teachers, substitute teachers, parents, Presvytera Maria, Father John, Father Seraphim, and Karen. We could not run this large ministry without your participation and support.

Our first day of class next year will be *Sunday, September 9*. Please keep an eye out for the registration form in the July/August issue of *The Desert Messenger*. See you all during the summer!

With Love in Christ,

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

Youth Choir News



The Youth Choir will chant the Divine Liturgy on *Sunday, June 10* (we will not have practice this month). Please be in the front *by 9:40 am*.

We will have an end-of-the-school year pizza party after Liturgy. Looking forward to seeing *everyone on time* before our summer break.

With Love in Christ, Presvytera Maria

Orthodox Family Fellowship

Thank you for attending a great day of celebration with the Church School Commencement and our exhilarating mini-field day afterwards. This month, join us as we escape the heat with a picnic on Mt. Charleston! Come on out for the annual *Parish-Wide Potluck Picnic on Sunday, June 3*. Following Liturgy and Fellowship, we will meet in the Church parking lot *at 1:00 pm* for departure.



The picnic will take place on Mt. Charleston, in Lee Canyon, Foxtail Group Picnic Area, "Butterfly" Site. Please see the flyer on Page 15 for directions. This is a potluck BBQ, so please bring meat to grill or a side dish, dessert or drinks to share.

Look for more amazing events this summer, and share any ideas you might have that you would like to see included!

In Christ, Amy Khuri and Jelena Boskovic

Greek Folk Dance

We will start back up with Greek Folk Dance beginning in mid-August, 2018. Our first preparations will be for the Greek Food Festival, which takes place September 14 – 16. Please look for registration forms in the July/August edition of *The Desert Messenger* as well as further information on the practice schedule. Registration is open to all children, age 4 and up. Any questions? Email us at stjohngreekdance@gmail.com.

Yours in Christ, The Folk Dance Board

GOYA ~ For Teenagers

Happy End-of-the-School-Year! Congratulations to our 2018 Graduates!

GOYANs met on the Church grounds last month for a BBQ, tug-of-war, competitive volleyball and water balloon toss to celebrate the end of another school year! We had a blast!

For June, plan to escape the hot weather with a picnic on Mt. Charleston! Join us for the annual *Parish-Wide Potluck Picnic on Sunday, June 3*. We will meet in the Church parking lot *at 1:00 pm* for departure.

This is a potluck BBQ, so please bring meat to grill or a side dish, dessert or drinks to share. You can also bring sports equipment (Frisbees, balls, etc.) and hiking clothes. Jackets and sunglasses are recommended just in case.

The picnic will take place on Mt. Charleston, in Lee Canyon, Foxtail Group Picnic Area, "Butterfly" Site. Please see the flyer on Page 15 for directions.

Planning ahead, parents and teens are encouraged to save the date for our GOYA Fair on *Sunday, August 12 after Liturgy*. This will be an informational meeting, at which we will share upcoming activities and invite more active engagement in this vital ministry. Please help us start off the new ecclesiastical year with a bang!

Enjoy your summer . . . and let's have some fun together!

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

Greek Language Program

Dear Community of St. John the Baptist,



A big thank you for your support at the May Fellowship! We are able to fully fund another year of Greek School for about 22 students.

We had a very successful year, our teachers are amazing and I thank them for all their hard work. New registration forms will be coming soon; we will start our next semester in September. We are still in dire need of more awesome teachers – we want to have teachers for each level, so our students continue to benefit from our program.

Paula Kelesis, Greek School Director

Our Community Registry

Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun

Anna (Arianna), daughter of Steven and Aliko Thompson on May 5, 2018.

Godparent: Panayiota Philippou.

Michael (Mickey), son of Tara Whaley, on May 13, 2018 at St. Anthony Monastery.

Godparent: Thomas Fleetwood.

George (Jett), son of Tara Whaley on May 13, 2018 at St. Anthony Monastery.

Godparent: Thomas Fleetwood.

Adult Baptism: Na Mas Zisi

Thekla (Tara) Whaley on May 13, 2018 at St. Anthony Monastery.

Godparent: Justina Szukiewicz.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory!

Dorothy Saras on April 20, 2018. Funeral on May 2.

Betty Vasiliki Capre on May 17, 2018. Funeral on May 22.

Church School Commencement 2018



*“But grow in the
grace and knowledge
of our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ.”
(2 Peter 3:18)*



Photos by
Bill
Bruninga



Hot Sun?

Cool Down!

Come to the
Parish-Wide Potluck Picnic
at Mt. Charleston
Sunday, June 3

**Starting at 2:00 pm (Leaving from the
Church parking lot at 1:00 pm)**

Everyone is invited!

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

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

Lawn chairs are encouraged! Jackets are also recommended, just in case.
[FYI, cell phones don't work in Lee Canyon.]

DIRECTIONS: Lee Canyon, Foxtail Group Picnic Area, "Butterfly" Site

For mapping programs use one of these addresses: "Forest Road 106, Las Vegas, NV 89124" or "NF-106, Las Vegas, NV 89124."

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

QUESTIONS? Call or e-mail Fr. Seraphim

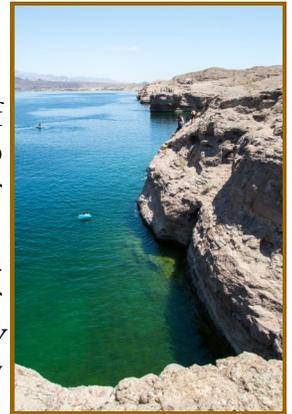
Adult and Young Adult Ministries

Young Adults

Dear Young Adults,

Join us in thanking Fani Mavrantonis for her excellent work as co-advisor of Young Adults. In addition to wedding planning, Fani is preparing for her big move to Baltimore, where her fiancé Derek will be stationed. Please keep them both in your prayers.

Now it is time to come cool off in the Colorado River! You are invited to a beach and swimming day at *Nelson's Landing*, a small cove and beach area one hour southeast of Las Vegas. We will rendezvous at the Church parking lot **on Saturday June 2, at 8:45 am**, and head out together at **9:00 am sharp**, returning to Las Vegas by 2:00 pm. We will each need to bring an item for lunch in coolers to share in a potluck together. It is recommended that everyone bring chairs to sit on and umbrellas for shade (if desired) after swimming. Please also remember to pack river shoes or sandals, sunscreen, a towel, drinking water, your bathing suit, and get ready for a memorable experience!



Nelson's Landing Directions:

- Take US-93 South / US-95 South leaving Las Vegas towards Boulder City.
- Merge onto US-95 S / VETERANS MEMORIAL HWY toward SEARCHLIGHT / LAUGHLIN / NEEDLES and continue for approx. 10 miles.
- Turn LEFT on NV-165 and continue for 11 miles until you reach Nelson, NV (look for a solar panel farm on 95 when you see that 165 is across from the solar farm).
- After you reach Nelson, NV, Continue on for 1.6 miles until you reach Nelson's Landing and scenic overlook circle. To the right of this over view you will see a dirt road on the right which will take you all the way to the water (very rough gravel and dirt road).

With love, Niko Asim and Elizabeth Arbuiso, Advisors

Mr. & Mrs. - A Couples Fellowship

Dear M&Ms,

A huge thank you to Dean and Tammy Chomakos for hosting our awesome May fellowship dinner! The food and discussion were great.

This month, Demetri and Luanne Philippou have graciously agreed to host the fellowship at their home on **Saturday, June 23 at 6:00 pm**. Please bring a side dish, salad, drinks or dessert and RSVP with Father Seraphim. We look forward to seeing you there!

Yours in Christ, Father John, Father Seraphim, and their Presvyteres



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

It was great seeing everyone at the Lake Las Vegas Cinco De Mayo Celebration. We had a great time!

Now that summer is again upon us, Kali Parea is ready to enjoy this year's musical plays being presented at the beautiful outdoor Super Summer Theater. Again this year, we can bring drinks and food to share. Chairs can be rented at the theater area, but you may also bring your own or just bring blankets. Join us at **Spring Mountain State Park (6375 Highway 159 Blue Diamond)**. General Admission is \$15 per person. On **Saturday, June 9 at 8:00 pm** we will watch "Big Fish" – hurry, as tickets are almost sold out!

For July, we will return to the Super Summer Theater and see "She Loves Me" on **July 14, at 8:00 pm**. You can purchase your tickets ahead of time at www.supersummertheaters.org or by contacting Demetri Asim at (702) 210-4056 as soon as possible.

Demetrious Asim, Advisor

Forerunners - The Seniors of St. John the Baptist

Our fearless leaders, Marie and Gary Setian, have decided finally to fly the coop. Father John announced at our May Luncheon that Marie and Gary have officially retired. They have taken such tender loving care of us during these many years that they have served our Forerunners Senior group. Father John thanked them for their wonderful services, and presented them with a beautiful icon of St. John the Baptist, the Forerunner.

Our Senior group will be hosting a special Thank You Luncheon for Marie and Gary on **Monday, June 4 at 11:30 am**. Please mark your calendars and join us in thanking this wonderful couple for all their goodness, kindness and special love that they have shown us. Marie and Gary will continue to be members of our group, and join us, whenever possible, for our luncheons and fellowship.

We will also be hosting **Fellowship on Sunday, June 24**, the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. Please bring goodies for everyone to share.

In recent months we have asked for someone to step up to the plate and take over the reins. No one did – and a number of us started discussing the outcome of this situation. We certainly do not want to disband this awesome ministry. Therefore, Faye Brown and I will be the “new kids on the block.” We will jointly coordinate our Forerunners, but we need the help of everyone to keep it running smoothly. We ask that you give us a call to volunteer to help in any capacity that you feel is comfortable for you. We have many ideas and plans, but they can only be successful with your input and help. Faye can be reached at (702) 363-3094 and I can be reached at (702) 419-5294.

With Father John’s blessing, we are going to continue our monthly luncheons and fellowship throughout the summer. We will still meet on the second Monday of each month. The only month that we will not meet will be September, as we are all busy preparing for our Greek Food Festival. We sincerely hope and pray that you will be happy with our decisions. Please note that if we do not hear from you, we will be reaching out to all of you. We welcome any and all ideas.

As always, our thoughts and prayers go out to all our senior shut-ins at home, in hospitals or in other facilities.

Love in Christ, Victoria Xikis for the Forerunners

Adult Basketball



Join us for a pick-up basketball game *every Tuesday (note day change) at 7:00 pm in Panos Hall*. Please call **George Chomakos at (702) 523-8675** to be added to the basketball email list or search for us on Facebook - basketball-Stjohnthebaptistgreekorthodoxchurch.

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 (480 West Bonanza Road, Las Vegas) on **Friday, June 15, starting at 4:30 pm**.

When you get to the security booth let them know that you are here to help volunteer in the kitchen. They will direct you where to park. Once you enter the dining hall, there is an area for you to sign in, get an apron, hairnet and gloves. Around 4:40 pm the kitchen manager will assign everyone to a position. As the meal is wrapping up around 5:50 pm, you will be asked to wipe down tables, chairs and sweep. Our work is completed at 6:15 pm. **Please remember all volunteers are to wear closed-toe shoes, long pants, and shirt (no tank tops).**

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



Orthodox Bookstore

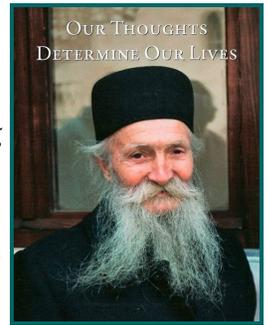
Greetings from the Bookstore!

This month we are featuring *Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives: The Life and Teaching of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica*.

From Chapter 7: *On Prayer* -

“We cannot achieve salvation in any way other than by transforming our mind, making it different from what it was. Our minds become deified by a special act of God’s Grace. They become passionless and holy. A deified mind is one which lives in remembrance of God at all times. Knowing that God is in us and we in Him, the deified mind is perfectly at home with God. He is everywhere, and we are like fish in water when we are in God. The minute our thoughts abandon Him, we perish spiritually.”

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



“Many labor under the wrong concept of success.

This is the idea of achieving possessions, status, power.

*A person’s self-image is measured by what he or she earns or possesses,
by what he or she socially can do or economically control.*

*However, the Saints teach another radically different concept of success
based on faithfulness and discipleship.*

*True success is measured by the depth of one’s personal communion with God,
concern for the salvation of souls, and the advancement of the Kingdom.*

*A truly successful person is a saint—one who seeks wholeness in God,
who strives to grow in the image of Christ,
who finds fulfillment and happiness*

in loving and serving others for God’s glory.”

-Father Theodore Stylianopoulos, A Year of the Lord



*June 24:
The Nativity of
St. John the
Forerunner.*

*Icon: 15th
Century,
Hermitage
Museum,
St. Petersburg,
Russia.*



This month our chapter meeting will be held on *Tuesday, June 5 at 6:30 pm in Kokkos Hall*. Nominations for Executive Board Positions has been extended to June 5. For questions or concerns, please contact current Chapter President Kouli Pouridis at pouridis5@embarqmail.com or (702) 604-0885.



Early Bird Specials
 August 19th Drawing, \$1,000 Cash Prize
 Packets of 3 Tickets \$250
 Available until Aug. 19th or while supply lasts

2018 Las Vegas Greek Food Festival Raffle Prizes
Only 1,000 Tickets Available \$100 Each



GRAND PRIZE **\$25,000** Cash or YOUR choice of **Mercedes Sedan, Harley Davidson or Sport Boat**



1st **\$2,500** Cash or 7 day cruise for two to the Mexican Riviera



2nd **\$1,000** Cash or weekend for two in San Diego

3rd Ski Weekend for two in Big Bear, CA



4th Golf Weekend for two at Casa Blanca Resort in Mesquite

5th Nascar Tickets from the Las Vegas Speedway

6th Two night stay in a Venetian Luxury Suite with private gondola ride



7th Two night stay in a Palazzo Luxury Suite with private gondola ride

8th & 9th Large 4K HDMI Smart TVs



10th \$300 Gift Card to the Smith Center

Plus At least 30 additional top prizes to be won!

www.LVGFF.com • 702-221-8245

ORTHODOXY STRONG ~ STEWARDS 2018

Adamy, Marina	Cotsilis, Jenny	Hemmers, Oliver and	Likourinou, Steve and June
Alex, Steve	Crist, Adam and Kanistra	Pantelas, Anne	Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine
Alexander, Eleni	Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	Henneforth, Rula	Loughton, Dustin and Rena
Alhayek, Majd and Areen	Dalacas, Eleni	Hertberg, Jennifer	Makris, Apostolos
Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine	Dalacas, Georgia	Hetzel, David and Joanne	Malamatos, Kindina
Anastasiou, Andrew and Kathleen	Daskalos, George and Voula	Hoadrea, Jimmy and Monci	Maland, Tim and Donna
Andary, Oscar and Carnation	DeMangus, Joanne	Hondros, Catherine	Maniatakis, Ted and Maria
Andrews, Catherine	Demolas, Maria and Nour, Reza	Hondros, Christina	Manolakos, Catherine
Andrews, Chris and Pamela	Demoleas, Spero and Grace	Hondros, Christopher and Darlene	Manos, Constantine and Michele
Andrews, George	Demoleas, Stephanie	Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria	Mansour, Muna
Andricopoulos, Margo	Demopoulos, Vasiliki	Hondros, Paul	Margaretis, John and Lucila
Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette	Diamantis, Filippos	Hoover, Patrick and Pauline	Martinaitis, Louis and Audra
Anton, Mike and Carol	Dominguez, Eric and Amalia	Houlis, Ila and Debbie	Matsis, John and Rebecca
Arcamuzi, Georgia	Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia	Howard, William and Willie	Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki
Aristides, George and Diana	Dounis, Dina	Hristopoulou, Spiridoula	Mavrantonis, Theofania
Asim, Demetrious	Dounis, Georgia	Iteen, Robert and Sophia	Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debra
Austgen, Harold Max	Dounis, Kiki	Jandette, Johanna	Mavros, Debbie
Balaouras, Panos and Helen	Dudunakis, Michael	Kachikis, Paul+ and Ernestine	Mavroudis, Frank and Vess, Olga
Balason, Anna	Earl, Christine Michaelides	Kakavulias, Christina	McManus, Jeanette
Baldwin, Richard and Vivi	Eliades, Artemisa	Kakavulias, George and Helen	McKinney, Michael and Mersene
Balodimas, James	Eliades, Gregory and Maria	Kakavulias, John and Elizabeth	McSweeney, Farolyn
Barbarino, Demetra	Eliades, Harry and Agapi	Kambouris, Litsa	Melton, Donald and Susan
Bartzos, Sam and Eugenia	Eliades, Peter	Kanis, Constantinos and Katie	Menegatos, James
Beeler, Mike and Carolyn	Eliakis, John+ and Atsuko	Karas, James	Mertes, Patrick and Athena
Beeman, Karl, Sr. and Benita	Eliakis, Peter and Glenda	Karas, John and Marcie	Minas, Arthur and Ewa
Belch, George	Eliakis, Varthie and LeeAnn	Karris, Mark and Suzanne	Mitchell, Thomas
Berendji, Jim and Vivian	Eliopoulos, Goldie	Katopodis, Efstratios	Moffett, Todd and Eliopoulos, Tina
Bernier, Micah and Alissa	Eyler, John and Elizabeth	Katris, Nick	Monoyudis, Jim and Julie
Berta, Irene	Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean	Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon	Mulopoulos, George and Jenny
Bieker, Adam and Cassie	Filios, George and Nitsa	Kelesis, Paula	Myers, Stella
Birtas, Helen	Fischer, Bob and Cheryl	Kiflezgi, Rahel	Neocleous, Plato
Bland, Robert and Maria	Fitzgerald, Norman and	Kinard, Panorea	Newell, Ronald and Maria
Bochanis, George and Enid	McCullen, Sandra	Kleanthis, George and Zanetta	Nicholas, John and Estella
Bratta, Georgene	Flangas, Bill and Marilyn	Kofinas, Maria	Nichols, George and Tereza
Britten, Ronald and Carol	Flangas, Gus and Tamara	Koliambas, Eleni	Nichols, Stella
Brown, Faye	Floyd, Charles and Maria	Konsolakis, Eleni	Nikitas, Milissa
Bruninga, Bill and Erin	Foster, Kyle and Maria	Koroni, Tara	Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra
Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia	Kostopoulos, Georgia	Nixon, John and Ellyn
Campbell, Paul and Victoria	Frangakis, Constantine	Kountanis, Panagiota	Olmsted, Travis and Marilyn
Capre, Julio and Betty+	Frangakis, John	Kourlos, Georgia	Orlando, Alleck and Jennifer
Carabas, Stephen and Linda	Frangakis, Sophocles	Koutsulis, John and Eileen	Osborn, Pearl
Carahalıs, John and Jillian	Garza, Evarardo and	Koutsulis, Sam and Effie	Pahigiannis, Nikon
Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	Eliades, Eleni	Koutsulis, Sam	Paikos, Thomas and Elizabeth
Carrico, William and Alexandra	Gauvin, Chad and Marissa	Kunard, Derek	Palivos, Peter and Vicky
Carter, Maria	Generales, John and Arlene	Kypreos, George and Lesley	Pallis, Paul
Chachas, Bessie	George, Pete and Georgia	Kypreos, Peter and Geri	Pandelis, Cheryl
Chachas, James	Georges, Sam	Lagomarsino, Sophia	Panos, William and Jeanne
Chagares, Kiki	Georgoulakis, Mary Ellen	Lamancusa, Lisa	Papas, Peter and Rita
Chandrinos, Alexia	Giouzelis, Anastasia	Lambros, Kyriacos and Mary	Papas, Christian and Nicole
Chanos, Jennifer	Gianakoulis, Nick and Magda	Latelle, Penny	Pappas, Constantine and Karina
Chomakos, George and Nikki	Goodman, Linda	Lathouris, Evan and Vicki	Pappas, Rita
Chomakos, Jeremy and Romina	Gott, C. Thomas and Kitty	Lazarakis, John and Panagiota	Pappas, Stella
Chondrakis, Dimos	Gousdovas, Nikos	Lechner, Sofia	Payan, Luis and Eleni
Christian, Clair and Chloe	Grabovoi, Daphne	Lekar, Caroline	Pelletier, Michael
Ciulla, Anthony and Kleri	Gruber, Ernest and Zoe	Lekar, Michael and Effie	Pendleton, Patricia
Ciulla, Dina	Gutierrez, Connie	Lemper, Brian and Betsy	Pentogenesis, Katherine+
Collins, David	Hadzoglon, Christos	Leonis, Nick and Sophia	Peratikos, Tony
Cominos, Ted	Hall, Elizabeth	Leonis, Tishe	Pertsinides, Irene and
Conger, William and Alexia	Hall, Yvonne	Leventis, Naomi	Arbuiso, Elizabeth
Costacos, John	Hamilton, Mary	Leventis, Nicholas and Christina	Petro, Aleko and Georgia
Costas, Charles and Louise	Hamilton, Paul and Brandi	Liaos, Jim and Tina	Petrou, James and Penelopi
Costuros, George and Marsha	Harrison, Angie and	Liaos, Steve and Francine	Philippou, Demetrios and Luanne
Cosulas, Fr. Basil and	Schildmeyer, Christine	Liaos, William and Irene	Pierro, Joe and Rhonda
Presv. Samantha	Hayes, Tulla	Likourinou, Angie	Pitts, Anton and Athena

STEWARDS 2018

Platis, Anna
 Polimerou, Angeline
 Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra
 Poulos, Christine
 Pouridis, Kouli and Para
 Pournatzis, Petros and
 Menegatos, Angelic
 Powers, Russell and Rebecca
 Prifti, Teuta
 Punsalan, Basil and Sophie
 Pursell, Robert and Mary
 Radosta, Athena
 Ramos, Fr. Seraphim and
 Presv. Olenka
 Raptis, Presv. Evonne
 Rifakes, John
 Rigas, Evie
 Rihani, Gary and Linda
 Rodis, Dimitri
 Rodis, Sophia
 Rosenthal, Joseph and
 Stephanie
 Rotas, Beatrice
 Rouvas, John and Keri
 Ruffner, Skip and Kathy
 Salon, Janelle
 Salonikis, Valentinos and
 Sophia
 Santamaria, Jennifer
 Savvas, Savva
 Senior Forerunners

Serpetini, Athanasia
 Setian, Gary and Marie
 Shaffer, Travis and Veneta
 Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia
 Skandros, Stephanie
 Smith, Kathleen
 Snow, Adrienne
 Snow, Clifford and Christina
 Snowden, Robert and Niki
 Sparangis, 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
 Stevens, Charles and Mary
 Stransky, Mark
 Stransky, Jack and Gladys
 Susmani, Krystle
 Szukiewicz, Alex
 Szukiewicz, Joseph and Jennia
 Szukiewicz, Joseph
 Tafoya, Steven and Irene
 Takas, Andrea
 Tasios, Ramona and Pete
 Thanos, Nick and Victoria
 Thompson, Maggy
 Tobin, Jean
 Thome, Tony and May

Tringas, Chris and Bridgette
 Tsiralidis, Kosmas and
 Katerina
 Tsolis, Christos and Panagioula
 Tzelalis, Antonia
 Tzortzis, Maria
 Velimorivic, Nikolaj and Maja
 Vervilos, James and Anna
 Vlahos, Thomas and
 Demas, Rita
 Wadlow, Nicholas and Pamela
 Walter, Vernon and Alice
 Welles, Brigitte
 Wilcox, Thalia
 Wilkerson, Chuck and
 Kristina
 Williams, Anthony and Anna
 Wilson, Steven and Cleo
 Wirtz, Athena
 Wixom, Penelope
 Womack, Karl
 Womack, Kimberly
 Wood, Nadine
 Wronski, Chuck
 Xerogianes, Nick and Nikki
 Xikis, Victoria
 Zaferatos, Ted
 Zarras, Nick and Chery
 Zimmerman, Paul and Angela
 Zmina, Stephen and Cynthia

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND



You are invited and encouraged to join Father John in
“Following the Star to Bethlehem and the Holy Land”
 as he leads a Spiritual Pilgrimage
 from November 28 to December 11, 2018.

All inclusive price is \$4,179 for double occupancy.
 You can get the registration form and full itinerary

at www.mgatours.com, or by contacting
 Victoria Xikis at (702) 419-5294 or Paula Kelesis at (702) 249-4740.
Deadline to register is July 15, 2018.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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frjohn@vegaskgreekorthodox.com

Rev. Father Seraphim Ramos
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Mara Braun
 Catering & Events

Constantin Petriuc & Ramona Tasios
 Maintenance & Grounds

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

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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

Young Adults:
 Nicholas Asim & Elizabeth Arbuiso

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek School: Paula Kelesis

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

Kali Parea: Demetrious Asim

Adult Basketball: George Chomakos

Forerunners:
 Vicki Xikis & Faye Brown

Orthodox Bookstore:
 Constantine Frangakis,
 Paisios & Mary Pursell

Greek Food Festival: Gus Flangas

Hellenic Historical Society:
 Cheryl Pandelis and Susan Stamis

Photography: Bill Bruninga



Adult Study with Father John

The Acts of the Apostles

*Meets Every Wednesday, 7:00 - 8:30 pm,
in the Church - Bring Your Bibles (RSV Preferred)*

Greek Food Festival Souvenir Magazine Ads

We are now taking ads for the Souvenir Magazine! If you own a business or know of someone who does, please contact us. You can also place an ad in memory of a loved one, to acknowledge a milestone or anniversary, or to congratulate the 46th Annual Greek Food Festival. Registration forms are available at the Church Office, or with Marilyn Flangas (702) 277-6773.

*“Desire and effort
must come from you.
God will provide
the power and the result.”
-St. Paisios*

Church Account Summaries - April 2018

Nevada State Bank Accounts	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$34,399.18	\$75,271.90	\$21,315.20	\$49,795.33	\$45,293.82	\$35,897.13	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$4,762.59	\$500.00		\$1,302.25		\$3,960.34	
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$43,228.73			\$2,717.36	\$320.30	\$40,191.07	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$311,691.90	\$20,150.00	\$1,170.16	\$1,722.22	\$3,882.25	\$327,407.59	Building Repairs
Folk Dance Group	\$14,088.68					\$14,088.68	
Mortgage Account	\$31,332.38				\$5,201.14	\$26,131.24	
Designated Funds	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$16,807.12		\$1,130.16	\$1,228.83		\$16,708.45	
Ornaments	\$1,077.41					\$1,077.41	
Restricted Funds	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
ICON	\$273,742.96	\$150.00	\$40.00			\$273,932.96	
Library Account	\$1,470.77					\$1,470.77	Account owed \$21,000. Funds used to make payroll and pay bills in 2015
Giving Tree	\$5,450.91					\$5,450.91	
Building Fund	\$8,811.80			\$493.39	\$3,882.25	\$4,436.16	Air Conditioning, Landscape Maint.
Youth Choir	\$3,069.82					\$3,069.82	
Church School	\$1,306.37					\$1,306.37	
Three Priests	\$0.00	\$20,000.00				\$20,000.00	Arthur Minas
Misc. D & R Deductions	-\$535.26					-\$535.26	
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$50.00					\$50.00	
Designated, Restricted, and Other Total	\$311,691.90	\$150.00	\$1,170.16	\$1,722.22	\$3,882.25	\$327,407.59	
Other Funds	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$58,169.84					\$58,169.84	

The Desert Messenger

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

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THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord

*June 3: Sunday of All Saints
(The Sunday after Pentecost)*

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”
(Hebrews 12:1-2)*

