

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 6, Issue 7 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV July/August 2008

**From
Father
John**

Beloved in Christ:

What a blessing it is to be gifted, physically attractive, well studied, a great success in one's field – and to bypass the opportunity for personal gain and fame, and instead use one's life and talents for the glory of God. While we are encouraged to look around us for role models to imitate – in the media, in social circles, in books that we read, in classes we take – the Orthodox Faith entices us to look on the Church walls or iconostasis, an ecclesiastical calendar, in books about the lives of Saints, and even in hymns to find people who are truly worthy of emulation.

Born in Nicomedia in Asia Minor during the late 3rd century, St. Panteleimon, whose name means “all merciful,” was blessed with a handsome appearance, noble upbringing and brilliant mind. Although his father was a rich intellectual pagan, Panteleimon was eventually more influenced by the transparent faith of his Christian mother. Having studied under Euphrosinos, the most famous physician in the empire, Panteleimon soon became equally as talented and respected. The great physician also became a devoted follower of Christ, thanks to the spiritual guidance of St. Ermolaos who nurtured the spiritual seed planted by his pious mother, and used his status and profession overtly for the glory of God during this period of persecution for Christians. Panteleimon became well known as a great healer, and performed many miracles by invoking the Name of Jesus Christ on those who came seeking his medical assistance. Learning of this, the Emperor Maximinian had the doctor subjected to various tortures before having him beheaded at the age of 29 on July 27, 304 AD. According to tradition, milk rather than blood flowed from St. Panteleimon's body at his martyrdom.

Still today and even in our parish, many have experienced first-hand the wondrous works of St. Panteleimon – delivering them from illnesses, harm or death. Just as this holy man understood, every Church is a hospital for the spiritual infirm and St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church is no different. By God's grace, our parish is a refuge for those living in or visiting Las Vegas, which is more familiarly known – and even celebrated – as “Sin City.” God's saving grace is given freely and abundantly through the prayers and the Holy Mysteries of the Church, fulfilling Holy Scripture: *“Heal the sick, raise the dead . . . You received without paying, give without pay.” (Matthew 10:8)* Because of our deep need to be healed in mind, body and soul, our beloved Lord Jesus gave us an extra blessing on our Day of Consecration by allowing the Holy Relics of St. Panteleimon to be permanently placed in the cavity of our Altar Table. In the hearts and minds of some parish members, God had a hand in bringing the Holy Relics of St. Panteleimon to Las Vegas, given the accounts I have heard of the miracles of this “all merciful” saint that took place here prior to the Consecration.

While we may not be living in a country where people are killed for being followers of Christ, we certainly are victimized by the secular persecution in our society – which at times even infiltrates our Church – that confuses, consumes and spiritually drains us. More, now than ever, we need to allow the Holy Spirit to direct us to look to the saints as role models, that we may live in loving union with Christ and one another, to the glory of God the Father. I pray that we may continuously seek the powerful intercessions of St. Panteleimon and also be inspired like him toward selfless and holy works, so that by grace we may be counted worthy to join the eternal communion of the saints who surround the Heavenly Throne of God.

Love in Christ,

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Sunday, July 6/3rd Sunday of Matthew/St. Sisoës

Orthros: Tone Two

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Mark 6:9-20

Epistle: Romans 5:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33

Sunday, July 13/Holy Fathers of the 4th Synod

Orthros: Tone Three

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:1-12

Epistle: Titus 3:8-15

Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19

Sunday, July 20/5th of Matthew/Prophet Elias

Orthros: Tone Four

Resurrection Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Epistle: James 5:10-20

Gospel: Matthew 8:28-34, 9:1

Sunday, July 27/6th of Matthew/St. Panteleimon

Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:36-53

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

Artoclasia (Blessing of Five Loaves) follows Liturgy

Fast of the Dormition - August 1-14

Friday, August 1

6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Sunday, August 3/7th Sunday of Matthew

Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:1-10

Epistle: Romans 15:1-17

Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

Monday, August 4

6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Wednesday, August 6/Transfiguration of Our Savior Jesus Christ

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 2 Peter 1:10-19

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Blessing of Grapes follows Liturgy

6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Friday, August 8

6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Sunday, August 10/8th of Matthew/St. Lawrence

Orthros: Tone Seven (Grave)

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

Monday, August 11

6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Wednesday, August 13

6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Thursday, August 14

6:00 pm Great Vespers of the Dormition

Friday, August 15/Dormition of the Theotokos

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

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

Artoclasia (Blessing of Five Loaves) follows Liturgy

Sunday, August 17/9th of Matthew/St. Myron

Orthros: Tone Eight (Fourth Plagal)

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

Sunday, August 24/10th of Matthew/St. Eutyches

Orthros: Tone One

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

Friday, August 29/Beheading of St. John the Baptist (Strict Fast Day)

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 13:25-32

Gospel: Mark 6:14-30

Sunday, August 31/11th of Matthew/Honorable Sash of the Theotokos

Orthros: Tone Two

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

Epistle: Hebrews 9:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

“And He was transfigured before them, and His Face shone like the sun, and His garments became white as light.” (Luke 17:2)

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

July 6

Ushers: William Carrico, John Nicholas, Sam Koutsulis, Gary Waters,
George Kakavulias, George Nikols

Memorial: Phivos Neocleous (1 year); Panagis Maliagros (3 years),
Melpo Maliagros.

Fellowship: Folk Dance Group

July 13

Ushers: Alleck Orlando, Peter Papas, Marina Adamy, Stephen Carabas,
Angelo Stamis, William Carrico

Fellowship: Orthodox Family Fellowship

July 20

Ushers: George Kakavulias, Gary Waters, William Carrico,
Sam Koutsulis, Alleck Orlando, John Nicholas

Fellowship: Dina Delalis and Family

July 27

Ushers: Marina Adamy, Stephen Carabas, John Karas, Peter Papas,
George Kakavulias, George Nikols,

Artoclasia: Eliades and Kalkas Families, for St. Panteleimon

Fellowship: Eleni Kakavulias and Family to Benefit Iconography Fund

August 3

Ushers: Alleck Orlando, Peter Papas, Marina Adamy, Stephen Carabas,
Angelo Stamis, Gary Waters

Fellowship: Folk Dance Group

August 10

Ushers: John Karas, John Nicholas, William Carrico, Sam Koutsulis,
George Kakavulias, George Nikols

Fellowship: Alea Chapter of Pan Arcadians to Benefit Iconography Fund

Friday, August 15: *Dormition of the Theotokos*

Artoclasia: Kalkas Family

Fellowship: Philoptochos, in Honor of *Panagia*

August 17

Ushers: Marina Adamy, Stephen Carabas, Peter Papas, Alleck Orlando,
Gary Waters, Angelo Stamis

Fellowship: Eleni Kakavulias and Family to Benefit Iconography Fund

August 24

Ushers: William Carrico, Sam Koutsulis, George Kakavulias, George
Nikols, John Nicholas, Marina Adamy

Phanouropita (St. Phanourios Bread): Lekar Family

Fellowship: Orthodox Family Fellowship

August 31

Ushers: Angelo Stamis, Gary Waters, John Karas, Stephen Carabas,
Peter Papas, Alleck Orlando

Fellowship: Alea Chapter of Pan Arcadians to Benefit Iconography Fund

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

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

Rev. Father John Hondros

**To Be Determined
Business Administrator**

**Karen Rawlinson
Administrative Assistant**

**Janice Leavitt
Facilities and Catering Manager**

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

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FAX: (702) 221-9167**

**E-mail:
frjohn@vegasgreekorthodox.com
Website: vegasgreekorthodox.com**

Parish Council: George Nikols

Philoptochos: Amalia Dominguez

Choir: Faye Brown

**Chanters/Youth Choir:
Presvytera Maria Hondros**

**Church School:
Eileen Koutsulis**

**Altar Servers:
Sam Koutsulis**

**Stewardship Committee:
John Karas**

**Hellenic Historical Society:
Nitsa Filios**

**Senior GOYA:
Effie Lekar
Eileen Koutsulis**

**Junior GOYA
Tami Stefanatos
Tammy Chomakos**

**HOPE and JOY:
Jennifer Orlando and Christy Vino**

**Orthodox Family Fellowship:
Michael and Tami Stefanatos**

**Youth Ministries:
Eileen Koutsulis**

**Orthodox Connection Las Vegas:
Angela Coutris**

**Senior Forerunners:
Ruth Plentzas**

**Greek Folk Dance:
Tina Liaos, Chair
Bessie Stavropoulos and Carla Cole**

**Greek Food Festival:
John Koutsulis**

Orthodox Bookstore: Costa Frangakis

**President's
Column**

Our 36th Annual Greek Food Festival is almost here. This year on September 18-21 we will again invite Las Vegas to our Church grounds to celebrate with us our heritage of the Orthodox Faith and Greek culture.

We are in the preparation stages and need everyone to commit and help. Make sure you all come to the Festival meetings and participate (look to our calendar for the dates). There is so much you could do to help; your suggestions and comments are always welcome. Our raffle is a good way everyone can help; the more tickets we sell, the more money we can raise for our Church. Volunteering early to work a booth is another way to help us plan better. Make a commitment to attend all the Festival meetings and get involved. EVERYONE knows how important our Festival is, so I'm asking that EVERYONE please get involved. George Nikols, Parish Council President

Orthodox Connection Las Vegas

We hope you are able to enjoy some rest and relaxation during these summer months! Although we had to cancel our event last month, we rescheduled the same event and will all meet up at the home of Steve Tzelalis on **Sunday, July 6** at 5:00 pm. He is graciously opening his home to us so please RSVP to Steve at (702) 810-7077 or Angela so we can get an accurate count.

This will be our last event for the summer. Our next event will be when we come together and help as a community at the Greek Food Festival in September. Orthodox Connection Las Vegas is a pan-Orthodox ministry for singles in their 20s, 30s, and 40s.

For more information contact **Angela Coutris** at (702) 497-2529 or acoutris@hotmail.com.

 **Notes From the Loft**

With great sorrow the Choir mourns the passing of one our members, Andrew Barngrover. In Andrew's short time as a member, our Choir benefited tremendously from his musical expertise and the exceptional talent of his melodic baritone voice. He leaves his wife Kathleen and three children. May his memory be eternal - *Aionia aftou i mnimi*.

The Choir will be on vacation for the month of July. Faye Brown, Choir Director

Our Community Registry

Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun!

Christian James, son of Demetrious and Amanda Kouretas, on June 7, 2008.

Godparent: Daniel Kouretas.

Nicholas Roy, son of Jason and Shawna Luckey, on June 7, 2008.

Godparent: Gary Algers.

Antonios Panagiotis, son of Anton and Sophia Gorup, on June 21, 2008.

Godparent: George Peter Kypreos

Aiden, son of Eric and Devona Newell, on June 22, 2008.

Godparent: Ronald Michael Newell

Chrismations:

Christos Snow on May 30, 2008.

Sponsor: Cleo Poravas

Matthew Castillo on June 1, 2008.

Sponsor: John G. Karas

Marriages: Na Zisete!

George Peter Archos and Emily Ann Gromer on May 24, 2008.

Sponsor: Anastasios Bozonelos

Gaetano Mazzone and Eugenie Yiakoumakis on May 31, 2008.

Sponsor: Chris Sidiropoulos

Brian Morgan and Adrienne Snow on May 31, 2008. Sponsor: Stephanie Snow

George Karkaletsis and Maria Cardenas on June 21, 2008.

Sponsor: Nicholas Haniotis

Eric George Newell and Devona Rae Schmidt on June 22, 2008.

Sponsor: Ronald Michael Newell

Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory

Andrew Barngrover on May 25, 2008. Funeral on June 1.

Helen Massie on June 14, 2008. Funeral on June 18.

Barbara Chaltas on June 15, 2008. Funeral on June 20.

**Philoptochos
News**

With the continued support of our parishioners and the Las Vegas community, along with lots of prayers, the Ladies of *Panagia* Chapter made a difference during the 2007/2008 term. Below is a “snap-shot” of the accomplishments and contributions. Together we:

- Donated over \$16,000 to a broad range of local, Metropolis, and national programs that benefit children, seniors, the sick, the poor, Holy Cross Seminary, retired Clergy and widowed Presbyteres.
- Assembled 300 activity bags for the pediatric care unit at UMC Hospital, assembled and mailed approximately 50 “care packages” to our troops in Iraq, and filled and donated 250 meal bags for the low income seniors at the Sartini Senior Housing Center.
- Targeted our support with approximately \$10,000 in donations for our own Senior Forerunners, Church School, Folk Dance Group, Kokkos Scholarship, Iconography Fund, Food Festival and AHEPA programs.
- Experienced a lucrative and successful Christmas pastry tin sale, which is our major fundraiser for our charities.
- Produced and distributed (parish-wide) an elegant Christmas card, hand baked and packed fresh pastries in our traditional Christmas tins, baked Vasilopites to feed over 300 people, dyed and wrapped over 1,200 red Easter eggs, filled the Church with flowers during Lent and at Pascha, sponsored nine Fellowships including the 40-day Mary Bartsas Memorial and, in conjunction with the Parish Council, hosted the Palm Sunday Luncheon and the Lenten Vesper Dinner.

It is no wonder we all need a well-deserved summer break. However, please keep in mind that the Philoptochos Board will be working throughout the summer preparing programs and activities for the coming year, so if you get bored feel free to give me or any board member a call to help with the planning and preparation.

Thanks and enjoy! **Amalia Dominguez and the Board Members**

Daughters of Penelope

Did you know that we have an active and historic chapter for the Daughters of Penelope right here in Las Vegas? Over the years the Panope Chapter has made many significant contributions to our local, district and national charities.

Locally, we have donated more than \$16,000 to St. John Church, Church School and the Folk Dance Group. We have supported Shade Tree Shelter for abused women as well as other Daughters of Penelope in financial need. We also contribute yearly to: Penelope House for abused women and children; Sylvester Cancer Center; Cooley’s Anemia Foundation; The Bone Marrow Registry; and Guide Dogs of America for the blind. We are currently sponsoring the training for a Guide Dog right now! We have helped the AHEPA Family with the Scholarship Program from which many of our parish youth have benefited.

This year, we fulfilled all of our local, district and national obligations, and additionally made a donation to purchase olive trees for the replanting effort for fire-ravaged Greece.

We are a small but mighty group of women who meet and enjoy our common Hellenic Heritage, and we accomplish a great deal. You will be hearing more from us in the Fall after the Greek Festival; we would love to have you attend one of our meetings or social events! If you have any questions about our group please call **Trish at (702) 461-1821**. Have a great summer!

Trish Kourafas and Daughters of Penelope Board

Senior Forerunners

The Senior Forerunners will not be meeting in July and August;



we will resume our monthly fellowships in September.

I’m happy to report that our *Soles-4-Souls* project was a great success. We managed to collect over 120 pairs of shoes and they have been sent to Myanmar (Burma). Thanks to everyone who helped in this endeavor. God Bless.

Ruth Plentzas

“If we wish to stand before our King and God and converse with Him, we must not rush into this without preparation.”
~St. John Climacos

**The Las Vegas AHEPA Invites
the Entire Community of
St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
to a Good, Old-Fashioned**

INDEPENDENCE DAY PICNIC



Friday, July 4, 2008

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

On the Church Grounds

Traditional 4th of July BBQ with all the fixin's

Water and soft drinks will be provided

**Absolutely NO ALCOHOL will be permitted
at this family-oriented event**

**And, appropriate to the occasion . . .
it's FREE . . . Yes, FREE!**

**Please bring your own lawn chairs, blankets,
coolers, field games,
and legal and safe fireworks**

Sponsored by the AHEPA Chapter 314

Youth Ministries

Church School

Hi Everyone! I hope everyone is enjoying their summer! Our first day of classes will be September 7. You can start registering your children at any time. Please fill out the Registration Form below, and duplicate as needed for each child in your family. Remember: Church School needs a \$5 per child cash supply fee attached to all registrations. We will have a table set up in the hall the last few Sundays in August for registration. Have a great summer! Eileen Koutsulis, Church School Director

Youth Choir News



Youth Choir will take a break for July, then in August we will chant the responses for the Divine Liturgy on the *Feast of the Dormition, Friday, August 15 – please be in Church at 8:45 am sharp*. We will practice after Liturgy on Sunday, August 10. Please also join us for the Paraklesis services in August, since you have learned many of the hymns!

If you are out of town, please attend another Orthodox Church and experience how other parishes celebrate their Liturgies. Have a safe summer. Love, Presvytera Maria

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
2008-2009 Church School Registration Form
(One form per child: Duplicate if Needed)

Please return to the Church Office or your child's teacher along with \$5 (cash only) supply fee.

Pre-Kindergarten (4 years-old by September 30) through High School Seniors

Student Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

School Grade 2008-2009: _____

Allergies, Special Needs, Medications: _____

Patron Saint and Date of Commemoration: _____

Parent Name(s): _____

Parent e-mail addresses: _____

Address: _____

Phone (s): _____

I give my child permission to take part in all Church School activities, and planned and supervised outings.

Signed, Parent or Legal Guardian: _____

Many hands ease the load! Please consider helping our children: Teaching Snack Crafts

Fees Paid: _____ \$5 Stewards _____ \$10 Non-Stewards

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Orthodox Family Fellowship

Come beat the heat at our Annual Mt. Charleston Picnic on *Saturday, August 23!* All families of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church are invited to join us as we drive up and picnic together in the beautiful and much cooler mountains. We will meet at 10:00 am in the Olive Garden parking lot off Cheyenne/95. Please RSVP for this event by August 20 to Tami and Michael Stefanatos at (702) 491-2713.

GOYA

In May, our GOYAns attended a Volleyball Tournament hosted by St. Anthony Church in Pasadena. It was wonderful to participate and be welcomed by so many other parishes of California and their families, and it was great for us to come together to practice and work as a team. Thank you to our awesome coach, Amanda Flangas and all the parents, and we also appreciate the loving support of our parish.

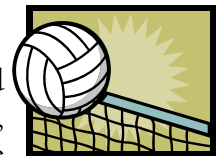
Look out, teens in grades 6-12! We are planning an exciting year and want you to be a part of this great ministry!

All hands on deck! We are starting off the year by committing to help prepare for our Annual Greek Food Festival. We need you to help bake our delicious pastries and make our awesome dolmades and pasticio! The dates are listed in John Koutsulis' Festival article, so mark your calendars now! Parents: Your teens can't drive yet, so it is up to you to bring them. Since there is a price crunch for gas, let's consider carpooling. If there is a will, there is a way!

We will not have any youth activities during the month of September due to the Festival. On Saturday, October 11 we will have our annual Red Rock Hike from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Details will be forthcoming as we get closer.

Lastly, we will coordinate a meeting to elect new officers; please keep an eye out for the date. The new Senior GOYA (9th-12th grade) Advisors are Eileen Koutsulis 521-6516 and Effie Lekar 768-5500. The Junior GOYA (6th-8th grade) Advisors are Tami Stefanatos 491-2713 and Tammy Chomakos 338-4671. If you are interested in joining or have any questions please call us.

GOYA Volleyball Tournament



On May 30, 10 of our GOYAns met at the Church with several parents and siblings to receive Father John's blessing before leaving for our road trip to the Pasadena, California community of St. Anthony's for the GOYA Volleyball Tournament. The drive was great and we got to our hotel early enough that the kids had time to enjoy the indoor swimming pool. We also surprised our GOYA Advisor, Effie Lekar, with a birthday cake at poolside.

On Saturday morning the kids were up early and ready for a day of volleyball. Father Peter Stratos from St. Anthony Church led us in prayer and singing *Christos Anesti* before the games began. There were about 150 GOYAns from all over Southern California. We were the only team from out of the area and we were greeted warmly and with enthusiasm. The weather was beautiful and we all enjoyed meeting new people and visiting with old friends throughout the day. Our team, under the outstanding coaching of Amanda Flangas, ended up in a three-way tie for 4th place, though we didn't make it into the playoffs. Not bad results for our first time and for a team that only had a few practices. After a day of volleyball, we attended a dinner at St. Anthony's, followed by an enjoyable dance with both Greek and American music.

We attended Church services on Sunday at St. Anthony's and our teens were invited to join the middle school class. Our hats off to Eileen Koutsulis for teaching our group, because they knew all the answers to the teacher's review questions. She told our teens that they were welcome in her class anytime – even to teach! Everyone had such a wonderful time in competition and in fellowship with other Greek Orthodox youth from our Metropolis. We can't wait to go back next year and hopefully with a larger group. Tina Liaos

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
FOLK DANCE MINISTRY
GREEK FOLK DANCE GROUPS
REGISTRATION FORM 2008-2009
(One Registration Form Required per Dancer)

Dancer's Name _____

Address _____

City _____, Nevada Zip Code _____

Phone: _____
Home Cell

Email: _____

| |
|-------------------------------|
| Would like to participate in: |
| ___ Dance |
| ___ Youth Choir |
| ___ Both |

Age Requirements: Must be at least 5 years old as of December 31, 2008.

Birth Date _____ Age _____

Father's Name _____ Mother's Name _____

I understand and accept the following requirements for participation in the St. John Folk Dance Ministry:

1. The dancer must be a communicant of the Greek Orthodox Church.
2. The parent(s) must be a Steward of Record in St. John Church for 2008 before the first dance practice and for 2009 by January 1, 2009.
3. All Dancers MUST ATTEND Divine Liturgy on Sunday on a regular basis. Those who are of age (5-17) MUST be a regular participant of Church School.
4. All dancers must arrive to practice ON TIME and be RESPECTFUL.
5. The dancer/parent(s) agree to meet all financial responsibilities assigned to the participants by the Folk Dance Ministry of St. John and FDF.
6. Directors will determine which dancers qualify for competition at FDF 2009 by November 15, 2008. Signed registration form and \$50 fee must be received by the registration deadline of JULY 15, 2008. All previous dancers MUST re-register.

A NON-REFUNDABLE REGISTRATION FEE OF \$50.00 PER DANCER IS DUE, PAYABLE TO ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH. PLEASE WRITE FOLK DANCE GROUP IN THE MEMO.

Received on _____ Check # _____ Cash _____

This year, the 2009 Folk Dance Festival will be February 12-15, 2009 in Ontario, California. For information on all St. John Folk Dance Groups, please contact Tina Liaos at (702) 492-7217 or email Jtlia@aol.com, or the Church at (702) 221-8245.

Signature of Dancer/ Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian/Date

Greek Folk Dance

REGISTRATION - Greek Folk Dance registration is now officially open for 2008-2009. We had around 80 dancers registered last year and we couldn't be more pleased with how our Greek Folk Dance program has grown. Registration is open to everyone from age 5 (must be 5 years old by December 31, 2008) and up. Practice will begin toward the latter part of August. Those registered will be notified prior to the first practice. In addition, placement in each dance group will be determined based on enrollment numbers and age of the dancers. A signed registration form and \$50 fee must be received by the registration deadline of **July 15, 2008**. All previous dancers **must** re-register. We will stick to our deadline this year so that we can form the groups prior to the first practice. Late registrations will not be accepted for any of the groups. A registration form can be found on page 9 of *The Desert Messenger*. If you should need additional forms or would like more information, please contact Tina Liaos at (702) 492-7217 or via email at Jtlia@aol.com. We will be holding a mandatory parent/dancer meeting in early September at a date to be determined.

GREEK DANCE WORKSHOP - Due to the overwhelming success of our Greek Dance Workshop held over Veteran's Day weekend last year, we are going to hold a workshop again this year, which is tentatively planned for **November 7-9**. We will hold our *Glendi on Saturday, November 8*, so mark your calendars now and save that date!

RUMMAGE SALE - We will be holding our annual rummage sale on **Saturday, October 25** in Kokkos Hall, so hold onto those discards. We'll be happy to take them off your hands in the fall, before your holiday cleaning. Tina Liaos and the Folk Dance Board

Greek Food Festival 2008

Come one, come all! The dates have been set for baking all our delicious Greek food and pastries that so many people look forward to eating all year. If you always wanted to learn how to make these wonderful culinary delights of our heritage, please come and volunteer. Sam Koutsulis will head the Pasticio and Dolmades, and Marina Adamy will coordinate all Pastry events. Please show your support.

The schedule is as follows:

Saturday, July 19, 8:30 am-2:00 pm - Koulourakia

Saturday, July 26, 8:30 am-4:00 pm - Kourambeithes and Melomakarona

Monday, August 18, 7:30 am - Pasticio

Tuesday, August 19, 7:30 am - Pasticio

Wednesday, August 20, 9:00 am - Bougatsa (Custard Dessert)

Saturday, August 23, 9:00 am - Diples (Deep Fried Pastry)

Wednesday, August 27, 9:00 am - Bougatsa

Friday, August 29, 10:00 am (after Liturgy) - Dolmades

Saturday, August 30, 7:30 am - Dolmades

Wednesday, September 3, 9:00 am - Syrup

Friday, September 5, 9:00 am - Karithopita (Walnut Cake)

Saturday, September 6, 9:00 am - Karithopita (Walnut Cake)

Friday, September 12, 9:00 am - Karithopita (Walnut Cake)

Mark your calendars for our Food Festival meetings: July 11, July 21, August 5 and August 25 all meetings start at 6:00 pm.

We would like to reach out to everyone to step forward and offer your time to insure we have a successful Festival. We will help you feel comfortable, confident and welcomed in whichever area you volunteer. We still have a few exciting positions available, so please feel free to contact me.

In Christ, John Koutsulis, 2008 Festival Chairman



"All things are possible to him who believes." ~Mark 9:23

Stewardship Report: “Commit to Christ”

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|
| <u>2008 Stewardship Status (June 15, 2008):</u> | Stewardship Target – 2008 | \$470,500 |
| Stewardship Families Pledged 450 | Stewardship Gifts Pledged | \$348,984 |
| Stewardship Gifts Received \$183,085 | Current Stewardship Deficit | \$121,516 |
| Average Stewardship Pledge \$775.52 | Percentage of Goal Achieved | 74.17% |

| <u>Pledge Range</u> | <u>Number of Families</u> | <u>\$ & % of Gifts Pledged</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| \$1-\$999 | 334 | \$119,204 – 34.16% |
| \$1000-\$2499 | 94 | \$120,840 – 34.62% |
| \$2500-and higher | 22 | \$108,940 – 31.22% |

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Our 2008 Stewardship Drive continues running slightly behind last year’s pace. As of June 15, we have the same number of families pledged as last year, however, the total gifts pledged is running \$8,807 behind.

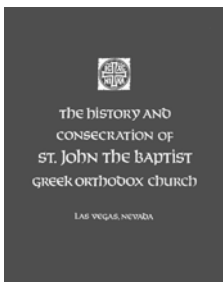
The three T’s of Stewardship – time, talents and treasures – together with the grace of our Lord are what make His Church flourish. Every one of us has a certain amount of time to live this life, we are all endowed with many talents and each one of us is granted by our Lord a certain amount of treasures. The Lord’s Church will continue to exist in spite of us, but we, the Body of the Church, can truly make it grow to His Glory, if we lovingly apply our God given time, talents and treasures to Him.

Orthodox Christians who prayerfully understand their vocation as stewards also engage in reflection about the use of their talents. Talents are the most wonderful of gifts, because they are from God and all of us have them. Whether our gifts are obvious or hidden, we are called on to discern our talents and put them to use in building up the Kingdom of God. Be it the ability to use calligraphy to create lovely cards and signs, the gift of a beautiful voice to praise God in worship, the talent of working patiently with our children as they learn the depth of our Orthodox faith, or our education as writers, teachers, accountants, administrators and lawyers – we all have talents.

We are all different, and so are the talents we can offer the Lord through the Church; all of these talents are necessary for the Body of Christ to function properly. As St. Paul clearly tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:14-18: *“For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.”* It is up to each one of us to make the commitment to give back to the Lord a portion of what he has granted us. Again, in the words of St. Paul in his Letter to Titus (3:14): *“And let our people learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.”*

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, won’t you take a moment to give back some of your time, talents and treasures to the Lord? I hope and pray that we will all continue to put forth our best efforts to serve the Him. May everything we do be for His Glory – Δόξα Σοι ο Θεός.

With Love in Christ, John G. Karas (702) 219-5057, Stewardship Chairman



Now Available . . . The History and Consecration of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church!

This beautiful, 9X12 hard-bound burgundy linen cover Historical Album includes:

- *Text and photos of all the services and events of the Consecration of St. John*
- *The history and family photo album of our parish, including baptisms*
- *2 DVD videos of the June 5, 2005 Consecration Service*

. . . All for \$100 donation! Pick up your Album at the Church Office or Bookstore.

2008 Parish Stewards and Contributors: "Commit to Christ"

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Adamy, Marina | Cominos, Ted and Emily | George, Pete and Georgia | Kourafas, Chris and Trish |
| Agnos, Dimitrios and Angeline | Conger, William and Alexia | Georgis, John and Kaliopi | Kouretas, Daniel |
| Alex, Jim and Renee | Constantine, Bill | Gialketsis, Babe and Terry | Kouretas, Demetri and Amanda |
| Alexander, Eleni | Constantinou, Magdaline | Gialketsis, Barbara | Kouretas, Nick † and Valdean |
| Alexis, Georgia | Coroneos, Marika | Gialketsis, Bill and Shelli | Kourlos, Georgia |
| Andraktos, Manuel | Costuras, George and Marsha | Gialketsis, Julie | Koutsulis, John and Eileen |
| Andrews, Andrew | Cotsilis, Peter and Jenny | Gialketsis, Steve | Koutsulis, Sam and Effie |
| Andrews, Catherine | Coutris, Angela | Gianniosis, John and Amanda | Kover, Barbara |
| Andrews, Presv. Helen | Dalacas, Anthony and Eugenia | Giouzelis, Anastasia | Kratky, Frank |
| Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette | Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia | Goddard, Elizabeth | Kypreos, George |
| Apostolopoulos, Chris and Katia | Dalacas, Eleni | Goldman, Love | Kypreos, Peter and Geri |
| Arcamuzi, Georgia | Dalacas, Nick and Georgia | Gortsilas, Nikolas and Stefania | Kyprianou, Gilbert and Alexis |
| Aristides, George and Diana | Davis, Jared | Gorup, Anton and Sofia | Lakis, Antoinette |
| Arsoniadis, Juliana | DeCarlo, Frank and Nadine | Gousdovas, Nikos and Phyllis | Lambiris, Justin and Amy |
| Asim, Demetrios | Delalis, Dina | Grillas, Vasilios and Roula | Latelle, George and Penny |
| Athens, Ann | Delalis, Pete and Alysondra | Gruber, Ernest and Zoe | Lawrence, Vicki |
| Attard, Constantine and Sofia | Demangus, Robert and Joanne | Haddad, Zeyad and Alisar | Layton, Julia |
| Austin, Christopher and Athanasia | Demas-Goodin, Maria | Hadzoglon, Christos and Barbara | Lazarakis, John and Panagiota |
| Bakalas, Estella | Demolas, Ilias and Jodi | Hallis, Louis and Betty | Lechner, Sofia |
| Balason, Anna | Demolas, Maria | Hamilton, Mary | Lekar, Michael and Effie |
| Balason, Voula | Demoleas, Grace and Spero | Hamilton, Paul and Brandi | Leone, Stephen |
| Baldwin, Richard and Vivi | Demoleas, Stephanie | Hardge, Dion and Zoe | Leonis, Nick and Sofia |
| Balodimas, Dr. James | Demopoulos, Tommy and Vasiliki | Haritopoulos, Douglas | Leonis, Tishe |
| Bariames, George and Athans, Eleni | Dennis, John | Harris, Melty and Angeline | Leventis, Nicholas and Christina |
| Barngrover, Andrew † and Kathleen | Depelchin, Serge and Melissa | Harrison, Angie | Lewis, Foula |
| Bartzos, Sam and Eugenia | Dervis, Irene | Hart, Russell and Dora | Liaos, Jim and Tina |
| Bauck, Jeremy and Amy | DeWindt, Dennis and Susan | Hastings, Audra | Liaos, Steven and Francine |
| Bayiatis, Nick and Lorree | Diamantis, Filippos | Hastings, Teri | Liaos, William and Irene |
| Berendji, Jim and Vivian | Disbrow, Dora | Hernquist, Jim † and Angela | Likourinou, Angie |
| Berta, Irene | Dominguez, Eric and Amalia | Hetzal, David | Likourinou, Steve and June |
| Bicos, Adriana | Doppe, Victoria | Hondros, Christina | Luckey, Jason and Shawna |
| Bieker-Grissom, Georgea | Dornin, Christopher and Marcella | Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria | Lymberopoulos, Mary |
| Bigler III, Louis B. | Dougan, Linda | Hoover, Patrick and Pauline | Makris, Apostolos |
| Bingham, Georgia | Doukakis, Panagiotis and Chrisi | Howard, Willie B. | Malamatos, Kindina |
| Bledsoe, Lori | Dounis, Dina | Howe, Kiparissia | Maland, Tim and Donna |
| Bochanis, George | Dounis, Georgia | Iracleanos, Sonia | Malpee, Mack and Kalliope |
| Borzekas, Stephen and Katharina | Dounis, Kiki | Jacobs, Joseph | Mamasis, Dena |
| Bratta, Georgene | Dudanakis, Michael | Kachikis, Paul and Ernestine | Mamasis, Tessie |
| Brilis, Christie | Economys, Peter | Kakavulias, Christine | Manakides, Tom and Ginger |
| Brilis, George and Satoko | Eliades, Aristotelis | Kakavulias, George and Helen | Manolakos, Catherine |
| Britten, Ronald and Carol | Eliades, Artemis | Kakavulias, John | Manos, Patrica |
| Brown, Andrew and Christina | Eliades, Gregory and Maria | Kakavulias, Maria | Maragos, Constance |
| Brown, Faye | Eliades, Harry and Agapi | Kalkas, John and Rena | Markakis, Mike and Catherine |
| Bucy, Brent and Elaine | Eliades, Peter and Janet | Kalmantis, George | Marlas, Louis and Vivien |
| Cahill, Michael and Irene | Eliakis, John and Atsuko | Kane, Irene | Martinek, Richard and Esther |
| Campbell, Ann | Eliakis, Peter and Glenda | Kanellis, Ann | Matsis, John and Rebecca |
| Campbell, Theodore and Cheryl | Eliakis, Varthie and Lee Ann | Kanoles, Helene | Matsukas, George |
| Capadalis, Tim and Marling | Eliopulos, Goldie | Kanoles, Konstantine | Matsukas, John and Ariadne |
| Captain, Nicholas and Maria | Exarhos, Nick and Sharon | Karacostas, Alice | Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki |
| Carabas, Stephen and Linda | Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean | Karagines, Peter and Linda | Mavroidis, Demetri and Debra |
| Carabas, Thymios and Sotiroulla | Eyler, Jesse and Dianna | Karalis, Gianni and April | Mavros, Michael and Debbie |
| Carabas, Yorghos | Eyler, John and Elizabeth | Karas, James | Mazzetti, Tess |
| Caredis, Jon and Marjorie | Falcone, Frank and Nancy | Karas, John and Marcie | McNear, Elizabeth |
| Carrico, William and Alexandra | Fanandakis, George and Helen | Karas, Vasiliki | McPherson, Robert and Marie |
| Carson, Michele | Filios, George and Nitsa | Karvounidis, Nick and Alexandra | Menegatos, Jim and Dana |
| Carter, Maria | Filios, Spiridon and Eleni | Katris, Nick and Kathryn | Mezilson, Evangeline |
| Cero, Dean | Flangas, Bill and Marilyn | Katsanevas, Nick and Mary | Michelas, Michael |
| Chachas, Bessie | Flangas, Gary and Amanda | Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon | Mikelis, Peter |
| Chachas, James | Flangas, Gus and Tamara | Katsikakis, Evangelos | Miller, Mary |
| Chaltas, Barbara † | Flangas, Peter and Wanda | Kelly, Tess | Millet, Jennie |
| Chandrinos, Alexia | Fokas, Elene | Khoury, Ray and Nicole | Milonas, George |
| Chandrinos, Ricki | Foskaris, Nicholas and Dana | Kilgore, Richard and Eleni | Milonas, Henry † |
| Chanos, George | Foskaris, Thomas and Iryna | Kleanthis, George and Zanetta | Miralles, Jean |
| Chanos, Jennifer | Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia | Knoblock, Jamie and Laurie | Mirich, Kyle and Melissa |
| Chomakos, Christopher and Kary | Frangakis, Costa | Kokenes, Katherine | Moffett, Todd and Eliopulos, Tina |
| Chomakos, Dean and Tammy | Frangakis, John | Koliambas, Eleni | Molina, Patricia |
| Chomakos, George and Nikki | Frangopulu, Christina | Kolinas, Claire | Monoyudis, Jim and Julie |
| Christou, Andreas and Toni | Frantzen, Robert and Margery | Konsolakis-Garcia, Eleni | Montisano, Jon and Jennifer |
| Chumas, Russell and Stella | Franzi, Jack | Kostas, Maria | Morgan, Brian and Adrienne |
| Ciulla, Anthony and Kleri | Fuson, Aglaia | Kostin, George and Mihaela | Mulopulos, George |
| Cole, Darrick and Carla | Gear, Darius and Bessie | Kostopoulos, George † and Georgia | Murphy, Karen and Terry |
| Collins, David | George, Elias | Kotonias, George and Patricia | Myers, Stella |
| Collins, James and Barbara | George, Louis | Kountanis, Dennis and Pat | Nadzan, Don and Athena |

Orthodox Bookstore

“We know that not everyone who is baptized makes it successfully to heaven; not everyone who enters by the narrow door steadfastly walks the narrow path. (See *Matt 7:13-14*). Baptism is no guarantee that will ascend into heaven. A good beginning does not absolutely ensure a good ending! Indeed, the danger always exists that we may become useless servants who think of themselves as having been worthy of the gift of baptism, but have not at all guarded their covenant with Him.



“This being the case, then, we must take seriously the direction and focus of our lives. As Jesus warns: *Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’ shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in Heaven.’*

“But how can we ascend to God? How do we begin? This is Step One. According to St. John (of the Ladder), to begin our heaven bound journey, we must purposely turn our backs on the world as our primary interest and concern.”

This is an excerpt from *Ascending the Heights: A Layman’s Guide to the Ladder of Divine Ascent*, which is available at your Bookstore.

Until next month (GW) ~ **ICXC NIKA, Costa Frangakis, Director**

2008 Parish Stewards and Contributors: “Commit to Christ”

Neocleous, Plato
 Newell, Eric and Devona
 Newell, Ronald and Maria
 Niarkos, Evgenia
 Nichlas, Arthur
 Nicholas, James and Myrna
 Nicholas, John and Estella
 Nickolson, Chloe
 Nikitas, Rigas and Aphrodite
 Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra
 Nikolopoulos, Peter and Pelagia
 Nikols, George and Christine
 Nikols, Rita
 O’Brien, William and Chris
 Olmsted, Travis and Marilyn
 Orlando, Alleck and Jennifer
 Ostis, Sotirios
 Ozun, Michelle
 Pandelis, Cheryl
 Pantelas, Anne and Hemmers, Oliver
 Pantos, James
 Papas, Christian
 Papas, Louis and Magaly
 Papas, Nick and Pauline
 Papas, Peter and Rita
 Pappas, Adrian and Diane
 Pappas, Antonia
 Pappas, Constantine and Karina
 Pappas, Peter and Libby
 Pappas, Rita
 Paschalis, Evangelos and Maria
 Payan, Luis and Eleni
 Payne, Peter
 Pearson, Jeff and Adrienne
 Pendelton, Patricia
 Pentogenis, Michael and Katherine
 Peronis, Fay
 Petas, Randy and Galea, Shirley
 Peterson, Barbara
 Peterson, Tessie †
 Peterson, Todd and Koutsulis, Diane
 Petro, Aleko and Georgia

Philoppou, Demetrios and Luanne
 Piña, Jose and Doris
 Platis, Anna
 Plentzas, Spiros and Ruth
 Polimerou, Angeline
 Poulos, Christine
 Poulsen, Nicholas and Brenda
 Pouridis, Kouli and Para
 Prather, Moses and Dina †
 Prokopis, Chris and Ritsa
 Prud’homme, Edwin and Penny
 Pullano, Rena
 Radosta, Athena
 Ramadanis, Constantinos
 Raptis, Fr. Dean and Presv. Evonne
 Rifakes, John and Carol
 Rigas, Anthony and Mary
 Robison, Diane
 Robison, Patricia
 Rodes, Anne
 Rodis, Dimitri and Jennifer
 Rodis, George and Litsa
 Rodis, Sophia
 Rouvas, John and Keri
 Rumanes, Nicholas
 Salon, Nicholas and Janelle
 Salvarlis, Thomas
 Santumo, Alfred and Tamarak
 Savas, Christina
 Sawyer, Gerry and Chrysanthé
 Scott, Ann
 Sechrist, Carl & Christine
 Serpentine, Athanasia
 Setian, Gary and Marie
 Simos, Elias
 Sirhan, Michael and Khurf, Imtisal
 Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia
 Skandros, Georgia
 Skarlatos, Stilianos and Leopard,
 Jennifer
 Skerbetz, Frank
 Smith, Kathleen

Smyth, Brendan and Georgia
 Snow, Clifford and Christina
 Snowden, Robert and Niki
 Soper, Bobby and Maria
 Sotira, Dhimitra
 Spanopoulos, Elias
 Sparangis, Spyro and Eleni
 Sparkuhl, Alex
 Spotti, Peter and Alexandra
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 Stamis, George and Effie
 Stankevich, Yura
 Stavropoulos, Bessie
 Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki
 Stefanatos, Michael and Tami
 Stefanatos-Hetzel, Joanne
 Stephanos, Stanley and Aspasia
 Stika, Arthur and Melinda
 Stock, Lincoln and Helen
 Struzas, Maria
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 Szukiewicz, Joseph and Jennia
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 Stephanie
 Tafoya, Steven and Irene
 Tahiraj, Genci
 Takas, Andrea
 Taxiarchos, Andrew and Alexandra
 Taxopoulos, Bryan
 Taylor, Frederick and Katherine
 Teed, Charles
 Tesfamariam, Senait
 Theros, James
 Thomas, Angie
 Thompson, Maggy
 Tohme, Tony and May
 Touroutoglou, Nikolaos
 Triffon, Cathy
 Tsolis, Christos and Pangioula
 Tsolis, George
 Tsouras, Christopher and Diane
 Tsouras, George

Tsouras, Helen
 Turman, Lucas and Maria
 Vasos, Maria
 Vassiliadis, Athena
 Vavoukakis, Gus and Penelope
 Vergos, Charles and Eve
 Vervilos, James and Anna
 Vinieratos, Aristotalis and Spridoula
 Vino, Joseph and Christy
 Wallach, Rinaki
 Walter, Vernon and Alice
 Walters, Lane and Mary
 Waters, Gary and Susan
 Weisman, Phil and Diane
 White, William
 Wiedemann, John and Denise
 Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina
 Willey, Anthony
 Wilson, Clyde
 Wilson, Kelly Caplanis
 Wilson, Steven and Cleopatra
 Wirtz, Aphrodite
 Wirtz, Athena
 Womack, Karl
 Womack, Kimberly
 Woods, Kevin and Deborah
 Wronski, Chuck
 Xikis, Victoria
 Zaferatos, Ted and Jackie
 Zafiroopoulos, John
 Zarras, Nick and Chery
 Zimmerman, Paul and Angela
 Zoitopoulos, Dimitros and Pam
 Zoumboulis, James and Tina

“I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ.”
 ~1 Cor inthians 11:3

JULY 2008 - IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
|---|---|--|------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| | | 1 Fr. John on Vacation July 1-10, at National Clergy-Laity July 11-18, and on Vacation July 19-August 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 Independence Day Church Office Closed 6:00 pm AHEPA 4th of July Picnic at Church Grounds | 5 |
| 6 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm OCLV at Steve Tzelalis' Home | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 6:00 pm Festival Planning Meeting | 12 |
| 13 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy | 14 | 15 Folk Dance Registration Deadline | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 7:00 am Festival Baking: Koulourakia |
| 20 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy | 21 6:00 pm Festival Planning Meeting | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 7:00 am Festival Baking: Kourambeithes and Melomakarona |
| 27 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

AUGUST 2008 - IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos Fast of the Theotokos: August 1-14 | 2 |
| 3 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy | 4 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos | 5 6:00 pm Festival Planning Meeting | 6 Holy Transfiguration of Our Savior 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos | 7 | 8 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos | 9 |
| 10 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Youth Choir Rehearsal after Liturgy | 11 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos | 12 | 13 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos | 14 6:00 pm Great Vespers of the Dormition | 15 Dormition of the Theotokos 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy Youth Choir Chants | 16 |
| 17 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy | 18 7:30 am Festival Baking: Pasticcio 6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting | 19 7:30 am Festival Baking: Pasticcio | 20 9:00 am Festival Baking: Bougatsa | 21 | 22 | 23 9:00 am Festival Baking: Diples 10:00 am OFF Hike at Mt. Charleston |
| 24 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 31 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy | 25 6:00 pm Festival Planning Meeting | 26 | 27 9:00 am Festival Baking: Bougatsa | 28 | 29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Festival Baking: Dolmades | 30 7:30 am Festival Baking: Dolmades |

The Desert Messenger

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THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord



*You preserved your virginity
in birth-giving;
you did not forsake the world in
your falling-asleep, O Theotokos.
You have passed to life,
being the Mother of Life,
and through your intercessions
deliver our souls from death.
~Apolytikion for the
Dormition of the Theotokos*