

# The Desert



# Messenger

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

*Volume 7, Issue 3 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV*

*March 2009*

**From  
Father  
John**

Beloved in Christ:

*“Let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light,  
that having sailed across the great sea of the Fast, we may reach the third-day Resurrection of our Lord...”  
(Aposticha, Vespers, Sunday of Forgiveness)*

This month, on March 2, we begin our voyage on the great sea of the Fast, known as Lent. By God’s grace, as a parish we are doing so for the fiftieth year, for in March 1959 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church was officially established. For over two-thousand years Christians have been fasting in preparation for the annual commemoration of the Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. The Las Vegas community joined in with other Orthodox Christian Churches around the world a mere fifty years ago in the traditional fast of this season, when a handful of faithful people (who undoubtedly were guided by the Holy Spirit) made the crucial decision to unite and bring in a priest so that they might keep alive this faith more precious than gold – celebrating the ancient services, participating in the holy mysteries, chanting the beloved hymns, venerating the icons, lighting the paschal candle, and breaking the fast with a community feast.

The Great Fast provides, as the above hymn indicates, an opportunity for all of us who received the garment of incorruption on the day of our baptism to “cast off the works of darkness” that have since soiled our souls and, through abstaining from sin as well as particular foods, to put on again “the armor of light,” so that we may be victors in Christ. For the Fast to be fruitful, however, we must arm ourselves with the proper spiritual weaponry: prayer, repentance and confession, daily reading of the Holy Bible, the giving of alms, frequent participation in the Lenten services and particularly in the Holy Eucharist. The forty-day Lenten season was developed in ancient times to prepare catechumens in the Christian faith for their baptism on the Feast of our Lord’s Resurrection – through instruction, prayer, fasting, confession and, yes, even exorcisms. Those already illumined – namely, baptized – in the Faith joined in the *askesis* (spiritual exercise) of the season as a means of renewing their souls in preparation for Pascha.

In our contemporary times, absorbed as we are in a high-tech and secular society, we may find such ancient practices rather impractical, unnecessarily time-consuming and even outdated – questioning the need for such an extreme fast, attending Church services during the week after a busy day at school or work, confessing to a priest, helping those in need when we are barely scraping by, making time for daily prayers and holy readings when time rarely permits for us to truly connect (apart from cell phones or text-messaging) with our spouses, children or family members. However, Lent challenges us to rethink and revisit what we have allowed to consume us, to get the right priorities back in place and to invite the Lord to sanctify each day. There is a reason this holy season was developed . . . that our founding parish members established a Greek Orthodox Church during Lent fifty years ago . . . and that we, as faithful members of the Church, must again voyage the great sea of the Fast – we *need* it!

As the beloved children of God in Las Vegas, let us all together get on board the ship this Lenten season and allow the wind of the Holy Spirit to direct us toward the heavenly port that has opened to us again by the great love and mercy of God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Love in Christ,

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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

**Sunday, March 1/ *Cheesefare (Forgiveness)/  
 Holy Martyr Evdokia***

Orthros: Tone Four  
 Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:1-12  
 Epistle: Romans 13:11-14, 14:1-4  
 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

**Monday, March 2/ *1st Day of Lent/Clean Monday***  
*Abstain from meat and dairy for 40 days*

6:30 pm Great Compline

**Wednesday, March 4**

6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy

**Friday, March 6**

7:00 pm 1st Salutations to the Theotokos

**Saturday, March 7/ *3rd Saturday of Souls/  
 Miracle of St. Theodore***

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10  
 Gospel: Mark 2:23-28, 3:1-2  
*Memorial follows Liturgy*

**Sunday, March 8/ *1st Sunday of Lent/  
 Triumph of Orthodoxy***

Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)  
 Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:13-35  
 Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40  
 Gospel: John 1:44-52

*Procession of Icons follows Liturgy*

6:00 pm Lenten Vespers at St. Michael

**Monday, March 9**

6:30 pm Great Compline

**Wednesday, March 11**

6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy

**Friday, March 13**

7:00 pm 2nd Salutations to the Theotokos

**Sunday, March 15/ *2nd Sunday of Lent/  
 St. Gregory Palamas***

Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)  
 Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:36-53  
 Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-14, 2:1-3  
 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12  
 6:00 pm Lenten Vespers at St. Paul the Apostle

**Monday, March 16**

6:30 pm Great Compline

**Wednesday, March 18**

6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy

**Friday, March 20**

7:00 pm 3rd Salutations to the Theotokos

**Sunday, March 22/ *3rd Sunday of Lent/  
 Veneration of the Holy Cross***

*Procession of Holy Cross at Doxology*

Orthros: Tone Seven (Grave)

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

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-18, 5:1-6

Gospel: Mark 8:34-38, 9:1

6:00 pm Lenten Vespers at St. John the Baptist

**Monday, March 23**

6:30 pm Great Compline

**Wednesday, March 25/ *Annunciation to the  
 Theotokos (Fish and wine permitted today)***

8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Hebrews 2:1-18

Gospel: Luke 1:24-38

**Friday, March 27**

7:00 pm 4th Salutations to the Theotokos

**Sunday, March 29/ *4th of Lent/St. John Climacos***

Orthros: Tone Eight (Fourth Plagal)

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

Epistle: Hebrew 6:13-20

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

6:00 pm Lenten Vespers at St. Simeon

**Monday, March 30**

6:30 pm Great Compline

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos  
 will visit our parish on  
 Saturday, April 11 for Great Vespers at 6:00 pm  
 and Sunday, April 12 to celebrate the holy services  
 of Palm Sunday Morning (Orthros at 8:45 am and  
 the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am)  
 and Evening (1st Bridegroom Service at 7:00 pm).

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight." ~Proverbs 3:5

**President's  
Column**

It gives me great pleasure to report our efforts of the Parish Council. I and other Parish Council Members attended the Metropolis of San Francisco Parish Council Training Seminar in Phoenix, AZ on January 24. We took a lot of valuable information from the seminar and hope to apply it to our goals of having a successful year in 2009.

The Parish Council has worked diligently on our affairs for 2009; the budget and managing our finances is the utmost priority of the Parish Council. Our Treasurer, Spiros Filios, has spent countless hours on our financial affairs as the Church finances are going to take priority over all matters. You can be assured we shall make the appropriate actions to ensure our financial well being. Again, I would like to stress the importance of collecting pledged stewardship donations and expanding membership; fundraisers are also a vital source of monies for Church operations.

We welcome anyone to present ideas or concerns to the Parish Council at our monthly meetings; please call me in advance so we can put you on the calendar.

Congratulations to Presvytera Maria and the Youth Choir for receiving the FDF Sweepstakes Award, as well as Bessie Stavropoulos, all the instructors and dancers for all the awards they received. A job well done.

Once again, I welcome any suggestions from our community. I can be reached at (702) 378-7700 or at [peterkypreos@yahoo.com](mailto:peterkypreos@yahoo.com). Thank you for your continued support.

Peter Kypreos, Parish Council President

*Financial Status for Month of January 2009*

<u>Bank Accounts</u>	<u>Beginning Balance as of 12.31.08</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Internal Bank Transfers Transfers In</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>	<u>Balances as of 1.31.09</u>
General Operating	\$4,099.34	\$72,102.66	\$55,220.13		\$17,000.00	\$3,981.87
Building/Maintenance	\$35,152.54	\$755.81				\$35,908.35
Community/Education Ctr	\$4,316.41	\$1,500.00	\$1,898.48			\$3,917.93
Construction (Loan Paymts)	\$42,767.66		\$5,241.18			\$37,526.48
Food Festival	(\$16,978.55)	\$377.14		\$17,000.00		\$398.59
Icon Money Market	\$4,913.93	\$1,855.41	\$38.00			\$6,731.34
Library Checking	\$17,451.83	\$2.87				\$17,454.70
Construction Loan	\$706,383.14					\$704,857.97
Revolving Line of Credit	\$71,074.98					\$71,074.98

**Daughters of Penelope**

The Daughters of Penelope are hosting a Cheesefare Luncheon on *Sunday, March 1*.

Large homemade Tiropites and Spanakopites with salad will be served. Cost is \$5 per person; all proceeds will help fund charitable projects. Please join us. Julie Benincasa

"He who guards his mouth preserves his life." ~Proverbs 13:3

**50th Anniversary: 'A Golden Heritage'**

To my dear fellow Parishioners:

I am honored to have been newly appointed as chairwoman for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of our beloved St. John the Baptist Church. Regretfully, Catherine Markakis needs to step down from this position but will continue to work closely with me and the other dedicated committee members. I thank her for her work on getting things started.

2009 is a historic year for our community and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is a golden opportunity for all of us – children, parents, aunts, uncles, yiayias, papous, koumbari and friends – to celebrate together our rich past, present and future. Please save the date for our celebration: *October 17-18*.

We are working hard to create several enjoyable events for all of us. Please watch for more information in your *Desert Messenger*. The monthly fellowship luncheons will continue as fundraisers toward this event, and we look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any questions please call me at (702) 367-1772. Rena Kalkas, Chairwoman, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

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

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

Rev. Father John Hondros

Karen Rawlinson  
Administrative Assistant

Maria Kakavulias  
Business Administrator

Janice Leavitt  
Facilities and Catering Manager

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

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fjohn@vegasgreekorthodox.com  
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Parish Council: Peter Kypreos

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 and Eileen Koutsulis

Junior GOYA:  
Tami Stefanatos  
Tammy Chomakos

HOPE and JOY:  
Jennifer Orlando  
Sharon Katsaros

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, Director

Orthodox Bookstore:  
Costa Frangakis

50th Anniversary Celebration:  
Rena Kalkas

**Philoptochos  
News**

A special thanks to everyone who participated and supported our February Kids & Cancer effort; the Sunday collection baskets, the Fellowship, and a generous donation allowed us to contribute over \$1,500 to this program. WOW!

Both Lent and spring are upon us, and with this comes many activities and commitments:

- *Monday, March 2* - Lent begins.
- *Tuesday, March 17* - Our General Meeting at 7:00 pm in Kokkos Hall. At this meeting we will continue to nominate individuals for the 2009-2011 Philoptochos Board. All names will be submitted to the Nominating Committee. We will also be participating in a *Lenten Hands-On Project*.
- *Sunday, March 22* - Philoptochos be hosting its *Sunday of the Cross Fellowship* and also work with the Parish Council to host the *Vespers Fellowship Dinner* that evening for all of the Orthodox Churches in the area

You do not have to be a member to partake in the activities that support these events; we welcome all and encourage your participation. See you at the next meeting.

Amalia Dominguez and the Philoptochos Board

"A gentle tongue is a tree of life." ~Proverbs 15:4

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**March 1**

**Ushers:** George Nikols, Gary Waters, John Karas, Angela Coutris, Peter Papas, Pete Kypreos  
**Fellowship:** Daughters of Penelope

**March 8**

**Ushers:** Marina Adamy, Spiros Filios, William Carrico, Sam Koutsulis, George Kakavulias, George Nikols  
**Memorial:** Sofia Kalfas (40 days), Paul Lewis (40 days)  
**Fellowship:** Pan-Arcadians to Benefit Iconography Fund

**March 15**

**Ushers:** John Karas, Angela Coutris, Pete Kypreos, George Bochanis, Gary Waters, Peter Papas  
**Memorials:** Eleni Shinas (40 days); Ana (1 year) and Andreas Kokkinou  
**Fellowship:** 50th Anniversary Fundraiser

**March 22**

**Ushers:** William Carrico, Sam Koutsulis, George Kakavulias, George Nikols, Spiros Filios, Marina Adamy  
**Memorial:** Bessie Gear (40 days)  
**Fellowship:** Philoptochos - Sunday of the Cross

**March 29**

**Ushers:** George Bochanis, Peter Papas, John Karas, Pete Kypreos, Gary Waters, Spiros Filios  
**Fellowship:** Orthodox Family Fellowship

**Senior Forerunners**

We celebrated Valentine's Day at our February meeting. The group enjoyed a documentary entitled "Lest They Be Forgotten," about the veterans of WWII, which included an interview with one of our departed members, George Kostopoulos. This film brought back many memories to members of our organization.

We enjoyed a delicious lunch, and then played bingo. Our door prizes and bingo prizes are enjoyed by all who win!

We continue to support the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth, and so at our next meeting which will be St. Patrick's Day, **March 17**, we are asking our members to bring a microwavable food item that we can deliver to the shelter, along with the items that we regularly deliver. The children at the drop in center are *most* appreciative of all the items that we send.

We continue to pray for and visit our members who are ill and shut-in. If you know of a Forerunner who is ill, please let one of the officers know.

Look forward to another afternoon of fun and fellowship. Keep well.

Ruth Plentzas (702) 221-0989

**Greek Food Festival: September 17 ~ 20**

Come one, come all . . . to the second general meeting of the 2009 Greek Food Festival. We are off to a great start and will be reviewing the status of planning for the Festival and areas that will be covered over the next several weeks. Currently we have two bands signed up, *The Greek Company* and *The Levendes*. *The Greek Company* has performed at our Festival in years past and *The Levendes* is a highly acclaimed group that has years of experience in performing at Greek Festivals across the US.

If you are interested, we still have a few openings for booth captains. Please contact me at **(702) 219-5057** if you would be interested in heading up one of the booths or chairing one of the other committees.

All previous Festival chairmen, booth captains and anyone else interested in supporting our wonderful 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Greek Food Festival are encouraged to join us in reviewing plans on **Tuesday, March 31** at 6:30 pm.

John G. Karas, 2009 Food Festival Chairman

*"My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline  
or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord  
reproves him whom He loves."  
~Proverbs 3:11-12*

***Our Community Registry***

***Baptized into Christ : Na Mas Zisoun!***

Theodore Michail, son of Sozos and Aspasia Zachariou, on January 24, 2009.  
Godparents: Anthony Modica and Kristen Perry.

Andrew Thomas, son of Christina Demopoulos, on February 8, 2009.  
Godparent: Maria Tsarouhas.

Gabriella, daughter of Dimitrios and Katherine Demopoulos, on February 8, 2009.  
Godparent: Giorgio Nikolopoulos.

***Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory***

Anastasios Kaltsas on December 22, 2008. Funeral January 27.

Liberty Paxoulou Curtis on January 24, 2009. Funeral on January 30.

Bessie J. Haddad on January 25, 2009. Funeral on January 31.

Sofia Kalfas on January 27, 2009. Funeral on February 2.

Paul Alan Lewis on February 3, 2009. Funeral on February 7.

Bessie Gear on February 14, 2009. Funeral on February 18.

## *Youth Ministries*

### ***Church School***

Hi Everyone! I would like to say to the Dancers and Youth Choir, "Congratulations on FDF!" I hope you had a great time!

Remember: If you have not registered your children, please do so. There are registration forms on the bulletin boards outside the classrooms. Are you interested in knowing what your children are learning? Ask the teachers or see the lesson plans on the boards.

On *Sunday, March 8 - the Sunday of Orthodoxy* - we will be having Family Worship, so we will not meet in our classrooms. Instead we will have the children line up for the *Procession of the Icons*, so please make sure they bring their icons from home.

On that same date, we will be starting our collection for "*Pennies and Prayers*." After services, the children will reach out to our wonderful parish members to collect loose change; this collection will continue during all of the Sunday during Lent and conclude on Palm Sunday. If the children repeatedly ask you for a donation, we ask that you not only be generous, but more importantly that you please be kind. They are asking you from their heart.

The Pennies and Prayers collection was started by our Metropolis Commission for Orthodox Mission and Evangelism (COME) in 1981. As Orthodox people gather strength in numbers, COME identifies areas where mission parishes are needed, establishes them and nurtures their growth by providing grants, which support needs such as building code compliance, priests' salaries, and the purchase of books and materials. Last year our Church School children collected \$1801.65 for COME; this year we would like to beat that number, so please start saving your loose change. We will also send the children home with containers to collect from their household. The children who bring change every Sunday from their containers will receive a little treat.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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

### ***HOPE and JOY***

Let's welcome Spring by enjoying the great outdoors. We will be going on a nature walk along the Historic Railroad Hiking Trail. We will enjoy the beautiful scenery of Lake Mead and the adventures of exploring the tunnels on the trail. We will meet on *Saturday, March 28* at 10:00 am; look to the Weekly Bulletin for more details. For more information call your HOPE & JOY Advisors, *Sharon Katsaros at (702) 242-2457 or Jenn Orlando at (702) 631-0111.*

### ***Junior and Senior GOYA***

Hi everyone! Congratulations on your great accomplishments at FDF! We pray everyone had a wonderful time. Our Lenten project will be Street Teens, and we will collect items that go to the homeless teens in Las Vegas. We will start collecting items on *March 1*, and will soon provide the list of items needed by these teens. When collecting, please don't limit your effort to those in our Church, but also ask your neighbors and friends for their assistance. We're sure that everyone is willing to give a hand to a worthy cause.

In addition, Junior and Senior GOYA will be feeding the homeless, *tentatively on Saturday, March 21*. We will let you know as soon as more details are available. Please plan on joining us.

Your Advisors, Eileen Koutsulis (702) 521-6516 or Effie Lekar (702) 768-5500

*"Be not envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them." ~Proverbs 24:1*

## Youth Choir News

WOW! The members of the FDF Youth Choir that represents St. John the Baptist in Las Vegas put on a rousing performance at the Folk Dance Festival (also now known as "Faith Dance Fellowship") on President's Day Weekend. They did so well that they received a standing ovation and was



*the only group awarded Sweepstakes for Choral Performance!* The community is very proud of their accomplishments and your director could not be any happier. A huge *thank you* goes to all the parents who came to endless Tuesday afternoon rehearsals before dance practice and supported this wonderful and large group of 24 fine singers. Now that we were awarded Sweepstakes, this means double duty and double performances for next year's FDF!

We are not done chanting and singing yet. We are looking forward to the Lenten Season and Holy Week. We have been asked to chant the Pan-Orthodox Vespers for the Sunday of Orthodoxy on *March 8* at St. Michael's Antiochian Church in North Las Vegas. We will meet there at 5:00 pm. We will also chant the Pan-Orthodox Vespers for the Sunday of the Cross on *March 22* at our Church; again, we will meet at 5:00 pm. One of our favorite evening services during Lent is the Friday Evenings of the Salutations to the Virgin Mary (*Heretismi*). Choir practice is at 6:00 pm. During this time we will start practicing for Holy Saturday Morning, along with other services.

As always, I thank all the parents and community for your continued support for this wonderful program. I am extremely grateful for all the kids who worked very hard; they should be proud of this achievement. Have a blessed Lenten Season. With love and gratitude, Presvytera Maria Hondros



The Las Vegas AHEPA FAMILY Invites You to Celebrate

## GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY "VEGAS STYLE"



SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2008

*St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church - Panos Hall*

*Admission: Adults - \$50 pre-sale \$60 at the door*

Featuring the Comedian Extraordinaire

### BASILE IN CONCERT

Hors d'oeuvres and no host bar at 6:30 pm ~ Live show at 8:00 pm

*The program begins with the*

**AHEPA Chapter 314 Scholarship Awards Ceremony  
and Presentation of the 2009 Plato Award**

*Then following the concert, the party continues with*

**Greek music and spirited Greek dancing until midnight**

*And after midnight, head out to*

**Golden Greek Café, 8565 West Sahara Avenue (corner of Durango Boulevard)**

***For Reservations Call George Nikols (702) 871-5909 or Gilbert Kyprianou (702) 876-3178***

TO COMMEMORATE OUR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**A HISTORY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

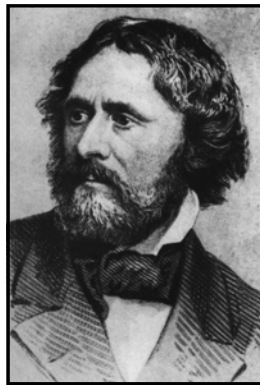
*Part I of VII*

**EARLY LAS VEGAS**

In 1829, Spanish traders regularly traveled a trade route on the Old Spanish Trail from Santa Fe to Los Angeles. A young Mexican scout, Rafael Rivera, left his main party and headed west across the unexplored desert, fearfully referred to as the “Jornada de Muerte,” Spanish for “Journey of Death.” Rivera discovered within this desert an oasis containing abundant grasses, and a plentiful water supply in the form of Artesian Springs. The Spaniards established the oasis as a resting and replenishing stop within their trade route and named the valley “Las Vegas,” which means “The Meadows.”



*Rafael Rivera*



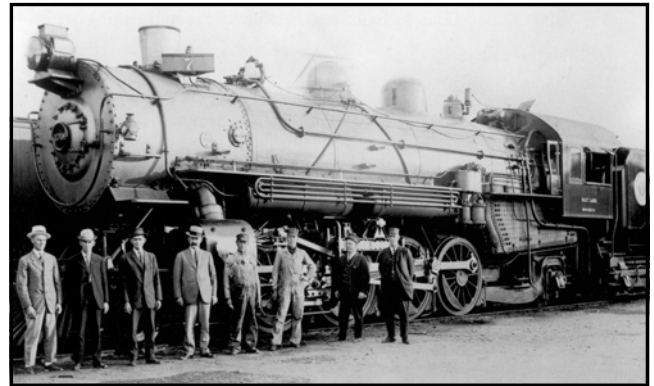
*John C. Fremont*

Until 1844, not much was generally known about Las Vegas until explorer and military cartographer, John C. Fremont, literally put the valley “on the map.”



*Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort*

In 1855, the head of the Mormon Church, Brigham Young, sent 30 Mormon missionaries from Utah to Las Vegas to build the 150 square foot adobe brick Mormon Fort. It was the intention of the Mormons to teach the Paiute Indians modern farming techniques. The agriculturally-challenged Paiutes responded by persistently raiding the fort until 1857, when it was ultimately abandoned.



*Railroad serviced Los Angeles and Salt Lake City*

Also in 1855, minerals and precious metals were discovered, and the State Land Act offered land at \$1.25 per acre. As a result, farmers began to move in and agriculture became the predominant industry, thanks to abundant water for crop irrigation. During a mining strike in 1903, Greek immigrants began to arrive in the valley as coalmine strikebreakers, and they also migrated to work on the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad, which laid its tracks through the Las Vegas Valley in 1904. In 1905, the railroad auctioned and sold 700 lots, creating a watering hole with a few small hotels, stores and a saloon.



*Early Las Vegas Saloon*

**THE FIRST GREEKS**

In 1909, John Pappas, later to become the “Godfather” of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, traveled through Las Vegas as a water boy working with the railroad. By 1910, White Pine County, located in the east central part of Nevada, and supported by mining, had approximately 10% of its population made up of Greek immigrants. In 1911, the City of Las Vegas was incorporated and comprised 19.18 square miles with a population of 800. A few years later, in 1915, George Sackas arrived in Las Vegas from Idaho to work in the railroad industry.

John Pappas, the railroad water boy of 1909, returned to Las Vegas in 1929 with the intention of working on Hoover Dam but opted for the restaurant business instead. In 1931, together with Sam Poulos and Jim Adras, Mr. Pappas opened the city’s first Greek-owned restaurant, the White Spot Café.



*Lea and George Sackas Wedding*

Presumably, since only Fremont Street was paved, Lea could keep turning left in the desert until she was headed back in the direction from which she had come.



*Fremont Street 1931*



*White Spot Café on Fremont Street*

The year 1931 proved to be momentous in Las Vegas history, with the legalization of gambling, the start of construction on Hoover Dam, and the liberalization of divorce laws (leading to the “quickie” divorce with a minimum 6-week residency requirement). To fill the need for housing for divorce-seekers, “Dude Ranches” sprang up and became the forerunners of the fabulous “Strip” hotels.

While in Los Angeles for vacation, George Sackas (Sakelariou), born in 1898 in Akrata, Greece, met his future wife, Lea Anast, born in 1915 in Kalavrita, Greece. They were married in Los Angeles at Annunciation Church on San Julian Street, in December 1931, and George brought his new bride to live in Las Vegas, where Lea became the “Greek First Lady.” Their first child was born in 1933, and the Sackas’ were the first “official” permanent Greek family in Las Vegas. Las Vegas didn’t require driver’s licenses and Lea taught herself to drive, mastering all the gears quickly (except reverse, which she caught onto later).

As the Sackas’ were the only married Greek couple in Las Vegas, their home became the gathering place for celebrations for the Greek gentlemen of the town, and within Lea’s vast cooking repertory were homemade yogurt, red eggs, koulouria and hand-made phyllo dough. In the small circle of friends, introductions were made between the Greek men of Las Vegas and Greek ladies from other cities. Within a few years, Sam Poulos married Venea Tsouras, of Salt Lake City; Jim Adras married Georgia Takas, also of Salt Lake, and by 1935, there were three Greek families in Las Vegas.



*Venea and Sam Poulos      Georgia and Jim Adras*

*End Part I - Look for Part II of St. John History in the April Desert Messenger!*

## ***Greek Folk Dance***

Wow! Where do I start? From the beginning of this year's Folk Dance Festival with absolutely no lines at registration to the impromptu mini Glendi in our hotel lobby after Opening Ceremonies, to the outstanding performances of our dance groups and the Youth Choir, all the way through the Awards Ceremony that concluded with a concert featuring Thanos Petrelis for almost 3-1/2 hours, this year's FDF was, hands down, one of the best. St. John Church came away with the following six awards:

Hrisi Thisavri – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the Advanced Primary Category

Stavrofori – Choral Award and 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Advanced Junior Category

Argonaftes – Costume Award and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the Advanced Senior Category

St. John the Baptist Youth Choir – Sweepstakes!

The Las Vegas contingent was so excited and proud of our kids. They all worked so hard to get their performances down and they were nearly perfect. All the hard work and practice certainly paid off.

Thank you to the parents for getting your kids to practice week after week and for your patience when practice ran a little late. Your support with all our fundraising and events is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to the entire parish for all your support this year. Our fundraising efforts help to pay for the beautiful, authentic costumes and accessories worn by our dancers, hiring consultants to critique our groups, sending some of our directors to workshops and seminars to learn and research Greek dance and music, and for the musicians coming to practice and performing with our dance and choral groups.

Thank you to our directors who devote countless volunteer hours to teaching our children the dances and music which are such a huge part of our Greek heritage. We are privileged to have such dedicated people working with our kids. Under the direction of Bessie Stavropoulos, our assistant directors have really stepped up their responsibilities this year and we hope they all come back to work with the kids for next year. Bessie's knowledge of Greek dance and song, along with her brilliant choreography are something we are all so very thankful for. Bessie is by far one of the best directors of any group competing at FDF and we are so fortunate to have her in our parish.

Because our Youth Choir, under the direction of Presvytera Maria Hondros, won Sweepstakes this year, they will have a lot of work ahead of them so they can perform at Cultural Night at the 2010 FDF. Good job, Presvytera!

Please look for an announcement in future Desert Messengers about enrollment in our Dance Ministry for the next year. We always look forward to having new kids join as well as all the kids that return to dance year after year. If you would like to be placed on a list to be notified when enrollment begins, please send me an email at [jtlia@aol.com](mailto:jtlia@aol.com).

On behalf of the Dance Board, I want to congratulate all of our participants at the 2009 FDF on a job well done! Tina Liaos, Dance Board Chairwoman

## **Notes From the Loft**



On Sunday, February 8 members of the Chicago Choir Federation joined us in singing the Liturgy. It was a beautiful addition to our Sunday services. There were representatives from Des Plaines, Oak Lawn, Palos Heights and Westchester, Illinois and also from Minneapolis, Minnesota. They also were our guests at the FDF Luncheon afterwards. Many members commented on the versatility and skill of our dance groups. I thank the Choir Members and members of the community for making them feel welcome.

The members of the Choir mourn the passing of Paul Lewis, son of Foula Lewis. *Aionia aftou i mnimi*. May his memory be eternal.

Faye Brown, Choir Director



*Presvytera and Bessie were very pleased with our groups at FDF!*

**The Clark County Orthodox Clergy Association Invites  
All Orthodox and Interested Seekers to the Annual**

## **Lenten Retreat**

***Saturday, March 14, 2009***

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

**Rev. Father Paul Tarazi, Retreat Speaker**

**“A Fast Acceptable and  
Pleasing to the Lord”  
*The Scriptural Foundations of  
Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving***



### **Agenda**

<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>Lenten Breakfast</b>
<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Session 1</b>
<b>Noon</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>Session 2</b>
<b>2:30 PM</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>3:00 PM</b>	<b>Session 3</b>
<b>4:30 PM</b>	<b>Vespers</b>

*Father Paul Tarazi is Professor of Old Testament at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary and Professor of New Testament at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.*

*St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church is located in the Southwest part of the Las Vegas Valley, just off Hacienda, between Jones and Torrey Pines. For more information on the retreat, please contact Karen at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church at (702) 221-8245. Make checks payable to Clark County Orthodox Clergy Association. Deadline for registration is Friday, March 6.*

***\$15 per person, includes Lenten meals***

## Orthodox Bookstore

*On the Commandments of God:* God did not give us only Ten Commandments, but countless of God's Commandments can be found throughout Holy Scripture. How do we see these Commandments? How do we feel about been given these set of rules? Our first impulse is probably a sense of restriction, or imprisonment, where we feel like something heavy is being imposed on us. But God does not give us Commandments to restrict us, but rather to give us freedom. If we can try to see the Commandments of God from this perspective, then maybe we will feel differently about what the essence of the Commandments is to us.

The Commandments are revelations to us about God and the way that He thinks. Therefore, to obey the Commandments is to become God-like! We are made in His image, but His likeness can be restored to us by obeying His Commandments. We are called to become "gods by adoption" through following the Commandments. This is the essence of Christianity. In the words of St. Athanasios the Great: "God became man, so that man might become god."

Want to know more? Pick up *On the Incarnation*, by Saint Athanasios - available in our Bookstore. Until next month (GW) - ICXC NIKA, Costa Frangakis

## Orthodox Connection Las Vegas

This month, OCLV is taking on another physical challenge. We are heading to the beautiful mountains of Las Vegas. Dimitri "Mountain Goat" Haritopoulos will lead us on a hike into Red Rock Canyon. Please meet at St. John Church parking lot on *Saturday, March 21* at 10:00 am.

Bring your hiking boots, water, camera and anything else you need as we embark on another hiking adventure together.

Many people last year expressed an interest to hike with us that were not part of OCLV, so this year this event it open to *anyone* in our community who would like to join us.

For more information on the hike or OCLV, please contact *Angela Coutris* at (702) 497-2529 or [orthodoxconnectionlv@gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxconnectionlv@gmail.com) or *Dimitri Haritopoulos* at (702) 563-9308.



### SPECIAL NOTICE

The centerfold of the next seven *Desert Messengers* will contain excerpts of our Church History for your enjoyment in anticipation of the *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*.

This history was compiled from personal interviews of founding members and other Church leaders, from articles written by longtime parishioners, from media publications and from a graduate thesis researched through scientific method.

It is our goal to be accurate and we have made every effort to do so.

If you feel there are any errors in the reporting of this established history we invite you to submit your information with supporting documentation.

***WE NEED HISTORICAL INFORMATION FROM THE 1950s TO 1973***

Please Contact:

*Nitsa Filios* (702) 595-6888      *Susan Stamis* (702) 460-9954  
*Marina Adamy* (702) 364-8027      *Cheryl Pandelis* (702) 338-1601

## Stewardship Report: "Strengthened by Christ and His Church"

<u>2009 Stewardship Status (February 15, 2009):</u>		Stewardship Target – 2009	\$411,000
Stewardship Families Pledged	302	Stewardship Gifts Pledged	\$229,296
Stewardship Gifts Received	\$63,804	Current Stewardship Deficit	\$181,704
Average Stewardship Pledge	\$759.26	Percentage of Goal Achieved	55.79%

<u>Pledge Range</u>	<u>Number of Families</u>	<u>\$ &amp; % of Gifts Pledged</u>
\$1-\$999	221	\$ 76,686 - 33.45%
\$1000-\$2499	65	\$ 82,690 - 36.06%
\$2500-\$4,999	11	\$ 37,200 - 16.26%
\$5,000-\$9,999	4	\$ 22,720 - 9.91%
\$10,000-\$14,999	1	\$ 10,000 - 4.36%

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Our 2009 campaign continues to be well behind last year's pace. We currently have 18 fewer families pledged, and the sum pledged is \$36,480 *behind*. Over the past several years, Stewardship has struggled to cover in the neighborhood of 40% of the Church's operating budget. At this year's pace, it appears as if Stewardship may only reach around 35% of the operating budget.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>APPROVED BUDGET*</u>	<u>STEWARDSHIP GIFTS**</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
2006	\$785,325	\$341,825	43.53%
2007	\$958,866	\$365,263	38.09%
2008	\$890,985	\$341,927	38.38%
2009***	\$909,416	\$325,000***	35.73%***

\* Operating Costs only (Does not include revolving line-of-credit, fundraising expenses and C&E Hall rental expenses)

\*\* Actual gifts received

\*\*\* Forecast

For many years the Parish Council has had to apply proceeds from the Food Festival to cover our operating costs. Per Parish Assembly approval, these funds were suppose to be used to pay down the mortgage on the property (\$60,000 per year), cover major maintenance requirements (20% of festival net profits) and be used for capital investment (more property, parochial school, senior housing, etc.). While the interest on the mortgage is being paid, some major maintenance work has been delayed for far too long and there have not been any funds left over for capital investment.

As a result of this year's economic challenges, the Parish Council is doing a thorough review of the 2009 Budget and assessing ways to reduce our operating costs. However, even if there is a noticeable reduction achieved in our operating costs, it is of utmost importance that the community pulls together to do all we can to *significantly increase* our Stewardship pledges.

Many of our faithful stewards have continued year-after-year to make pledges to support our parish. However, many of us have maintained the same pledge for the past five or more years. The reality is that the costs of keeping our parish open and available to the spiritual needs of the faithful have gone up.

In these difficult times, I hope and pray we will all work closer together to make sure we are there to support the needs of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. May everything we do be for His Glory - Δόξα Σοι ο Θεός. With love in Christ, John G. Karas (702) 219-5057, Stewardship Chairman



**Adult Study Group with Father John Hondros**  
**Meets Every Wednesday ~ During Lent at 8:00 to 9:00 pm (unless noted) in Kokkos Hall**  
**Join us in "Learning Orthodoxy through the Gospel of John"**

**2009 Stewards**

- Adamy, Marina  
 Agnos, Dimitrios and Angeline  
 Alsup, Trever and Kelly  
 Anastasiou, Andrew and Kathleen  
 Andraktos, Manuel  
 Andrews, Catherine  
 Andrews, George  
 Andrews, Presvytera Helen  
 Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette  
 Aristides, George and Diana  
 Augousti, Michael and Helene  
 Bacon, Diane  
 Bagatelos, Michael  
 Bakalas, Estella  
 Balason, Anna  
 Balason, Voula  
 Baldwin, Richard and Vivi  
 Balodimas, Dr. James  
 Bartzos, Sam and Eugenia  
 Bauck, Jeremy and Amy  
 Berendji, Jim and Vivian  
 Berta, Irene  
 Bingham, Robert and Melissa  
 Bledsoe, Lori  
 Bochanis, George  
 Borzekas, Stephen and Katharina †  
 Bratta, Georgene  
 Brillis, Christine  
 Brillis, George and Satoko  
 Britten, Ronald and Carol  
 Brown, Andrew and Christina  
 Brown, Faye  
 Bucy, Brent and Elaine  
 Bullivant, John and Jana  
 Capadalis, Tim and Marling  
 Captain, Nicholas and Maria  
 Carabas, Stephen and Linda  
 Carabas, Thymios and Sotiroulla  
 Caredis, Jon and Marjorie  
 Carrico, William and Alexandra  
 Carson, Michele  
 Carter, Maria  
 Castillo, Matthew  
 Cero, Dean  
 Chachas, Bessie  
 Chachas, James  
 Chandrinou, Alexia  
 Chandrinou, Peter  
 Chandrinou, Ricki  
 Chomakos, Dean and Tammy  
 Chomakos, George and Nikki  
 Chomakos, Jeremy and Romina  
 Christopoulos, Ann  
 Christou, Andreas and Toni  
 Cole, Darrick and Carla  
 Cominos, Ted and Emily  
 Conger, William and Alexia  
 Contos, Michael  
 Coroneos, Marika  
 Costuras, George and Marsha  
 Cotsilis, Peter and Jenny  
 Coutris, Angela  
 Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia  
 Dalacas, Eleni  
 Daskolos, George and Voula  
 DeCarlo, Frank and Nadine  
 Delalis, Dina  
 Delalis, Pete and Alysondra  
 Demolas, Maria  
 Demoleas, Helen  
 Demoleas, Stephanie  
 Demopoulos, Tommy and Vasiliki  
 Demetriou, Demetrios and Bessie  
 DeWindt, Dennis and Susan  
 Dominguez, Eric and Amalia  
 Doppe, Victoria  
 Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia  
 Dougan, Linda  
 Doukakis, Panagiotis and Chrisi  
 Edmunds, Paul and Barbara  
 Eliades, Artemis  
 Eliades, Gregory and Maria  
 Eliades, Harry and Agapi  
 Eliades, Peter and Janet †  
 Eliades, John and Atsuko  
 Eliakis, Peter and Glenda  
 Eliakis, Varthie and Lee Ann  
 Eliopulos, Goldie  
 Ene, Ovidiu and Mira  
 Exarhos, Nick and Sharon  
 Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean  
 Eyler, John and Elizabeth  
 Falcone, Frank and Nancy  
 Fanandakis, George and Helen  
 Filios, George and Nitsa  
 Filios, Spiridon and Eleni  
 Flangas, Albert and Amy  
 Flangas, Bill and Marilyn  
 Foskaris, Nicholas and Dana  
 Foskaris, Thomas and Iryna  
 Frangakis, Costa  
 Frangakis, John  
 Frantzen, Robert and Margery  
 Franzi, Jack  
 Fuson, Aglaia  
 Gear, Darius and Bessie †  
 George, Pete and Georgia  
 Georgis, John and Kaliopi  
 Gialketsis, Babe and Terry  
 Gialketsis, Barbara  
 Gialketsis, Bill and Shelli  
 Gialketsis, Julie  
 Gialketsis, Steve  
 Gianakoulias, Nick and Magda  
 Giouzelis, Anastasia  
 Goddard, Elizabeth  
 Goltzos, Andreas  
 Gousias, Elias and Maria  
 Grillas, Vasilios and Roula  
 Hailemariam, Tesfa  
 Hallis, Louis and Betty  
 Hamilton, Mary  
 Hamilton, Paul and Brandi  
 Haralambakis, Demetre and Dimitra  
 Harris, Melty and Angeline  
 Harrison, Angie  
 Hemmers, Oliver and Pantelas, Anne  
 Hernquist, Jim † and Angela  
 Hondros, Catherine  
 Hondros, Christina  
 Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria  
 Hoover, Patrick and Pauline  
 Howard, Willie B.  
 Johnson, Stephen  
 Kachikis, Paul and Ernestine  
 Kakavulias, Christina  
 Kakavulias, George and Eleni  
 Kakavulias, John  
 Kakavulias, Maria  
 Kalkantzakos, Pete and Decker, Misty  
 Kane, Larry and Irene  
 Kanellis, Ann  
 Kanoles, Helene  
 Kanoles, Konstantine  
 Konsolakis-Garcia, Eleni  
 Karalis, Gianni and April  
 Karas, James  
 Karas, John and Marcie  
 Karas, Vasiliki  
 Katris, Nick and Kathy  
 Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon  
 Katsikakis, Evangelos  
 Kelesis, John and Vicki  
 Koliambas, Eleni  
 Kolinas, Claire  
 Kotonias, George and Patricia  
 Kourafas, Christopher and Trish  
 Kouris, Anastasios  
 Kouretas, Demetri and Amanda  
 Kouretas, Valdean  
 Kourlos, Georgia  
 Kountanis, Dennis and Pat  
 Koutsulis, Sam and Effie  
 Kypreos, Gilbert and Geri  
 Kyprianou, Peter and Alexis  
 Lakis, Antoinette  
 Latelle, Penny  
 Lazarakis, John and Panagiota  
 Lekar, Michael and Effie  
 Leone, Stephen  
 Leonis, Tishe  
 Liaos, Jim and Tina  
 Liaos, Steven and Francine  
 Liaos, William and Irene  
 Likourinou, Steve and June  
 Lymberopoulos, Mary  
 Malamatos, Kindina  
 Mamasis, Dena  
 Mamasis, Tessie  
 Manolakos, Catherine  
 Manolakos, John and Jennifer  
 Manos, Patricia  
 Manteris, Arthur and Sue  
 Marlas, Louis and Vivien  
 Markou, Ann  
 Martinaitis, Louis and Audra  
 Matsukas, John and Ariadne  
 Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki  
 Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debra  
 Mavros, Michael and Debbie  
 McPherson, Robert and Marie  
 Mezilson, Evangeline  
 Miller, Mary  
 Millet, Jennie  
 Milonas, Henry  
 Miralles, Jean  
 Mirich, Kyle and Melissa  
 Moffett, Todd and Eliopulos, Tina  
 Monoyudis, Jim and Julie  
 Montisano, Jon and Jennifer  
 Morgan, Brian and Adrienne  
 Mulopulos, George  
 Murphy, Karen and Terry  
 Neocleous, Plato  
 Niarkos, Eugenia  
 Nichlas, Arthur  
 Nicholas, James and Myrna  
 Nikitas, Rigas and Aphrodite  
 Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra  
 Nikols, George and Christine  
 Nikols, Rita  
 Orlando, Alleck and Jennifer  
 Ostis, Sotirios  
 Panagopoulos, Konstantina  
 Pandelis, Cheryl  
 Pantos, James  
 Papas, Christian  
 Papas, Peter and Rita  
 Pappas, Constantine and Karina  
 Pappas, Rita  
 Pearson, Jeff and Adrienne  
 Pelletier, Michael  
 Pendelton, Patricia  
 Pentogenis, Michael and Kathy  
 Peronis, Fay  
 Philippou, Demetrios and Luanne  
 Platis, Anna  
 Plentzas, Spiros and Ruth  
 Pouridis, Kouli and Para  
 Prather Jr., Moses  
 Qeleshli, Elton and Ornela  
 Radosta, Athena  
 Rifakes, John and Carol  
 Roberts, Sofia  
 Rodas, Anne  
 Rodis, Dimitri and Jennifer  
 Rodis, Sofia  
 Ross, John and Georgia  
 Salvarlis, Thomas  
 Santumo, Alfred and Tamarak  
 Savvas, Savva  
 Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia  
 Skandros, Georgia  
 Skarlatos, Konstantinos  
 Snow, Clifford and Christina  
 Snowden, Robert and Niki  
 Soper, Bobby and Maria  
 Sotira, Dhimitra  
 Sotira, George  
 Spanopoulos, Elias  
 Sparangis, Spyro and Helen  
 Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette  
 Stanford, Nennette  
 Stavropoulos, Bessie  
 Stefanatos, Michael and Tami  
 Stefanatos-Hetzel, Joanne  
 Stephanos, Stanley and Aspasia  
 Stika, Arthur and Melinda  
 Struzas, Maria  
 Stubberud, Peter and Laura  
 Szukiewicz, Joseph and Jennia  
 Szukiewicz, Joe  
 Tafoya, Steven and Irene  
 Tahiraj, Mirela  
 Takas, Andrea  
 Taxiarchos, Andrew/Alexandra  
 Taxiarchos, Sophia  
 Taxopoulos, Bryan  
 Taylor, Frederick and Katherine  
 Teed, Charles  
 Theros, James  
 Thomas, Angie  
 Thompson, Maggy  
 Tourlis, Angelo and Betty  
 Trebicka, Ardian  
 Triffon, Cathy  
 Tsarouhas, Maria  
 Tselikis, Nicholas and Jennifer  
 Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katerina  
 Tsouras, Christopher and Diana  
 Tsouras, Helen  
 Tzelalis, Steve  
 Vassos, Maria  
 Vassiliadis, Athena  
 Vavoukakis, Gus and Penelope  
 Vergos, Charles and Eve  
 Vervilos, James and Anna  
 Vinieratos, Aristotalis/Spiridoula  
 Vino, Joseph and Christy  
 Vlahos, Alex and Iris  
 Walter, Vernon and Alice  
 Walters, Lane and Mary  
 Waters, Gary and Susan  
 Willey, Anthony  
 Wilson, Clyde  
 Wilson, Steven and Cleopatra  
 Wirtz, Athena  
 Womack, Karl  
 Womack, Kimberly  
 Wronski, Chuck  
 Xikis, Victoria  
 Zarkos, Nick and Dina  
 Zarras, Nick and Chery  
 Zimmerman, Paul and Angela  
 Zouboulis, James and Tina

# MARCH 2009 - 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>
<b>1</b> Forgiveness Sunday 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	<b>2</b> Lent Begins 6:30 pm Great Compline	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy 8:00 pm Adult Study: The Gospel of John	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:00 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm 1st Salutations to the Theotokos	<b>7</b> 3rd Sat. of Souls 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy & Memorial
<b>8</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Icon Procession 5:00 pm Youth Chr Practice 6:00 pm Lenten Vespers at St. Michael	<b>9</b> 6:30 pm Great Compline	<b>10</b> 7:00 pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	<b>11</b> 6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy 8:00 pm Adult Study: The Gospel of John	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:00 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm 2nd Salutations to the Theotokos	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Lenten Retreat with Fr. Paul Tarazi at St John the Baptist
<b>15</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Lenten Vespers at St. Paul the Apostle	<b>16</b> 6:30 pm Great Compline	<b>17</b> 11:30 am Senior Forerunners in Panos 5:00 pm 50th Anniv Mtg 7:00 pm Philoptochos General Meeting	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy 8:00 pm Adult Study: The Gospel of John	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:00 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm 3rd Salutations to the Theotokos	<b>21</b> 10:00 am OCLV Hike at Red Rock (meet at Church) GOYA Homeless Feed-TBA
<b>22</b> 8:45am Orthros 9:50am Cross Procession 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm Youth Choir 6:00 pm Lenten Vespers at St. John the Baptist	<b>23</b> 6:30 pm Great Compline	<b>24</b> 6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting	<b>25</b> Annunciation to the Theotokos 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Adult Study: The Gospel of John	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:00 pm Youth Choir 7:00 pm 4th Salutations to the Theotokos	<b>28</b> 10:00 am HOPE & JOY Hike along Historic Railroad Trail 6:30 pm Greek Independence Day Concert in Panos
<b>29</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Lenten Vespers at St. Simeon	<b>30</b> 6:30 pm Great Compline	<b>31</b> 6:30 pm Food Festival Planning Meeting				

# *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*

“St. Symeon the New Theologian describes the man who is in the grip of pride in this way:

1. He finds it difficult to ask for forgiveness.
2. He is touchy and suspicious.
3. He remembers offenses perpetrated against him and judges others.
4. He suffers greatly in his heart when he is slighted or annoyed.
5. He will answer back with bitterness and speaks insolently.
6. Pride is extreme self-confidence together with the rejection of all that is not mine.”

*~ Joy Corey, The Tools of Spiritual Warfare*

#### *Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian*

*Lord and Master of my life, cast away from me the spirit of laziness,  
idle curiosity, love of power and vain talk.*

*But grant me, Your servant, the spirit of moderation, humility, patience and love.*

*Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own faults  
and not to judge my brothers and sisters. For You are blessed forever. Amen.*