

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 4, Issue 10 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV November 2006

From Father John

Beloved in Christ:

During this month of Thanksgiving, I give God my utmost thanks for the many blessings in my life – for His Presence, His gift of the Holy Priesthood, and for granting me a wonderful family, good health and the love I share with each of you in His Name. I am sure each of us, as members of the Living Body of Christ in Las Vegas, can look within and identify the many ways we are blessed.

When the disciples of St. John the Baptist complained that a large number of people were now going to Jesus for baptism and then following Him, the Forerunner replied: **“No one can receive anything except what is given him from heaven.” (John 3:27)** John taught his own followers that he had received God’s blessing to be the friend of Christ, the Bridegroom of the Church, and that hearing the voice of the One whose way he prepared, his joy was now full.

Beloved friends of Christ, do we see – like St. John, our holy patron – our lives as given us from God? And do we fully rejoice at following God’s purposes, especially with the many gifts we have received? If we do, then we are further blessed by understanding that we are given life to be the servants of God and stewards of His heavenly gifts.

If you are like me, there are many times we are too busy, tired, frustrated or forgetful of the blessings we have received and from Whom they have been sent. That is why our parish dedicates one month out of the year to get us back on the track of thanking God and recommitting our lives as His stewards – and what better month than November!

All of us will shortly receive the 2007 Stewardship Packets. Our theme for 2007 is **“Gifts from Heaven”** and my sermons during this month will invite and hopefully challenge us to reflect on this. As the one blessed to be your spiritual father in Christ, I humbly make the following request: On **Stewardship Sunday, November 19**, I ask that all of us come to the Divine Liturgy prepared to receive the blessing of the Lord’s Body and Blood *and also* to recommit ourselves as Stewards of Christ’s Church and cheerfully return our 2007 Stewardship Pledge, which we have prayerfully taken the time to consider. My prayer is that this experience may be as it was for our patron, opening our eyes to see that what we offer the Lord pales in comparison to what we receive from Him.

Realizing that we are blessed with hearing the voice of the Lord in the Holy Services, and witnessing His Presence in the Holy Mysteries of the Church and in our glorious Iconography – particularly the Pantocrator, which by God’s good grace will be installed this month – may our response be one of a total commitment and our disposition that of complete joy and thanksgiving.

With love and gratitude in Christ,

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays: 8:45 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy

Religious Education follows Holy Communion

Weekdays (Unless Noted): 8:00 am Orthros, 9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, November 1/Ss. Cosmas and Damianos, the Holy Unmercenaries

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

Gospel: Matthew 10:1, 5-8

Sunday, November 5/5th Sunday of Luke/Holy Martyrs Galactionos and Episteme

Orthros: Tone Four

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

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Wednesday, November 8/Archangels Michael and Gabriel and the Bodiless Powers/St. Nectarios

Epistle: Hebrews 2:2-10

Gospel: Luke 10:16-21

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

Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)

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

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

Fast of the Nativity begins November 15

Sunday, November 19/9th of Luke/Prophet Obidiah, Martyrs Barlaam and Iliodoros

Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)

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

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

Stewardship Sunday

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

Epistle: Hebrews 9:1-7

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

Wednesday, November 22/Thanksgiving

6:30 pm Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:18-5:10

Gospel: Luke 18:31-34

Artoclasia (Blessing of the 5 Loaves) follows, offered by the Kakavulias Family

Sunday, November 26/13th of Luke/St. Alypios the Stylite/St. Catherine the Great Martyr

Orthros: Tone Seven (Grave)

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

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22

Sunday Schedules

November 5

Ushers: Pete Kypreos, Peter Papas, John Nicholas, Kouli Pouridis, George Nikols, George Kakavulias

Memorial: Ray Miralles (2 years)

Fellowship: Philoptochos Unity Day Luncheon ~ **Religious Education Open House**

November 12

Ushers: Angelo Stamis, George Filios, Marina Adamy, John Matsis, Sam Koutsulis, George Andrews

Fellowship: Orthodox Family Fellowship ~ **Parish Assembly**

November 19: Stewardship Sunday

Ushers: John Nicholas, Kouli Pouridis, George Nikols, George Kakavulias, Pete Kypreos, Peter Papas

Artoclasia (Blessing of the 5 Loaves): For the Health of Daughters of Penelope (Founders Day)

Memorial: Nick Pandelis (5 years), Departed Members of Daughters of Penelope

Fellowship: **Philoptochos Autumn Bake Sale**

November 26

Ushers: Marina Adamy, John Matsis, Sam Koutsulis, George Andrews, Angelo Stamis, George Filios

Fellowship: Senior Forerunners

St. John Philoptochos Unity Day Luncheon
Please Join Us on Sunday, November 5
After the Divine Liturgy



In celebration of the *Patron Saints of Philoptochos Family and Society, Saints Cosmas and Damianos.*
Please join us for Spaghetti Dinner at no charge;
just bring a non perishable item for the GOYA food drive.

Notice of Parish Assembly
Sunday, November 12 following Divine Liturgy

AGENDA:

- Call to Order/Opening Prayer
- Election of Assembly Chair
- Approval of Minutes/Treasurer's Report
- Food Festival Report
- Stewardship Report
- Approval of 2007 Budget
- Building and Facilities: Warehouse, Lighting
- Iconography Phase II
- Election of Nominations/Election Committee
- Nominations for Parish Council 2007-08
- Old Business: Hall Rental and Procedures
- New Business
- Closing Prayer/Adjournment

You must be a Steward in Good Standing for 2006 to participate and vote.

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

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

Rev. Father John Hondros

Regina Resch
Business Administrator

Karen Rawlinson
Administrative Assistant

Eileen Bellsey
Director of Catering
and Church Facilities

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

Telephone: (702) 221-8245

FAX: (702) 221-9167

E-mail:

fjohn@vegaskgreekorthodox.com
Website: vegaskgreekorthodox.com

Parish Council: Angelo Stamis

Philoptochos: Angela Hernquist

Choir: Faye Brown

Chanters/Youth Choir:
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Religious Education:
Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers:
Geo Nikols
Demetri Carabas

Stewardship Committee:
John Matsis
John Karas

Hellenic Historical Society:
Nitsa Filios

Junior GOYA:
Effie Lekar
Alexandra Carrico

HOPE and JOY
Tammy Chomakos
Para Pouridis
Jennifer Orlando
Christy Vino

Orthodox Family Fellowship:
Michael and Tami Stefanatos

Senior Forerunners: Tessie Peterson

Greek Folk Dance:
Georgia Bingham
Carla Cole
Bessie Stavropoulos

Greek Language Classes:
Andreas Taxiarios
Antonia Tzelalis
Spiridoulla Vinieratos

**Philoptochos
News**

Dear *Friends*,

At our October General Meeting, the Philoptochos Board announced the formation of the Grief and Support 13-week seminar series which we hope to launch in January 2007 for the St. John parish and community. There is a great need for this type of service and Philoptochos is proud and honored to be at the forefront of this important ministry. It is an endeavor that has been in place in other Christian churches for some time and one that we hope will be the impetus and model for other Orthodox Churches throughout the country. We will keep you posted on the dates and times that this series will be offered!

In keeping with our goal of collaboration and coordination throughout the parish this year, Philoptochos will be hosting a very special *St. John Unity Day Luncheon on Sunday, November 5, 2006*. This is a *free* event and one that we hope everyone will attend. We ask that you join us in helping GOYA collect canned goods and non-perishable food items for needy families. For every item you bring to the luncheon for GOYA, you will receive a raffle ticket and the chance to win one of several prizes ~ just for helping others in need!

Looking ahead, our annual *Autumn Bake Sale* will be held on *Sunday, November 19* and sales of our annual *Christmas Pastry Tins* and *St. John Parish Christmas Card* begin in November as well.

As always, *we welcome all hands and hearts* at our next general meeting on *November 14 at 7:00pm!* Join us ~

Angela Hernquist and the Philoptochos Board

**Philoptochos Society
Autumn Bake Sale
Sunday, November 19
After the Divine Liturgy**

Featuring excellent
homemade cookies,
pastries and cakes —
perfect for the
Thanksgiving table.
We welcome you to
contribute baked goods or
crafts to our Bake Sale.
This is just one of the
fundraisers which helps us
to raise money for
charitable causes.
Please help...we need you.

For more information,
please call
Catherine Manolakos
At 645-4611.

Recent Sacraments

Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun!

Sophia, daughter of Dimitri and Jennifer Rodis,
on October 1, 2006. Godparent: Angela Coutris.

Earen, son of Patrick and Athena Mertes,
on October 1, 2006. Godparents: Eric and Theresa Patterson.

Marriages: Na Zisete!

Bill Falagaris and Angela Hasapes
on September 29, 2006.
Sponsor: Dimitrios Tritos.

Patrick Mertes and Athena Rodis
on September 30, 2006.
Sponsor: Eric Patterson.

Timothy Efthemios Capadalis and Marling del Valle Torres Rejon
on September 30, 2006.
Sponsor: Petro Futris, Jr.

Matthew H. Emery and Andrea D. Laughlin
on October 14, 2006.
Sponsor: Paraskeve Pouridis.

Senior Forerunners

Please join us for a Potluck Luncheon on **Tuesday, November 14 at 11:30 am**. A guest speaker will also be joining us. We will meet in Kokkos Hall, and request only a \$5 per person donation. For further information, please call **Tessie Peterson at 645-8715** or **Aphy Nikitas at 873-9370**.

Fathers Know Best!

**“The Apostolic
Fathers”
Taught by Fr. John
On Wednesdays,
Starting November 8
7:00 pm**

**President's
Column**

Greetings, Fellow Parishioners:

The Iconographer will be here on November 7 and work will start the next day. The scaffolding will go up the first week of November. Please anticipate that the Church will be a bit crowded for six weeks, but the result will be well worth it! The work in the dome will be spectacular and just as beautiful as all of our other Iconography. November is nearing and now is the time to find it in your hearts to contribute to the Icon Fund. We all need to be a part of this beautiful project for the glory of God.

Unfortunately, Stewardship will fall short again this year. Again, money from the Food Festival will have to support the operation of the Church. Last year the amount given was \$90,000 and this year it will be the same. The average parishioner gives \$450 each year, and with the few 15 or so parishioners that give in the thousands, it is impossible not to touch the Food Festival money.

On the brighter side, the Catering Department has shown a profit of \$71,207 for the first nine months, \$35,000 of which was used as "start-up" money for the Food Festival. It is wonderful that the Catering Department is doing so well and we can put some of that profit toward paying off the mortgage.

Some parishioners have voiced that the Church would be more profitable if the Parish Council changed some rules. They feel that they should be able to cook in the kitchen and cater their own parties. It does not work this way. The damage done by parishioners alone was over \$5,000! These damages are from different organizations and parishioners using the kitchen and facilities during the Food Festival and various events throughout the year. The facilities are not that easy to operate and can be very unsafe, especially for those that have not worked in professional kitchens. It would be extremely time consuming, tedious and nearly impossible to train parishioners to work, clean and maintain all of the kitchen equipment. So please recognize that these rules are in place for a reason. The saying goes, "the proof is in the pudding." The kitchen and facilities are very well maintained. Everything is clean, neat, and organized and we have therefore made a profit.

The Parish Council does everything in the best interest of the Church. Please read carefully and keep the **4-Page Booklet** in this month's *Desert Messenger*, and abide by the rules that we have set. If you would like to be an active voice in the community and are able to contribute your time, effort and ideas, please run for the Parish Council in December. There are six seats open for election and this way you will be able to put your constructive criticism to the test!

With love in Christ and for our Church, **Angelo Stamis, Parish President**

**LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD**

Philoptochos invites you to extend Christmas Greetings to the entire St. John the Baptist Church Family. Your participation supports the many charitable works of Philoptochos.

2006 Christmas Card Subscription Form

Name: _____

Print your Name as you wish it to appear on the card:

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Donation: \$20 per family ~ Deadline: Sunday, December 3, 2006

For assistance, please call Bessie Stavropoulos 362-7327

Mail Form and Payment to Philoptochos c/o St. John the Baptist Church

Religious Education Program

Hi Everyone! We have about 91 students enrolled right now. Parents, please be sure to register your children if you have not yet done so. The registration forms are on the bulletin boards; fill out the form and hand it in along with the \$5 cash supply fee to your child's teacher.

We have started rehearsing with some classes for our Christmas Pageant. Presvytera Maria will be coming into our classrooms to work with the children on the music. The **Pageant is on Sunday, December 10**; it is so wonderful to see how hard our children work to make this a success, so please make sure you and your entire family attends.

I am glad that our new Holy Communion line procedure is working out well. Please allow your children to receive Communion with their teacher. It is our policy to not allow parents in the classrooms. We have quite a large enrollment this year, and it is difficult for our teachers to have that extra body in the room. Thank you for your cooperation

We have started a new attendance contest. The class that has the best attendance by percentage will become "*The Class of the Month*." They will have a sign on the door announcing the honor, receive the "*traveling Icon*" in their room for one month, and also get a little treat. At the end of the year, the class with the overall best attendance will be given a party. The children are really excited about this. Please help them out by bringing them to Church regularly and on time. I can not begin to express how important it is to hear the Holy Gospel and Father's sermon.

In case some of you don't know, we take an offering in class. The students take turns passing the basket and the offering goes back to the Church.

Our **Open House** is scheduled for **Sunday, November 5 after the Divine Liturgy**. Please take time to go into your child's classroom, see what they have been doing and talk to their teacher.

Thank you to all that support our program. I know that we have the best parents. If you have comments or would like to help out with your time, talents or treasures, please see me. We love to have guest speakers, especially in the older classes.

Please call me if you have any questions or concerns at 521-6516.

Eileen Koutsulis, Director of Religious Education

Youth Choir

The Youth Choir will chant the Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, November 12**, the second Sunday of the month. Please bring your children **promptly at 9:40 am** in the front right pew.

This group sang beautifully in October; I am very proud of them. The same group has been meeting weekly for rehearsals on Sundays after Religious Education from 12:15 to 12:45 pm. **Please note that from now on we will be rehearsing in Kokkos Hall.** They have been doing a great job in accomplishing the tasks and the hymns that I present to them. New singers are always welcome.

Love, Presvytera Maria

Orthodox Family Fellowship

Thanks to everyone who helped with Fellowship Hour on Sunday, October 1 — we collected \$267. We will host Fellowship Hour again on November 12 and December 3, and need everyone's help with the food and services. These funds will go toward our Homeless Outreach Program.

For our Outreach Program, we will be stuffing gift bags on Thursday, December 14 at 6:00 pm in Kokkos Hall; on Saturday, December 16 at 10:00 am, we would like you to join us in distributing these bags to the homeless, which will include blankets, scarves, gloves, socks, hats, deodorants, baby wipes (small individual packages), toothpaste, toothbrushes and soap. Last year's outreach was a great success and this year can be even better with the help of all our parishioners! Go to the dollar stores, or help by making a cash donation earmarked for "Orthodox Family Fellowship's Homeless Outreach Program."

On **Saturday, November 11, 6:00-9:00 pm**, please join us for a **Family Fellowship Potluck** in the Community Center and call us to let us know what favorite dish and dessert you're bringing. Love in Christ, **Mike and Tami Stefanatos 458-0266**

ICONOGRAPHY PHASE TWO

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH NEEDS YOU.

Our Parish has nearly 500 active families . . .

To date, only 59 families have contributed toward the Second Phase of our Iconography.

The cost for Phase Two of our Church Iconography is \$250,000 —

this must be paid in full by the installation in November, 2006 . . .

Only \$42,108 has been contributed.

Due to the scope of the project, scaffolding prices increased \$15,000 since the original bid.

If expenses are not met, then our Parish will have to borrow

from the line of credit that was approved at our Spring '06 Parish Assembly.

It is our privilege to participate at this momentous time in the history of our Parish.

It is our blessing to leave these sacred works to future generations.

PLEASE COME FORWARD WITH YOUR DONATION NOW!

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ICONOGRAPHY PHASE TWO

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

GIFT AMOUNT: _____

For information, please contact:

Cheryl Pandelis
Home 451-1440
Cell 338-1601
cpandelis@cox.net

Joanne DeMangus
Home 492-9894
Cell 461-2566
rjdemangus@earthlink.net

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

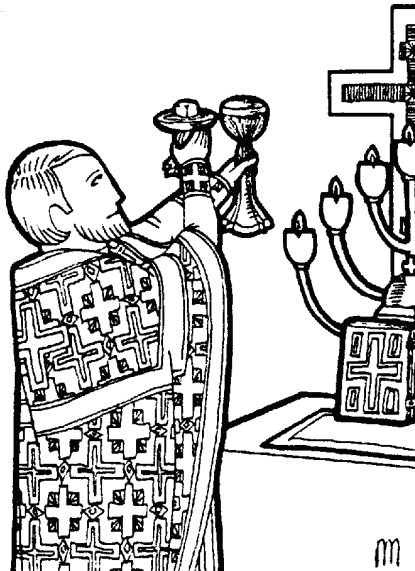
Nativity Fast Retreat 2006

Friday, November 17 ~ Beginning with Vespers at 6:00 pm
Saturday, November 18 ~ Beginning with Liturgy at 8:00 am

Sessions to be held at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
5300 El Camino Drive, Las Vegas (Off Hacienda between Jones and Torrey Pines)

“You are a Witness to These Things!” (Luke 24:48)
Making the Liturgy Real in Our Lives

Father Paul Lazor, Retreat Speaker



Archpriest Paul Lazor, Dean of Students and Professor of Practical Theology at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary. Fr. Paul is an internationally known teacher and writer on Liturgics in the Orthodox Church. He holds retreats around the country to lead people to a better understanding of the Liturgical Tradition of the Orthodox Church. This retreat is sponsored by the Clark County Orthodox Clergy Association. For more information, contact Fr. Eric G. Tosi 898-4800 (East Side) or Fr. John Hondros 221-8245 (West Side) by November 3, 2006.

\$15 per person, includes meals

The Ladies Philoptochos Society of
St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
proudly presents
The 24th Annual
Greek Christmas Pastry Tin

Make a lasting and memorable impression on your friends, clients and
co-workers with

Two dozen delicious assorted Greek pastries lovingly packaged by
the Philoptochos Ladies of St. John
in a beautifully decorated keepsake tin.

Wonderful for hostess gifts, holiday parties or office gifts.
Only \$27.00

Need something smaller?
Try the brand new mini box of Greek treats.
Eight generous pieces of golden delectable Baklava and
two Greek Christmas cookies for \$12.00

Quantities are limited and sold only on a pre-order basis.
Send your check in today to guarantee your order.
Sale ends November 20, 2006

Please make checks payable to:
Ladies Philoptochos Society

Name: _____

Address: _____

Day Telephone: _____

Evening Telephone: _____

Number of Tins: _____ @ \$27.00 = _____

Number of Small Boxes _____ @ \$12.00 = _____

Check # _____

Your order will be ready for pickup at St. John Church
On December 8, 2006 after 2:00 pm.

Greek Folk Dance News

The Greek Dance groups have been busy practicing in preparation for the annual Greek Orthodox Folk Dance Festival (FDF), which will take place in Ontario, California in February 2007. We are excited to have started a younger group (ages 5-8) that will have an opportunity to participate in the Division III competition as well.

Sending the dance groups to FDF requires a lot of fundraising. We are again planning a Rummage Sale on Friday and Saturday, December 1 and 2. This was a very successful fundraiser for the dance groups last year and we hope it is a success again. Please start cleaning out your closets and garages and set aside any discards you have. You will be able to drop off your rummage sale donations to the Church a few days prior to the sale. Reminders and updates will be included in upcoming Sunday bulletins.

For those dancers planning to attend FDF, we will need you and your parents to sign a commitment that you will be going **by November 5**. We need to know how many dancers will be participating so we can plan accordingly.

A **Parent Meeting** for all three dance groups will be held on **Sunday, November 5 at 1:00 pm.**, after the Philoptochos Unity Day Luncheon. We will have more detailed information about FDF at this meeting.

Remember that each child must also attend Church on Sundays and those ages 5-17 must be a participant in Religious Education. All parents of dancers must be a Steward of Record for 2006-2007 at St. John Church.

Thank you to all parents for bringing your children to practices each week. It is wonderful to see such a dedicated group of kids promoting our Greek heritage and culture to others through folk dance.

If you have any questions about the Dance Program, please feel free to contact **Tina Liaos, Dance Board Member**, at Jtlia@aol.com or by phone at 492-7217.

Junior GOYA

Hello to all Jr. GOYAns (6th – 8th graders). Unfortunately, our Red Rock Hike on October 14 was rained out. Remember that the 2nd Saturday of every month is designated as “Youth Ministry Day.” This will help families simplify their calendars by making the same day every month for our activities.

Our November Outreach Project is a non-perishable food drive. Please start collecting food every time you go to the grocery store and bring them to Church on or before **Saturday, November 11**. That day, we will meet at **3:00 pm in Kokkos Hall** to pack the baskets; snacks will be provided. The Ladies of Philoptochos will be joining in the effort with us to collect canned foods for our needy family outreach program. It is a great blessing to be one family in God and work as a collective team for His good works. Thank you Ladies and everyone in advance for your love and support in this matter.

Mark your calendars for our **St. John Youth Christmas Party on Saturday, December 9 at 5:00 pm in Panos Hall**. We have planned the party to follow the Religious Education Pageant Rehearsal, which will begin at 3:30 pm. This is a fast-appropriate Christmas party, though we are permitted on the weekends to have fish. If your last name begins with A-L, please bring a salad and a side dish. If your last name begins with M-Z, please bring a main dish and a dessert.

We hope and pray for success in all our events. Please call with any questions.

Love in Christ,

Effie Lekar 768-5500 or Alexandra Carrico 655-8641

Notes From the Loft



On October 1, we celebrated Church Musicians Sunday.

The St. John Choir, Youth Choir and Chanters were presented with icons and crosses in acknowledgment of their dedication and participation in the Liturgy each Sunday. A memorial was also held for the departed members of the Choir. Afterward, Kiki and Stacy Mavrantonis hosted an extravagant and delicious luncheon in their lovely home.

During various Sundays in November and December, the Choir will be rehearsing for the Christmas season. As always, we welcome new voices.

Faye Brown, Director

○ give thanks to the Lord for
He is good ~ Psalm 136

Stewardship Report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As of October 15, 2006 our parish has received pledges from 458 Steward families for a total of \$354,891 or approximately 71% of our Parish Assembly approved 2006 goal of \$500,000. To date, the total gifts received is \$251,041, approximately 71% of the total amount of \$354,891 pledged by the Stewards of our Parish.

As the month of November is upon us, once again we begin our campaign for next year's Stewardship Drive. The theme for 2007, *Gifts from Heaven*, is drawn from St. John the Evangelist's Gospel. He writes us the words spoken by St. John the Forerunner, who reminds some of his disciples that "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven." (**John 3:27**) This is truly a reminder to all of us that all that we have is a gift from above and we, as good Stewards of the "talents" given us, are called upon to make good use of them for the glory of the Lord.

Stewardship Sunday will be **November 19**. On that date we should be in the initial stages of writing the Phase II Iconography in our beautiful Byzantine Church. Keeping with the theme, *Gifts from Heaven*, we will do something special in the Church that will relate to the beautification of our Church to the glory of God. You will shortly receive a mailing from your Stewardship Committee with all the details of the 2007 Stewardship Drive. When you receive this mailing with your Pledge Card, please look into your hearts and make an effort to increase your pledge from last year. Our expenses continue to increase with inflation and the need for maintenance and upkeep; please bear in mind also that we still want to establish a goal of one day having Stewardship cover all the operating expenses of the Church.

In the meantime, it is not too late to become a Steward for 2006. We still have a significant pledge shortfall of approximately \$145,000 against the approved Stewardship goal we, the parishioners, set in December last year. Let's all see what we can do to close this gap in the last two months of the year and support the Lord's mission on earth, with our loving offerings of our time, talents and treasures. Please contact the Church Office (702) 221-8245 or one of our cochairmen (phone numbers listed below) and make your pledge today to support the work of Christ through His Church. If you are currently a Steward, please make every effort to fulfill your 2006 pledge and, if you find that you are able to increase your pledge, *Glory be to God – Δόξα σοι ο Θεός*.

In Christ, John Matsis (498-6981) and John G. Karas (219-5057)

Stewardship Committee Cochairmen

Outreach Notice: *Your Stewardship Committee needs your help. We are looking for a group of parishioners to work on the committee assisting in the many facets of Stewardship. If you are interested in joining this committee, please come to our next meeting on **Monday, November 13 at 6:30 pm**.*

HOPE and JOY

It is time to make night lights again! On **Saturday, November 11**, from **3:00-6:00 pm**, we will be meeting in **Kokkos Hall** to make night lights and gift bags for the elderly. Snacks and beverages will be served, so please let us know if you can attend. The children will deliver the gift bags and sing to the elderly in the retirement center on **Sunday, November 12**. Last year it was a huge success and the children had lots of fun helping the community. We would like to ask for donations of new socks and Chap Stick to help fill the gift bags. In addition, we will be collecting grocery store gift cards for the moms and children of Safe Nest. This will help buy Thanksgiving dinners for those families in need. Gift cards or cash donations (any amount) can be brought to Church and given to one of the HOPE and JOY advisors. It is a great time of year to reach out to people in need. We appreciate all your support and generosity.

Don't forget our annual **Christmas Party on December 9 in Panos Hall!** HOPE and JOY is a youth ministry for all children preschool through 5th grade.

HOPE: Christy Vino 228-7657, Para Pouridis 304-1726

JOY: Tammy Chomakos 338-4671, Jennifer Orlando 631-0111

Stewards and Contributors 2006

“Lord, sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house”

Adamy, Marina	Cero, Dean	Eyler, John and Elizabeth
Agnos, Dimitrios and Angie	Chachas, Bessie	Falcone, Frank
Agnos, George and Maggie	Chachas, James	Fanandakis, George and Helen
Agnos, Kosta and Erin	Chandrinos, Alexia	Felecos, Sophia
Agrebi, Jeanne	Chandrinos, Peter	Filios, George and Nitsa
Alex, Jim and Renee	Chandrinos, Ricki	Filios, Spiridon and Eleni
Alexander, Eleni	Chanos, George	Flangas, Albert and Trudi
Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine	Chomakos, Christopher and Karry	Flangas, Bill and Marilyn
Andraktos, Manuel	Chomakos, Dean and Tammy	Flangas, Gary and Amanda
Andrews, Catherine	Chomakos, George and Nikki	Flangas, Gus and Tamara
Andrews, George	Chomakos, Jeremy	Flangas, Peter and Wanda
Andrews, Presvytera Helen	Chomakos, Nick and Laura	Fokas, Elene
Angle, Florence	Christopoulos, Ann	Foldes, Maya
Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette	Christopoulos, Tom	Fontaine, Tony
Apostolopoulos, Chris and Katia	Christou, Andreas and Toni	Foskaris, Thomas and Irina
Argyri-Rhodes, Ismene	Chumas, Russell and Stella	Frangakis, John
Argyris, Pete	Ciulla, Anthony and Kleri	Frangopulu, Hhristina
Aristides, George and Diana	Collins, David	Franzi, Cynthia
Asim, Demetrious	Collins, Dean	Franzi, Jack
Athans, Eleni	Collins, Evangelia	Franzi, Zach
Athens, Ann	Cominos, Ted and Emily	Fuson, Aglaia
Attard, Constantine and Sophia	Conger, William and Alexia	Garcia, Eleni Konsolakis-
Austin, Christopher and Athanasia	Constantine, Bill	Garifallakis, Pat
Bagis, Eleni	Constantinou, Magdeline	Gear, Darius and Bessie
Bakalas, Estella	Coroneos, Marika	George, Louis
Balason, Anna	Cotsilis, Peter and Jenny	George, Pete and Georgia
Balason, Voula	Coutris, Angela	Georges, William and Esther
Baldwin, Richard and Vivi	Curtis, Liberty	Georgis, John and Kaliopi
Balodimas, Dr. James	Dalacas, Anthony and Eugenia	Gialketsis, Babe and Terry
Bariames, George	Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	Gialketsis, Barbara
Bartzos, Sam and Eugenia	Dalacas, Eleni	Gialketsis, Bill and Shelli
Behre, Meheret	Dalacas, Nick and Georgia	Gialketsis, Julie
Berendji, Jim Dimitrios and Vivian	DeCarlo, Frank and Nadine	Gialketsis, Steve
Bernalis, James	DeMangus, Peter and Ursula	Giouzolis, Anastasia
Bicos, Andriana	DeMangus, Robert and Joanne	Goddard, Elizabeth
Bigler, III, Louis	Demas-Goodin, Maria	Goldman, Love
Bingham, Georgia	Demolas, Ilias and Jody	Gotsopoulos, Dennis
Bledsoe, Lori	Demoleas, Spero and Grace	Gould, John and Teddy
Bochanis, George	Demoleas, Stephanie	Gousdovas, Nikos
Borzekas, Stephen and Katharina	Demopoulos, Tommy and Vasiliki	Gousias, Elias and Maria
Britten, Ron and Carol	Dervis, Irene	Grabovoi, Eftie
Brown, Andrew and Christina	DeWindt, Dennis and Susan	Grant, Gregory
Brown, Faye	Diamantis, Filippos	Grillas, Vasilios and Roula
Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Dominguez, Amalia and Eric	Grissom, Tony and Georgeea Bieker-
Buscaglia, Elaine	Doppe, Victoria	Grodhaus, Jurgen and Jannell
Buzz, Scott	Dougan, Linda	Gruber, Ernest and Zoe
Cahill, Irene and Michael	Dounis, Georgia Dr.	Guerrero, Lynn and Rudy
Capadalis, Tim and Marline	Eliades, Artemis	Hallis, Louis and Betty
Captain, Nicholas and Maria	Eliades, Harry and Agapi	Hamilton, Mary
Carabas, Stephen and Linda	Eliakis, Peter and Glenda	Hamilton, Paul and Brandi
Carabas, Thomas and Sotiroulla	Eliakis, Varthie and Family	Haralamvakis, Demetre and Dimitra
Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	Eliopulos, Goldie	Harris, Melty and Angeline
Carras, Margaret	English, Marika	Hart, Dr. Russell and Dora
Carrico, William and Alexandra	Exarhos, Nick and Sharon	Haynes, Penny
Carson, Michele	Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean	Hemmers, Oliver and Anne Pantelas
Carter, Maria	Eyler, Jesse and Family	Heretakis, Francine

Heretakis, Paul
 Hernquist, Jim and Angela
 Hetzel, Dr. David
 Hionides, Mary
 Hondros, Christina
 Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria
 Iracleanos, Sonia
 Jacobs, Nicholas
 Kachikis, Paul and Ernestine
 Kakavulias, Christina
 Kakavulias, George and Helen
 Kakavulias, John
 Kakavulias, Maria
 Kalavros, Helen
 Kalavros, Katharina
 Kalfas, Thomas
 Kalianiotis, Labros & Irene
 Kambouris, Nick and Litsa
 Kanellis, Sam and Ann
 Kanoles, Helene
 Kanoles, Konstantine
 Karagines, Peter and Linda
 Karalis, Gianni and April
 Karas, James
 Karas, John and Marcie
 Karas, Vasiliki
 Karris, Mark and Suzanne
 Karvounidis, Nick and Alexandra
 Katris, Nick and Kathryn
 Katsanevas, Nick and Mary
 Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon
 Kelesis, Mike
 Kelros, Dina
 Khoury, Ray
 Kleantis, George and Zanetta
 Knoblock, Jamie and Laurie
 Kokenes, Lt. Col. Wm. and Katherine
 Koliambas, Eleni
 Kolinas, Claire
 Konsolakis-Garcia, Eleni
 Kostas, Maria
 Kostopoulos, George and Georgia
 Kotonias, George and Patricia
 Koupiaris, Frank and Sonia
 Kourafas, Chris and Trish
 Kouretas, Daniel
 Kouretas, Demetri and Amanda
 Kourlos, Georgia
 Koutanis, Dennis and Panagiota
 Koutsulis, Diane
 Koutsulis, John and Eileen
 Koutsulis, Sam and Effie
 Kover, Barbara
 Kratky, Frank and Constance
 Kypreos, Peter and Geri
 Kypreos, Sophia
 Kyprianou, Gilbert and Alexis
 Kyriazopoulos, Constantine and Eleni
 Lakis, Antionette
 Lambris, Justin and Amy

Lambros, Argere and Mary
 Lambros, Marianthi
 Latelle, George and Penny
 Lekar, Michael and Effie
 Lemelson, Katerina
 Leone, Stephen
 Leonis, Nick and Sophia
 Leonis, Tishe
 Leventis, Nicholas and Christina
 Lewis, Foula
 Liakopoulos, Peter and Jenny
 Liaos, Jim and Tina
 Liaos, Steven and Francine
 Liaos, William and Irene
 Likourinou, Angie
 Likourinou, Steve and June
 Lohse, JoAnne
 Lymberopoulos, Mary
 Lyons, John and Mary
 Madsen, David and Elena
 Malamatos, Kindina
 Maland, Donna and Tim
 Malcolm, Cameron
 Mallett, Gina
 Malpee, Mack and Kalliope
 Mamasis, K Dena
 Mamasis, Tessie
 Manakides, Tommy and Ginger
 Manolakos, Catherine
 Manolakos, Joh and Hilborn, Jennifer
 Mansour, Muna
 Manteris, Art and Sue
 Maragos, Constance
 Markakis, Joseph
 Markakis, Mike and Cathy
 Markakis, Sandy Kiriaki
 Markantonis, George and Sarah
 Markham, Lily
 Markou, Ann
 Marlas, Louis and Vivien
 Martinaitis, Louis and Audra
 Martinek, Richard and Esther
 Matsis, John and Rebecca
 Matsukas, George
 Matsukas, John and Ariadne
 Mauad, LtCol Amble and Georgia
 Mavrantonis, Stacy, Kiki, Theofani
 and Michael
 Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debra
 Mavros, Michael and Debbie
 Mazzetti, Tess
 McNear, Elizabeth
 McPherson, Robert and Marie
 Mestousis, John and Cathy
 Metroyanis, George
 Mezilson, Evangeline
 Migliorini, Andrew and Diane
 Mihopulos, John
 Mikelis, Peter
 Miller, Mary

Miller, Paul
 Millet, Jennie
 Milonas, Henry
 Mimikos, Matina
 Miner, George
 Miralles, Jean
 Mirrer, Raymond and Katherine
 Mitchell, Katherine
 Moffett, Todd and Tina Eliopoulos
 Monoyudis, Jim and Julie
 Moures, Michael and Maria
 Mulopoulos, George
 Murnane, Sharon
 Murphy, Terence and Karen
 Nadzan, Don and Athena
 Natsis, Dionysios
 Natsis, Michael
 Neocleous, Plato
 Newell, Ronald and Maria
 Niarkos, Evgenia
 Nicholas, James and Myrna
 Nicholas, John and Estella
 Nichols, Mary
 Nickolson, Chloe
 Nikitas, Rigas and Aphrodite
 Nikolopoulos, Nick and Demetra
 Nikolopoulos, Pete and Amanda
 Nikolopoulos, Peter and Pelagia
 Nikols, George and Christine
 O'Brien, William and Chris
 Olmsted, Travis and Marilyn
 Orlando, Alleck and Jennifer
 Osborn, Pearl
 Ostis, Sotirios and Evelyn
 Ozun, Michelle
 Pallis, Paul and Sandra
 Pandelis, Cheryl
 Papadopoulos, John & Toulia
 Papas, Christian
 Papas, Louie
 Papas, Peter and Areti
 Pappas, Adrian and Diane
 Pappas, Anthony and McMahon,
 Bridget
 Pappas, Antonia
 Pappas, Constantine and Karina
 Pappas, John
 Pappas, Peter and Libby
 Pappas, Rita
 Pardalis, Helen
 Parras, Tina
 Paschalis, Evangelos and Maria
 Payan, Luis and Eleni
 Payne, Cassidy
 Payne, Peter
 Pearson, Jeff and Adrienne
 Pendleton, Tricia
 Pentogenis, Michael and Katherine
 Peratikos, George and Irene
 Peronis, Mercury and Fay

Peterson, Barbara
 Peterson, Tessie
 Petrakos, Gregg
 Petro, Aleko and Georgia
 Piña, Jose and Doris
 Plentzas, Spiros and Ruth
 Plomatos, Kathryn
 Polimerou, Angeline
 Politis, Nicolas and Alice
 Poulos, Christine
 Pouridis, Kouli and Para
 Prather, Moses, Jr. and Dina
 Prokopsis, Anna
 Prokopsis, Chris and Ritsa
 Prud'homme, Edwin and Penny
 Radosta, Athena
 Raptis, Fr. Dean and Presv. Evonne
 Rifakes, John and Carol
 Rigas, Dr. Anthony and Mary
 Roberts, Sofia
 Rodes, Anne
 Rodis, Dimitri and Jennifer
 Rores, Rebecca
 Rouvas, John and Keri
 Salon, Nick and Janelle
 Savas, Christina
 Scott, Ann
 Setian, Gary and Marie
 Sigalas, Concetta
 Simidian, Therese
 Simos, Spiro and Eleni
 Sirhan, Michael and Khuri, Imtisal
 Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia
 Skandros, John and Georgia
 Skerbetz, Frank and Sophia
 Smyth, Brendan and Georgia
 Snowden, Robert and Niki
 Somaduroff, John and Paula
 Sotira, Dhimitra
 Sotira, George
 Spanopoulos, Elias
 Sparangis, Spyro and Helen
 Sparkuhl, Dr. Alex
 Spring, Nicole
 Staikos, Becky
 Stamis, Angelo and Susan
 Stamis, George and Effie
 Staubs, Douglas and Anastasia
 Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki
 Stavropoulos, Vasiliki
 Stefanatos, Michael and Tami
 Stefanatos-Hetzel, Dr. Joanne
 Stephanos, Stanley and Aspasia
 Stika, Arthur and Melinda
 Stilianessis, Howard
 Stock, Helen
 Stratas, Chris
 Struzas, Maria
 Stubberud, Peter and Laura
 Sweesey, Mary

Szukiewicz, Joe
 Szukiewicz, Joseph and Justina
 Tafoya, Steven and Irene
 Takas, Andrea
 Tasios, Robert and Family
 Tasios, Stella
 Taxiarchos, Andrew and Alexandra
 Taxopoulos, Bobby and Marylou
 Taylor, Frederick and Katherine
 Teed, Charles
 Theodoredis, Nicholas and Chrysanthy
 Thomas, Angie
 Thompson, Maggy
 Touhouliotis, Leah
 Toutoulis, James and Anard
 Triffon, Cathy
 Trimble, Mary
 Tsolis, Christos and Panagioula
 Tsolis, Kosta
 Tsoukalas, Spyridon
 Tsouras, Christopher and Diane
 Tsouras, George
 Tsouras, Helen
 Tzelalis, Steve
 Tzortzis, Vasilios and Maria
 Vassiliadis, Athena
 Vavoukakis, Gus and Penelope
 Vergos, Charles and Eve
 Vervilos, James
 Vinieratos, Aristotalis and Spiridoula

Vino, Joseph and Christy
 Volz, Mary
 Vosdoganis, Nicholas and Janeen
 Wadlow, Jim and Antoinette
 Walford, Robert
 Wallach, Rinaki
 Walter, Vernon and Alice
 Walters, Lane and Mary
 Waters, Gary and Susan
 Weber-Hayes, Stella
 Weisman, Phil and Diane
 Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina
 Williams, Anthony and Anna
 Wilson, Clyde
 Wilson, Kelly Caplanis
 Wilson, Steven and Cleo
 Womack, Karl and Constance
 Wronski, Chuck
 Xikis, Gregory
 Xikis, Vicki
 Younani, Givo and Marina
 Zachariou, Sozos and Aspasia
 Zaferatos, Ted and Jackie
 Zafropoulos, John
 Zarkos, Dr. Nick and Dina
 Zarras, Nick and Chery
 Zervou, Evangelia
 Zimmerman, Paul and Angela
 Zoitopoulos, Dimitrios and Pam
 Zoumboulis, James and Tina

Hellenic Historical Society: World Odyssey

The Hellenic Historical Society is extremely pleased to announce our second major exhibit, *The World Odyssey*, which will be presented at the Church Name Day celebration on January 6, 2007.

The mission of *The World Odyssey* exhibit is to trace *your journey* to this place. We want to know all about you, your ancestral roots, where you came from and how you arrived at our Church and community here in Las Vegas. We are a diverse group, from many places and backgrounds and together we have a rich and wondrous story. Please assist us in telling this story.

You should have received in the mail the *World Odyssey Questionnaire*. Please duplicate it for each person in your family, and help us out by taking the time to fill it out and making sure that your family members do so as well. We want every individual's story to be included in the display on the world map.

Time is of the essence; please submit your questionnaire *as soon as possible*, and definitely before the **November 30, 2006 deadline**. We thank you sincerely for your participation.

Nitsa Filios and the Society Officers and Board

Congratulations: Angela Hernquist was awarded a PhD in Higher Education Leadership from UNLV. Angela's dissertation was *Comparative Case Analysis of Women: Public and Private Leaders*.

NOVEMBER 2006 - IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>5 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Religious Ed Open House Unity Day Luncheon 1:00 pm Argonafes 1:00 pm Dance Parents</p>			<p>1 Ss. Cosmas/Damian 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 Divine Liturgy 4:00 pm Greek/Youth 7:00 pm Orthodoxy Class #6</p>	<p>2 6:00 pm Greek/Adult II</p>	<p>3 6:00 pm Greek/Adult I 7:00 pm Orthodox Clergy Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>6 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Religious Ed Open House Unity Day Luncheon 1:00 pm Argonafes 1:00 pm Dance Parents</p>	<p>6 6:30 pm Stewardship and Outreach Meeting</p>	<p>7 5:30 pm Lil' Dancers 6:00 pm Delfinia 7:00 pm Philoptochos Board Meeting Clergy Institute at St. Nicholas Ranch</p>	<p>8 Archangels 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 Divine Liturgy 4:00 pm Greek/Youth 6:00 pm Youth Ministry 7:00 pm Apostolic Frs.</p>	<p>9 6:00 pm Greek/Adult II</p>	<p>10 6:00 pm Greek/Adult I</p>	<p>11 Youth Day at Kokkos Hall: 3:00 pm Jr. GOYA 3:00 pm HOPE & JOY 6:00 pm Orthodox Family Fellowship</p>
<p>12 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Youth Choir Chants Religious Ed Classes Parish Assembly 1:00 pm Argonafes</p>	<p>13 6:30 pm Stewardship and Outreach Meeting</p>	<p>14 11:30 am Senior Forerunners at Kokkos 5:30 pm Lil' Dancers 6:00 pm Delfinia 7:00 pm Philoptochos General Meeting</p>	<p>15 Nativity Fast Begins (thru 12/24) 4:00 pm Greek/Youth 6:00 pm Greek Teachers Meeting 7:00 pm Apostolic Frs.</p>	<p>16 6:00 pm Greek/Adult II</p>	<p>17 Advent Retreat with Fr. Paul Lazor 6:00 pm Vespers 7:00 pm Retreat/Wine and Cheese Reception 6:00 pm Greek/Adult I</p>	<p>18 Advent Retreat with Fr. Paul Lazor 8:00 am Divine Liturgy 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Retreat Sessions (Lunch will be served)</p>
<p>19 Stewardship Sunday 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Religious Ed Classes Autumn Bake Sale 1:00 pm Argonafes</p>	<p>20 6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting</p>	<p>21 Entrance of the Theotokos 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 5:30 pm Lil' Dancers 6:00 pm Delfinia</p>	<p>22 4:00 pm Greek/Youth Thanksgiving Liturgy 6:30 pm Divine Liturgy and Artoclasia (No Adult Class)</p>	<p>23 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed</p>	<p>24 Office Closed</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Family Worship/No Class</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 5:30 pm Lil' Dancers 6:00 pm Delfinia</p>	<p>29 4:00 pm Greek/Youth 7:00 pm Apostolic Fathers</p>	<p>30 6:00 pm Greek/Adult II</p>		

The Desert Messenger

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Las Vegas, NV
Permit No. 98

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTMASTER : DATED MATERIAL PLEASE EXPEDITE

THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord

“*Thanksgiving* is the ‘sign,’ or better still, the presence, joy, fullness, of knowledge of God, i.e., knowledge as meeting, knowledge as communion, knowledge as unity. Just as it is impossible to know God and not give Him thanks, so it is impossible to give Him thanks without knowing Him.

Knowing God transforms our life into thanksgiving,
and thanksgiving transforms eternity into life everlasting.

‘Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name!’

(Ps. 103:1) If the entire life of the Church is above all one continuous burst of praise, blessing and thanksgiving, if this thanksgiving is raised up both out of joy and out of sorrow, out of the depths of both happiness and misfortune, out of both life and death, if the most bitter graveside lamentation is transformed by it into a song of praise, ‘*Alleluia*,’ then it is because the Church is the meeting with God, which has been accomplished in Christ.”

~Father Alexander Schmemmann, *The Eucharist*, p. 176