

# The Desert



# Messenger

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

Volume 7, Issue 5 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

May 2009

**From  
Father  
John**

Beloved in Christ:

*Christ is Risen!* As our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ stood trial before Pontius Pilate, He was asked to defend His Kingship. Christ responded that His Kingship, contrary to the claims of the Jewish religious authorities, was *“not from the world.”* Responding further to the inquiry of His claim to Kingship, Christ professed: *“For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears My voice.”* Perplexed, Pilate then asked, *“What is truth?” (John 18:36-38)*

We journeyed the forty day Great Fast and ascended toward Golgotha to again witness the Crucifixion of our Lord. Moreover, as God’s beloved children, by grace, we again joyfully celebrated the life-giving Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We adhered to our Orthodox Traditions, remained faithful to the ancient rubrics of worship, listened to the powerful readings and chanted the inspiring hymns as we have year after year, but somehow we still failed to grasp the meaning of this Feast of Feasts for our lives. And so, amazingly, even with our Paschal Candles brilliantly lit, many of us are still asking the same question as Pilate: *“What is truth?”*

The world seeks the truth, and yet we Orthodox are remiss in revealing it because many of us have not willingly embraced Christ and His teachings in our lives. We received the light for our Paschal Candles, took it home, but left it there – failing to respond to the Lord’s command to repent of our fallen ways and to share the good news of the Life that has dawned from the tomb with our contemporaries. Miss California may have been denied the crown and angered the politically-correct, but Christians applauded her for speaking the truth against gay marriages – while we Orthodox quietly held our Paschal Candles. The Las Vegas Sun received the Pulitzer Prize for exposing the truth about shoddy practices at construction sites that led to unnecessary deaths, even when faced with threats from contractors and cover-ups from OSHA – as we Orthodox remained complacent with unethical practices as we returned to our work places.

Had the Holy Apostles remained in the Upper Room, we would not be the recipients of the Truth of Christ’s Resurrection from the Dead. Had the Apostles not cooperated with the grace of the Holy Spirit, the Truth of our New Life in Christ would not have been handed down to us through the Holy Scripture and Holy Tradition. Praising those who were obedient to Christ’s call to transmit the True Faith, St. Paul wrote: *“But how are men to call upon Him in Whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of Him they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news.’” (Romans 10:14-15)*

By the goodness of Christ and the loving zeal of His blessed messengers, we Orthodox Christians are the recipients of the Truth. Having received this gift, we must follow the footsteps of these holy men and women who have, regardless of circumstances, passed the torch of the Orthodox Faith to us through the Holy Church. How will we answer at our Lord’s Judgment Seat if we allow the flame of our belief to wane or be kept for ourselves, failing to witness to the world with words and actions? In the parish of St. John the Baptist, the Paschal Light has been passed for fifty years, allowing us still today to be participants by grace in the Kingdom of God. Beloved, let us glorify Christ by following their blessed footsteps as bearers of the Truth for future generations.

With Love in the Risen Lord,

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

**Sunday, May 3/ 3rd Sunday of Pascha/The Holy Myrrh-Bearers**

Orthros: Tone Two  
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:1-12  
Epistle: Acts 6:1-7  
Gospel: Mark 15:43-47, 16:1-8

**Sunday, May 10/ 4th of Pascha/The Paralytic/ Mother's Day**

Orthros: Tone Three  
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:13-35  
Epistle: Acts 9:32-42  
Gospel: John 5:1-15

**Wednesday, May 13/ Feast of Mid-Pentecost**

8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Acts 14:6-18  
Gospel: John 7:14-30

**Sunday, May 17/ 5th of Pascha/Samaritan Woman**

Orthros: Tone Four  
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:1-10  
Epistle: Acts 11:19-30  
Gospel: John 4:5-42

*Christ is Risen from the dead,  
by Death He has trampled down death,  
and to those in the tombs  
He is bestowing Life.*

**Wednesday, May 20**

5:00 pm Orthros - 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy  
(*Ss. Constantine and Helen, Equal to the Apostles*)  
Epistle: Acts 26:1, 12-20  
Gospel: John 10:1-9

**Thursday, May 21/ Ss. Constantine and Helen  
Liturgy celebrated on Wednesday evening**

**Sunday, May 24/ 6th of Pascha/The Blind Man**

Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)  
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:11-18  
Epistle: Acts 16:16-34  
Gospel: John 9:1-38

**Wednesday, May 27**

5:00 pm Orthros - 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy  
(*The Ascension of Our Lord*)  
Epistle: Acts 1:1-12  
Gospel: Luke 24:36-53

**Thursday, May 28/ The Ascension  
Liturgy celebrated on Wednesday evening**

**Sunday, May 31/ 7th of Pascha/Holy Fathers of the  
First Ecumenical Synod**

Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)  
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 21:1-14  
Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36  
Gospel: John 17:1-13



*Holy Week 2009 -  
Palm Sunday with  
Metropolitan Gerasimos,  
Myrrh-Bearers at the  
Epitaphion and the  
Anastasi Service*



**President's  
Column**

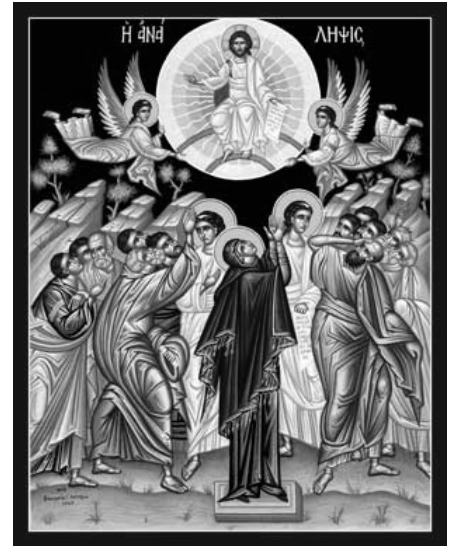
*Christos Anesti! Truly He has Risen!*

This Lenten Season was filled with many blessings! Once again we were graced by Metropolitan Gerasimos visiting our parish! Holy Week went well, and we celebrated a beautiful Holy Pascha and Agape Picnic.

I want to thank everyone who volunteered during Holy Week, especially Philoptochos for a successful Palm Sunday Luncheon and Peter Papas and George Kakavulias who put together a great Agape Picnic.

Now let's look ahead: Please join us at our *Parish Assembly on May 3* in Panos Hall following Liturgy. Please remember that you must be a 2009 Steward to participate and vote.

Peter Kypreos, Parish Council President



*Financial Status for Month of March 2009*

<u>Bank Accounts</u>	<u>Beginning Balance as of 2.28.09</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Internal Bank Transfers</u>		<u>Balances as of 3.31.09</u>
				<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>	
General Operating	\$4,650.48	\$51,832.15	\$40,409.15			\$16,073.48
Building/Maintenance	\$37,913.88	\$756.68	\$11,200.00			\$27,470.56
Community/Education Ctr	\$3,687.31	\$10,762.74	\$3,174.82			\$11,275.23
Construction (Loan Paymts)	\$31,970.31		\$5,530.37			\$26,439.94
Food Festival	\$173.59	\$60.00				\$233.59
Icon Money Market	\$8,560.61	\$645.62	\$37.00			\$9,169.23
Library Checking	\$17,457.39	\$3.06				\$17,460.45
Construction Loan	\$704,857.97					\$701,791.85
Revolving Line of Credit	\$71,074.98					\$72,832.98

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**May 3**

**Ushers:** Spiros Filios, Angela Coutris, John Karas, Sam Koutsulis, William Carrico, George Nikols

**Memorials:** Jean Miralles (40 days); George Stavrianakis (40 days); Benito Parrelli (40 days);

Maria Halambous (40 days); Sofia Kalfas (3 months); Lula Solomon (1 year); Lucille and Christos Klenakis;

Mary Bartsas and Family and Friends

**Fellowship:** Philoptochos - Bartsas Memorial

**May 10 - Happy Mother's Day!**

**Ushers:** George Kakavulias, Peter Papas, George Bochanis, Marina Adamy, John Karas, Gary Waters

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

**May 17**

**Ushers:** Pete Kypreos, George Nikols, Angela Coutris, Spiros Filios, William Carrico, Sam Koutsulis

**Fellowship:** 50th Anniversary Fundraiser

*Philoptochos Board Oath - Church School Commencement - Kokkos Scholarship Awards*

**May 24**

**Ushers:** John Karas, Sam Koutsulis, Peter Papas, Gary Waters, George Kakavulias, George Bochanis

**Fellowship:** Pan-Arcadians to Benefit Iconography Fund

**May 31**

**Ushers:** Marina Adamy, George Bochanis, Pete Kypreos, Angela Coutris, Gary Waters, George Nikols

**Fellowship:** Eleni Kakavulias & Family to Benefit Iconography Fund

**Philoptochos  
News**

Christ is Risen!

The Ladies of Panagia send a special THANKS to St. John's 'Special K's' – Pete Kypreos, George Kakavulias, and Sam Koutsulis – as their culinary expertise ensured a successful Palm Sunday Luncheon. And also, a hug and thanks to Peter Papas. His culinary talents were enjoyed by many at the Agape Picnic. Finally, as President, I have much appreciation for the efforts and talents of those who chaired events and also the members who gave so much in support of our parish throughout each Lenten and Paschal event. Your talents and giving are heartfelt.

Please plan on attending our *Presidents' Dinner on May 12* in Panos Hall – RSVP to Diane Weisman.

Amalia Dominguez and the Panagia Chapter Board Members

**50th Anniversary: 'A Golden Heritage'  
October 17, 18 and 19, 2009**

Three meaningful and pleasurable events are being planned in Celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our beloved St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church and Community!

**Friday, October 17**

An Evening of Historical Lectures followed by Cocktails and Mezethes for the Opening of the World Odyssey and Hellenic Historical Society Presentations

**Saturday, October 18**

Great Vespers with Metropolitan Gerasimos followed by a Great Greek Village Feast

**Sunday, October 19**

Orthros and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy Metropolitan Gerasimos followed by a Big Fat Greek Brunch

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

**Notes From the Loft**



Christos Anesti! Congratulations, Choir, for the glorious renditions of our hymns for Holy Week, Good Friday, and Holy Pascha. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos offered his thanks for the Choir's performance on Palm Sunday and the Bridegroom Service that evening. You are to be commended for your unselfish dedication, commitment and devotion.

We will take a short respite from Choir practice, and will begin rehearsals in the fall. If there is a Church Service for which we may need to practice, you will be notified.

If anyone is interested in attending the Church Musicians Conference hosted by Saints Constantine and Helen in Cardiff-by-the-Sea, June 25-28, please let me know. Faye Brown, Choir Director

*We praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You . . .*

**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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frjohn@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

Forerunners:  
Ruth Plentzas

Greek Folk Dance:  
Tina Liaos, Chair  
Bessie Stavropoulos, Director

Orthodox Bookstore:  
Costa Frangakis

50th Anniversary Celebration:  
Rena Kalkas

*Our Community Registry*

*Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisi!*

Mihai, son of Mihai Ionescu and Melissa Silver, on March 29, 2009.  
Godparent: Gabriel Petrescu.

*Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory*

Stella Tasios on March 26, 2009. Funeral on March 31.

Jean Miralles on March 26, 2009. Funeral on April 1.

“Thank You”

. . . to all volunteers, bakers, kitchen workers, donors and our entire St. John Community for supporting our Church at the Agape Picnic this year – our picnic was a huge success. **Pete Papas and George Kakavulias, Chairmen**

*Forerunners - The Seniors of St. John the Baptist*

The Forerunners met on April 21, celebrating “Bright Week” and the Resurrection of our Lord. We enjoyed delicious fast-free sandwiches and salad. We are planning a trip to Laughlin, Nevada – please look to the Weekly Bulletin for further information.

Lastly, please join us on *Mother’s Day, Sunday, May 10* as we host Fellowship after Divine Liturgy. Our membership is open to all seniors of our parish; membership is \$10 per year.

Ruth Plentzas (702) 221-0989

*Orthodox Connection Las Vegas*

Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

Wow, yet again we made it through another 40 days of Lent, then Holy Week and then . . . PASCHA! Throughout the Lenten season we had the opportunity to network with other local Orthodox Churches in the Las Vegas Valley by means of the Sunday evening Vespers.

Because it’s important for us Orthodox to be in unity with each other, OCLV would like to develop an even more concentrated effort toward this goal in Las Vegas. We will again have the opportunity to do so on *Sunday, May 17 at 4:00 pm*, when we meet at Sunset Park for a Potluck Picnic and some fun outdoor activities with others in their 20s, 30s, and 40s.

For more information contact *Angela Coutris at (702) 497-2529* or [evangelia07@gmail.com](mailto:evangelia07@gmail.com). If you are interested in helping plan OCLV events please let us know! We can always use more help growing this ministry to the entire valley. Thanks for your support.



For your enjoyment  
we present the **THIRD** of **SEVEN** excerpts of our Church History  
in the centerfold in anticipation of the  
*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.*

***DO YOU HAVE HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS FROM THE 1950s TO PRESENT?***

In order to make this History inclusive we need the assistance of everyone  
We need memorabilia related to the Church and Greek Community at large.

Please Contact:

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

# Youth Ministries

## Church School

Christos Anesti! Thank you, everyone, for a wonderful year. I can't believe the Church School Year is already nearing the end. We had a great year and I want to thank all of the teachers for their help.

Commencement will take place on *Sunday, May 17 after Liturgy*. Following Commencement, please join us for our annual end-of-the-year Pool Party and BBQ at the home of Michael and Tami Stefanatos. Please see the OFF article for more details. Thank you again for giving us the privilege of teaching your children. It has always been our pleasure. Have a great summer.

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

## HOPE and JOY

Let's enjoy the outdoors before it gets too hot. On *Saturday, May 9 at 10:00 am*, HOPE & JOY will be meeting for a hike at Red Rock Canyon. The trail is located about 2/3 of the way into the Red Rock Loop (#8 on the map, next to the Lost Trail). This hike is great for kids and we will end with lunch at the beautiful waterfall. Entrance into the Red Rock loop costs \$5 per car. Meeting place will be in the parking lot of the Lost Trail and Children's Discovery Hike trailheads. Bring plenty of water, sunscreen and pack a lunch.

Please RSVP with your HOPE & JOY Advisors, Sharon Katsaros at (702) 242-2457 or Jenn Orlando at (702) 631-0111.

## Junior GOYA

Are you ready to have some fun? On *Saturday, May 9* we will be meeting at Las Vegas Springs Preserve (Decatur and I-95) for a fun nature walk from *10:00 am-1:00 pm*. Please bring a sack lunch and plenty of water to drink.

Afterwards from *2:00-3:30 pm* we will head to the Church to prepare a Taco Dinner for Street Teens. *Please bring 2 boxes of hard taco shells and a pre-made dessert*. We need to prepare enough food to feed about 30 kids. Tammy C. and I will provide the meat, salsa, lettuce and tomatoes. The food needs to be ready and delivered by 4:00 pm. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you and having a great day together.

In Christ Service, Tami Stefanatos (702) 491-2713 and Tammy Chomakos (702) 338-4671

## Orthodox Family Fellowship (OFF)

Orthodox Family Fellowship will be hosting the annual end-of-the-year Swim Party and BBQ for Church School students at the home of Michael and Tami Stefanatos on *Sunday, May 17 at 1:30 pm*, following the Commencement in Panos Hall. Please call for directions (702) 458-0266.

Church School will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, buns and condiments. We ask that you bring your favorite side dish and drinks. We look forward to seeing everyone and having a great time as always.

We are also asking everyone to bring a case of bottled water to help support the Street Teens bottled water collection (Fresh n Easy has cases for \$2.99).

In Christ Service, **Michael and Tami Stefanatos**

"He who does something good and expects a reward  
is serving not God but his own will." ~St. Mark the Ascetic

## Senior GOYA

Christos Anesti!

Please join us all Senior GOYAns on *Youth Saturday, May 9*, in Boulder City at *9:00 am* for a great hike. We are meeting at the Starbucks parking lot, located at 1048 Nevada Hwy, Boulder City; from there we will drive to the area for the hike. Bring water, snack, sun-block, hat and some shades. Please let us know if you are joining us and will need a ride.

Please also join us *every Tuesday in Panos Hall from 6:00-8:00 pm* for volleyball practice with Coach Amanda Flangas. There is no practice at Church on May 12, but we may practice somewhere else - TBA. Practice will continue through May 26. If there is a great turn-out of Senior and Junior GOYAns, then we will organize a trip to Pasadena for the Volleyball Tournament hosted by St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church on the weekend of May 30.

Thank you to all for your participation in feeding the teens at the homeless shelter and your bottled water donations for them. A special thanks to Pete and Geri Kypreos for donating the delicious and hearty meal for the teen shelter. Also, thanks to our youth for helping out during Lent by dyeing the red eggs, singing and reading, serving in the Altar, serving as Myrrh-Bearers, baking Tsourekia and Koulouria and setting up the tables for the Agape Picnic. Though no thank you was expected because it was for your Church, we want you to know that we love you all for your humble dedication and your love for one another in Jesus Christ.

Senior GOYA is a ministry of the Church for high school teens.

In Christ service, Eileen Koutsulis (702) 521-6516 or Effie Lekar (702) 768-5500

## Youth Choir News



Christos Anesti! A sincere thank you goes out to all the Youth Choir members who participated in chanting the Hierarchical Liturgy with the Adult Choir on Palm Sunday celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, as well as the Holy Saturday morning Liturgy. As always your chanting was beautiful and spirited! It was surely appreciated by everyone.

We are back to chanting on the *second Sunday of the month for May and June*.

The dates are Mother's Day, *May 10 and June 14*. Please be prompt at *9:45 am*. We especially would like our younger choir members to come and join us. Thank you!

Love, Presvytera Maria

## Kokkos Scholarship

Applications for the Kokkos Scholarship must be returned by the deadline of *May 1*. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered.

The Kokkos Scholarship recipients will be announced at the Church School Commencement on *Sunday, May 17*. For eligibility requirements and information, please call the Church Office at (702) 221-8245.

## Attention All Graduates!

We want to share your good news in the May issue of *The Desert Messenger*! If you (or your child) will be graduating soon from High School or University, please email the following to [frjohn@vegasgreekorthodox.com](mailto:frjohn@vegasgreekorthodox.com) by *May 15*.

- School from which you are graduating
- The degree you will receive, including honors
- What your plans are, and what you will study if pursuing further education
- And most importantly, a photo of you!

TO COMMEMORATE OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Part III of VII

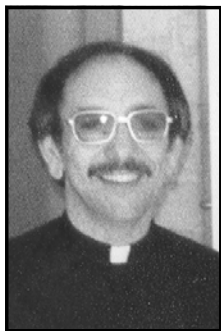
PANOS HALL

In recognition of the need for a social venue, the first building committee was formed to construct a community center attached to the church. The members of this committee were Bill Flangas, Michael Michelas, Francis Fuson and Steve Eliakis. Upon offering the highest bid at the fund-raising auction, Tom Panos named the community center "Panos Hall." The annex contained a main hall with a kitchen, two classrooms, restrooms, and offices for the priest and secretary.

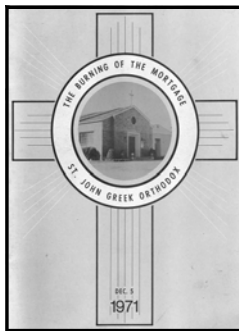


Groundbreaking Ceremony Panos Hall at Carson Street

In October of 1970, after 8 years of service in Las Vegas, Fr. Adams was transferred to San Rafael, California, and in June of 1971 Fr. Steve Prodromides was assigned to St. John. At that time the church property grew to include a rectory in a residential neighborhood to house the priest and his family.



Fr. Steve Prodromides



Burning of the Mortgage

In 1971, owners of Jerry's Nugget Casino, brothers-in-law Jerry Lodge and Jerry Stamis donated the funds

to pay off the mortgage for the church and community center. A "Burning of the Mortgage" celebration was held at the Stardust Hotel.

GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL

It was evident, however, that an additional source of revenue would be necessary to help support the growing church community, and on March 25, 1973, St. John the Baptist held its first annual Greek Food Festival.

Conceived and spearheaded by Janelle Salon, newly elected president of the Ladies Philoptochos Society, the one-day Food Festival was held indoors at the Stardust Hotel. All of the food and pastries were prepared by the Philoptochos membership and the event was a success beyond expectations.



Ladies of St. John's in traditional costumes prepare to serve at the Greek Food Festival

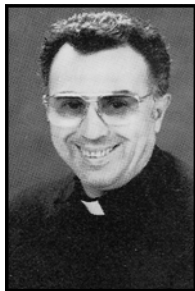
The Festival stayed at the Stardust for three years until 1975, when it was moved to the larger Space Center, the convention facility at the Sahara Hotel. However, due to the ever-increasing attendance and the overwhelming workload for the ladies, the festival was turned over to the parish council. Held for the next 22 years on Mother's Day, it would eventually require the support of the entire church community and volunteers from the Las Vegas Community at large, including enthusiastic local politicians serving in the food lines and enjoying the exposure to their constituencies.

By that time, Las Vegas had grown to 25 square miles. As the city grew geographically so did the population, and of course, the influx included Greeks. Among the attractions of Las Vegas for Greeks as well as others, were the ease in finding employment and available affordable housing. Attractive too, was the fact that Nevada had no state, individual, or corporate income tax. Despite the intense heat of the summer months (a *dry* heat), the weather was appealing; with a cold but short winter offering snow-covered mountains within a one-hour drive, and

frequent breezes which kept the air clear of pollution. With Howard Hughes having begun the trend in 1966 for corporations to acquire gaming properties, the city continued to grow and attract more permanent residents.



*Fr. Apostolos Andrews*



*Fr. James Karagas*

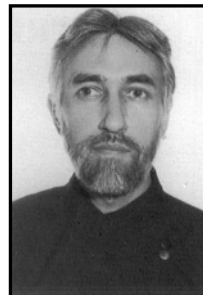
In late 1977, Fr. Prodromides was transferred from Las Vegas and in February of 1978, The Rev. Fr. Apostolos Andrews became St. John's fourth priest, bringing with him his Presvytera, Helen, children Nicholas and Joanne, and his father, retired priest Nicholas Andritsopoulos. Son Nicholas was ordained as a deacon in Las Vegas by Bishop Anthony in August of 1999, and then into the priesthood in September of 1999, in Houston, Texas, by Archbishop Demetrios. Presvytera Helen and Joanne continue to live in Las Vegas.

**MOVING AHEAD**

In 1981, a 2-acre piece of land was purchased as an investment and it would eventually be turned over into a \$295,000 ten-acre parcel in the city's southwest, where the current church and community center reside at Hacienda Avenue and El Camino Road. In 1982, Fr. Andrews was compelled to retire from the priesthood due to illness and in 1983 the parish of St. John the Baptist welcomed Fr. James Karagas and his Presvytera, affectionately known as Mother Lucille. During his term of service, the food festival continued to grow, as did the parish membership. Father Karagas retired from the priesthood in 1987, after which Serbian Orthodox priest, Fr. Nicholas Soraich, served at St. John the Baptist for six months.

In 1988, Bishop Anthony blessed us with the gift of Rev. Fr. Ilia Katre. Leaving his position of five years as Dean of Student Affairs at Hellenic College/Holy Cross Seminary in Brookline, Massachusetts, Father Katre arrived in Las Vegas where East met West in a spirited way. The reserve of the cooler climate East Coast demeanor and the more relaxed and frequently irreverent philosophies of the warmer West Coast locals made for an interesting dance between Fr. Katre and the St. John parishioners.

Within a short time, however, Fr. Katre and St. John formed a mutual admiration society. He was able to help unite the sometimes factious community with firm spiritual leadership, loving kindness and his unique talent for proper perspective. With Fr. Katre came his Presvytera, Helen and his mother, Lula. Lula fell asleep in the Lord November 24, 1991 and we lost our beloved Presvytera Helen on October 19, 2001.



*Fr. Nicholas Soraich*

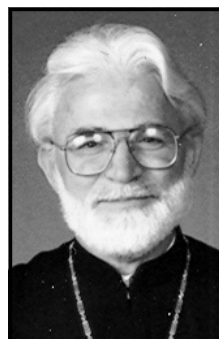


*Fr. Ilia Katre*

**A NEW BEGINNING**

With the approval of the General Assembly, in 1989 a new building committee was formed under the chairmanship of Angelo Stamis. Additional members were George Filios, Nick Pandelis, Alex Sparkuhl, Joseph Wright, Nick Skalkotos, Spike Plentzas, Mike Mavros, Wilma Panos and Tom Panos. The goal now was the building of a grand new church and administrative facility on the ten acres acquired in October of 1983.

Bishop Anthony encouraged the parish to create a complex with traditional Byzantine characteristics. To that end, he recommended the services of Christ John Kamages of Ekona Architecture. Mr. Kamages had been a practicing architect for 23 years and he specialized in Byzantine and ecclesiastical design. As his inspiration for our church, Mr. Kamages chose St. Ephimia of the Hippodrome in Constantinople.



*Bishop Anthony*



*Christ Kamages*

*End Part III—Look for Part IV of St. John History in the June Desert Messenger!*

## ***Greek Folk Dance***

Christos Anesti! On behalf of the Greek Dance Board, I am excited to announce that registration has begun. Coming off a very successful Folk Dance Festival this year, the kids have been eager to dance again, so we're not taking the summer off this year. *The last day to register is May 31.* Dance practices will begin on *Tuesday, June 9 at 6:00 pm* and will continue throughout the summer months.

Registration forms were emailed to all the 2008-2009 participants. If you need a registration form, please pick one up at the Church Office or see a Dance Board member after Sunday Liturgy. Please fill out the form completely, including all the information regarding parents' email addresses and phone numbers as well as the dancer's; this will allow for improved communication with the parents and dancers. In addition, because it is a requirement of the Metropolis that all dancers are Baptized and/or Chrismated in the Orthodox Church, we will need a copy of each participant's certificate of Baptism or Chrismation; this is a one-time only request, as we will keep a copy of the certificate on file. With the registration deadline of May 31, you should have plenty of time to contact the Church at which your child was Baptized to request a copy if you don't have the certificate on hand.

We are very excited to be sending Bessie Stavropoulos to a dance seminar in Greece again this summer. Kyriakos Moisidis, who has taught at our Dance Workshops the past two years, is organizing this 10<sup>th</sup> annual seminar. The seminar will allow Bessie to travel to several villages in Western Macedonia and to the Island of Ammouliani, located off the coast of Mount Athos Peninsula; she will attend classes by local teachers and specialists in traditional dance, costume and song. Bessie will also participate in musical celebrations and dancing with local residents, providing her a wonderful opportunity to delve into regional traditions; she will become familiarized with their traditional dress and local songs as well. As most of you know, Bessie has a wealth of knowledge of Greek Dance that truly shows in what she teaches our children in dance and song; she truly has a love for our Greek culture and dance. We are blessed to have her in our parish and working with our children.

It's official: The Folk Dance Festival, known as FDF, will be held a month earlier, on *January 14-18, 2010* and held in San Jose, California. We know this may be a problem for some dancers since it falls at the end of Semester Finals, but hopefully we'll get enough dancers to participate.

George Bochanis has again generously offered his home for our annual swim party, which is open to all dancers and their families. This year the gathering will be held on *Saturday, June 6, beginning at 2:00 pm*, at 2349 Dolphin Court in Henderson. This is the Saturday after school gets out (for those on a traditional schedule) and before dance practice begins, so it's a kick-off party of sorts! George will provide lots and lots of pizza, and we ask that you bring a side dish, dessert, or some beverages.

Finally, we will host our next Fellowship on Sunday, June 7, and send out a reminder for your participation as we get closer to the date. Looking forward to another fantastic year of Greek Dance!

Tina Liaos and the Greek Folk Dance Board

### **GREEK FOLK DANCE REGISTRATION AND PRACTICES:**

- *Greek Folk Dance Registration - April 26 to May 31, 2009*
- *Dance practices begin on Tuesday, June 9 at 6:00 pm*
- *Registration Forms available at the Church Office or from a Dance Board Member*



*Agape Vespers  
and Picnic  
(including the  
Egg Hunt) on  
the Church  
Grounds - 2009*



## Orthodox Bookstore

Hello from the Bookstore. Christ is Risen!

*On the Divine Inheritance:* Let's say that we have a rich uncle who lives in a far away country. And this rich uncle is offering you to come and live on his estate and enjoy all of his wealth. All that he asks in return is for you to be mindful and respectful of his house rules, which are simply to love and respect him and everyone of his household, who will also love and respect you. In exchange for your obligation to treat everyone around you with kindness - which is the way you want to be treated - you get to enjoy the riches of his household for the rest of your years. How many of us would reject that offer? Well, those who think that they are wealthier than their rich uncle would reject it, and also those who do not want to honor the house rules of loving those around them.

Isn't this the offer that God is making to us? In exchange for *eternal joy* and *unimaginable bliss*, all we have to do is love Him and love each other. *That's it!* These are God's house rules. So why do we reject His offer? Many of us think that we are wealthier than Him. We don't stop to think that *everything* we own belongs to Him and we are just managing what is His until our death. God owns the sun, the moon, the universe, the oceans, me, you, and everything else that you can think of. The only thing that belongs to us is our choice: We have the free will to choose to be with Him. At the end of this earthly life, everything will be taken from us. Our houses, clothes, cars, and these bodies also. There is no second chance, there is no reincarnation, there is only the Resurrection, by which every soul will be given an eternal body. Each soul and body will then experience for eternity the choice that it made in *this* lifetime. The choice is simple: Have faith and believe that Jesus Christ *is* God and do as He has commanded us.

Love God and love your neighbor. And let us start now because we do not know when our end will be. As Orthodox Christians, we have inherited a treasury of spiritual works that have been handed down to us through the generations. We have many of these treasures available in our Bookstore, which help us to live spiritual lives. Check out the writings of the Saints, the lives of the Saints, Orthodox Prayer Books, as well as the Byzantine Chant CDs and Byzantine Iconography - all of which are aids to the purification of our hearts. Come and see!

Until next month (GW) - ICXC NIKA, Costa Frangakis



**Adult Study Group with Father John Hondros**  
**Meets Every Wednesday ~ 7:00-8:30 pm (unless noted) ~ Kokkos Hall**  
**Join us in "Learning Orthodoxy through the Gospel of John"**  
**Coming Soon: St. Nectarios on "Repentance and Confession"**

## E-Mail Addresses Wanted

In an effort to be good stewards of the gifts received and to reduce parish expenses, the Parish Council is moving in the direction of sending our parishioners electronic copies, instead of mailed copies, of *The Desert Messenger* and other important parish-related material.

To accomplish this task, we request that all parishioners provide the Church office an up-to-date email address. All email addresses will be held in the strictest of confidence and used solely for parish approved mailings.

Sending this important information to our parishioners via email will result in saving the Church several thousands of dollars every year. We will inform you once we officially begin sending via electronic mail. If you do not have an email address, please rest assured that you will continue to receive parish mailings.

*"Sin has reigned over us  
 and the inventor and  
 father of sin has lorded it  
 over all who dwell under  
 the sky, provoking the  
 transgression of the  
 divine laws. But in  
 Christ we see human  
 nature, enjoying freedom  
 of access to God."  
 ~St. Cyril of Alexandria*

Stewardship Report: “Strengthened by Christ and His Church”

<u>2009 Stewardship Status (April 15, 2009):</u>		Stewardship Target – 2009	\$411,000
Stewardship Families Pledged	408	Stewardship Gifts Pledged	\$292,990
Stewardship Gifts Received	\$124,807	Current Stewardship Deficit	\$118,010
Average Stewardship Pledge	\$718.11	Percentage of Goal Achieved	71.29%

<u>Pledge Range</u>	<u>Number of Families</u>	<u>\$ &amp; % of Gifts Pledged</u>
\$1-\$999	307	\$ 104,230 - 35.57%
\$1000-\$2499	80	\$ 100,040 - 34.17%
\$2500-\$4,999	15	\$ 50,000 - 17.07%
\$5,000-\$9,999	5	\$ 28,720 - 9.80%
\$10,000-\$14,999	1	\$ 10,000 - 3.42%

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Stewards Pledged	419	408	-11
Gifts Pledged	\$331,673	\$292,990	-\$38,683
Gifts Received	\$128,885	\$124,807	-\$4,078

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

**Χριστός Ανέστη – Christ is Risen!**

2009 continues being a financially challenging year for all of us. This challenge is clearly reflected in the lower number of Stewards who have pledged, the reduced gifts they have pledged and the lowest average stewardship pledge in the last 5+ years. Recently, over 125 letters were sent out to those 2008 Stewards who had not yet made their pledges for 2009. As stated in that letter, "in all circumstances, even in the economic crisis we are in, one thing is for sure - God's love for us is eternal! If we truly love Jesus Christ, then we have an inherent need to respond willingly to our Lord with gratitude, regardless of our challenges, so that we may continuously be strengthened by His grace as we do what pleases Him."

While the Parish Council is making a concerted effort to manage the cost of operating our parish, it is of the utmost importance that all of us reevaluate our priorities and make every effort we can to support the needs of our Church. Many of our members are currently unemployed and others concerned with meeting their financial obligations to keep a roof over their heads and to clothe and feed their families. When we face hardships, we tend to look more and more toward our Church and the Lord for help. In order to make sure we keep our doors open and we continue to be able to meet the spiritual needs of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, I ask each and every parishioner of St. John, who is financially able, to prayerfully reflect on the many blessings the Lord has provided them over the years and to show their thanks by increasing their Stewardship pledges by 5-10%. Please reflect on the following words from one of the Holy Week Bridegroom Services, "Soul, consider the talent the Master entrusts to you. Accept the gift with awe; it is a loan from the giver, so share with the needy, and you will have a friend in the Lord. Thus, when He comes in glory, you may stand at His right hand and hear the voice of beatitude: 'Enter, servant, into the joy of your Lord!' My redeemer, though I have strayed, in Your great mercy count me worthy of that joy."

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, may the Lord's blessing be with you all the days of your life. May everything we do be to His Glory. Δόξα Σοι ο Θεός, Ημών, Δόξα Σοι - Glory to You, our Lord, Glory to You.

**John G. Karas (702) 219-5057,  
Stewardship Chairman**

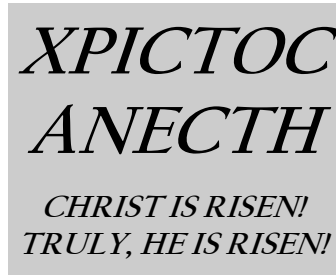


## 2009 Stewards and Contributors: "Strengthened by Christ and His Church"

Adamy, Marina	Cominos, Ted and Emily	Gialketsis, Barbara	Kypreos, Peter and Geri
Agnos, Dimitrios and Angeline	Conger, William and Alexia	Gialketsis, Bill and Shelli	Kyprianou, Gilbert and Alexis
Alexander, Eleni	Constantine, Bill	Gialketsis, Julie	Lakis, Antoinette
Alsop, Trever and Kelly	Constantinou, Magdeline	Gialketsis, Steve	Latelle, Penny
Anastasiou, Andrew and Kathleen	Contos, Michael	Gianakoulis, Nick and Magda	Lawrence, Vicki
Andraktos, Manuel	Coroneos, Marika	Giouzelis, Anastasia	Lazarakis, John and Panagiota
Andrews, Catherine	Costuras, George and Marsha	Goddard, Elizabeth	Lekar, Michael and Effie
Andrews, George	Cotsilis, Peter and Jenny	Goldman, Love	Lemma, Yodit
Andrews, Presvytera Helen	Coutris, Angela	Goltsos, Andreas	Leone, Stephen
Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette	Dalacas, Anthony and Eugenia	Gordon, Victor and Demetria Kalfas	Leonis, Tishe
Apostolopoulos, Chris and Katia	Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	Gousias, Elias and Maria	Leventis, Nicholas and Christina
Arcamuzi, Georgia	Dalacas, Eleni	Grillas, Vasilios and Roula	Liaos, Jim and Tina
Aristides, George and Diana	Dalacas, Nick and Georgia	Grissom, Tony and Georgea Bieker	Liaos, Steven and Francine
Asim, Demetrious	Daskolos, George and Voula	Gruber, Ernest and Zoe	Liaos, William and Irene
Athan, Sofia	Dawood, Evon	Halemarium, Tesfa	Likourinou, Steve and June
Athens, Ann	DeCarlo, Frank and Nadine	Hallis, Louis and Betty	Lymberopoulos, Mary
Attard, Constantine and Sofia	Delalis, Dina	Hamilton, Mary	Malamatos, Kindina
Augousti, Michael and Helene	Delalis, Pete and Alysondra	Hamilton, Paul and Brandi	Malpee, Mack and Kalliope
Bacon, Ken and Dianne	Demolas, Ilias and Jodi	Haralambakis, Demetre and Dimi- tra	Mamasis, Dena
Bagatelos, Michael	Demolas, Maria	Harris, Melty and Angeline	Mamasis, Tessie
Bakalas, Estella	Demoleas, Helen	Harrison, Angie	Maniatakos, Ted
Balason, Anna	Demoleas, Stephanie	Hart, Russell and Dora	Manolakos, Catherine
Balason, Voula	Demopoulos, Tommy and Vasiliki	Hastings, Audra	Manolakos, John and Jennifer
Baldwin, Richard and Vivi	Demetriou, Demetrios and Bessie	Hastings, Teri	Manos, Patricia
Balodimas, Dr. James	Dennis, John	Hemmers, Oliver and Pantelas, Anne	Manteris, Arthur and Sue
Barngrover, Andrew † and Kathleen	Depessa, Gilinesh	Hernquist, Jim † and Angela	Markakis, Mike and Catherine
Bartzos, Sam and Eugenia	DeWindt, Dennis and Susan	Hetzl, David	Markou, Ann
Bauck, Jeremy and Amy	Diamantis, Filippos	Hondros, Catherine	Marlas, Louis and Vivien
Berendji, Jim and Vivian	Dominguez, Eric and Amalia	Hondros, Christina	Martinaitis, Louis and Audra
Berta, Irene	Doppe, Victoria	Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria	Master, James
Bicos, Andriana	Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia	Hoover, Patrick and Pauline	Matsukas, John and Ariadne
Bingham, Robert and Melissa	Dougan, Linda	Howard, Willie B.	Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki
Bledsoe, Lori	Doukakis, Panagiotis and Chri- sti	Howe, Sia	Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debra
Bochanis, George	Dudanakis, Michael	Johnson, Stephen	Mavros, Michael and Debbie
Borzekas, Stephen and Katharina †	Edmunds, Paul and Barbara	Kachikis, Paul and Ernestine	McNear, Elizabeth
Boulamatsis, Akaterine and Aber- nathy, Gordon	Eliades, Artemis	Kakavulias, Christina	McPherson, Robert and Marie
Bratta, Georgene	Eliades, Gregory and Maria	Kakavulias, George and Eleni	Menegatos, James and Dana
Brillis, Christine	Eliades, Harry and Agapi	Kakavulias, John	Mezilson, Evangeline
Brillis, George and Satoko	Eliades, Peter and Janet †	Kakavulias, Maria	Miller, Mary
Britten, Ronald and Carol	Eliakis, John and Atsuko	Kalkas, Domna	Millet, Jennie
Brown, Andrew and Christina	Eliakis, Peter and Glenda	Kalkantzakos, Pete and Misty	Milonas, George and Eugenia
Brown, Faye	Eliakis, Varthie and Lee Ann	Kane, Larry and Irene	Miralles, Jean †
Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Eliopoulos, Goldie	Kanellis, Ann	Mirich, Kyle and Melissa
Bullivant, John and Jana	Ene, Ovidiu and Mira	Kanoles, Helene	Moffett, Todd and Eliopoulos, Tina
Capadalis, Tim and Marling	English, Marika	Kanoles, Konstantine	Monoyudis, Jim and Julie
Captain, Nicholas and Maria	Exarhos, Nick and Sharon	Karalis, Giannini and April	Montisano, Jon and Jennifer
Carabas, Stephen and Linda	Eyler, Fr. Paul and Pres. Ilean	Karas, James	Morgan, Brian and Adrienne
Carabas, Thymios and Sotiroulla	Eyler, John and Elizabeth	Karas, John and Marcie	Mulopolos, George
Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	Falcone, Frank and Nancy	Karas, Vasiliki	Murphy, Karen and Terry
Carrico, William and Alexandra	Fanandakis, George and Helen	Karvounidis, Nick and Alexandra	Murray, Chris and George, Veneta
Carson, Michelle	Filios, George and Nitsa	Katris, Nick and Kathy	Myers, Stella
Carter, Maria	Filiou, Spiridon and Eleni	Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon	Nadzan, Don and Athena
Castillo, Matthew	Flangas, Albert and Trudi	Katsikakis, Evangelos	Neocleous, Plato
Cero, Dean	Flangas, Bill and Marilyn	Kelesis, Paula	Newell, Eric and Devona
Chachas, Bessie	Flangas, Gary and Amanda	Kelesis, Peter and Dina	Newell, Ronald and Maria
Chachas, James	Foskaris, Nicholas and Dana	Kelesis, John and Vicki	Niarkos, Evgenia
Chandrinou, Alexia	Foskaris, Thomas and Iryna	Khoury, Ray and Nicole	Nichlas, Arthur
Chandrinou, Peter	Fotinos, Cleopatra	Kleanthis, George and Zanetta	Nicholas, James and Myrna
Chandrinou, Ricki	Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia	Koliambas, Eleni	Nicholas, John and Estella
Chanos, George	Frangakis, Costa	Kolinas, Claire	Nickolson, Chloe
Chanos, Jennifer	Frangakis, John	Konsolakis-Garcia, Eleni	Nikitas, Rigas and Aphrodite
Chomakos, Dean and Tammy	Frantzen, Robert and Margery	Konsolakis, George	Nikolopoulos, Art and Roula
Chomakos, George and Nikki	Franzi, Jack	Kotonias, George and Patricia	Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra
Chomakos, Jeremy and Romina	Fronimos, John and Margaret	Kountanis, Dennis and Pat	Nikols, George and Christine
Christopoulos, Ann	Fuson, Aglaia	Kourafas, Christopher and Trish	Nikols, Rita
Christou, Andreas and Toni	Fyssakis, Kathy	Kouretas, Demetri and Amanda	O'Brien, Bill and Chris
Chumas, Russell and Stella	Gear, Darius and Bessie †	Kouretas, Valdean	Orlando, Alleck and Jennifer
Ciulla, Anthony and Kleri	George, Angela	Kouris, Anastasios	Osborn, Pearl
Cole, Darrick and Carla	George, Pete and Georgia	Kourlos, Georgia	Ostis, Sotirios
Collins, David	Georges, William	Koutsulis, Sam and Effie	Ozun, Michelle
Collins, Dean	Georgiou, Byron and Therese	Kover, Barbara	Panagopoulos, Konstantina
Collins, Evangelia †	Georgis, John and Kaliopi		Pandelis, Cheryl
	Gialketsis, Babe and Terry		Pantos, James

**2009 Stewards and Contributors: "Strengthened by Christ and His Church"**

Papas, Christian	Santumo, Alfred and Tamarak	Struzas, Maria	Walter, Vernon and Alice
Papas, Peter and Rita	Savas, Christina	Szukiewicz, Joseph	Walters, Lane and Mary
Pappas, Antonia	Savvas, Savva	Szukiewicz, Joseph and Jennia	Waters, Gary and Susan
Pappas, Constantine and Karina	Scott, Ann	Tafoya, Steven and Irene	Weisman, Phil and Diane
Pappas, Rita	Setian, Gary and Mari	Tahiraj, Mirela	Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina
Paschalis, Evangelos and Maria	Shinas, Maria	Takas, Andrea	Willey, Anthony
Payan, Luis and Eleni	Sirhan, Michael and Imtisal	Taxiarchos, Andrew and Alexandra	Wilson, Clyde
Pearson, Jeff and Adrienne	Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia	Taxiarchos, Sophia	Wilson, Kelly Caplanis
Pelletier, Michael	Skandros, Georgia	Taxopoulos, Bryan	Wilson, Steven and Cleopatra
Pendelton, Patricia	Skarlatos, Konstantinos	Taylor, Frederick and Katherine	Wirtz, Athena
Pentogenis, Michael and Katherine	Skerbetz, Frank	Teed, Charles	Womack, Karl
Peronis, Fay	Smith, Kathleen	Theros, James	Womack, Kimberly
Petersen, Todd and Diane	Smith, Litza	Thomas, Angie	Wronski, Chuck
Petro, Aleko and Georgia	Snow, Clifford and Christina	Thompson, Maggy	Xikis, Victoria
Philoppou, Demetrios and Luanne	Snowden, Robert and Niki	Tourlis, Angelo and Betty	Zaferatos, Ted and Jackie
Platis, Anna	Soper, Bobby and Maria	Toutoulis, James and Anaïd	Zafropoulos, John
Plentzas, Spiros and Ruth	Sotira, Dhimitra	Trebicka, Ardian	Zander, Becky
Polimerou, Angelina	Sotira, George	Triffon, Cathy	Zarkos, Nick and Dina
Poulsen, Nicholas and Brenda	Spanopoulos, Elias	Tsarouhas, Maria	Zarras, Nich and Chery
Pouridis, Kouli and Para	Spanos, Dimitrios	Tselikis, Nicholas and Jennifer	Zimmerman, Paul and Angela
Prather, Moses	Sparangis, Spyro and Helen	Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katerina	Zouboulis, James and Tina
Prokopis, Chris and Ritsa	Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette	Tsolis, George	
Prud'homme, Edwin and Penny	Spotti, Peter and Alexandra	Tsouras, Christopher and Diana	
Qeleshi, Elton and Ornela	Stamias, George and Effie	Tsouras, Helen	
Radosta, Athena	Stanford, Nennette	Tzelalis, Steve	
Raptis, Fr. Dean and Pres. Evonne	Stavropoulos, Bessie	Vasos, Maria	
Rifakes, John and Carol	Stavropoulos, Terry and Nikki	Vassiliadis, Athena	
Roberts, Sofia	Stefanatos, Michael and Tami	Vavoukakis, Gus and Penelope	
Rodes, Anne	Stefanatos-Hetzel, Joanne	Vergos, Charles and Eve	
Rodis, Dimitri and Jennifer	Stephanos, Stanley and Aspasia	Vervilos, James and Anna	
Rodis, Sofia	Stika, Arthur and Melinda	Vinieratos, Aristotalis/ Spiridoula	
Ross, John and Georgia	Stock, Helen	Vino, Joseph and Christy	
Salvarlis, Thomas	Stubberud, Peter and Laura	Vlahos, Alex and Iris	



**37th Annual Greek Food Festival  
September 17 ~ 20**

Come one, come all . . . to the next general meeting of the 2009 Greek Food Festival as we celebrate our Golden Anniversary. We will be providing an update on the latest status of the preparations for the Food Festival and will address any questions you may have.

This year's festival will be very important to our community. With the current economic challenges facing the Valley, State and the Union, it is very important that every one of our parishioners volunteer for as many shifts as possible. For every parishioner that volunteers, that is one less person we will need to hire to work at our Festival. Please stop by and see Demetri Asim and Dianne Bacon at the volunteer table in Panos Hall during fellowship on Sunday's or call *Demetri at (702) 210-4056*. If you are unable to volunteer your time and/or talents, please consider sharing your treasures by making a financial donation to support the festival by contacting me, *John Karas, at (702) 219-5057 or the Church Office at (702) 221-8245*.

All previous Festival chairmen, booth captains and anyone else interested in supporting our wonderful Food Festival are encouraged to join us on *Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 pm* to review plans for our 37th Annual Greek Food Festival.

**John G. Karas, 2009 Food Festival Chairman**

**Notice of Parish Assembly  
Sunday, May 3  
Following the Divine Liturgy**

**AGENDA:**

- Call to Order/Opening Prayer
- Election of Assembly Chair
  - Approval of Minutes
  - Audit Report
  - Financial Report
  - Stewardship Report
- Building and Maintenance
  - Old Business
  - New Business
- Closing Prayer/Adjournment

*You must be a Steward in Good Standing for 2009 to participate and vote.*

*"Fear of death is a property of nature due to disobedience, but terror of death is a sign of unrepented sins."  
~St. John Climacos*

# MAY 2009 - IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Kokkos Scholarship Deadline	<b>2</b>
					<b>1</b> Natl. Sisterhood of Presbyteres at St. John	
<b>3</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	<b>4</b> 6:00 pm GOYA Volleyball in Panos 7:00 pm Philoptochos Board at Dominguez' Metropolis Clergy-Litly at St. Nicholas Ranch	<b>5</b> 6:00 pm GOYA Volleyball in Panos 7:00 pm Philoptochos Board at Dominguez'	<b>6</b> 7:00 pm Adult Study	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:00 pm Kokkos Interviews in Library	<b>9</b> 10:00 am HOPE & JOY at Red Rock 10:00 am Jr. GOYA at Springs Preserve 2:00 pm Jr. GOYA at Church - "Street Teens"
<b>10 Mothers Day</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Youth Choir Chants	<b>11</b> 6:00 pm Dance Board	<b>12</b> 6:00 pm Philoptochos President's Dinner	<b>13 Mid-Pentecost</b> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Adult Study	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 1:30 pm Youth Swim & BBQ Party at Stefanatos' 4:00 pm OCLV Picnic at Sunset Park	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting <<< Philoptochos.Oath 5/17	<b>19</b> 6:00 pm GOYA Volleyball in Panos 6:30 pm Food Festival Meeting	<b>20</b> 5:00 pm Orthros 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Ss. Constantine & Helen) 7:30 pm Adult Study	<b>21 Ss. Constantine and Helen</b> (Liturgy on 5/20)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:00 pm GOYA Volleyball in Panos	<b>27</b> 5:00 pm Orthros 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Ascension) 7:30 pm Adult Study	<b>28 Holy Ascension</b> (Liturgy on 5/27)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy						

# *The Desert Messenger*

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTMASTER : DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE EXPEDITE

THE DESERT MESSENGER

## *The Way of the Lord*

*“Leaving the things of earth upon the earth,  
and surrendering to the earth things of ashes,  
come, let us come to our senses and raise our eyes and thoughts on high;  
let us, O mortals, turn our gaze together with our senses  
up unto the heavenly gates.  
Let us consider ourselves present at the Mount of Olives,  
and gaze intently at the Redeemer  
Who is riding upon a cloud;  
for the Lord has hastened up from there into the Heavens.  
And there the bountiful Giver of gifts distributed to His Apostles,  
calling to them as a Father, and strengthening them;  
He guided them like sons and said unto them:  
I am not separated from you;  
I am with you, and no one can be against you.”*

*- Oikos, Orthros, Thursday of the Ascension, Pentecostarion*