

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 8, Issue 5 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

May 2010

**From
Father
John**

Beloved in Christ:

Χριστος Ανεστη! With the Feast of Feasts, Great and Holy Pascha, we Orthodox Christians are in the liturgical season of the *Pentecostarion* – that is, the fifty day period between the Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ and the Sunday of Pentecost, which celebrates the Descent of the Holy and Life-Giving Spirit upon the Apostles.

As recorded in *The Acts of the Apostles (2:1-4)*, the Holy Apostles were gathered on the day of Pentecost “*all together in one place,*” when a sudden and violent sound “*came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind*” and filled the entire house. What the Apostles experienced on that day was more than a wind, as St. John Chrysostom writes, but rather, “*the exceeding vehemence of the Spirit,*” appearing as tongues of fire that distributed and rested upon each of them: “*And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*”

Jesus, prior to His Ascension into Heaven, commissioned His Disciples to “*go . . . and make disciples of all nations*” (*Matthew 28:19*), and from Pentecost on they obeyed His Word, having received the power from on High to do so. Unfortunately, many Christians in later times erroneously deduced from an ill-informed reading of this particular Biblical account that this feast marks “*the Birthday of the Church*” and that speaking in unintelligible tongues (which requires interpretation) is an outward sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit in a person. These teachings are contrary to the Orthodox understanding of Pentecost: First, the Orthodox belief, which is supported by ancient Apostolic writings, is that the Church existed *before* the creation of the world (*The Shepherd of Hermas*), and secondly, the account in *Acts (2:5-6)* relays unequivocally that the Apostles were given the ability by the Holy Spirit to prophesy and speak in *various languages* (in Greek, *γλωσσα* means both tongue and language) so that all in Jerusalem that day could understand clearly the “*good news*” (*εναγγελιον*) of the Risen Christ.

It is clear why the Apostles were sitting together in one place – as keenly depicted on the Festal Icon of Pentecost – for they were directed by Christ to remain in Jerusalem to receive the gift of the Comforter (*John 15:26*). The others who were present that day, from “*every nation under heaven,*” were devout pilgrims who had gathered for the Jewish Feast of *Shavuot* (*the Festival of Weeks*), which commemorates the event of Moses receiving the Torah from God on Mount Sinai fifty days after He delivered the Israelites from bondage in Egypt. For the Jews, this feast also had an agricultural connection, in that the harvesting of barley that began on Passover culminated with the gathering of wheat seven weeks later, which was marked by the liturgical offering of loaves on the feast of Shavuot.

Those pilgrims present in Jerusalem on Pentecost heard Saint Peter’s powerful words about the Crucified and Risen Lord – Who both gave and fulfilled the Law – and three-thousand souls were Baptized and received the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, the loaves offered that day – and at every Divine Liturgy since then – were by the Grace of the Holy Spirit consecrated for the Eucharist, which was and continues to be received by the faithful for the remission of sins and eternal life.

The Great Feast of Holy Pentecost is a celebration of the sanctification offered freely *to all believers in all places* who willingly worship the Trinitarian God, as defined and upheld by the ancient Councils, and receive the Gift of Life offered by our Resurrected Christ by the Grace of the Holy Spirit in the Holy Mysteries of the Orthodox Christian Church.

With love in Christ,

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

*Sunday, May 2/ 5th Sunday of Pascha/St. Photini,
the Samaritan Woman/Relic of St. Athanasios/
Holy Fathers and Patriarchs of Constantinople*

Orthros: Tone Four

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

Epistle: Hebrews 7:26-28; 8:1-2

Gospel: John 4:5-42

*Sunday, May 9/ 6th Sunday of Pascha/Blind Man/
Prophet Isaiah/Martyr Christopher*

Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)

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

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34

Gospel: John 9:1-38

Happy Mothers Day!

Wednesday, May 12

*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 13/ The Ascension

Liturgy Celebrated on Wednesday Evening

*Sunday, May 16/ 7th Sunday of Pascha/
The Holy Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Synod*

Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)

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

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Gospel: John 17:1-13

Friday, May 21/ Ss. Constantine and Helen

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

Epistle: Acts 26:1, 12-20

Gospel: John 10:1-9

Saturday, May 22/ Saturday of Souls

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

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

Gospel: John 21:14-25

Memorial follows Liturgy

*Sunday, May 23/ 8th Sunday of Pascha/
HOLY PENTECOST*

Orthros: Festal

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

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11

Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12

Kneeling Vespers follows Liturgy

No Fasting All Week

Monday, May 24/ Monday of the Holy Spirit

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

Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19

Gospel: Matthew 18:10-20

Sunday, May 30/ 1st Sunday of Matthew/All Saints

Orthros: Tone Eight (Fourth Plagal)

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

Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30

Apostles Fast: May 31 - June 28



*His Eminence
Metropolitan Gerasimos
of San Francisco,
Father John Hondros
and the Altar Servers of
St. John the Baptist
on Palm Sunday,
March 28, 2010*

**President's
Column**

Christos Anesti!

I would like thank the entire community of St. John the Baptist for a successful Agape Picnic! I know I can say for many that it was enjoyed by all who attended.

We are still making improvements around the Church grounds. You may have noticed the parking lot was recently finished with new asphalt. I think it looks great! If you are aware of or see any improvements that need to be made, please let me or any Parish Council member know.

Peter Kypreos, Parish Council President

Financial Status for Month of March 2010

<u>Bank Accounts</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Internal Bank Transfers</u>		<u>Balances</u> <u>as of 3.31.10</u>
	<u>as of 2.28.10</u>	<u>Income</u>		<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>	
General Operating	\$14,672.46	\$63,174.69	\$64,776.60			\$13,070.55
Building/Maintenance	\$30,858.40	\$5.46	\$2,547.65			\$28,316.21
Community/Education Ctr	\$8,804.24	\$4,039.98	\$3,811.85			\$9,032.37
Construction (Loan Paymts)	\$32,104.03		\$6,883.29			\$25,220.74
Food Festival	\$46,094.84					\$46,094.84
Icon Money Market	\$34,712.68	\$1,103.73	\$37.00			\$35,779.41
Library Checking	\$24,976.63	\$4.53				\$24,981.16
On-Line Donations	\$1,000.00					\$1,000.00
Construction Loan	\$684,034.83					\$679,118.51
Revolving Line of Credit	\$0.00					\$0.00
Term Loan (5 year loan)	\$77,122.98					\$75,837.61

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

May 2

Ushers: William Carrico, Pete Kypreos, Darrick Cole, George Bochanis, George Kakavulias and Alex Sparkuhl

Memorial: Mary Bartsas and Departed Family Members

Fellowship: Philotochos, in Memory of Mary Bartsas

May 9

Ushers: Angela Coutris, Gary Waters, Marina Adamy, Spiros Filios, Alex Sparkuhl and Sam Koutsulis

Memorial: Lincoln Stock (40 days)

Fellowship: Orthodox Family Fellowship

May 16

Ushers: Darrick Cole, Spiros Filios, William Carrico, Sam Koutsulis, George Kakavulias and Demetrios Philippou

Fellowship: Pan-Arcadians

May 23 - HOLY PENTECOST

Ushers: Marina Adamy, George Bochanis, Demetrios Philippou, Angela Coutris, Gary Waters and Pete Kypreos

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

May 30

Ushers: Alex Sparkuhl, George Kakavulias, Sam Koutsulis, Darrick Cole, Spiros Filios and Angela Coutris

Fellowship: Eleni Kakavulias and Family for the Diples Mixer

"If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit." (Galatians 5:25)

**Philoptochos
News**

Hello, Ladies!

We made it through the busy Lenten and Paschal Season! Thank you to all the ladies who participated in our Holy Week events. As always, you are truly appreciated. Our first-ever Wine Wagon drawing was very successful. Thanks to all who donated as well as those who purchased tickets. Our big winner, announced at the Agape Picnic on April 4, was Paul Kachikis! His wife Ernestine gladly helped him celebrate his win. Please join us on **Sunday, May 2** for the Bartsas Memorial to remember our benefactor, Mary Barstsas. Through Mary's generosity, Philoptochos continues to help countless needy individuals in our community.

Our last General Meeting of the season will take place on **Tuesday, May 11**. We will be labeling Agape Bears for the sick children at UMC. Please join us before we say good-bye for the summer.

Yours in Christ, April Karalis and the Philoptochos Board

Our Community Registry

Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun!

Andrew, son of Andrew and Summerly Flessas on March 26, 2010.
Godparent: Peter N. Flessas.

Spyridon (Sam), son of George and Jenny Mulopulos on April 10, 2010.
Godparents: Spiridon and Eleni Filios.

Nicoletta, daughter of Jeremy and Romina Chomakos on April 11, 2010.
Godparents: Nectarios and Maria Soper.

Marriages : Na Zisete!

Dustin Loughton and Irene Taxopoulos on April 10, 2010.
Sponsor: Efsthathios Tzelalis.

Peter D. Pappas and Sheilah S. Pappas on April 17, 2010.
Sponsor: Konstantine Pappas.

Robert Stephen Bingham and Melissa JoAnn Galvan on April 18, 2010.
Sponsor: Gus W. Flangas.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory

Lincoln F. Stock on March 31, 2010. Funeral on April 6.



Holy Land Pilgrimage

His Grace Bishop Iliia Katre would like to invite all who are interested to join him in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Mount Sinai. The pilgrimage is from **September 29 to October 10, 2010**, with an optional extension to Greece from **October 11 to 18**. Please stop by the Church Office to pick up a copy of the brochure.

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

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Rev. Father John Hondros

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Parish Council: Peter Kypreos

Philoptochos: April Karalis

Choir: Faye Brown

Chanters/Youth Choir:
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Church School:
Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers:
Sam Koutsulis

Stewardship Committee:
Angela Coutris

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:
Adam Bieker

Forerunners:
Ruth Plentzas

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

Orthodox Bookstore:
Costa Frangakis

Greek Language Classes:
Thymios Carabas

Orthodox Connection Las Vegas

Orthodox Connection Las Vegas was established in February 2007 as a Pan-Orthodox ministry, under the auspices of St. John the Baptist Church, for single persons in their 20s, 30s and 40s. After three years of dedicated service, Angela Coutris passed the torch to Matthew Castillo earlier this year. Matthew has led OCLV enthusiastically these past months, but shortly after Pascha made the move to Southern California for new employment and to be closer to family. I have recently appointed another faithful young man of our parish, Adam Bieker, who is eager to serve and brings his own fresh approach to this ministry. Please show Adam your support, and feel free to contact him with your ideas. -Fr. John

Brothers and Sisters of OCLV,

Christ Is Risen! It is with much excitement that I have accepted becoming the new head of OCLV. My goal is to continue and grow on some of the fresh ideas that have been discussed by our previous leaders and to bring life back into this important ministry of the Church.

The mission of Orthodox Connection Las Vegas is to encourage participation of those in their 20s through 40s in the life of the Church through worship, witness, service and fellowship. I look forward to sharing and experiencing these upcoming events with all of you as well as hearing from *you* about your ideas of how to make this ministry fun and exciting. I encourage everyone who is interested in having a good time and growing in our faith to join us. If you are interested in participating or have not been receiving regular emails please email me at orthodoxconnectionlv@gmail.com or call me at (702) 321-7611.

Our upcoming event will be a potluck picnic at Sunset Park on *Saturday, May 22* at 12:00 pm. Please RSVP through email or phone call and include the item you would like to bring or contact me for a list of items needed. All existing and interested members and your friends are encouraged to join us. Please watch for emails and updates in the Weekly Bulletin for exact location at the park.

In Christ, Adam Bieker

Orthodox Bookstore

Hello from the Bookstore! Christ is Risen!

First of all, I would like to announce that Matthew Castillo, who has been a great help to our Orthodox Bookstore ministry at St John the Baptist Church, has moved back to California to be closer to his family. I would like to thank Matthew for all of his effective assistance these past few years.

Adam Bieker has graciously agreed to help out and fill in when I am not able to be here. Welcome, Adam! If you need assistance to make a purchase in the Bookstore, Adam is also on hand to help.

This month we are highlighting the book, *St. Silouan the Athonite*, written by his disciple, Archimandrite Sophrony. St. Silouan reposed in 1938 and this book offers a wealth of spiritual counsels and insights. The following are excerpts:

“Many a rich and powerful man would pay dearly to see the Lord, or His most Holy Mother, but God does not reveal Himself to riches but to the humble soul.”

“If the Lord has left us ignorant of the ordering of many things in this world, then it means it is not necessary for us to know. We cannot compass all creation with our minds.”

“The Holy Spirit teaches us to love our enemies, so that the soul pities them as if they were her own children.”

“What joy is ours that the Lord not only forgives sins but allows the soul to know Him, so soon as she humbles herself. The poorest wretch can humble himself and know God in the Holy Spirit. There is no need of money or possessions to know God, only of humility. The Lord gives Himself freely, for His mercy’s sake alone. I did not know this before but now every day and hour, every minute, I see clearly the mercy of God. The Lord gives peace even in sleep, but without God there is no peace in the soul.”

Until next month, God willing, ICXC NIKA, Costa Frangakis, Director



Youth Ministries

Church School

Hi Everyone! Christos Anesti!

We will be collecting jars of un-opened peanut butter up until *Pentecost Sunday, May 23*. Please bring jars to any of the Church School teachers. The peanut butter will be going to Three Square Food Bank in Las Vegas. For one in eight Americans, hunger is a reality, and Southern Nevada is no different. Please be generous, as peanut butter is their most needed item.

We will no longer be accepting any more students for this school year as our program is coming to a close. Please save the date for our Commencement on *Sunday, June 6*. We look forward to seeing your children next school year in the fall. Also, Family Worship Sunday will be on *May 30*.

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

Youth Choir News

Christos Anesti!

The Youth Choir was *marvelous* during Lent and Holy Week this year. Holy Saturday Morning was *awesome!* Kudos to all the kids who stepped up to the plate to help out in the extra services, including readings during Holy Week; it was *great!* Everyone in the congregation and visitors alike love your voices and your ability to chant some remarkable hymns. Congratulations! Also, Bishop Ilia along with visitors from Greece were impressed by the service on Sunday, April 11. Keep up the good work!



We will chant the next Divine Liturgy on *Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9*. Please be there *early* at 9:40 am. Much appreciated. Our Moms, Yiayias, Theias, and Nounas will love hearing all of you.

Thanks, and God bless all of you.

Love, Presvytera Maria

HOPE and JOY

Thank you to everyone that joined us on the hike last month. It was a lot of fun and the waterfall was beautiful! This month we will be meeting on *Saturday, May 8*, 10:00 am, at the Henderson Bird Viewing Preserve, located at 2400 Moser Drive, off of Boulder Highway and Sunset. This park has over 200 species of birds and nine ponds for our children to enjoy. Please bring sunscreen and binoculars.

RSVP with Sharon Katsaros at (702) 292-0850. Hope to see you there!

Sharon Katsaros and Jenn Orlando, HOPE & JOY Advisors

GOYA

Christos Anesti! Hello GOYAnS!

We are having volleyball practice each Monday in Panos Hall, 5:30-7:00 pm. We hope to attend the Volleyball Tournament hosted by the St. Anthony Church in Pasadena, CA on the weekend of *June 26*. It's always a fun tournament, so please join us for practices.



Effie Lekar (702) 768-5500 & Eileen Kousulis (702) 521-6516 (Senior Advisors)
 Tammy Chomakos (702) 338-4671 & Tami Stefanatos (702) 491-2713
 (Junior Advisors)

"Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus . . . An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules." (2 Timothy 2:1, 5)

Greek Folk Dance

Registration continues for the 2010-11 Greek Folk Dance year. A table will be set up during Fellowship on Sundays or you can mail your registration to the Church Office. The registration fee is \$50 per dancer if paid by *June 6*. The registration fee will be \$100 if turned in June 6-30 – no registrations will be accepted after *June 30*.

Registration is open to all children who have been Baptized and/or Chrismated in the Orthodox Church who are at least 4 years old as of December 31, 2010. Proof of such must be turned in at the time of registration. If you don't have a copy of your certificate, you should get on top of this ASAP. Dancers must attend Divine Liturgy on Sunday on a regular basis and those who are of age (4-17) must be a regular participant of Church School. Also, parents must be a Steward of Record at St. John for 2010.

We will also be accepting applications from dancers that are at least High School age for the 2010-11 school year who are interested in being a director and/or assistant director for our younger dance groups. Please contact a Dance Board member if you are interested.

REMEMBER: The **registration deadline** for Greek Folk Dance is **June 30**.

DANCE PRACTICE: Practice began on *Sunday, April 25*, 1:00 -2:00 pm, and will continue each Sunday until further notice. Dancers will not be permitted to participate at practice unless their registration for the upcoming year is complete.

“ANI” ARMENIAN DANCE COMPANY: Our dancers have been asked to perform with the Hamazkayin Ani Dance Company of Los Angeles on *Saturday, May 22* at University of Nevada Performing Arts Center UNLV – Judy Bayley Theater. This performance will benefit the renovation of the building recently purchased by the Armenian Orthodox Church here in Las Vegas. Our Hrisi Thisavri and Stavroforoi dancers will perform as a combined group. It should be a great experience for our dancers and our community to enjoy folk dancing from another country. For information on tickets contact the UNLV Box Office at (702) 895-2787.

Tina Liaos and the Greek Folk Dance Board

Kokkos Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee for the Kokkos Scholarship Fund is pleased to announce that applications are available at the Church Office. The applications must be returned on or before *May 1*. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered.

The eligibility requirements were established by Fofu Kokkos in her Last Will and Testament. The Scholarship Committee for the Kokkos Scholarship Fund administers this program under the guidance of Father John Hondros.

The Kokkos Will stipulates that two high school graduates of Greek descent within the St. John Community be selected, who are enrolled for higher education to a college or university. The students must have an outstanding scholastic record and be in financial need. Parish involvement by the students at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church is also a factor in evaluating the applicants.

Attention All Graduates!

We want to share your good news in the *June* 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 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 in jpg format of you!





Notes from the Loft

Christos Anesti! Congratulations, Choir, for the excellent renditions of our hymns for Holy Week, Good Friday and Holy Pascha. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos was also pleased with our singing at the Hierarchical Liturgy on Palm Sunday and the Bridegroom Service that evening. You are to be commended for your unselfish dedication, commitment and devotion to our Choir and the Parish of St. John.

If you are interested in attending the Church Musicians Conference in Tucson, Arizona on June 17-20, please let me know.

Faye Brown, Choir Director

Forerunners ~

The Seniors of St. John the Baptist

On Tuesday, April 20 we met for our monthly luncheon, and we enjoyed pizza, salad and dessert. Please mark your calendars for our next get-together on *Tuesday, May 18*. Please look to the Weekly Bulletins for more information.

There is still time to become a member of the Forerunners before summer break – all seniors in our parish are welcome to join us. Please remember that annual membership dues are \$10 per person.

Lastly, we continue to support the homeless youth with healthy snack foods each month; if you have a donation please bring it to our luncheons.

Love in Christ, Ruth Plentzas



Adult Study: 'The Way of a Pilgrim'

*Join us on Wednesdays
at 7:00 pm in Kokkos Hall*

Fr. John Hondros, Instructor

Open to All

2010 Stewards and Contributors: "Come and See!"

Abernathy, Gordon and Akaterine	Bochanis, George	Cole, Darrick and Carla	Dominguez, Eric and Amalia
Adamy, Marina	Borzekas, Stephen	Collins, David	Doskas, Athanasios & Anastasia
Agnos, Dimitrios and Angeline	Bosnos, Kostas and Mary	Collins, Dean	Dougan, Linda
Alcala, Philip and Georgia	Bratta, Georgene	Collins, James and Barbara	Dounis, Dina
Alex, Jim and Renee	Britten, Ronald and Carol	Cominos, Ted	Dounis, Georgia
Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine	Brown, Faye	Constantine, Bill	Dounis, Kiki
Anastasiou, Andrew and Kathleen	Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Coroneos, Marika	Drewnowski, Carl
Andrews, Catherine	Campbell, Samantha	Costacos, John	Economon, Andrew and Stacy
Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette	Capadalis, Tim and Marling	Costuros, George and Marsha	Edmunds, Paul and Barbara
Apostolopoulos, Chris and Katia	Captain, Nicholas and Maria	Cotsilis, Peter* and Jenny	Eliades, Aristotelis
Arcamuzi, Georgia	Carabas, Stephen and Linda	Coutris, Angela	Eliades, Artemis
Aristides, George and Diana	Carabas, Thymios and Sotiroulla	Dalacas, Anthony & Eugenia	Eliades, Harry and Agapi
Athan, Sofia	Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	Eliades, Katerina
Attard, Constantine and Sofia	Carrico, William and Alexandra	Dalacas, Nick and Georgia	Eliakis, John and Atsuka
Bacon, Ken and Dianne	Carson, Michelle	Danik, Mary	Eliakis, Peter and Glenda
Bagatelos, Michael	Carter, Maria	Dawood, Evon	Eliakis, Varthie and Lee Ann
Balason, Anna	Castillo, Matthew	DeCarlo, Frank and Nadine	Eliopoulos, Goldie
Balason, Voula	Cero, Dean	Delalis, Dina	English, Marika
Baldwin, Richard and Vivi	Chachas, Bessie	Delalis, Pete and Alysondra	Esqueda, Victor
Balodimas, James	Chachas, James	Demetriou, Demetrios and Bessie	Exarhos, Nick and Sharon
Bartzos, Sam and Eugenia	Chandrinis, Alexia	Demolas, Ilias and Jodi	Eyler, Fr. Paul and Pres. Ilean
Bauck, Jeremy and Amy	Chanos, George	Demoleas, Spero & Grace	Eyler, John and Elizabeth
Berendji, Jim & Vivian	Chomakos, Dean and Tammy	Demoleas, Stephanie	Farrene, Frank and Nancy
Berta, Irene	Chomakos, George and Nikki	Demopoulos, Tommy and Vasiliki	Farrene, Maritsa and Anthony
Bicos, Andriana	Chomakos, Jeremy and Romina	DeWindt, Dennis and Susan	Filius, George and Nitsa
Bieker, Adam	Christopoulos, Ann	Diamantis, Filippos	Filius, Spiridon and Eleni
Bieker-Grissom, Georgeea	Chumas, Russell and Stella	Diaz, Vanya	Flangas, Albert and Trudi
Bingham, Robert and Melissa	Clark, Edward and Evelyn	Doering, Bruce and Lynn	Flangas, Bill and Marilyn

Stewardship Report: "Come and See!"

<u>2010 Stewardship Status (April 15, 2010):</u>		Stewardship Target – 2010	\$350,000
Stewardship Families Pledged	350	Stewardship Gifts Pledged	\$274,117
Stewardship Gifts Received	\$120,107	Current Stewardship Deficit	\$75,883
Average Stewardship Pledge	\$787	Percentage of Goal Achieved	78%

<u>Pledge Range</u>	<u>Number of Families</u>	<u>\$ & % of Gifts Pledged</u>
\$1-\$999	249	\$ 89,091 - 33%
\$1,000-\$2,499	83	\$ 107,526 - 39%
\$2,500-\$4,999	11	\$ 36,280 - 13%
\$5,000-\$9,999	6	\$ 33,720 - 12%
\$10,000-\$14,999	1	\$ 10,000 - 3%

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Stewards Pledged	408	350	- 58
Gifts Pledged	\$292,990	\$274,117	- \$18,873
Gifts Received	\$124,807	\$120,107	- \$4,700
Average Pledge	\$718	\$787	+\$69

Reflections on Pascha and Stewardship

As we proclaim "Christos Anesti! . . . Alithos Anesti!" during this beautiful time of year, what feelings arise? Most may say something like . . . warmth, love, hope, gratitude and joy. We experience all of these feelings because we have just been through the most Holy Week of the year and celebrated the Feast of Feasts, Pascha. We experienced Jesus' love for us with the ultimate reward: His Resurrection.

Do we show the same love for Him by building up His Church? In the early Church, every person gathering in the Name of Christ brought everything they could spare for the needs of the community. They provided for the sustenance of the clergy, widows and orphans, for helping the poor, and for all the good works of the Church. This is the Church that we Orthodox Christians claim to be.

How much can your offering do for Christ and His Church today? Only as much as we empower it to do – it depends on our love. That's right: We give to Christ and His Church not according to our means, but according to our love for Him. We are called to love God with our entire being – our time, talents and treasury. We can continually experience the warmth, love, hope, gratitude and joy with what was given to us by giving back to Him.

Please prayerfully consider your pledge and offerings to date. If you have not completed a Pledge Card for 2010, please do so as soon as possible. For more information, please contact the Church Office (702) 221-8245, **Angela Coutris (702) 497-2529** or any member of the Stewardship Committee.

Angela Coutris, 2010 Stewardship Committee

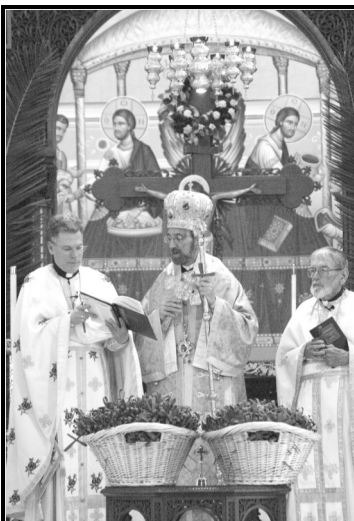
Flangas, Gary and Amanda	George, Pete and Georgia	Hallis, Louis and Betty	Kakavulias, Christina
Flangas, Gus and Tamara	Georgiou, Byron and Thérèse	Hamilton, Mary	Kakavulias, George and Eleni
Flangas, Jason and Lindsay	Georgiou, Trula	Hamilton, Paul and Brandi	Kakavulias, John
Flangas, Peter and Wanda	Georgis, John and Kaliopi	Haritopoulos, Demetrios	Kakavulias, Maria
Flessas, Andrew	Gialketsis, Babe and Terry	Harris, Melty and Angeline	Kalfas, Domna
Foskaris, Thomas and Iryna	Gialketsis, Bill and Shelli	Harrison, Angie	Kalkas, John and Rena
Fotinos, Cleo	Gialketsis, Julie	Hart, Russell and Dora	Kanellis, Ann
Fotopoulos, John and Barbara	Gialketsis, Steve	Hernquist, Angela	Kanoles, Constantine
Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia	Giouzelis, Anastasia	Hondros, Catherine	Kanoles, Helene
Frangakis, Costa	Goddard, Elizabeth	Hondros, Christina	Karacostas, Alice
Frangakis, John	Goldman, Love	Hondros, Fr. John and Pres. Maria	Karacostas-Conkin, Demetra
Frangopulu, Christina	Gordon, Victor and Demetria	Hoover, Patrick and Pauline	Karalis, Gianni and April
Franzi, Jack	Gott, Thomas	Howe, Kiparissia	Karas, James
Fuson, Aglaia	Grillas, Vasilios and Roula	Kachikis, Paul and Ernestine	Karas, John and Marcie
Gear, Darius	Gruber, Ernest and Zoe	Kachnik, Alison	Karas, Vasiliki

Karvounidis, Nick and Alexandra
 Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon
 Katsikakis, Evangelos
 Kelesis, Paula
 Kelesis, Dina
 Kleanthis, George and Zanetta
 Knoblock, Jamie and Laurie
 Kokenes, Katherine
 Koliambas, Eleni
 Kolinas, Claire
 Konsolakis, George
 Kontos, Spero and Diana
 Kostopoulos, Georgia
 Kotonias, George and Patricia
 Kountanis, Dennis and Pat
 Kouris, Anastasios
 Kourlos, Georgia
 Koutsoulis, Sam and Effie
 Kover, Barbara
 Kratky, Frank and Constance
 Kypreos, Peter and Geri
 Kyprianou, Gilbert and Alexis
 Lakis, Antoinette
 Latelle, Penny
 Lawrence, Vicki
 Lekar, Michael and Effie
 Lemelson, Kathy and Carolyn
 Leone, Stephen
 Leonis, Tishe
 Leventis, Nicholas and Christina
 Lewis, Foula
 Liaos, Jim and Tina
 Liaos, Steven and Francine
 Liaos, William and Irene
 Likourinou, Angie
 Likourinou, Steve and June
 Lymberopoulos, Mary
 Malamatos, Kindina
 Malpee, Mack and Kalliope
 Mamasis, Dena
 Mamasis, Tessie
 Maniatakos, Ted and Maria
 Manolakos, Catherine
 Manos, Patricia
 Mansour, Muna
 Manteris, Arthur and Sue
 Maragos, Constance
 Margaretis, John and Lucila

Markakis, Mike and Catherine
 Markham, Lily
 Marlas, Louis and Vivien*
 Matsis, John and Rebecca
 Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki
 Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debbie
 Mavros, Michael and Debbie
 McNear, Elizabeth
 McPherson, Robert and Marie
 Mezhilson, Evangeline
 Mihopulos, John
 Miller, Mary
 Millet, Jennie
 Milonas, George
 Mirich, Kyle
 Moffett, Todd and Eliopulos, Tina
 Monoyudis, Jim and Julie
 Morgan, Brian and Adrienne
 Murphy, Karen and Terry
 Myers, Stella
 Neocleous, Plato
 Newell, Eric and Devona
 Newell, Ronald and Maria
 Niarkos, Eugenia
 Nicholas, Arthur
 Nicholas, James and Myrna
 Nicholas, John and Estella
 Nickolson, Chloe
 Nikitas, Rigas and Aphrodite
 Nikolopoulos, Nick and Demetra
 Nikolopoulos, Pete and Amanda
 Nikols, Rita
 O'Brien, Bill and Chris
 Orlando, Alleck and Jennifer
 Osborn, Pearl
 Ostis, Sotirios
 Pacheco, Nia
 Pallis, Paul
 Pandelis, Cheryl
 Pantelas, Anne
 Pantinas, John and Monica
 Pantos, James
 Papas, Christian
 Papas, Lou and Magaly
 Papas, Peter and Rita
 Pappas, Constantine and Karina
 Pappas, Rita
 Paschalis, Evangelos and Maria

Pelletier, Michael
 Pendelton, Patricia
 Pentogenis, Michael and Kathy
 Peronis, Fay
 Petro, Aleko and Georgia
 Philippou, Demetrios and Luanne
 Platis, Anna
 Plentzas, Spiros and Ruth
 Polimerou, Angeline
 Poulos, Christine
 Pouridis, Kouli and Para
 Prather, Moses
 Prokopis, Chris and Ritsa
 Prud'homme, Edwin and Penny
 Punsalan, Basil and Sophie
 Radosta, Athena
 Raptis, Fr. Dean and Pres. Evonne
 Rifakes, John and Carol
 Roberts, Christopher
 Rodis, Dimitri and Jennifer
 Rodis, Sophia
 Ross, John and Georgia
 Salon, Nick and Janelle
 Salvarlis, Thomas
 Santumo, Alfred and Tamara
 Savas, Christina
 Savvas, Savva
 Scott, Ann
 Setian, Gary and Marie
 Shinas, Maria
 Sinyakova, Svetlana
 Sirhan, Michael and Imtisal
 Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia
 Skandros, Georgia
 Skarlatos, Konstantinos
 Skarlatos, Stilianos
 Skerbetz, Frank and Sophia
 Snow, Clifford and Christina
 Snowden, Robert and Niki
 Soper, Bobby and Maria
 Spanopoulos, Elias
 Sparangis, Spyro and Helen
 Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette
 Stamis, Angelo and Susan
 Stamis, George and Effie
 Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki
 Stefanatos, Michael and Tami
 Stefanatos-Hetzel, Joanne

Stephanos, Stanley and Aspasia
 Stika, Arthur and Melinda
 Stock, Helen
 Struzas, Maria
 Szalavari, Noemi
 Szukiewicz, Joe
 Szukiewicz, Joseph and Jennia
 Tafoya, Steven and Irene
 Tahiraj, Mirela
 Takas, Andrea
 Tasios, Pete Jr.
 Tasios, Ramona
 Taxiarchos, Andrew and
 Alexandra
 Taylor, Katherine
 Teed, Charles
 Theros, James
 Thomas, Angie
 Thompson, Maggy
 Tournis, Angelo and Betty
 Toutoulis, James & Anaid
 Triantopoulos, Christos and Billie
 Triffon, Cathy
 Tsarouhas, Maria
 Tselikis, Nicholas and Jennifer
 Tsouras, Helen
 Vassiliadis, Athena
 Vassiliadis, Spiros and Shiona
 Vavoukakis, Gus and Penelope
 Vergos, Charles and Eve
 Vervilos, James and Anna
 Vlassopoulos, Maria
 Walter, Vernon and Alice
 Walters, Lane and Mary
 Waters, Gary and Susan
 Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina
 Willey, Anthony
 Wilson, Steve and Cleo
 Womack, Karl
 Womack, Kimberly
 Wronski, Chuck
 Xikis, Victoria
 Zaferatos, Ted and Marinella
 Zafiropoulos, John
 Zander, Becky
 Zarras, Nick and Chery
 Zimmerman, Paul and Angela



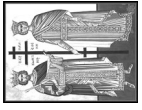
*Blessing and
 Distribution of Palms
 by His Eminence
 Metropolitan
 Gerasimos on
 Palm Sunday,
 March 28, 2010*

*Photos by Stephen
 Carabas*





MAY 2010 - IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
2 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 1:00 pm Folk Dance Practice	3 5:30 pm GOYA Volleyball Practice	4 7:00 pm Philoptochos Board Meeting	5 4:30 pm Youth Greek 7:00 pm Adult Study	6 6:00 pm Adult Greek	7	1 8 10:00 am HOPE & JOY at Bird Viewing Preserve
9 Happy Mother's Day 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Youth Choir Chants 1:00 pm Folk Dance Practice	10 5:30 pm GOYA Volleyball Practice 5:30 pm Bylaws Meeting	11 6:00 pm Food Festival Meeting 7:00 pm Philoptochos General Meeting	12 4:30 pm Youth Greek 5:00 pm Orthros 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Ascension of Our Lord) 7:30 pm Adult Study	13 The Ascension of Our Lord (celebrated on 5/12) 6:00 pm Adult Greek	14	15
16 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 1:00 pm Folk Dance Practice	17 5:30 pm GOYA Volleyball Practice	18 11:30 am Forerunners Luncheon 5:00 pm Dance Board Meeting	19 4:30 pm Youth Greek 7:00 pm Adult Study	20 6:00 pm Adult Greek	21 Ss. Constantine and Helen 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	22 Saturday of Souls 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy & Memorial 12:00 pm OCLV Potluck Picnic at Sunset Park
23 Pentecost Sunday 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Kneeling Vespers follows Liturgy 1:00 pm Folk Dance	24 Monday of the Holy Spirit 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 5:30 pm GOYA Volleyball Practice	25	26 4:30 pm Youth Greek 7:00 pm Adult Study	27 6:00 pm Adult Greek	28	29
No Fasting All Week						
30 All Saints 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 1:00 pm Folk Dance Practice	31 Memorial Day Apostles Fast: May 31—June 28	Please help our Parish "Go Green" and save expenses by sending your email address to karen@vegaskreekkorthodox.com. Our goal is to start sending The Desert Messenger and other parish mailings electronically by this summer. Your email will not be given out or revealed. We will send mailings via the US Postal Service only to members without computer access. Thank you!				

The Desert Messenger

*St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
5300 South El Camino Road
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THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord

*Blessed are You, O Christ our God,
Who have made the fishermen most wise
by sending down upon them
the Holy Spirit,
and through them
You have drawn the world into Your net.
O Lover of mankind: Glory to You!
~ Apolytikion of Pentecost*

