

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 8, Issue 7 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV July/August 2010

**From
Father
John**

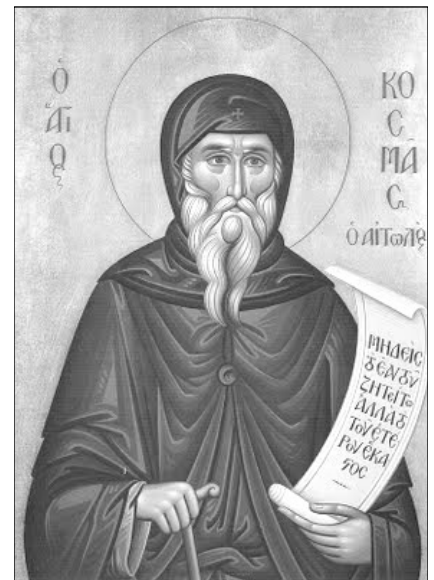
Beloved in Christ:

St. Paul echoed the words of the Prophet Isaiah in his letter to the Romans to declare the powerful and transformative effect of Apostolic preaching: *“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!” (Romans 10:15)* Paul understood that he, just like the other Apostles, was set apart and called by the Lord Jesus Christ to go out to the farthest reaches of the earth and endure all sufferings to preach salvation in Christ and baptize believers into His Church. Furthermore, Paul testified that he was granted the status of an Apostle by the will of God for one reason: *“in order that I might preach Him among the Gentiles” (Galatians 1:16)* – namely, among the heathen, or those who were non-believers.

Centuries later, another holy man was sent by the Lord Jesus to traverse some of the same terrain walked by the Apostle Paul, although during his time to bring the True Faith to a people who suffered under the yoke of Ottoman Turkish oppression for nearly four centuries. St. Kosmas Aitolos, who received the honor as Equal-to-the-Apostles when he was canonized by the Orthodox Church in 1961, took up the courageous and paternal vision of Paul in order to give spiritual rebirth to a suffering nation facing the erosion of its faith and culture: *“My little children, with whom I am again in travail until Christ be formed in you!” (Galatians 4:19)*

Born and baptized with the name Konstas in 1714 to pious parents who were weavers in the mountainous village of Mega Dendron in Aitolia, Greece, the young man had a rudimentary education and later a more formal and spiritual instruction from Archdeacon Ananias Dervisanos. After, he left for Mount Athos to study under Eugenios Voulgaris at the renowned Theological School of the Vatopedi Monastery, before going to the Philotheou Monastery where he was tonsured a monk with the name Kosmas and eventually ordained to the priesthood. Kosmas was compelled by the Holy Spirit to engage in missionary work in his motherland, and so after mastering the art of rhetoric and receiving the blessing of Seraphim II, Patriarch of Constantinople, he went and proclaimed the Gospel in the most remote areas of Greece: wherever Father Kosmas went he attracted crowds with his simple, humble and loving sermons, and thousands were converted to Christ and the Orthodox Faith – and he planted a cross in each place he preached as a remembrance for the glory of God.

St. Kosmas, in defiance of the Muslims, established over 200 Churches, Church Schools and charitable institutions, and utilized the generous personal donations he received to purchase holy books, baptismal fonts, prayer ropes and crosses for the faithful. For over 25 years, Kosmas traveled throughout Greece and its islands as well as Albania, until the Muslims captured him in Ioannina, arrested him under the false charges, convicted and hanged him on August 24, 1779. Recognizing Kosmas for his vital role in the rebirth of the Greek Orthodox Faith and Hellenic Culture, as well as for his miracles and prophetic sayings regarding the inventions of the telephone, airplanes and nuclear warfare, Patriarch Athenagoras of Constantinople led the effort to have him canonized by the Church almost two centuries later.



(Continued on Page 3)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

JULY

**Sunday, July 4/6th Sunday of Matthew/
Holy Father Andrew of Crete**

Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:36-53
Epistle: Romans 12:6-14
Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

**Sunday, July 11/7th Sunday of Matthew/Great
Martyr Euphemia/Olga, Equal-to-the-Apostles**

Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:1-10
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10
Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

Sunday, July 18/Holy Fathers of the 4th Synod

Orthros: Tone Seven (Grave)
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:11-18
Epistle: Titus 3:8-15
Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19

Tuesday, July 20/Holy Prophet Elias

8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: James 5:10-20
Gospel: Luke 4:22-30

**Sunday, July 25/9th Sunday of Matthew/
Dormition of St. Anna/Holy Olympia & Efpraxia**

Orthros: Tone Eight (Fourth Plagal)
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:19-31
Epistle: Galatians 4:22-27
Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

Tuesday, July 27/Great Martyr Panteleimon

8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10
Gospel: John 15:17-27; 16:1-2
Artoclasia (Blessing of Five Loaves) follows Liturgy

AUGUST

Fast of the Dormition - August 1-14

**Sunday, August 1/10th Sunday of Matthew/
Procession of the Holy Cross in Constantinople/
Holy Seven Maccabee Children**

Orthros: Tone One
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 21:1-14
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16
Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

Monday, August 2

6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Wednesday, August 4

6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Friday, August 6/Transfiguration of Our Savior

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

Epistle: 2 Peter 1:10-19

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Blessing of Grapes follows Liturgy

6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Sunday, August 8/11th of Matthew /St. Emilianos

Orthros: Tone Two

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

Monday, August 9

6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Wednesday, August 11

6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Friday, August 13

6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Saturday, August 14

6:00 pm Great Vespers of the Dormition

Sunday, August 15/Dormition of the Theotokos

Orthros: Tone Three

Festal Gospel (Orthros): Luke 1:39-49, 56

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

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

Artoclasia (Blessing of Five Loaves) follows Liturgy

Sunday, August 22/13th Sunday of Matthew /

Martyr Agathonikos/Martyr Anthousa

Orthros: Tone Four

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

**Sunday, August 29/Beheading of St. John the Baptist
(Strict Fast)**

Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Mark 16:9-20

Epistle: Acts 13:25-32

Gospel: Mark 6:14-30

From Father John *(Continued from Page 1)*

As Orthodox Christians today we must prayerfully examine and emulate, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the missionary life of St. Kosmas Aitolos in order to overcome the widespread secularism and hostile culture, religions and philosophies that have created many obstacles for the faithful. Not only is there a need to spread the Orthodox Faith to new regions, but even in our existing parishes it is necessary for us to evangelize the Gospel and Orthodox doctrine to those already baptized, to revitalize our Church Schools, and to transform the homes of the faithful into “little Churches” where Orthodoxy is practiced and kept alive for our families and generations to come. Through the intercessions of St. Kosmas, may the Lord sanctify all of us by His grace and allow us to be “apostles” of His Holy Orthodox Church.

With love in Christ,



**President's
Column**

I wish that all of our parish members have a nice summer, and if you are in town we hope to see you in Church; if you are going away, please have safe travels. Please look for our Festival Baking Schedule in this issue, and offer your hands for the success of the Festival and the good of our community.

At our recent Parish Council meeting, we discussed the need for all of us parish members to do our part in taking better care of our facilities. We will soon be meeting with our Church Ministries and Hellenic Organizations to present and discuss the facility use policy approved by the Parish Council.

Finally, we ask that no fund-raising by non-Church organizations be conducted on Church grounds. Thank you for your cooperation.

Peter Kypreos, Parish Council President

Financial Status for Month of May 2010

<u>Bank Accounts</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Internal Bank Transfers</u>		<u>Balances</u>
	<u>as of 4.30.10</u>	<u>Income</u>		<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>	
General Operating	\$14,613.75	\$20,072.05	\$49,562.76			(\$14,876.96)
Building/Maintenance	\$27,940.94	\$3.52	\$14,172.00			\$13,772.46
Community/Education Ctr	\$11,706.28	\$12,545.00	\$7,551.45			\$16,699.83
Construction (Loan Paymts)	\$18,296.11		\$6,812.73			\$11,483.38
Food Festival	\$46,038.30	\$608.00	\$495.03			\$46,151.27
Icon Money Market	\$1,149.44	\$1.16	\$37.00			\$1,113.60
Library Checking	\$15,888.00	\$2.47				\$15,890.47
On-Line Donations	\$1,000.09		\$300.00			\$700.09
Construction Loan	\$678,744.48					\$676,963.38
Revolving Line of Credit	\$0.00					\$0.00
Term Loan (5 year loan)	\$33,266.87					\$31,981.50

Please Join Us for a . . .

PANIGYRI ('GREEK PICNIC')

in celebration of the Feast of Panagias (Dormition of the Theotokos)

Sunday, August 15 ~ following Divine Liturgy (12:00 pm) in Panos Hall

Delicious Greek-style chicken, rice, beans, salad and dessert . . . All for \$15

Hosted by the Tzelalis Family ~

All Proceeds benefit St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

July 4

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

Memorial: Eleanore Qualey (3 years); Phivos Neocleous (3 years), Mirophora Neocleous

Fellowship: St. John the Baptist Church

July 11

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

Memorial: Presvytera Helen Andrews (40 days)

Fellowship: Folk Dance Group / Joanne Andrews in Memory of Presvytera Helen

July 18

Ushers: Sam Koutsulis, Darrick Cole, Demetrios Philippou, George Bochanis, William Carrico and Marina Adamy

Memorial: Dana Menegatos (40 days)

Fellowship: Menegatos Family in Memory of Dana

July 25

Ushers: George Kakavulias, Demetrios Philippou, Spiros Filios, Gary Waters, Angela Coutris and Pete Kypreos

Fellowship: Orthodox Family Fellowship

August 1

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

Memorial: Peter G. Kelesis (1 year)

Fellowship: Pan-Arcadians

August 8

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

Fellowship: Orthodox Family Fellowship

August 15 - THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

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

Fellowship: *Panigyri ('Greek Picnic'), Sponsored by Tzelalis Family*

August 22

Ushers: Marina Adamy, George Bochanis, Spiros Filios, Angela Coutris, Gary Waters and Pete Kypreos

Memorial: John G. Gianakopoulos (1 year); George Tsouras (1 year); Avalon Tsouras; Sam Poulos; JC and Connie Wright

Fellowship: Greek Folk Dance Group

August 29

Ushers: Demetrios Philippou, Sam Koutsulis, William Carrico, Alex Sparkuhl, George Kakavulias and Darrick Cole

Memorial: Susanna Tringas (1 year)

Fellowship: GOYA - Bake Sale to benefit Philoxenia Home of Holy Unmercenaries Church in Rochester, MN

"Our holy Church is like a mother. When her son makes an error, she scolds him and then loves him again." ~St. Kosmas Aitolos, 8th Teaching

**Philoptochos
News**

Hello, Ladies!

I hope you are all enjoying your summer break after our busy year. Although we will not be meeting in July or August, we ask that you please mark your calendars to join us on *Sunday, August 15*, when we assist the Tzelalis Family at the *Panigyri* following the Divine Liturgy, to honor the *Panagia*.

We invite you to join us for our first General Meeting of the New Ecclesiastical Year on *Tuesday, September 14*.

Wishing you all a safe and happy summer.

April Karalis and the Philoptochos Board

Thank You! We would like to thank all that assisted and attended the June 6 Fellowship Hour in Memory of Bobby Demoleas. We appreciate your time and help. *-The Demoleas Family*

Our Community Registry

Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun!

Zoe, daughter of Dimitri and Jennifer Rodis, on May 29, 2010.
Godparent: Evangelia Coutris.

Demitrios, son of Wright Antonio Jones and Christina Smith,
on May 30, 2010. Godparent: Helena Smith.

Isabella, daughter of Nick and Constantina Zarkos, on June 6, 2010.
Godparent: Klearhia Ciulla.

Stavros (Strummer), son of Travis Giffin and Anastasia Percell,
on June 12, 2010. Godparent: Faye Brown.

Christian (Christos), son of Christopher Roberts and Kari Ward,
on June 19, 2010. Godparent: Georgene Roberts.

Noah, son of Christopher Roberts and Kari Ward. on June 19, 2010.
Godparent: Michael Roberts.

Nikolette, daughter of Emmanuel and Erica Pilatos, on June 20, 2010.
Godparent: Julia Ocampo.

Chrismation:

Mariam Matta on June 4, 2010. Sponsor: Toula Papadopoulos.

Marriage: Na Zisete!

Bahabelom Haddish and Rahwa Ghebrecristos on June 5, 2010.
Sponsor: Gebertensaie Ogbazghi.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory

Presvytera Helen Andrews on May 22, 2010.
Trisagion at St. John the Baptist on May 25.

Funeral at Ss. Peter and Paul in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada on May 28.

Dana Menegatos on June 11, 2010. Funeral on June 19.

**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

Sheryl Lujan
Facilities and Catering Manager

Office Hours

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

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frjohn@vegaskgreekorthodox.com
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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

Orthodox Connection Las Vegas:
Adam Bieker

Forerunners:
Ruth Plentzas

Greek Folk Dance:
Tina Liaos, Chair
Bryan Taxopoulos, Director

Greek Language Classes:
Thymios Carabas

Orthodox Bookstore:
Costa Frangakis

Bill Andrews Library:
Spero and Stephanie Demoleas



Notes from the Loft

The Choir will be taking the month of July off - enjoy your summer! We will return to the Loft in August.

Vicki Xikis and I will be reporting to you in the September issue of *The Desert Messenger* on the Metropolis of San Francisco Church Music Federation Conference held June 17-20 at St. Demetrios Church in Tucson, and the recordings we made there.

The Choir extends our heartfelt sympathies to Ruth and Spike Plentzas on the passing of Ruth's son, Daniel George DeCuypere. May his memory be eternal.

Faye Brown, Choir Director

Congratulations, Faye!

Faye Brown was the recipient of the Patriarch Athenagoras Distinguished Service Award at the Church Music Federation Conference held recently in Tucson, AZ. Faye has been a member of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Las Vegas since 1962 (three years after the founding of the parish).

Faye has been faithfully directing the St. John Choir for 20 years. She had been singing a few years in the Choir before her musicianship and leadership talents were recognized and she was asked to serve as Director. Faye has been a tireless servant of the Lord and this parish, offering her talents weekly throughout the year, including Holy Week services, and taking respite only one month each year.

On behalf of our Parish and Choir, we thank God for Faye's dedicated service, and we offer this deserving recipient of the Athenagoras Award our heartiest congratulations! *-Father John*

Forerunners ~ The Seniors of St. John the Baptist

We will not be meeting the months of July and August. I hope everyone enjoys their summer and tries to stay cool.

Even though we are taking a break for summer, this does not mean we should take a break from helping those less fortunate. Please remember the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth this summer. They recently opened a new Drop-in Center on Shirley Avenue, right across from Liberace's House.

This facility offers a warm and homey place where these young people can find respite and counseling, as well as food snacks, a shower and laundry facilities. Our contributions have made a significant impact on some of these unfortunate children. If you are in the area, please drop in and take a tour – Jeremy Hynd, the director, will be happy to see you.

For September we will help with the Greek Food Festival like we do every year.

Yours in Christ, Ruth Plentzas



Holy Land Pilgrimage

His Grace Bishop Ilia 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.

News from the Shelves



We are currently setting up the Bill Andrews Library to become fully functional, offering a fine selection of reading and viewing materials on the Orthodox Faith and Hellenic Culture. We hope to be able to check books in and out in the near future.

If you are interested in learning the library software program please contact Karen at the Church Office via e-mail at karen@vegasgreekorthodox.com. We are setting up times throughout July and August to complete inventory and any and all help is appreciated.

Spero &
Stephanie Demoleas

Orthodox Connection Las Vegas

Greetings from the OCLV!

Thank you to the 15 people who joined us for our May Picnic at Sunset Park. We had the girl's football team led by the powerful arm of Angela Coutris (watch out Tom Brady!). A special "Thank You" to Demetri and Doug for their excellent job at grilling the gyros, and also to Catherine and Anastasia who made the wonderful tzatziki sauce for the dressing. We were also blessed to welcome two newcomers, Stefanie Sullivan and Armen Akopikyan. Thank you again to all who came out and made this a wonderful event.

The summer is definitely upon us as we break into the 100-degree days. Our June event was a pool party at the home of Steve Tzelalis, whom we thank for his kind hospitality. To keep with the theme of beating the heat, our next event will be a hike at Mount Charleston on *Saturday, July 17*. We will meet at St. John Church at 9:30 am and carpool to Mount Charleston hiking trails. After the hike we will have lunch at the Mount Charleston Lodge.

In August we honor the lives of several pillars of our Orthodox Faith, with the Feasts of the Dormition of the Theotokos, the Beheading of St. John the Baptist, St. Herman of Alaska and St. Tikhon. All dedicated their lives to God through unselfish acts and piety. There will be weeknight and Saturday Church services at St. John and St. Paul throughout August, and all of us should make an effort to attend and share in the saints' lives of devotion. To honor the unselfish lives that we commemorate, OCLV members will be encouraged to offer our time and talents to a community service project on *Saturday, August 7*. This will be an all-day event and more details will follow by email.

Lastly, our September event will be volunteering for the Greek Food Festival *September 24-26*. The schedule for the Festival is Friday, September 24 and Saturday, September 25 - 3:00 pm - 11:00 pm, and Sunday, September 26 - 12:00 noon - 10:00 pm. Please email me with times you are available to work. The more time you can volunteer, the better.

In Christ, Adam Bieker (702) 321-7611 orthodoxconnectionlv@gmail.com

Orthodox Bookstore

Hello from the Bookstore!

What is an icon? Icon, from the Greek, literally means "image." We Orthodox do not worship idols, but rather, we offer our reverence to icons as grace-filled images reflecting the glory of God. As we see from our Byzantine icons, different sacred images are depicted, such as the Lord, the Saints, the Angels and also holy events.

A correctly rendered icon will lift the mind of the viewer from this world and automatically almost "force" the viewer into contemplation of divine realities without invoking emotionalism and sensuality. The television also displays icons, or images. However, do the images or icons that appear on our televisions always "force" us to contemplate God, love for our fellow man, and forgiveness? No, probably not.

The icons that are displayed on our televisions or even our computer screens are often violent in nature. Isn't it interesting that the average size of televisions is constantly increasing as the images coming through seem to be getting worse? Do we have holy icons in our homes as big as the icons displayed on our TVs?

Our Bookstore offers many different icons that will enhance our spiritual lives at home as well as Church. If you would like to order something a little larger, please let us know and we will be happy to help.

ICXC NIKA, Costa Frangakis, Director



Youth Ministries

Youth Choir News

Happy Summer! The Youth Choir will be taking a break in July and August. However, if anyone wants to join us at the Chanter's Stand, you will be more than welcome. We will officially begin chanting again on *Sunday, September 12*, which is the first day of Church School.

Love, Presvytera Maria



HOPE and JOY

As summer is officially here, let's beat the heat and watch some movies! Regal Theaters in the Village Square Shopping Center (Sahara/Fort Apache) offers free movies during the summer. Please mark your calendars for the following "Movie Tuesdays," and meet us at 9:45 am both dates:

Tuesday, July 6 - "The Tale of Despereaux"

Tuesday, August 10 - "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs"

Afterward we can go to Cold Stone for some ice cream! Please call Sharon Katsaros at (702) 292-0850 if you will be joining us so we can wait for you in front of the theater.

Your HOPE & JOY Advisors, Sharon Katsaros and Jenn Orlando

GOYA

We enjoyed participating again this year in the GOYA Volleyball Tournament at St. Anthony Church in Pasadena, which was great fun and allowed us to see fellow youth from Southern California parishes!

We are bringing this Ecclesiastical Year to a close with a Bake Sale on *Sunday, August 29* following Liturgy, to benefit the Philoxenia Houses of The Holy Unmercenaries Church of Rochester, Minnesota. These houses are for the sick and their families to stay free of charge as they receive treatment from the Mayo Clinic. Caroline will contact you as we get closer to the date to encourage your participation.

Have a safe summer!

Love in Christ, Effie Lekar (702) 768-5500 & Eileen Koutsulis (702) 521-6516 (Senior Advisors)
 Tammy Chomakos (702) 338-4671 & Tami Stefanatos (702) 491-2713 (Junior Advisors)



2009-10 Church School Students with Perfect Attendance (from left): Nicole Soper, Marissa Hondros, George Chomakos, Bobby Soper, Father John Hondros, Irene Caredis, Dino Chomakos, Eric Szukiewicz, Eileen Koutsulis, Director, and Brandon Szukiewicz. Photo by Tammy Chomakos.

Church School

Hi Everyone! I hope all of you are enjoying the summer season. Our first day of class in the New Ecclesiastical Year will be on *Sunday, September 12*. Please try to have your enrollment form filled out before the first class of Church School, so we can staff our rooms accordingly. Please feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions.

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

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church 2010-2011 Church School Registration Form (One form per child: Duplicate if Needed)

**Church School Classes Begin Sunday, September 12.
*Please return to Karen during the week at the Church Office
or Eileen Koutsulis, Director, on Sundays before classes start.***

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

Student Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

School Grade 2010-2011: _____

Allergies, Special Needs, Medications: _____

Patron Saint and Date of Commemoration: _____

Parent(s): _____

Parent(s) e-mail: _____

Address: _____

Phone (home/cell): _____

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

Signed, Parent or Legal Guardian:

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

___ Teaching

___ Snack

___ Crafts

Cash Supply Fees Paid Per Student: ___ \$5 Stewards ___ \$10 Non-Stewards

Greek Folk Dance

Greek Dance Registration for the 2010-2011 year has ended and we will soon be gearing up for an exciting new year! Mark your calendars for the first day of practice on ***Tuesday, August 24***. Practices will be held on Tuesday evenings and Sundays after Church. The directors will be teaching new material right away and not wait until after the Food Festival as we have done in the past, so it is important that the dancers not miss practices.

Practices for the Festival performances will only be for those that performed at FDF 2010 and will take place on ***Sunday, September 12 and 19***. If you are new to the dance program, you do not need to attend practice on these two days.

For the dancers that performed at the event at UNLV in May, we need you to return your costume after Church on ***Sunday, July 11***. If you are unable to be there on that date, please contact a Dance Board member and make other arrangements, or return your costume to the Church Office prior to July 11.

We will have a Parents Meeting on ***Sunday, August 29*** at 12:15 pm. All parents of our dancers must attend this meeting. We will have information on the fundraisers we have planned and what is expected of those attending the Folk Dance Festival.

We are planning a Wine Walk for ***Saturday, October 16***. This is a new fundraiser for our ministry and it is our hope that this event can replace our annual rummage sale. This event will be a "21 and older" event. More details to follow.

Lastly, be sure to register your dancers for Church School. One of our requirements for the Greek Folk Dance Ministry is that all dancers of Church School age must attend classes regularly.

Hope you all enjoy your summer!

Tina Liaos and the Greek Folk Dance Board

"But in whatever place, village, house, there is enmity and hatred, people don't prosper, they don't live." ~St. Kosmas Aitolos, 8th Teaching

Greek Language Classes

We would like to continue with Greek Language Classes for the 2010 - 11 school year. In order to accommodate everyone's schedule, including the instructors, we would like to give you a couple options for consideration:

- *Option 1 – Meet once a week for 1.5 hours from September through June.*
- *Option 2 – Meet twice a week for five (5) weeks for more intensive instruction: One session held in the Fall and one session in the Spring.*

If you are interested in Greek School Classes or becoming an instructor please email Karen at the Church Office at karen@vegaskorthodox.com.

Thymios Carabas, Director

Greek Food Festival Baking Schedule

Save the Dates and Offer Your Help!

July 10 & July 12, 8:00 am – Prepare Baklava

July 17, 8:00 am – Tsourekia

July 22-24, 8:00 am – Dolmades

July 29-31, 8:00 am – Pasticio

August 7, 8:00 am – Kataifi

August 28, 8:00 am – Bougatsa

August 30, 8:00 am – Cookies

September 4, 8:00 am – Kourambiethes

September 11, 8:00 am – Koulourakia /Melomakarona

September 13, 8:00 am – Cookies

September 18, 8:00 am – Diples

September 20 -21, 8:00 am – Cakes

September 21, 8:00 am – Bake & Syrup Baklava

September 22, 8:00 am – Decorate & Cup Baklava

September 23-24 – Rice Pudding

Stewardship Report: “Come and See!”

<u>2010 Stewardship Status (June 15, 2010):</u>	Stewardship Target – 2010	\$350,000	
Stewardship Families Pledged	391	Stewardship Gifts Pledged	\$293,056
Stewardship Gifts Received	\$163,852	Current Stewardship Deficit	\$56,944
Average Stewardship Pledge	\$749.50	Percentage of Goal Achieved	84%

<u>Pledge Range</u>	<u>Number of Families</u>	<u>\$ & % of Gifts Pledged</u>
\$1-\$999	285	\$ 99,630 - 34%
\$1,000-\$2,499	87	\$ 110,426 - 38%
\$2,500-\$4,999	12	\$ 39,280 - 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	455	391	- 64
Gifts Pledged	\$318,356	\$293,056	- \$25,300
Gifts Received	\$172,898	\$163,852	- \$9,046
Average Pledge	\$699.68	\$749.50	+\$49.82

THANKS, GOD!

Saying “Thanks To God” through Stewardship

Most of us would not think of accepting a gift from another person without saying “Thank You” or in some way acknowledging that we have been given something useful, special or valuable. In fact, many of us would respond with thanks in accordance with the perceived value of the gift given. Most likely, our thanks would be a natural and genuine gesture in recognition of receiving something of lasting value.

How much thanks do we really give God for all the blessings and gifts that He provided to us - including those that often go unrecognized? God is with us every day, guards over our lives, and provides assurance of everlasting grace and life. This is given to us by God as a gift - and one that is easy to forget deserves our thanks.

What do we suppose God wants in return? What would be most pleasing to Him and honor what He is providing to us each and every day? Certainly prayer and worship come to mind, but what about Stewardship and adding value to the beauty of God’s House and the community of faith He has provided to support us?

Gratitude is in order and in addition to our worship and works, honoring our Stewardship commitments conveys gratitude as well. Stewardship rounds out our faith and honor of the gifts of God and is a component to the fundamental principles of being an Orthodox Christian. Stewardship is our response to God’s grace and moves us from grace to gratitude.

“Just as we love because God first loved us” (1 John 4:14), we give because God first gave to us. The question of the Psalmist, “What shall I give to the Lord in return for all His benefits towards me?” (Ps 116:2), is answered in every Liturgy when the celebrant calls us to “offer ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.”

Gary Waters, 2010 Stewardship Committee

“First, my brethren, you must pay close attention to all the teachings of the sacred Gospel . . . and especially (with regard) to the sacred Sacraments. Observe what our Christ has done. He didn’t allow hatred and hostility to prevent Him from giving Communion to Judas, His enemy . . .”
 ~St. Kosmas Aitolos, 4th Teaching (NM Vaporis, *Father Kosmas: Apostle of the Poor*)

2010 Stewards and Contributors: "Come and See!"

Abernathy, Gordon and Akaterine	Collins, Dean	Fotopoulos, John and Barbara	Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon
Adamy, Marina	Collins, James and Barbara	Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia	Katsikakis, Evangelos
Agnos, Dimitrios and Angeline	Cominos, Ted	Frangakis, Costa	Kelesis, Paula
Alcala, Philip and Georgia	Conger, William and Alexia	Frangakis, John	Kelesis, Dina
Alex, Jim and Renee	Constantine, Bill	Frangopulu, Christina	Kleanthis, George and Zanetta
Alexis, Georgia	Constantinou, Magdeline	Frantzen, Robert	Knoblock, Jamie and Laurie
Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine	Coroneos, Marika	Franzi, Jack	Kokenes, Katherine
Anastasiou, Andrew and Kathleen	Costacos, John	Fronimos, John and Margaret	Koliambas, Eleni
Andraktos, Manuel	Costuros, George and Marsha	Fuson, Aglaia	Kolinas, Claire
Andrews, Catherine	Cotsilis, Jenny	Fyssakis, Kathy	Konsolakis, George
Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette	Coutris, Angela	Gear, Darius	Kontos, Spero and Diana
Apostolopoulos, Chris and Katia	Dalacas, Anthony & Eugenia	George, Angela	Kostopoulos, Georgia
Arcamuzi, Georgia	Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	George, Pete and Georgia	Kotonias, George and Patricia
Aristides, George and Diana	Dalacas, Nick and Georgia	Georgiou, Byron and Thérèse	Koutanis, Dennis and Pat
Asim, Demetrious	Danik, Mary	Georgiou, Trula	Kouris, Anastasios
Athan, Sofia	Dawood, Evon	Georgis, John and Kaliopi	Kourlos, Georgia
Athens, Ann	DeCarlo, Frank and Nadine	Gialketsis, Babe and Terry	Koutsulis, John and Eileen
Attard, Constantine and Sofia	Delalis, Dina	Gialketsis, Barbara	Koutsulis, Sam and Effie
Bacon, Ken and Dianne	Delalis, Pete and Alysondra	Gialketsis, Bill and Shelli	Kover, Barbara
Bagatelos, Michael	Demetriou, Demetrios and Bessie	Gialketsis, Julie	Kratky, Frank and Constance
Balason, Anna	Demolas, Ilias and Jodi	Gialketsis, Steve	Kypreos, Peter and Geri
Balason, Voula	Demoleas, Spero & Grace	Giouzelis, Anastasia	Kyprianou, Gilbert and Alexis
Baldwin, Richard and Vivi	Demoleas, Stephanie	Goddard, Elizabeth	Lakis, Antoinette
Balodimas, James	Demopoulos, Tommy and Vasiliki	Goldman, Love	Latelle, Penny
Bartzos, Sam and Eugenia	DeWindt, Dennis and Susan	Gordon, Victor and Demetria	Lawrence, Vicki
Bauck, Jeremy and Amy	Diamantis, Philippos	Gott, Thomas	Lazarakis, John and Panagiota
Berendji, Jim & Vivian	Diaz, Vanya	Gousias, Elias and Maria	Lekar, Michael and Effie
Berta, Irene	Doering, Bruce and Lynn	Grillas, Vasilios and Roula	Lemelson, Kathy and Carolyn
Bicos, Andriana	Dominguez, Eric and Amalia	Gruber, Ernest and Zoe	Leone, Stephen
Bieker, Adam	Doskas, Athanasios & Anastasia	Hadzoglou, Christos and Barbara	Leonis, Nick and Sophia
Bieker-Grissom, Georgea	Dougan, Linda	Hallis, Louis and Betty	Leonis, Tishe
Bingham, Robert and Melissa	Dounis, Dina	Hamilton, Mary	Leventis, Nicholas and Christina
Bledsoe, Lori	Dounis, Georgia	Hamilton, Paul and Brandi	Lewis, Foula
Bochanis, George	Dounis, Kiki	Haritopoulos, Demetrios	Liaos, Jim and Tina
Borzekas, Stephen	Drewnowski, Carl	Harris, Melty and Angeline	Liaos, Steven and Francine
Bratta, Georgene	Dudunakis, Michael	Harrison, Angie	Liaos, William and Irene
Britten, Ronald and Carol	Economon, Andrew and Stacy	Hart, Russell and Dora	Likourinou, Angie
Brown, Faye	Edmunds, Paul and Barbara	Henneforth, Scott and Rula	Likourinou, Steve and June
Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Eliades, Aristotelis	Hernquist, Angela	Lymbelopoulos, Mary
Campbell, Samantha	Eliades, Artemis	Hetzal, David	Makris, Apostolos
Capadalis, Tim and Marling	Eliades, Harry and Agapi	Hondros, Catherine	Malamatos, Kindina
Captain, Nicholas and Maria	Eliades, Katerina	Hondros, Christina	Maland, Tim and Donna
Carabas, Stephen and Linda	Eliakis, John and Atsuka	Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria	Malpee, Mack and Kalliope
Carabas, Thymios and Sotiroulla	Eliakis, Peter and Glenda	Hondros, Paul	Mamasis, Dena
Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	Eliakis, Varthie and Lee Ann	Hoover, Patrick and Pauline	Mamasis, Tessie
Carrico, William and Alexandra	Eliopoulos, Goldie	Howe, Kiparissia	Maniatakos, Ted and Maria
Carson, Michele	English, Marika	Kachikis, Paul and Ernestine	Manolakos, Catherine
Carter, Maria	Esqueda, Victor	Kachnik, Alison	Manos, Patricia
Castillo, Matthew	Exarhos, Nick and Sharon	Kakavulias, Christina	Mansour, Muna
Cero, Dean	Eyler, Fr. Paul and Pres. Ilean	Kakavulias, George and Eleni	Manteris, Arthur and Sue
Chachas, Bessie	Eyler, John and Elizabeth	Kakavulias, John	Maragos, Constance
Chachas, James	Falcone, Frank and Nancy	Kakavulias, Maria	Margaretis, John and Lucila
Chandrinis, Alexia	Farren, Maritsa and Anthony	Kalfas, Domna	Markakis, Mike and Catherine
Chandrinis, Peter	Filios, George and Nitsa	Kalkas, John and Rena	Markham, Lily
Chanos, George	Filios, Spiridon and Eleni	Kanellis, Ann	Marlas, Louis
Chomakos, Dean and Tammy	Flangas, Albert and Trudi	Kanoles, Constantine	Matsis, John and Rebecca
Chomakos, George and Nikki	Flangas, Bill and Marilyn	Kanoles, Helene	Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki
Chomakos, Jeremy and Romina	Flangas, Gary and Amanda	Karacostas, Alice	Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debbie
Christopoulos, Ann	Flangas, Gus and Tamara	Karacostas-Conklin, Demetra	Mavros, Michael and Debbie
Christou, Andreas and Toni	Flangas, Jason and Lindsay	Karalis, Gianni and April	McNear, Elizabeth
Chumas, Russell and Stella	Flangas, Peter and Wanda	Karas, James	McPherson, Robert and Marie
Ciulla, Anthony and Kleri	Flessas, Andrew	Karas, John and Marcie	Mezilson, Evangeline
Clark, Edward and Evelyn	Fokas, Elene	Karas, Vasiliki	Mihopoulos, John
Cole, Darrick and Carla	Foskaris, Thomas and Iryna	Karvounidis, Nick and Alexandra	Miller, Mary
Collins, David	Fotinos, Cleo	Katris, Nick and Kathy	Millet, Jennie

2010 Stewards and Contributors: "Come and See!"

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Milonas, George | Pappas, Constantine and Karina | Shinas, Maria | Tasios, Ramona |
| Miner, George | Pappas, Rita | Sinyakova, Szvetlana | Taxiarchos, Andrew and Alexandra |
| Mirich, Kyle | Paschalis, Evangelos and Maria | Sirhan, Michael and Imtisal | Taylor, Katherine |
| Moffett, Todd and Eliopoulos, Tina | Pearson, Jeff and Adrienne | Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia | Teed, Charles |
| Monoyudis, Jim and Julie | Pelletier, Michael | Skandros, Georgia | Theros, James |
| Morgan, Brian and Adrienne | Pendelton, Patricia | Skarlatos, Konstantinos | Thomas, Angie |
| Murphy, Karen and Terry | Peterson, Barbara | Skarlatos, Stilianos | Thompson, Maggy |
| Myers, Stella | Pentogenis, Michael and Kathy | Skerbetz, Frank and Sophia | Tourlis, Angelo and Betty |
| Neocleous, Plato | Peronis, Fay | Smith, Christina | Toutoulis, James and Anaid |
| Newell, Eric and Devona | Petro, Aleko and Georgia | Snow, Clifford and Christina | Triffon, Cathy |
| Newell, Ronald and Maria | Philippou, Demetrios and Luanne | Snowden, Robert and Niki | Tsarouhas, Maria |
| Niarkos, Eugenia | Platis, Anna | Soper, Bobby and Maria | Tselikis, Nicholas and Jennifer |
| Nichlas, Arthur | Plentzas, Spiros and Ruth | Sotira, George and Dhimitra | Tsouras, Helen |
| Nicholas, James and Myrna | Polimerou, Angelina | Soursos, Helene | Turman, Maria |
| Nicholas, John and Estella | Poulos, Christine | Spanopoulos, Elias | Vassiliadis, Athena |
| Nicholas, Rhea | Pouridis, Kouli and Para | Sparangis, Spyro and Helen | Vassiliadis, Spiros and Shiona |
| Nichols, Mary | Prather, Moses | Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette | Vavoukakis, Gus and Penelope |
| Nickolson, Chloe | Prokopis, Chris and Ritsa | Spotti, Alexandra and Peter | Vergos, Charles and Eve |
| Nikitas, Rigas and Aphrodite | Prud'homme, Edwin and Pennyne | Staikos, Becky | Vervilos, James and Anna |
| Nikolopoulos, Nick and Demetra | Punsalan, Basil and Sophie | Stamis, Angelo and Susan | Vlassopoulos, Maria |
| Nikolopoulos, Pete and Amanda | Radosta, Athena | Stamis, George and Effie | Walter, Vernon and Alice |
| Nikols, Rita | Raptis, Fr. Dean and Pres. Evonne | Stanford, Nennette | Walters, Lane and Mary |
| O'Brien, Bill and Chris | Rifakes, John and Carol | Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki | Waters, Gary and Susan |
| Orlando, Alleck and Jennifer | Roberts, Christopher | Stefanatos, Michael and Tami | Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina |
| Osborn, Pearl | Rodis, Dimitri and Jennifer | Stefanatos-Hetzel, Joanne | Willey, Anthony |
| Ostis, Sotirios | Rodis, Sophia | Stephanos, Stanley and Aspasia | Wilson, Steve and Cleo |
| Pacheco, Nia | Ross, John and Georgia | Stika, Arthur and Melinda | Womack, Karl |
| Paikos, Thomas | Rouvas, John and Keri | Stock, Helen | Womack, Kimberly |
| Pallis, Paul | Salon, Nick and Janelle | Struzas, Maria | Wronski, Chuck |
| Pandelis, Cheryl | Salvarlis, Thomas | Szalavari, Noemi | Xikis, Victoria |
| Pantelas, Anne | Santumo, Alfred and Tamarak | Szukiewicz, Joe | Zaferatos, Ted and Marinella |
| Pantinas, John and Monica | Savas, Christina | Szukiewicz, Joseph and Jennia | Zafiroopoulos, John |
| Pantos, James | Savvas, Savva | Tafoya, Steven and Irene | Zander, Becky |
| Papas, Christian | Scott, Ann | Tahiraj, Mirela | Zarras, Nick and Chery |
| Papas, Lou and Magaly | Serpetini, Athanasia | Takas, Andrea | Zimmerman, Paul and Angela |
| Papas, Peter and Rita | Setian, Gary and Marie | Tasios, Pete Jr. | |

2010 GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

3:00 - 11:00 PM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

3:00 - 11:00 PM

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

12:00 NOON - 10:00 PM

**FESTIVAL MEETINGS: JULY 13 & 27 -
6:00 PM, AUGUST 10 & 31 - 6:00 PM**





AUGUST 2010 - IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Dormition Fast August 1-14	2 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos	3	4 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos 7:00 pm Adult Study	5	6 Transfiguration of Our Savior 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy Blessing of Grapes 6:00 pm Paraklesis	7 8:00 am Festival Baking: Kataifi OCLV Service Project - TBA	
8 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	9 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos 7:00 pm Dance Board Meeting	10 9:45 am HOPE & JOY at Regal Theater 6:00 pm Food Festival Meeting 7:00 pm Youth Ministries Meeting	11 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos 7:00 pm Adult Study	12	13 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos	14 6:00 pm Great Vespers of the Dormition	
15 Dormition of the Theotokos 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:00 pm Panigyri (Greek Picnic)	16	17	18 7:00 pm Adult Study	19	20	21	
22 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	23 6:30 pm Church School Teachers Meeting	24 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting 6:00 pm Folk Dance Practice Starts	25 7:00 pm Adult Study	26	27	28 8:00 am Festival Baking: Bougatsa	
29 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:15 pm Dance Parents Meeting 1:00 pm Folk Dance Practice	30 8:00 am Festival Baking: Cookies	31 6:00 pm Food Festival Meeting 6:00 pm Folk Dance Practice	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Please help our Parish "Go Green" and save expenses by sending your email address to karen@vegagreekorthodox.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!</p> </div>				

The Desert Messenger

*St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
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THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord



*“O You Apostles from far off,
being gathered together
in the village of Gethsemane,
lay my body in burial,
and You, my Son and my God,
receive now my spirit from me.”*

*-Exapostilarion for the Dormition Fast,
Paraklesis to the Theotokos*