

# The Desert



# Messenger

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

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Volume 8, Issue 11 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

December 2010

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**From  
Father  
John**

Beloved in Christ:

At a recent meeting of the Church School Teachers, as we sat in the Library discussing ideas for the upcoming Christmas Pageant, all of us eventually came to a consensus of what we were missing and wanted to see again: A play about our Lord's Nativity! Isn't it amazing how many of us look to find new ways of defining this holy season, when all we really have to do is take a little time to read the account of the Birth of Jesus Christ in the flesh that is recorded plainly for all to see in the Holy Gospels?

Of all the Scriptural accounts that capture the awe and glory of that first Christmas, perhaps the most endearing image is in the Gospel of St. Luke, and particularly the evangelist's description of the shepherds on that holy night:

*“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. . .’*

*“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!’ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.’ . . . Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.” (Luke 2:8-17)*

To whom does God send His great revelation? To simple shepherds who, while tending to their work, experience personally the mystery of heaven and earth united through Christ's Incarnation. In God's vision to them, they discover that the vastness of His glory is within reach. And the evangelist does not stop with these details: St. Luke carefully includes in his narrative the *response* of these shepherds to this *theophany* – that is, manifestation of God. We *know* their eagerness to “see this thing that has come to pass” and, after, to spread the good news about the newborn Messiah.

Now obviously, most of us are very familiar with the Christmas Story. But as much as we might know about the Nativity of our Lord, we often miss the personal impact of this event in our lives because we have not sincerely made a place in our hearts to receive Him. God reveals Himself *not* to those with great power, wealth or knowledge . . . but rather to those with pure hearts unclouded by distractions. And further, God's good will is continuously manifested to those of us who, like the shepherds, eagerly respond to Him by *giving ourselves* to Christ, His Church and one another. Yes, beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, we praise, thank and glorify God in prayer, worship, the Holy Mysteries, repentance, obedience and honest living . . . and equally so by sharing the good news of God's love and imitating His holy love through our selfless offering of humility, mercy, forgiveness, patience, time, and philanthropy and good will to others.

With my love in Christ and heartfelt prayers for a Blessed Nativity,

*Father John*

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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

Sunday, December 5/10th Sunday of Luke/  
*Sava the Sanctified/Martyr Diogenes*  
Orthros: Tone Three  
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:36-53  
Epistle: Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2  
Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Monday, December 6/*St. Nicholas of Myra*  
*8:00 am Orthros*  
*9:00 am Divine Liturgy*  
Epistle: Hebrews 13:17-21  
Gospel: Luke 6:17-23

Sunday, December 12/*11th Sunday of Luke/  
Holy Forefathers/St. Spyridon of Trimythous*  
Orthros: Tone Four  
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:1-10  
Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19  
Gospel: Luke 14:16-24; Matthew 22:14

Sunday, December 19/*Sunday before the Nativity/  
Holy Martyr Boniface/St. Gregentios of Ethiopia*  
Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)  
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:11-18  
Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40  
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

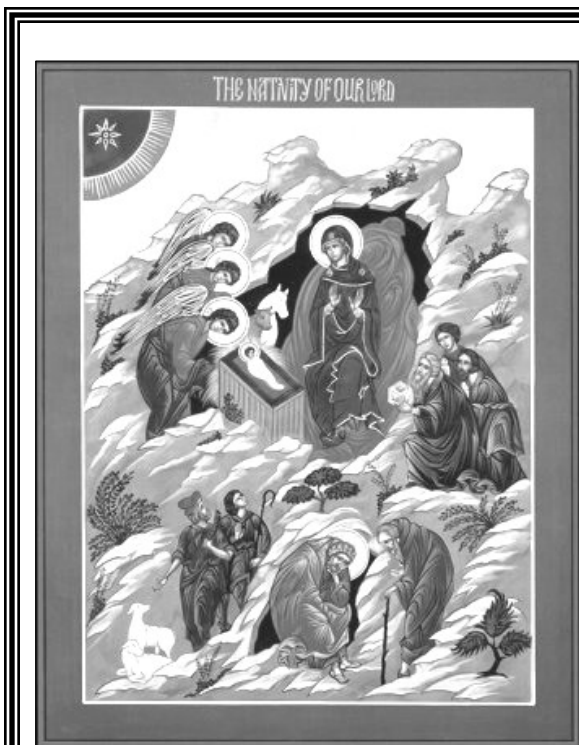
Friday, December 24/*Eve of the Nativity of Christ*  
*6:00 pm Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil*  
Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-12  
Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Saturday, December 25/*The Nativity of Jesus Christ*  
*9:00 am Orthros*  
Festal Gospel (Orthros): Matthew 1:18-25  
*10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom*  
Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7  
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-20

**CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!**

Sunday, December 26/*Sunday after the Nativity*  
Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)  
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:19-31  
Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19  
Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

Saturday, January 1, 2011/*Circumcision of Our Lord/  
St. Basil the Great*  
*9:00 am Orthros*  
*10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil*  
Epistle: Colossians 2:8-12  
Gospel: Luke 2:20-21, 40-52



**Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Liturgies**

Friday, December 24  
*Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ*  
6:00 pm Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great  
(Please fast from 1:00 pm)

Saturday, December 25  
*Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ*  
9:00 am Orthros  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

*As these are distinct Liturgies, you may prepare to  
receive Holy Communion at both.  
Please be sure to attend at least one and hopefully both  
Liturgies with your family and loved ones.*

*Stewardship Report: “We are Members of the Body of Christ!”*

**What Does it Mean to be Truly Rich?**

In a recent Senior High Church School discussion of the *Beatitudes*, the students discovered that loving the Church and Orthodox Christianity is only one component to faithful stewardship, and that God requires from us things that are often difficult to give – including our resources through the process of stewardship.

Some of the students, all of whom are very, very bright and learning the elements of faithful Orthodox principles, debated the process of stewardship and how God views giving. It was acknowledged that money alone does not guarantee entry into the eternal presence of God, and that each steward is expected to give and contribute of time, talents and treasures during their lifetime.

These astute students debated the concepts of “rich” and exactly how wealthy individuals may, like the camel, travel through the “eye of a needle.” (*Matthew 19:24*) Definitions of the word “rich” were abundant. Some viewed it more broadly than simply money, and also defined “richness” as the gifts and talents that can be given to God. One student even suggested that one lifetime may not be enough to give to God all we would like, and perhaps it would be possible to stay longer than one lifetime or even come back, just to give more to God and to put forth a greater effort in stewardship.

However, these wise students recognized, as do we all, that one lifetime is all we are given, and if we are good and faithful stewards, one is quite enough. We are not given a second chance to do it again, do it over, or perform differently as a steward. We are given one life to give, and one lifetime to be stewards of God’s Church. If one is all we get, and one is God’s plan, we must ask ourselves, “How are we doing so far?”

**Gary Waters, 2011 Stewardship Committee Co-Chairman**

|   |                           |                             |           |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| <u>2010 Stewardship Status (November 12, 2010):</u> | Stewardship Target – 2010 | \$350,000                   |           |
| Stewardship Families Pledged                        | 455                       | Stewardship Gifts Pledged   | \$331,891 |
| Stewardship Gifts Received                          | \$269,000                 | Current Stewardship Deficit | \$18,109  |
| Average Stewardship Pledge                          | \$729.43                  | Percentage of Goal Achieved | 95%       |

| <u>Pledge Range</u> | <u>Number of Families</u> | <u>\$ &amp; % of Gifts Pledged</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| \$1-\$999           | 339                       | \$ 113,425 - 34%                   |
| \$1,000-\$2,499     | 94                        | \$ 119,466 - 36%                   |
| \$2,500-\$4,999     | 14                        | \$ 45,280 - 14%                    |
| \$5,000-\$9,999     | 6                         | \$ 33,720 - 10%                    |
| \$10,000-\$14,999   | 2                         | \$ 20,000 - 6%                     |

|                  | <u>2009</u> | <u>2010</u> | <u>Difference</u> |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Stewards Pledged | 496         | 455         | - 41              |
| Gifts Pledged    | \$335,016   | \$331,891   | - \$3,125         |
| Gifts Received   | \$263,654   | \$269,000   | + \$5,346         |
| Average Pledge   | \$675.44    | \$729.43    | +\$53.99          |

**Orthodox Bookstore**

Just a reminder that we have many items in the Bookstore that are great for holiday gift-giving. What better way to involve Christ in Christmas than by giving a gift that not only inspires, but strengthens the faith of the recipient. Don’t know what to give? The Bookstore also has gift certificates in \$10 increments.

A Blessed Nativity and Glory to God for His Incarnation.  
**Matthew Castillo, Director**

**Parish Council Report**

I hope that everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving with their loved ones. Now looking to December, I would like to mention a few things. First, please remember to vote for six new members for your Parish Council for the 2011-12 term. Elections will be held on *Sunday, December 12* directly after Liturgy until 2:00 pm. I wish all candidates good luck; all Stewards in good standing are encouraged to vote.

Secondly, as we approach the end of the year I would like to stress the importance of fulfilling your Stewardship Pledge. And, if you haven't done so already, please submit your 2011 Stewardship Card.

Lastly, I want to wish you and your family a very Blessed Holiday. Please be sure to join us for the Nativity services on *Friday, December 24 and Saturday, December 25*. If you are traveling, have a safe trip. May God bless you and yours. Peter Kypreos, Parish Council President

*Financial Status for Month of October 2010*

| <u>Bank Accounts</u>       | <u>Beginning Balance as of 9.30.10</u> | <u>Income</u> | <u>Expenses</u> | <u>Internal Bank Transfers</u> |                      | <u>Balances as of 10.31.10</u> |
|----------------------------|--|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
|                            |  |               |                 | <u>Transfers In</u>            | <u>Transfers Out</u> |                                |
| General Operating          | -\$15,270.29                           | \$121,621.19  | \$93,623.04     |                                |                      | \$12,727.86                    |
| Building/Maintenance       | \$7,235.52                             | \$30,102.03   |                 |                                |                      | \$37,337.55                    |
| Community/Education Ctr    | \$4,573.80                             | \$5,299.00    | \$7,074.07      |                                |                      | \$2,798.73                     |
| Construction (Loan Paymts) | \$612.10                               | \$64,000.00   | \$6,998.01      |                                |                      | \$57,614.09                    |
| Food Festival              | \$430,320.22                           | \$21,131.48   | \$364,705.53    |                                |                      | \$86,746.17                    |
| Icon Money Market          | \$3,351.05                             | \$1,211.03    | \$64.00         |                                |                      | \$4,498.08                     |
| Library Checking           | \$15,587.06                            |               |                 |                                |                      | \$15,587.06                    |
| On-Line Donations          | \$700.09                               |               |                 |                                |                      | \$700.09                       |
| Construction Loan          | \$670,088.79                           |               |                 |                                |                      | \$668,264.40                   |
| Revolving Line of Credit   | \$0.00                                 |               |                 |                                |                      | \$0.00                         |
| Term Loan (5 year loan)    | \$28,125.39                            |               |                 |                                |                      | \$25,554.65                    |

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**December 5**

**Ushers:** Demetrios Philippou, Pete Kypreos, Angela Coutris, George Bochanis, Darrick Cole and Gary Waters

**Memorial:** The Semendrians; Kostas Davrados (40 days).

**Fellowship:** Pan-Cretans

**December 12**

**Ushers:** Marina Adamy, Spiros Filios, William Carrico, Sam Koutsulis, George Kakavulias and Alex Sparkuhl

**Memorial:** Giorgis Nikolopoulos (40 days); Nikolaos Avlonitis, Zaira Avlonitis and Eugene Harrison

**Fellowship:** Orthodox Family Fellowship

*Parish Council Elections following Divine Liturgy*

**December 19**

**Ushers:** Darrick Cole, Angela Coutris, Pete Kypreos, George Bochanis, Gary Waters and Demetrios Philippou

**Fellowship:** Georgia Kourlos, for the Name Days of Christos and Eugenia Kourlos

*Church School Christmas Pageant following Divine Liturgy*

**December 26**

**Ushers:** William Carrico, Sam Koutsulis, George Kakavulias, Alex Sparkuhl, Spiros Filios and Marina Adamy

**Memorial:** Peter Cotsilis (1 year).

**Fellowship:** Eleni Kakavulias and Family - Vasilopites on sale to benefit Building Fund



**Our Annual Christmas Pageant is Sunday, December 19 after Liturgy!**

*Please join us in Panos Hall ~ and don't forget your cameras and recorders!*

THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
PROUDLY PRESENT THE  
28TH ANNUAL GREEK CHRISTMAS PASTRY TIN

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

Perfect for office, holiday parties and hostess gifts. Only \$27.00

Need something smaller?

Try the ten piece pastry sampler for \$12.00

**Sale ends on December 1, 2010.**

Quantities are limited and sold by pre-order only!

Send in your order with payment as soon as possible to guarantee your order.

To: The Ladies Philoptochos Society Attention: Greek Pastry Sale

5300 S. El Camino Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89118

The proceeds of the annual Greek Christmas Pastry Tin Sale are returned in countless ways to benefit the many projects, ministries and needs of St. John the Baptist, and the Las Vegas community at large.

Thank you for helping us help others!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Day Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell or Evening Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tins: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$27.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Mini boxes: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Free delivery on orders of \$400 or more; \$15.00 for all others \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Check number \_\_\_\_\_ Order Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Your order will be ready for pickup at St. John Church

on Sunday, December 5, 2010 following Divine Liturgy

May God Bless You and Your Family during this Holy Season and throughout the coming year!

**Philoptochos  
News**

Hello Ladies!

Thank you to all the ladies who participated in our "In the Kitchen with Kiki" pastry baking. Special thanks to Kiki Mavrantonis for organizing and operating the entire event.

Also, thank you to all members who donated to our Autumn Bake Sale, which was hosted by Elizabeth Goddard, and lastly to those who attended our November 9 meeting and were so helpful with our "hands on" project to ready our pastry tins for packaging.

Please join us on *Friday, December 3* (and possibly December 4) at 9:00 am for our pastry packing led by Amalia Dominguez. This is our biggest project of the year and we need as many hands as we can get. Feel free to bring friends and family, as this is a very fun day and a nice way to catch up with each other before the holidays.

You are invited to join us as well on *Tuesday, December 7* at 6:30 pm for the annual Philoptochos Christmas Party at OPA Restaurant. Tickets are \$35; please contact Sofia Athan at (702) 335-1000 if you are interested in attending.

Have a safe and happy holiday season and we will see you in the New Year!

April Karalis and the Philoptochos Board

***Orthodox Connection Las Vegas***

Greetings and Happy Holidays from the OCLV!

We are in the midst of the Nativity Fast and as Orthodox Christians we are called to do more than just change our diet. The Church prescribes us to not only fast, but also to increase our prayer efforts, and to participate in almsgiving, or philanthropy.

Our Church offers support in all these areas:

Visit the Orthodox Bookstore to pick up a prayer book to support your daily prayer life. Attend Fr. John's weekly Adult Study classes to learn about the life of our Church Fathers and increase your understanding of our Orthodox Faith. Review *The Desert Messenger* and *Weekly Bulletin* for ways to offer your time and talents by supporting one of the many activities that goes toward helping the needy during this holiday season. Check the monthly Church Calendar and set time aside for additional services offered during this season to help keep our hearts and minds on what we are really celebrating – not the giving and receiving of presents, but the gift that we received from God by the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

For December, OCLV will be attending the Nativity Fast Retreat on *Saturday, December 4*, from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm, held at St Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church (5400 Annie Oakley Drive, Las Vegas). The cost is \$15 per person, including meals.

I wish everyone a Blessed and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year - In Christ, Adam Bieker (702) 321-7611

**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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Parish Council: Peter Kypreos

Philoptochos: April Karalis

Choir: Athena Mertes

Chanters/Youth Choir:  
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Church School:  
Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers:  
Sam Koutsulis

Stewardship Committee:  
Angela Coutris

Hellenic Historical Society:  
Nitsa Filios

GOYA:  
Effie Lekar  
Tammy Chomakos

HOPE and JOY:  
Jennifer Orlando  
Sharon Katsaros

Orthodox Family Fellowship:  
Michael and Tami Stefanatos

Orthodox Connection Las Vegas:  
Adam Bieker

Forerunners:  
Charles Teed

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

Greek Language Classes:  
TBD

Orthodox Bookstore:  
Matthew Castillo

Bill Andrews Library:  
Spero Demoleas

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

## Nativity Fast Retreat

*Saturday, December 4, 2010*

*At St. Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church  
5400 Annie Oakley Drive, Las Vegas ♦ (702) 898-4800*



Mother Raphaela, Retreat Speaker  
*Abbess, Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery*

“Living and Growing in Christ”

| Program  |  |
|----------|--|
| 9:00 am  | Divine Liturgy<br><i>St. Barbara/St. John of Damascus</i><br>Continental Breakfast follows |
| 10:45 am | Session I  |
| 12:30 pm | Lunch  |
| 1:30 pm  | Session II   |
| 3:15 pm  | Session III  |
| 5:00 pm  | Great Vespers  |

Mother Raphaela was born in Topeka, Kansas, baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church. She moved to New Jersey where she graduated from Princeton High School and then attended Barnard College in the Borough of Manhattan, New York. She entered monastic life in 1964, and was life-professed as an Episcopal nun in 1972. As a nun she taught classes on the high school level in Old and New Testament, organ and choral music, and also served for five years as director of novices for her community. She was received into the Orthodox Church in America in 1977. Since that time, with the foundation of Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery in Otego, New York, Mother Raphaela has worked to establish Orthodox monastic life for women in this country. While most of her life and experience are gained within the monastery, she does give occasional outside quiet days, retreats and talks. Her essays have been published in numerous Church publications, including the monastery's own *Essays and Notes*. She is the author of *Living in Christ, Essays on the Christian Life by an Orthodox Nun* and *Growing in Christ: Shaped in His Image*, both books published by St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, Crestwood, New York.

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

*Please make checks payable to St. Paul Church, Memo: Retreat*

# Youth Ministries

## Church School



Hi Everyone! I hope you all have a beautiful and blessed Nativity Season. We have 132 children enrolled in our Church School. Please remember that your child must be registered in order to attend class and participate in our fulfilling program.

We will be collecting items for our annual Salvation Army Outreach Project. We are asking all students to donate \$2 (this will be used to supply a sack meal for the homeless) and the following items:

- Pre-K: Gloves
- Kindergarten: Beans
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Socks (men/women/children)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Travel-size Baby Wipes
- 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Blankets
- Middle School: Toothpaste/Toothbrush
- High School: Deodorant (non-gender specific)

Please give the items to your child's teacher by *Sunday, December 12*.

On *Saturday, December 18*, from 9:00 to 11:00 am, we will be packing and delivering bags to the Salvation Army. Then from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm we will have our Pageant Rehearsal, followed by our annual Youth Christmas Party until 3:00 pm. We will have a pasta luncheon and are asking families to bring dessert and drinks.

Our annual *Christmas Pageant* will be on *Sunday, December 19*, immediately following the Divine Liturgy in Panos Hall. Finally, Family Worship Sunday will be *December 26*.

Please do not hesitate to call or email me if you have any questions or concerns.

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

## Youth Choir News



Blessed Advent! Thanks to all who chanted the Divine Liturgy on November 14. Bishop Ilia, Father John and the congregation appreciated your participation and voices. We still need to work on getting to Church a little earlier – please make this a New Year's resolution for 2011! We will next be chanting the Divine Liturgy on *Sunday, December 12*.

We still practice every Sunday after Church School at 12:15 pm *sharp*, unless otherwise announced in class. Please be prompt and remember that we meet in the Choir Loft for about 20 minutes.

Due to the lack of active participation and consistency during our Sunday practices, we will *not* send a Choral Group for the Folk Dance Festival this February. That does not mean I have cancelled rehearsals. We are still learning new music to chant for a future Sunday Liturgy, so keep coming to practice on Sundays.

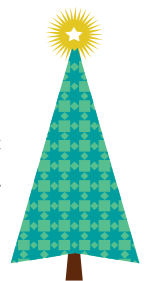
Again, thank you for all your support for the Youth Choir. Have a blessed Christmas and a Healthy New Year! Love in Christ, Presvytera Maria

## HOPE and JOY

Merry Christmas! It is that wonderful time of year again. For December, we will come together with other Youth Ministries for the annual Christmas Party on *Saturday, December 18*.

In January we will have a special HOPE & JOY event. Have a Blessed Holiday.

Your HOPE & JOY Advisors, Sharon Katsaros and Jenn Orlando



## GOYA

Rejoice, GOYAns! We are approaching the beautiful Feast of Our Savior's Nativity!

To help our parish get into the season, we will be putting up and decorating the Christmas Tree in Panos Hall on *Monday, December 6* at 5:00 pm. After, we will enjoy a pizza dinner, hosted by Nicholas Pouridis who is celebrating his Name Day, and then we invite you to please join us for Ice Skating! More details to follow soon.

We encourage all teens to please remember the less-fortunate with our annual homeless project. Please read Church School's article to find out the items needed for this project. Finally, we encourage you all to participate in the outreach, Pageant rehearsal and annual Christmas Party on *Saturday, December 18*.

We pray for a blessed Nativity, filled with health, love and peace for everyone!

Love in Christ, Effie Lekar (702) 768-5500 and Tammy Chomakos (702) 338-4671

## Orthodox Family Fellowship

The Wranglers Hockey Game was really a lot of fun – we had a great turn-out.

It is now time to gear up for the holiday season. While you are out shopping for family and friends, please also remember those in need and help support our Annual Homeless Project.



We will be collecting toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, socks, beanies, gloves and blankets. Please start bringing your items to Church on Sundays and look for the nicely decorated bin located by the Church Office.

On *Saturday, December 18* at 9:00 am we will stuff gift bags in Kokkos Hall, and then deliver them to the Salvation Army.

Orthodox Family Fellowship is a ministry that allows our families to join together and become better acquainted with each other. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

In Christ Service, Michael and Tami Stefanatos (702) 458-0266 or [tami.stefanatos@gmail.com](mailto:tami.stefanatos@gmail.com)

## Greek Folk Dance

Our Greek Dancers will be Christmas Caroling for the community again this year on *December 17 and 18*. If you would like them to come to your house, please contact any Dance Board Member or use the form provided in *The Desert Messenger* to sign up.

*Save the Date: Sunday, February 13, 2011* – We will be holding our Annual Greek Folk Dance Luncheon, where you can come and see our wonderful youth dancers perform the suites they will compete with at the Folk Dance Festival (FDF). Tickets will go on sale in January.

Just a reminder that practice times are as follows:

*Liondaria: Tuesday - 5:30 pm and Sunday - 12:30 pm*

*Delfinia: Tuesday - 6:00 pm and Sunday - 1:00 pm*

*Hrisi Thisavri: Tuesday - 7:30 pm and Sunday - 1:00 pm*

*Stavroforoi: Tuesday - 7:00 pm and Sunday - 1:00 pm*

Tina Liaos and the Greek Folk Dance Board

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Christ comes from Heaven: Meet Him!

Christ is on earth: Exalt Him! O you earth, sing to the Lord. O you nations, praise Him in joy for He has been glorified. ~Katavasia of the Nativity

## Forerunners ~ The Seniors of St. John the Baptist

Once again we seniors recognize that nothing on earth is forever and that changes happen. Our wonderful President, Ruth Plentzas, has stepped down and also at this time our Treasurer, Rex Nikitas, has stepped down as well. Both Ruth and Rex have been very active in our ministry, as well as many other Church activities. Thank you for your selfless service.

I have agreed to serve as interim President through January 2011, in order to give our Forerunners some time to replace these positions.

Please join us for our annual Christmas Party on *Tuesday, December 14* at 11:30 am at The Mad Greek Café, located on the corner of Durango and West Sahara. Lunch will be \$15.

Please continue to support our Shoebox Project for homeless children. We will continue this project annually to honor Ruth who originated this project for this important charity.

Merry Christmas and have a Happy and Healthy New Year. **Charles Teed**



### Adult Study:

*The Life of St. Anthony*  
by St. Athanasios

Available at our Orthodox Bookstore

Join us on Wednesdays  
7:00 - 8:30 pm - in Kokkos Hall  
Fr. John Hondros, Instructor - Open to all



### Notes from the Loft

Choir practice for Christmas Eve services will be held on the following days:

- *Sunday, December 5* after Fellowship
- *Thursday, December 9* at 6:00 pm
- *Monday, December 13* at 6:00 pm

Please make an effort to attend as many rehearsals as possible. If you are interested in singing with the Choir, please feel free to join us at a rehearsal! May you have a blessed Nativity Season.

**Athena Mertes, Choir Director**

*"Joseph . . . do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus." ~Matthew 1:20*

I would like to receive the *Greek Folk Dance Christmas Carolers* at my home on:

Check one:  Friday, December 17  
 Saturday, December 18  
 Either day



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*Please fill out and return this form to the Church Office or a Dance Board Member. We will do our best to accommodate your request as indicated above. You will be contacted as the dates get closer to coordinate an approximate time of arrival. Thank You for your support!*

All Parish Members are Invited to Join Us for Our Annual

**St. John the Baptist Name Day Celebration**

**Saturday, January 8, 2011**  
**Panos Hall**

*Music, Dancing, Cash Bar and Buffet-Style Dinner*  
**The fun starts at 6:00 pm!**

**\$50 Per Family (Parents with Children under 18)**  
**\$25 Per Person**

*Tickets Available on Sundays from Alex Sparkuhl or Jim Monoyudis  
and on Weekdays from Karen at the Church Office*

*Our Community Registry*

*Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisil!*

Spyridon, son of Darrick and Carla Cole, on October 23, 2010.  
Godparent: Alexander Mavros.

Christopher (Jaxson), son of Brian and Adrienne Morgan, on October 30, 2010.  
Godparent: Stephanie Snow.

Panayiota, daughter of Dimitri and Athanasia Dalacas, on November 13, 2010.  
Godparents: Melteades and Jeanie Economy.

*Marriages: Na Zisete!*

Christian Papas and Nicole Yorty on October 24, 2010.  
Sponsor: Louis Peter Papas.

Efstathios Chouliaris and Joelle Penisten on November 10, 2010.  
Sponsor: George Dimitrios Kaniamos.

John Theodore Carahalis and Jillian Rix on November 22, 2010.  
Sponsor: Constance Carahalis.

*Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory*

Vasilios Grillas on October 30, 2010. Funeral on November 6.

Charles Panagopoulos on October 15, 2010. Funeral on November 10.

Antonios Vithoulkas on November 10, 2010. Funeral on November 17.

Helen Kalavros on November 6, 2010. Funeral on November 20.

Georgis Nikolopoulos on November 6, 2010. Funeral in Heraklion, Crete.

## Parish Council Elections - Vote on Sunday, December 12

Our annual Parish Council Elections for the 2011 - 12 term will be held on Sunday, December 12, immediately following Divine Liturgy until 2:00 pm. All Stewards in good standing with our parish for 2010 are encouraged to come and vote for six new members for the Parish Council.

The candidates are:



Demetri Asim



George Bochanis



Stephanie Demoleas



Linda Dougan



Spiros Filios



John Fotopoulos



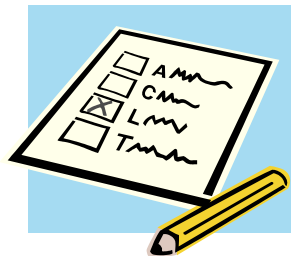
Jim Monoyudis



Kouli Pouridis



Tom Salvarlis



VOTE FOR SIX (6)!

*2010 Stewards and Contributors: "Come and See!"*

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

*2010 Stewards and Contributors: "Come and See!"*

Manos, Patrica  
 Mansour, Muna  
 Manteris, Arthur and Sue  
 Maragos, Constance  
 Margaretis, John and Lucila  
 Markakis, Mike and Catherine  
 Markham, Lily  
 Markou, Ann  
 Marlas, Louis  
 Matsis, John and Rebecca  
 Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki  
 Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debbie  
 Mavros, Michael and Debbie  
 McKinney, Michael and Mersene  
 McNear, Elizabeth  
 McPherson, Robert and Marie  
 Menegatos, Jim  
 Mertes, Patrick and Athena  
 Mezilson, Evangeline  
 Mihopulos, John  
 Miller, Mary  
 Millet, Jennie  
 Milonas, George  
 Miner, George  
 Mirich, Kyle  
 Moffett, Todd and Eliopulos, Tina  
 Monoyudis, Jim and Julie  
 Montisano, Jon and Jennifer  
 Morgan, Brian and Adrienne  
 Mulopulos, George and Jenny  
 Murphy, Karen and Terry  
 Myers, Stella  
 Neocleous, Plato  
 Newell, Eric and Devona  
 Newell, Ronald and Maria  
 Niarkos, Eugenia  
 Nichlas, Arthur  
 Nicholas, James and Myrna  
 Nicholas, James and Myrna  
 Nicholas, John and Estella  
 Nicholas, Rhea  
 Nichols, Mary  
 Nickolson, Chloe  
 Nikitas, Rigas and Aphrodite  
 Nikolopoulos, Nick and Demetra  
 Nikolopoulos, Pete and Amanda  
 Nikols, Rita  
 O'Brien, Bill and Chris  
 Ocampo, Julia  
 Orlando, Alleck and Jennifer  
 Osborn, Pearl  
 Ostis, Sotirios  
 Pacheco, Nia  
 Pagonis, Louis and Patricia  
 Paikos, Thomas  
 Pallis, Paul  
 Pandelis, Cheryl  
 Pantelas, Anne  
 Pantinas, John and Monica  
 Pantos, James  
 Papadakis, James and Georgia  
 Papas, Christian  
 Papas, Lou and Magaly  
 Papas, Peter and Rita  
 Pappas, Adrian and Dianne

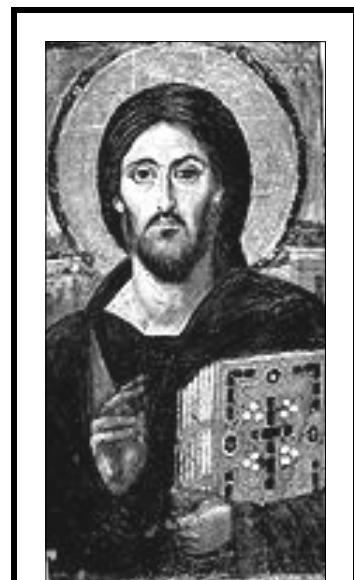
Pappas, Antonia  
 Pappas, Constantine and Karina  
 Pappas, Peter and Libby  
 Pappas, Rita  
 Paschalis, Evangelos and Maria  
 Paton, Mia  
 Payan, Luis and Eleni  
 Pearson, Jeff and Adrienne  
 Pelletier, Michael  
 Pendelton, Patricia  
 Petersen, Todd and Diane  
 Peterson, Barbara  
 Pentogenis, 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 Pennye  
 Punsalan, Basil and Sophie  
 Radosta, Athena  
 Raptis, Fr. Dean and Presv. Evonne  
 Repousis, Mary Ellen  
 Rifakes, John and Carol  
 Roberts, Christopher  
 Roberts, Michael and Georgene  
 Rodis, Dimitri and Jennifer  
 Rodis, Sophia  
 Ross, John and Georgia  
 Rouvas, John and Keri  
 Salon, Nick and Janelle  
 Salvarlis, Thomas  
 Santumo, Alfred and Tamara  
 Sarantakos, Christopher  
 Savas, Christina  
 Savvas, Savva  
 Scott, Ann  
 Setian, Gary and Marie  
 Shinas, Maria  
 Sinyakova, Szvetlana  
 Sirhan, Michael and Imtisal  
 Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia  
 Skandros, Georgia  
 Skarlatos, Konstantinos  
 Skarlatos, Stilianos  
 Skerbetz, Frank and Sophia  
 Smith, Kathleen Marina  
 Smith, Christina  
 Snow, Clifford and Christina  
 Salvarlis, Thomas  
 Santumo, Alfred and Tamara  
 Savas, Christina  
 Savvas, Savva  
 Scott, Ann  
 Setian, Gary and Marie  
 Shinas, Maria  
 Sinyakova, Szvetlana  
 Sirhan, Michael and Imtisal  
 Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia  
 Skandros, Georgia

Skarlatos, Konstantinos  
 Skarlatos, Stilianos  
 Skerbetz, Frank and Sophia  
 Smith, Kathleen Marina  
 Smith, Christina  
 Snow, Clifford and Christina  
 Snow, Stephanie Maria  
 Snowden, Robert and Niki  
 Soper, Bobby and Maria  
 Sotira, Dhimitra  
 Sotira, George  
 Soursos, Helene  
 Spanopoulos, Elias  
 Sparangis, Spyro and Helen  
 Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette  
 Spotti, Alexandra and Peter  
 Staikos, Becky  
 Stamis, Angelo and Susan  
 Stamis, George and Effie  
 Stanford, Nennette  
 Stavropoulos, Bessie  
 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  
 Taxopoulos, Bobby and Marylou  
 Taylor, Katherine  
 Teed, Charles  
 Theros, James  
 Thomas, Angie  
 Thompson, Maggy  
 Tohme, Tony and Mary  
 Tourlis, Angelo and Betty  
 Touroutoglou, Nikolaos  
 Toutoulis, James & Anaïd  
 Triffon, Cathy  
 Truax, Bessie  
 Tsarouhas, Maria  
 Tselikis, Nicholas and Jennifer  
 Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katherine  
 Tsohis, Christos  
 Tsoukalas, Spyridon  
 Tsouras, Christopher and Diana  
 Tsouras, Helen  
 Turman, Maria  
 Tzelalis, Steve  
 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  
 Williams, Anthony and Anna  
 Wilson, Steve and Cleo  
 Womack, Karl  
 Womack, Kimberly  
 Wronski, Chuck  
 Xikis, Victoria  
 Zaferatos, Ted and Marinella  
 Zafiroopoulos, John  
 Zander, Becky  
 Zarkos, Nick and Constantina  
 Zarras, Nick and Chery  
 Zimmerman, Paul and Angela  
 Zoitopoulos, Dimitrios and Pam  
 Zoumboulis, James and Tina

*Newly Pledged Stewards:*

Andraktos, Manuel  
 Garcia, Eleni Konsolakis -  
 Gorup, Sophia  
 Mavros, Alex  
 Meleshes, Dennis  
 Nikols, George and Christine  
 Shiferaw, Dereje



**We are Members of  
 the Body of Christ!  
 Please join us as  
 we commit ourselves  
 as Parish Stewards  
 for the Year 2011!**



# DECEMBER 2010 - IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday  |
|---|---|--|---|-----------|---|---|
|   |   |  | <b>1</b><br>7:00 pm Adult Study:<br><i>The Life of St. Anthony</i>  | <b>2</b>  | <b>3</b><br>9:00 am <b>Pastry Tin</b><br><i>Packing in Kokkos</i>   | <b>4</b><br>9:00 am Nativity Fast<br>Retreat at St. Paul the<br>Apostle   |
| <b>5</b><br>8:45 am Orthros<br>10:00 am Divine Liturgy<br>12:15 Youth Choir<br>12:30 Liondaria<br>1:00 pm Delfinia, Hrisi<br>Thisavri, Stavroforoi  | <b>6 St. Nicholas</b><br>8:00 am Orthros<br>9:00 am Divine Liturgy<br>5:00 pm GOYA Tree<br>Decorating in Panos<br>6:00 pm GOYA Pizza &<br>Ice Skating | <b>7</b><br>5:30 pm Liondaria<br>6:00 pm Delfinia<br>6:30 pm Philoptochos<br>Christmas Party @ OPA<br>7:00 pm Stavroforoi<br>7:30 pm Hrisi Thisavri                                  | <b>8</b><br>(No Adult Study)  | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b>   | <b>11</b>   |
|   |   |  | <b>Fr John @ Clergy Retreat ~ St. Nicholas Ranch</b>                |           |   |   |
| <b>12</b><br>8:45 am Orthros<br><i>Youth Choir Charis</i><br>10:00 am Divine Liturgy<br><b>Parish Council Elections</b><br>12:15 Youth Choir<br>12:30 Liondaria<br>1:00 pm Delfinia, Hrisi<br>Thisavri, Stavroforoi | <b>13</b>   | <b>14</b> 11:30 am<br>Forerunners Christmas<br>Lunch @ Mad Greek<br>5:30 pm Liondaria<br>6:00 pm Delfinia<br>7:00 pm Stavroforoi<br>7:30 pm Hrisi Thisavri<br>6:00 pm Parish Council | <b>15</b><br>7:00 pm Adult Study:<br><i>The Life of St. Anthony</i> | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b>   | <b>18</b><br>9:00 am Homeless<br>Food/Supply Packing<br>11:00 am Christmas<br>Pageant Rehearsal<br>1:00 pm Youth Party                                  |
|   |   |  |   |           | <b>Folk Dancers Caroling</b>  |   |
| <b>19</b><br>8:45 am Orthros<br>10:00 am Divine Liturgy<br><b>Christmas Pageant</b><br>12:15 Youth Choir<br>12:30 Liondaria<br>1:00 pm Delfinia, Hrisi<br>Thisavri, Stavroforoi                                     | <b>20</b>   | <b>21</b><br>5:30 pm Liondaria<br>6:00 pm Delfinia<br>7:00 pm Stavroforoi<br>7:30 pm Hrisi Thisavri  | <b>22</b><br>7:00 pm Adult Study:<br><i>The Life of St. Anthony</i> | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b><br><i>Eve of the Nativity of<br/>Christ</i><br>6:00 pm <b>Vesperal</b><br><i>Liturgy of St. Basil</i> | <b>25</b><br><i>Nativity of Christ</i><br>9:00 am <b>Orthros</b><br>10:00 am <b>Divine</b><br><i>Liturgy of St. John</i><br><b>Chrysostom</b>           |
| <b>26</b><br>8:45 am Orthros<br>10:00 am Divine Liturgy<br>12:15 Youth Choir<br>12:30 Liondaria<br>1:00 pm Delfinia, Hrisi<br>Thisavri, Stavroforoi   | <b>27</b>   | <b>28</b><br>5:30 pm Liondaria<br>6:00 pm Delfinia<br>7:00 pm Stavroforoi<br>7:30 pm Hrisi Thisavri  | <b>29</b><br>(No Adult Study)                                       | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b>   | <b>January 1 Our</b><br>Lord's Circumcision /<br>St. Basil the Great<br>9:00 am <b>Orthros</b><br>10:00 am <b>Divine</b><br><i>Liturgy of St. Basil</i> |
| <b>No Fasting: December 25 through January 4</b>  |   |  |   |           |   |   |

# *The Desert Messenger*

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

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THE DESERT MESSENGER

## *The Way of the Lord*

*“The incapability of the human race to save and rejuvenate itself had already been established. Greece, Rome, and Judaea, these three nations representing wisdom, power, and piety respectively, were each unable, during their own primes, to produce the ideal man who would be capable of calling the nations to follow him. Every hope of salvation diminished to nothingness on account of the resultant decline. Human inability had been manifested; while humanity was racing to destruction and dissolution. The situation presented the future with a dilemma.*

*Either divine visitation and interception would lead to salvation, or abandonment to complete demise.*

*The fulfillment of time for the spiritual development and for the communication among the nations had arrived. God, Who had promised the birth of the Savior of mankind, sent man’s awaited Savior: the destroyer of Hades’ tyranny and Redeemer of the human race. This One, having revealed Himself to mankind, preached His arrival and announced good tidings to the world, proclaiming:*

*‘I am the way, the truth, and the life.’ (John 14:6)”*

*~ St. Nectarios, Christology*