

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 9, Issue 1 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

January 2011

**From
Father
John**

«Ο επιφανεις Χριστε ο Θεος, και τον κοσμον φωτισας δοξα Σοι!»

“O Christ God Who appeared and illumined the world, glory to You!”

~ Apolytikion of Theophany

Beloved in Christ:

On the *Feast of Holy Theophany (January 6)* all Orthodox Christians proclaim in hymns and Scriptural readings that Christ our God appears to the world *today* and through His Baptism by John in the Jordan River the light of His divinity illumines all. As with every Feast Day that commemorates an act of salvation accomplished by our Lord, the event of His Baptism by John, though taking place in the past, is present in the Church here and now: In the words of Georges Florovsky, “it is an event which never passes.”

The coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh, commemorated on the Feast of His Nativity, is integrally linked to His Baptism. Both events constitute an *epiphany* – that is, a revelation, or manifestation – to the world of the pre-eternal Son of God, Who became Man to reconcile us to God. The Nativity of Christ, in the words of the festal hymn, sheds the light of knowledge on the world regarding Who Jesus is, that He was incarnate in order to save us by His eventual rising from the dead, and therefore why we worship Him. Similarly, the Baptism of our Lord illumines the world that God is Trinity, and that Jesus Christ, Who was the unapproachable Light, came into the world that we might have full knowledge of Him, duly respond to this glorious manifestation of God’s love, and become members of His Body through Baptism into the Church.

Yet the True Light came in the flesh and the world knew Him not (*John 1:10*), and even today we fail to live in the Presence of His Light. We genuinely do not know, neither do we seek to know the Truth – as revealed in the divinely-established Holy Orthodox Church and in the Holy Scriptures. When we neglect or refuse to allow the rhythm of prayer, fasting, repentance, worship, sacraments, holy readings and practice of virtues to be present and active in our lives, then we consequently hand over our minds, hearts and bodies to darkness and are unable to see the glory of God’s image that dwells within each of us.

At the Blessing of the Water on Holy Theophany, our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ is mystically present, “sanctifying the nature of the waters... (to) open the way for our rebirth by water and the Spirit, and restore us to our former freedom.” (*Prayer of St. Germanos*) Beloved, I pray you will join me in Church on this Holy Feast as we gather at the spiritual Jordan to embark on a *new beginning* for 2011, and receive the cleansing of our minds, the illumination of our souls, the regeneration of our bodies and the sanctifying Presence of Christ in our lives.

With love in Christ our God,

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Saturday, January 1/ *The 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

Sunday, January 2/ *Sunday before Theophany*

Orthros: Tone Seven (Grave)

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

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

*Blessing and Cutting of Community Vasilopita
Parish Council Oath of Office*

Wednesday, January 5/ *Eve of Theophany*

(Strict Fast)

5:00 pm Royal Hours

6:00 pm Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:19-27

Gospel: Luke 3:1-18

Great Blessing of the Water follows Liturgy

Thursday, January 6/ *The Holy Theophany of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Festal Gospel (Orthros): Mark 1:9-11

Epistle: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-15

Great Blessing of the Water follows Liturgy

6:00 pm Great Vespers of St. John the Baptist

Friday, January 7/ *Synaxis of St. John the Baptist -*

Our Parish Feast Day

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 19:1-8

Gospel: John 1:29-34

Artoclasia (Blessing of the Five Loaves) follows

Sunday, January 9/ *Sunday after Theophany*

Orthros: Tone Eight (Fourth Plagal)

Resurrection Gospel: John 21:14-25

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Sunday, January 16/ *12th Sunday of Luke/Ten Lepers*

Orthros: Tone One

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

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

Monday, January 17/ *St. Anthony the Great*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Hebrews 13:17-21

Gospel: Luke 6:17-23

Tuesday, January 18/ *Ss. Athanasios and Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Hebrews 13:7-16

Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19

Sunday, January 23/ *14th Sunday of Luke/Blind Man*

Orthros: Tone Two

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

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Gospel: Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday, January 25/ *St. Gregory the Theologian*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Hebrews 7:26-8:2

Gospel: John 10:9-16

Sunday, January 30/ *The Three Holy Hierarchs*

Orthros: Tone Three

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

Epistle: Hebrews 13:7-16

Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19



Adult Study: 'The Life of St. Anthony'

On Wednesdays - 7:00-8:30 pm - in Kokkos Hall

Fr. John Hondros, Instructor - Open to all

Book available in the Orthodox Bookstore

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

“Come and see,” Philip says to Nathaniel in the *Gospel of John (1:45-46)*. And Nathaniel “sees” Jesus and recognizes that He is the Son of Man, the Savior, God’s revelation of Himself. Nathaniel eventually understands that Jesus gives to us freely and lovingly the gift of salvation – and this encounter is preserved as an invitation for all Christians to “come and see” Christ and what He offers in our lives as well.

The first people to spread Christ’s message of redemption and salvation were the Twelve Apostles, of whom Nathaniel was one. Following the lives of the Apostles, the Church developed as we know it today. St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, under the leadership of Father John, is the modern manifestation of the original Church from over 2000 years ago.

St. John Church, however, has evolved beyond its primary role as our spiritual home into a multifaceted body which fills many needs of our Las Vegas Greek Orthodox community. Among those needs include a Church School, a Community Center for the parish, Festival grounds each September, a Library, Administration Offices with staff, copy machines and computers. Because it fulfills our spiritual and community desires, St. John Greek Orthodox Church requires our support to keep it in good working condition – spiritually, socially, administratively and structurally.

Each parishioner is responsible in his or her way for the life of the Church. Be it with time, talents or treasure, each of us can help continue what Jesus began. Come and see how you can become an integral part of St. John Church.

For those parishioners who continue their support for St. John through your annual stewardship, please return your completed 2011 Stewardship Cards to the Church. If you are new to our community, please talk to a Parish Council member to find out more about what our Church is and how you can become part of it.

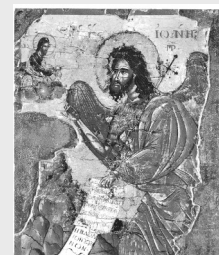
Thank you from the Stewardship Committee.

Alex Sparkuhl, 2011 Stewardship Committee Co-Chairman

<u>2010 Stewardship Status (December 15, 2010):</u>		Stewardship Target – 2010	\$350,000
Stewardship Families Pledged	479	Stewardship Gifts Pledged	\$346,650
Stewardship Gifts Received	\$286,675	Current Stewardship Deficit	\$3,350
Average Stewardship Pledge	\$724	Percentage of Goal Achieved	99%

<u>Pledge Range</u>	<u>Number of Families</u>		<u>\$ & % of Gifts Pledged</u>
\$1-\$999	361		\$ 119,903 - 35%
\$1,000-\$2,499	93		\$ 119,322 - 34%
\$2,500-\$4,999	15		\$ 53,705 - 15%
\$5,000-\$9,999	5		\$ 33,720 - 10%
\$10,000-\$14,999	2		\$ 20,000 - 6%
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Stewards Pledged	496	479	- 17
Gifts Pledged	\$335,016	\$346,650	+ \$11,634
Gifts Received	\$263,654	\$286,675	+ \$23,021
Average Pledge	\$675.00	\$724.00	+\$48.00

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light,
that all might believe through him.” (John 1:6-7)



Parish Council Report

Xronia Polla! I hope everyone had a blessed Nativity season!

I want to thank the community for having me as Parish Council President for the past two years. I also want to thank the outgoing Parish Council Members for their time and service to our community: William Carrico, Angela Coutris and Gary Waters. Congratulations to our newly-elected Parish Council Members: Demetrious Asim, George Bochanis, Stephanie Demoleas, Spiros Filios, John Fotopoulos and Jim Monoyudis.

Finally, I want to remind everyone of our St. John Name Day Dinner on *Saturday, January 8*. The fun begins at 6:00 pm. \$50 Per Family (Parent's with Children under 18), and \$25 for Individuals. Please purchase your tickets from any Parish Council Member or at the Church Office during the week.

Peter Kypreos, Parish Council President

- As a parish, we thank God for Pete's exemplary service as President in every way. May God grant him many years!

Financial Status for Month of November 2010

<u>Bank Accounts</u>	<u>Beginning Balance as of 10.31.10</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Internal Bank Transfers</u>		<u>Balances as of 11.30.10</u>
				<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>	
General Operating	\$12,727.86	\$29,474.46	\$48,534.92			-\$6,332.60
Building/Maintenance	\$37,337.55	\$4.91	\$7,509.53			\$29,832.93
Community/Education Ctr	\$2,798.73	\$3,317.30	\$5,441.14			\$674.89
Construction (Loan Paymts)	\$57,614.09	\$25,003.88	\$30,945.63			\$51,672.34
Food Festival	\$86,746.17	\$2,942.94	\$34,648.28			\$55,040.83
Icon Money Market	\$4,498.08	\$201.19	\$37.00			\$4,662.27
Library Checking	\$15,587.06	\$3.91				\$15,590.97
On-Line Donations	\$700.09					\$700.09
Construction Loan	\$668,264.40					\$666,542.29
Revolving Line of Credit	\$0.00					\$0.00
Term Loan (5 year loan)	\$25,554.65					\$0.00

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

January 2

Ushers: Entire Parish Council

Fellowship: Philoptochos - Community Vasilopita

January 9

Ushers: George Bochanis, Spiros Filios, Stephanie Demoleas, John Fotopoulos, George Kakavulias and Darrick Cole

Fellowship: Folk Dance Group

January 16

Ushers: Jim Monoyudis, Alex Sparkuhl, Marina Adamy, Spiros Filios, Sam Koutsulis and Demetrious Asim

Memorial: Mary Nicholas (40 days); Eugenia Niarkos (6 months).

Fellowship: Orthodox Family Fellowship

January 23

Ushers: Stephanie Demoleas, Darrick Cole, Demetrios Philippou, George Bochanis, John Fotopoulos and Marina Adamy

Fellowship: Pan-Arcadians

January 30

Ushers: George Kakavulias, Demetrios Philippou, Spiros Filios, Demetrious Asim, Alex Sparkuhl and Jim Monoyudis

Memorial: Tina Gianopulos (1 year).

Fellowship: Forerunners

**Philoptochos
News**

Hello Ladies! I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and I wish you a safe and Happy New Year!

Thank you to all the ladies who participated in pastry baking and selling and to all who purchased pastries. The pastry sale is one of our biggest fundraiser of the year and every effort helps us help the less fortunate.

Let's begin 2011 with love and enthusiasm. Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

On *Sunday, January 2*, the annual Cutting of the Vasilopita (St. Basil's Bread) will be held in Church. Philoptochos will be hosting the Fellowship directly after, so please see Marcie Karas if you would like to assist with baking the Vasilopites for this.

On *Friday, January 7*, Philoptochos will be sponsoring the Fellowship after Liturgy, honoring the Name Day of our Parish, St. John the Baptist.

On *Saturday, January 8*, is the Name Day Celebration in Panos Hall! I hope to see everyone there.

There will be no meetings in January, so please mark your calendars for our next General Meeting on *Tuesday, February 8*.

April Karalis and the Philoptochos Board



Notes from the Loft

Regular Choir rehearsals will begin at the end of January. Our first full Choir rehearsal will be on *Wednesday, January 26* at 6:00 pm. I hope to see everyone there. If you wish to sing with the Choir, feel free to join us!

Starting the month of February, rehearsals will be as follows:

First Wednesday of the month – Soprano rehearsal at 6:00 pm.

Second Wednesday – Alto rehearsal at 6:00 pm.

Third Wednesday – Bass/Tenor rehearsal at 6:00 pm.

Fourth Wednesday – Full Choir rehearsal at 6:00 pm.

In the event of a Fifth Wednesday, there will be no rehearsal.

Obviously, the rehearsal schedule will change during Lent due to the special services for that season. Please watch the calendar!

Athena Mertes, Director

Our Community Registry

Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun!

Iakovos (Jacob), son of George and Kristian Kanis on November 20, 2010.
Godparent: Dennis Meleshes.

Demetra, daughter of Givarges and Marina Younani on December 11, 2010.
Godparent: Marina Kolias.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory

Victoria Doppe on November 16, 2010. Trisagion on November 27.

**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

Telephone: (702) 221-8245
FAX: (702) 221-9167

E-mail:
frjohn@vegaskgreekorthodox.com
Website: vegaskgreekorthodox.com

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:
Alex Sparkuhl
Gary Waters

Hellenic Historical Society:
Nitsa Filios

GOYA:
Effie Lekar
Tammy Chomakos

HOPE and JOY:
Sharon Katsaros
Jennifer Orlando

Orthodox Family Fellowship:
Tami and Michael Stefanatos

Youth Ministries:
Eileen Koutsulis

Orthodox Connection Las Vegas:
Adam Bieker

Forerunners:
Charles Teed

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

Greek School: TBD

Orthodox Bookstore:
Matthew Castillo

Bill Andrews Library:
Spero Demoleas

Youth Ministries

Church School

Hi Everyone! A Happy and Healthy New Year to All!

I want to thank all of the parents that have registered their children. Our enrollment keeps going up, and this is just wonderful.

We are asking all of the children to create a faith-based project to be displayed at our annual St. John Dinner Dance on *Saturday, January 8*. Please have your child create a piece of original art work to be displayed in Panos Hall. It can be a photograph (no smaller than 8x10), a drawing, collage, painting, story or poem. This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to show their talents.

Please let me know if you have any questions, and make sure that you turn the work in no later than *January 4*. You may bring it to any of the teachers on Sunday or to Karen in the Church Office. Hope to see all of you at our Name Day Celebration.

Family Worship Sunday is *January 2* - we will remain in Church for the Blessing and Cutting of the Community Vasilopita.

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

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, Buffet-Style Dinner and Cash Bar
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***

REQUEST FOR FR. JOHN TO BLESS YOUR HOUSE OR BUSINESS

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ We'll call you to schedule!

Greek Folk Dance

Xronia Polla! Our Annual Christmas Caroling was a lot of fun as usual and we hope the parishioners whose homes we went to enjoyed the caroling as well. There are a couple of you that invite us to come every year and we thank you for your continued and constant support of the Greek Folk Dance Ministry.

We have started adding extra practice days and extended times for some of our groups in preparation for the Greek Folk Dance Festival (FDF) in February. Please look to the Calendar on Page 11, and the *Weekly Bulletin* for practice updates.

Mark your calendars now for our Annual Luncheon, which will be held on *Sunday, February 13*. Tickets will go on sale after Church services very soon.

Tina Liaos and the Folk Dance Board

Youth Choir News

Happy and Blessed New Year! The Youth Choir was stupendous on Sunday, December 12. Several out-of-town guests complimented the group that day. It was exceptional!

The Youth Choir will chant the Divine Liturgy on *Sunday, January 9*. Please meet at the usual place at 9:40 am. Remember our New Year's resolution: Please come early!

Also, remember that Youth Choir rehearsals are still on Sundays after Church School at 12:15 pm *sharp* in the Choir Loft. We only meet for about 15-20 minutes to learn our music.

Love, Presvytera Maria



GOYA

Dear GOYAns,

Christ is Born! Glorify Him! Xronia Polla! We are volunteering (bussing tables) at our St. John the Baptist Dinner Celebration on *Saturday January 8*. We hope all families are able to join us for our Church's Name Day, especially since the tickets are so reasonably priced.

We also have our snow day at Mount Charleston on *Saturday, January 15* at 10:00 am. We will meet at the Olive Garden parking lot on Cheyenne/95. Please join us for sledding, followed by lunch.

GOYA is a ministry for youth in middle and high school.

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

Orthodox Family Fellowship (OFF)

We hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Christmas, and we wish you a Happy New Year! Thanks to the wonderful support from all of you, our annual Homeless Outreach Project was a great success. We were able to provide around 150 gift bags and blankets to the homeless living on the streets (see photos on Page 9).

We look forward to sharing another great year with all of you in joy, happiness, peace and love.

In Christ's Service, Michael and Tami Stefanatos

HOPE and JOY

We hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. For January, we will visit the Natural History Museum. Since the last time we were there, they have set up a beautiful Egyptian display; it is very state-of-the-art and extremely educational. Definitely a must-see!

Please meet at the front entrance on *Saturday, January 8* at 1:00 pm so we can be there for the live shark feeding at 2:00 pm. You should be able to find coupons online or in Entertainment Books. If we have enough people we will qualify for a group discount. Please RSVP with Jenn or Sharon by *Friday, January 7*.

Your sisters in Christ, Jenn Orlando (702) 631-0111 and Sharon Katsaros (702) 292-0850

Orthodox Connection Las Vegas

Happy New Year from the OCLV! Welcome to 2011. This is the time of year when it is customary to make New Year's resolutions. Most of us put our resolution's focus on physical, monetary or health-related goals. A good goal setter will map out the way to accomplish these goals and what the expected outcome should be.

How often, I wonder, do we spend time focusing on our spiritual goals? The path and outcome are already drawn up for us. All we have to do is follow the guidelines set forth in the Gospels and by our Holy Fathers. If we put our focus on our spiritual life, the Lord will provide for our other needs. For 2011, I pray that all of us focus on our relationship with the Lord and leave everything else to Him to put into place.

For the month of January we will be having our annual Holiday Party, along with a few extras. Set aside *Saturday, January 15, 2011* to spend with your OCLV brothers and sisters at my home. We will start in the morning with a baklava baking class conducted by Maria Shinas. In the afternoon we will get a visit from Father John Hondros to perform a house blessing. We will then have a "potluck" dinner event with the main course of lamb chops.

Please RSVP as soon as possible for this event to receive further information with exact times and additional requirements for the baklava baking class.

All active adults 21 years and older are always welcome to OCLV events.

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

Orthodox Bookstore

Kali Xronia from the Bookstore. My prayer is that the Lord may bless us all in this New Year.

We still have quite a few of the *2011 Daily Lives of the Saints Calendars* in stock, so come and get them while they are still available. Inside you will find daily meditations alongside the Church's fasting prescriptions. They are a great companion to prayers, or for providing words of strength at the kitchen table. It is highly recommended and, as a special purchase, always a yearly favorite.

By the Prayers of the Theotokos -

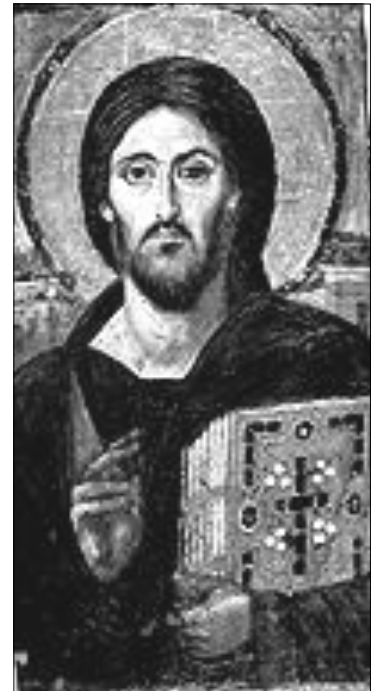
Matthew Castillo, Bookstore Director

Forerunners - The Seniors of St. John the Baptist

Once again we enjoyed a wonderful Christmas Party at Mad Greek Café. We would like to announce our annual January drive for new members. Membership is \$10 for one year.

Many of us who are long-time members have learned over the years that this is a wonderful opportunity to make close friends with a large group of seniors. For those who are Greek, we sometimes discover our common family origins in Greece. Come join the fun. If you are interested, please call me at (702) 254-8956 or come to our first meeting on *Tuesday, January 11* at 11:30 am in Panos Hall.

Happy and Healthy New Year to All! Charles Teed



**We are Members of the
Body of Christ!**

**Please join us as we
commit ourselves as
Parish Stewards for the
Year 2011!**

"And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." ~St. John the Baptist (John 1:34)

Homeless Outreach Project 2010



Orthodox Family Fellowship and GOYA's annual Homeless Outreach Project on *December 18* was a great success. Our youth (and some adults who are young at heart) got to do a nice deed for

people less fortunate, by making and delivering sack lunches, gift bags with hygiene products and blankets. It was a very humbling experience: Some our own kids were hungry because they did not have a chance to eat breakfast; once they distributed the food and gift packs, they realized their own hunger was temporary and that this is how the homeless must feel every day.



After their good work, our youth returned to Panos Hall, where they enjoyed rehearsing for the Christmas Pageant and then a party with great food, prepared by Sam Koutsulis.

- Tami Stefanatos, OFF Homeless Outreach

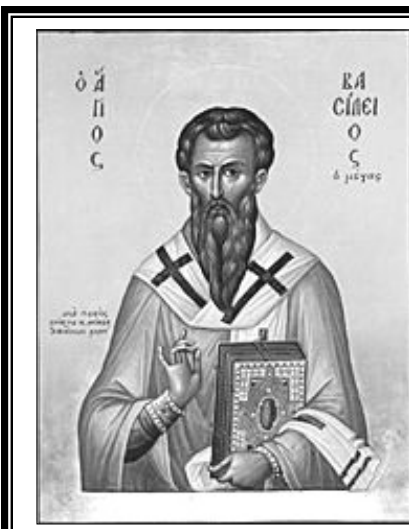


- Photos by Tammy Chomakos



2011 Stewards and Contributors: "We are Members of the Body of Christ!"

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Abernathy, Gordon and Akaterine | Eliades, Aristotelis and Caroline | Kourlos, Georgia | Savvas, Savva |
| Adamy, Marina | Eliades, Harry and Agapi | Koutsulis, Sam and Effie | Scott, Ann |
| Agnos, Dimitrios and Angeline | Eliakis, Peter and Glenda | Kover, Barbara | Shinas, Maria |
| Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine | Eliopoulos, Goldie | Kypreos, Peter and Geri | Snow, Clifford and Christina |
| Andrews, Catherine | Exarhos, Nick and Sharon | Kyprianou, Gilbert and Alexis | Snow, Stephanie |
| Aristides, George and Diana | Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean | Latelle, Penny | Snowden, Robert and Niki |
| Asim, Demetrious | Eyler, John and Elizabeth | Lazarakis, John and Panagiota | Sotira, Dhimitra |
| Bacon, Ken and Dianne | Filios, George and Nitsa | Lekar, Michael and Effie | Soursos, Savvas and Helene |
| Balason, Anna | Filios, Spiridon and Eleni | Leone, Stephen | Spanopoulos, Elias |
| Bauck, Jeremy and Amy | Flangas, Bill and Marilyn | Liaos, James and Tina | Sparangis, Spyro and Helen |
| Berendji, Jim and Vivian | Fotopoulos, John and Barbara | Liaos, William and Irene | Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette |
| Berta, Irene | Frangakis, Constantine | Lymberopoulos, Mary | Stefanatos-Hetzel, Joanne |
| Bochanis, George | Frangakis, John | Malamatos, Kindina | Stephanos, Stanley and Aspasia |
| Borzekas, Stephen | Frantzen, Robert and Margery | Manos, Patricia | Stika, Arthur and Melinda |
| Britten, Ronald and Carol | Franzi, Jack | Mansour, Muna | Szukiewicz, Joseph and Jennia |
| Brown, Faye | Georgiou, Trula | Mezilson, Evangeline | Tafoya, Steven and Irene |
| Bucy, Brent and Elaine | Georgis, John and Kaliopi | Miller, Mary | Taxiarchos, Andrew and Alexandra |
| Capadalis, Tim and Marling | Goddard, Elizabeth | Mirich, Kyle | Taylor, Katherine |
| Captain, Nicholas and Maria | Goldrick, Ethan and Robyn | Moffett, Todd and Eliopoulos, Tina | Teed, Charles |
| Carabas, Thymios and Sotiroulla | Gomes, Joseph and Cecelia | Murnane, Sharon | Thomas, Angie |
| Carahalios, John and Constance | Gordon, Victor and Demetria | Murphy, Terry and Karen | Thompson, Maggy |
| Carrico, William and Alexandra | Grillas, Roula | Neocleous, Plato | Tsarouhas, Maria |
| Carson, Michele | Gruber, Ernest and Zoe | Nichlas, Arthur | Tsolis, Kosta |
| Chachas, Bessie | Hamilton, Mary | Nickolson, Chloe | Tsoukalas, Spyridon |
| Chachas, James | Hamilton, Paul and Brandi | O'Brien, William and Chris | Tsouras, Christopher and Diana |
| Chandrinios, Alexia | Harrison, Angie | Ostis, Sotirios | Vassiliadis, Athena |
| Chandrinios, Peter | Hetzel, David | Pacheco, Nia | Vassiliadis, Spiros and Shiona |
| Chomakos, Dean and Tammy | Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria | Pandelis, Cheryl | Walter, Vernon and Alice |
| Chomakos, George and Nikki | Hoover, Patrick and Pauline | Pantelas, Anne | Walters, Lane and Mary |
| Christopoulos, Ann | Kachikis, Paul and Ernestine | Pelletier, Michael | Waters, Gary and Susan |
| Cole, Darrick and Carla | Kakavulias, Christina | Pendleton, Tricia | Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina |
| Cominos, Ted | Kakavulias, George and Helen | Philippou, Demetrios and Luanne | Wilson, Steven and Cleo |
| Conklin, Demetra | Kakavulias, John | Platis, Anna | Womack, Karl |
| Constantine, Bill | Kakavulias, Maria | Plentzas, Spiros and Ruth | Womack, Kimberly |
| Cosulas, Rev. Basil and Samantha | Kanelis, Ann | Polimerou, Angeline | Wronski, Chuck |
| Cotsilis, Jenny | Karacostas, Alice | Poulos, Christine | Xikis, Victoria |
| Coutris, Angela | Karalias, Petros and Constance | Prud'homme, Edwin and Penny | Zaferatos, Ted and Marinella |
| Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia | Karas, James | Punsalan, Basil and Sophie | Zarras, Nick and Chery |
| Delalis, Dina | Karas, John and Marcie | Radosta, Athena | Zouboulis, James and Tina |
| Demoleas, Stephanie | Katris, Nick and Kathryn | Rifakes, John and Carol | |
| Demopoulos, Tommy and Vasiliki | Kolinas, Claire | Roberts, Christopher | |
| DeWindt, Dennis and Susan | Kontos, Spero and Diana | Rodis, Dimitri and Jennifer | |
| Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia | Kostopoulos, Georgia | Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia | |
| Dougan, Linda | Kotonias, George and Patricia | Salon, Nicholas and Janelle | |
| Economon, Andrew and Stacy | Kouretas, Demetri and Amanda | Salvarlis, Thomas and Joyce | |

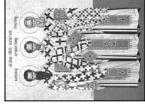
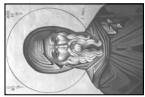


Community Vasilopita on Sunday, January 2

Please join us for the annual Blessing and Cutting of the Community Vasilopita on **Sunday, January 2**, immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

The *Vasilopita*, or New Year's Bread, is named after Saint Basil whose feast day is celebrated on **January 1**. The 4th Century Saint had gold coins baked into the sweet bread that was made for the poor, as a means of giving them money without it looking like a hand-out. We continue this tradition today of baking the coin in the bread.

On New Year's Day the head of the household cuts the *Vasilopita*. The first slice is set aside for Jesus Christ, the next for the Theotokos, then St. Basil, and after, individual pieces for each member of the family. The one who finds the coin in his slice will have blessings for the entire year!



JANUARY 2011 - IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p>2 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy <i>Parish Council Oath</i> <i>Community Vasilopita</i> 12:30 pm Liondaria 1:00 pm Delfinia/ Hrisi Thisavri, Stavroforoi</p>	<p>3 6:00 pm Delfinia</p>	<p>4 5:30 pm Liondaria 6:00 pm Delfinia 6:00 pm Hrisi Thisavri 7:00 pm Stavroforoi</p>	<p>5 Eve of Theophany 5:00 pm Royal Hours 6:00 pm Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil & Great Blessing of Water</p>	<p>6 Holy Theophany 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy Great Blessing of Water 6:00 pm Great Vespers</p>	<p>7 Parish Feast Day ~ St. John the Baptist 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy & Artoclasia <i>Fellowship follows</i></p>	<p>1 Circumcision of our Lord/St. Basil 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>8 1:00 pm HOPE & JOY at Natural History Museum 6:00 pm St. John Name Day Dinner in Panos Hall</p>
<p>9 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy <i>Youth Choir Charts</i> 12:30 pm Liondaria 1:00 pm Delfinia/ Hrisi Thisavri, Stavroforoi</p>	<p>10 6:00 pm Delfinia</p>	<p>11 11:30 am Forerunners Luncheon in Panos Hall 5:30 pm Liondaria 6:00 pm Delfinia 6:00 pm Hrisi Thisavri 7:00 pm Stavroforoi</p>	<p>12 7:00 pm Adult Study</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 10:00 am GOYA at Mt. Charleston OCLV at Adam Bieker's House</p>
<p>16 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:30 pm Liondaria 1:00 pm Delfinia/ Hrisi Thisavri, Stavroforoi</p>	<p>17 St. Anthony the Great 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Delfinia</p>	<p>18 Ss. Athanasios & Cyril / 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 5:30 pm Liondaria 6:00 pm Delfinia 6:00 pm Hrisi Thisavri 6:00 pm Parish Council 7:00 pm Stavroforoi</p>	<p>19 7:00 pm Adult Study</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</p> <p>30 Three Hierarchs 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>24 6:00 pm Delfinia</p>	<p>25 St. Gregory the Theologian 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 5:30 pm Liondaria 6:00 pm Delfinia 6:00 pm Hrisi Thisavri 7:00 pm Stavroforoi</p>	<p>26 7:00 pm Adult Study</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>

The Desert Messenger

*St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
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Las Vegas, Nevada 89118-1922*

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THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord



*Hearkening to the voice of the one crying in the wilderness,
“Prepare the way of the Lord,”*

*You came, Lord, assuming the form of a servant,
asking to be baptized, though having known no sin.*

The waters saw You and were afraid.

The Forerunner was shaken and cried out, saying,

“How shall the lamp give light to the Light?

How shall the servant lay hand on the Master?

Sanctify me and the waters, Savior,

Who takes away the sin of the world.”

- St. Sophronios, Patriarch of Jerusalem,

Doxastikon, Blessing of the Waters at Theophany