

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 9, Issue 2 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

February 2011

**From
Father
John**

Beloved in Christ:

On *February 2* the Orthodox Christian Church commemorates the meeting and receiving of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple by the Elder Symeon, in accordance with Jewish Law, on the fortieth day after His Birth in the flesh. Symeon's presence on this occasion was not happenstance, but rather was at the direction of the Holy Spirit, and moreover precipitated by an event that had taken place years earlier.

Symeon was chosen as one of the Seventy whom were given the task of translating the Bible from Hebrew into Greek – the version we know as the *Septuagint* (literally, the 'Book of the Seventy'). Having worked diligently and accurately in his translation, the young man became perplexed when he came upon the prophecy of Isaiah regarding the Birth of the Messiah. As recorded in *The Prologue of Ochrud*:

“(When Symeon) came to the prophecy: ‘Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son’, he was puzzled and took a knife to scratch out the word ‘virgin’ and substitute ‘young woman’, and thus translate it into Greek. But at that moment an angel of God appeared to him and held him back from his intention, explaining to him that the prophecy was true and rightly-expressed. And to confirm its veracity, the messenger from God said that he, Symeon, by the will of God, would not die until he had seen the Messiah born of a virgin.”

Most of us are admittedly a lot like the 'Young Symeon': We are given a task and called to utilize our God-given talents to complete it, or in a situation and faced to respond to it, but are often inclined to put our own spin or twist on it and therefore complicate or confuse what is obvious. In other words, we tend to infuse our ego or own desires into a task or situation and consequently are blind to the truth that is right before us – and, like Symeon, we are in danger of not seeing and doing the will of God. Worse yet, it often happens that, when something does not go our way, we become angry and lose our faith: We Christians tend to say that we trust in the Lord, but in reality we just give lip service, lacking the genuine belief that *“what is impossible with men is possible with God.” (Luke 18:27)*

As we know from Holy Scripture, Symeon repented, and the angel's promise came to pass when he was an Elder serving in the Temple in Jerusalem: Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Symeon came into the Temple at the moment Jesus' parents brought Him for the Forty-Day Blessing – and taking the Christ-Child in his arms he blessed God and said, *“Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for the revelation of the Gentiles, and for the glory to Your people Israel.” (Luke 2:25-35)*

Beloved, if we truly seek to know God and His will in our lives, then we must learn to humble ourselves and approach Him in prayer and worship and, equally necessary, listen to Him through His inspired Word. Regardless of our circumstances, let us truly desire to follow and serve Christ instead of our own egos, as admittedly difficult this may seem to do. Just as our Lord revealed Himself to the Elder Symeon, despite his former lack of spiritual maturity, He is indeed still with us and, as He promised, will be with us always – all we need to do is open our spiritual eyes to see Him in all His glory.

With love in Christ,

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Tuesday, February 2/ *The Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple*

8:00 am Orthros
9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Hebrews 7:7-17
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Sunday, February 6/ *17th Sunday of Matthew/ Canaanite Woman/ St. Photios of Constantinople*

Orthros: Tone Four
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:1-12
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1
Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Wednesday, February 9

5:00 pm Orthros
6:00 pm Divine Liturgy: *St. Haralambos, the Priest Martyr (Please fast from 1:00 pm)*
Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10
Gospel: John 15:17-27; 16:1-2

Thursday, February 10/ *St. Haralambos (Liturgy celebrated on Wednesday, February 9)*

Sunday, February 13/ *16th Sunday of Luke/ The Publican and the Pharisee*

Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)
Resurrection Gospel: Luke 24:13-35
Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15
Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

*Triodion Begins on Sunday, February 13:
This week is fast-free*

Sunday, February 20/ *17th Sunday of Luke/ The Prodigal Son*

Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)
Resurrection Gospel: Luke 24:36-53
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Fast on Wednesday and Friday this week

Saturday, February 26/ *1st Saturday of Souls*

8:00 am Orthros
9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial
Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
Gospel: Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36

Sunday, February 27/ *The Last Judgment/ Meatfare*

Orthros: Tone Seven (Grave)
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:1-10
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2
Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Abstain from meat this week

*"Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall."
~1 Corinthians 8:13*

Ministries, Committees & Organizations - Parish Council Liaisons (*This listing denotes your Parish Council contact, and not necessarily the chairman. All ministries and organizations are under the spiritual guidance of Father John*)

Building Committee/Maintenance:

Spiros Filios, George Kakavulias, Darrick Cole

Iconography: Demetri Asim

Finance: Darrick Cole, John Fotopoulos, Jim Monoyudis

Stewardship: Alex Sparkuhl, Marina Adamy

Outreach: Demetri Asim

Fundraising: Alex Sparkuhl, Demetri Asim

Technology: Alex Sparkuhl

Ariston Event 2011: Alex Sparkuhl

Folk Dance: Darrick Cole, Demetri Philippou, George Bochanis

Personnel: Spiros Filios, Darrick Cole, George Bochanis

Parish Bylaws: Spiros Filios, George Bochanis, Darrick Cole

Food Festival: Stephanie Demoleas, Marina Adamy

Adult Education: Father John, John Fotopoulos

Bookstore: Father John

Parish Library: Stephanie Demoleas

Hellenic Historical Society: Marina Adamy

Youth Ministries (GOYA, HOPE & JOY, Orthodox Family Fellowship): Demetri Philippou, George Bochanis

Altar Servers/Myrrh-Bearers: Father John

Orthodox Connection: Father John

Church School: Marina Adamy

Greek Language School (TBD): Spiros Filios, Father John

Choir: Father John

Chanters: Father John

Youth Choir: Stephanie Demoleas

Forerunners: The Seniors: Koutsulis

Kokkos Scholarship: Alex Sparkuhl, John Fotopoulos

Philoptochos: Spiros Filios

Hellenic Organizations (AHEPA, Daughters, Pan Arcadians,

Cretans, Macedonians): Sam Koutsulis, George Kakavulias

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

“And whoever would be first among you must be your slave . . .” (Matthew 20:27) This is the admonition from Jesus to those who would follow Him. In order to lead we must learn how to follow. And to follow means to incorporate the teachings of Christ and make them part of our lives. How then do we put His words into action?

The Savior came to offer salvation to mankind, and He accomplished this with His ultimate service: He died for our sins and rose from the dead in order to save us. What better way to follow His example than by learning to serve one another?

Through Baptism we become members of the Body of Christ and receive our new identity as Christians; however we become *active* Christians through our Stewardship. And with our service to St. John the Baptist Church and to each other we create a true Christian spiritual home.

Stewardship allows us to lend a new understanding to the concept of service. If we serve our Church, be it time spent cooking in the kitchen or teaching Church School, aren't we giving meaning to the idea that each of us can become a servant to one another through our actions? Of course, financial contributions are essential to the maintenance and administration of St. John Church. But it is through service to the Church and each other that we define ourselves as Christians. Of Stewardship's “Three T's” – time, talents and treasures – the first two require that each parishioner take action in the life of the Church.

Come and see how you can fulfill *your* Stewardship at St. John Church. Talk to one of the Parish Council members or to someone you know who is active in the Church about what our needs are – and how you can help.

‘Thank You’ from the Stewardship Committee.

Alex Sparkuhl, 2011 Stewardship Committee Co-Chairman

<u>2010 Stewardship Status (January 17, 2011):</u>		Stewardship Target – 2010	\$350,000
Stewardship Families Pledged	242	Stewardship Gifts Pledged	\$204,087
Stewardship Gifts Received	\$31,706	Current Stewardship Deficit	\$145,913
Average Stewardship Pledge	\$843.33	Percentage of Goal Achieved	58%

<u>Pledge Range</u>	<u>Number of Families</u>	<u>\$ of Gifts Pledged</u>
\$1-\$999	166	\$ 59,767
\$1,000-\$2,499	61	\$ 80,080
\$2,500-\$4,999	10	\$ 32,040
\$5,000-\$9,999	4	\$ 22,200
\$10,000-\$14,999	1	\$ 10,000

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Stewards Pledged	238	242	+ 4
Gifts Pledged	\$199,460	\$204,087	+ \$4,627
Gifts Received	\$32,584	\$31,706	- \$878
Average Pledge	\$838.07	\$843.33	+\$5.26



Adult Study: ‘The Life of St. Anthony’

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

Fr. John Hondros, Instructor - Open to all

Beginning Soon: The Lenten Scriptures

Parish Council Report

I would like to thank all of those who ran for Parish Council and invite them to run again next year; I believe that elections and openness are the key to running any successful organization.

As some of you may already know, St. John Church is facing several challenges again this year and I invite all stewards to come to Parish Council meetings over the next few months. We will be discussing things like the Archdiocese Assessment, Hall Use Policy, and new Parish Bylaws, as well as many other fun and exciting things. Being the former Treasurer, finances of the parish are on the forefront of this year's Parish Council agendas and we will be concentrating on saving the Church money by cutting expenses, as well as working with our excellent Catering Manager, Sheryl Lujan, in creating new revenue streams for St. John. If you are considering an event in the future please take a look at doing that event here at Panos Hall.

I would also like to take this time to remind everyone involved with St. John that we in the Parish Council have only ever had the Church's best interest at heart. I look forward to working with all of you in the New Year and pray for guidance during these trying times.

God Bless St. John Church. Spiros Filios, Parish Council President

Financial Status for Month of December 2010

<u>Bank Accounts</u>	<u>Beginning Balance as of 11.30.10</u>			<u>Internal Bank Transfers</u>		<u>Balances as of 12.31.10</u>
	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>		
General Operating	-\$6,332.60	\$50,991.60	\$42,957.55			\$1,701.45
Building/Maintenance	\$29,832.93	\$7,863.87				\$37,696.80
Community/Education Ctr	\$674.89	\$3,500.00	\$295.31			\$3,879.58
Construction (Loan Paymnts)	\$51,672.34		\$5,246.98			\$46,425.36
Food Festival	\$55,040.83	\$5,885.32	\$10,248.85			\$50,677.30
Icon Money Market	\$4,662.27	\$386.19	\$37.00			\$5,011.46
Library Checking	\$15,590.97	\$1.99				\$15,592.96
On-Line Donations	\$700.09					\$700.09
Construction Loan	\$666,542.29					\$664,700.18
Revolving Line of Credit	\$0.00					\$0.00
Term Loan (5 year loan)	\$0.00					\$0.00

Philoptochos News

Hello Ladies!

Thank you to everyone who participated in all our events over the holiday season. Our next General Meeting will be on *Tuesday, February 8* at 7:00 pm; please join us as we get ready for spring.

We will honor our Departed Members on *Sunday, February 6*. If you have a relative who served in the Panagia Chapter of Philoptochos and you would like her name to be added to our list, please contact Karen in the Church Office. We will also be collecting donations in Church for Kids 'n Cancer on *February 6*, and we will host Fellowship on *Sunday, February 20* for additional donations for Kids 'n Cancer. Chloe Nickolson will be organizing this fellowship, so please contact her if you would like to offer assistance.

Last but not least, the Wine Wagon is back! You can purchase tickets for \$5 a piece or make a donation of wine to any Philoptochos Board Member or through the Church Office. We ask that any wine donations be \$10 or more in value and, please, be in good condition. The winner will once again be announced at the Agape Picnic on *Pascha Sunday, April 24*. Last year's winner, Paul Kachikis, won a beautiful Radio Flyer wagon filled with over 70 bottles of wine!

Hope to see you all at the meeting!

Yours in Christ, April Karalis and the Philoptochos Board

"And the Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him." ~Luke 2:40



Notes from the Loft

Choir Rehearsals for the month of February will be as follows:

Sopranos & Altos - Wednesday, February 2 at 6:00 pm

Bass & Tenor - Wednesday, February 19 at 6:00 pm

Full Choir - Wednesday, February 26 at 6:00 pm

I look forward to working with everyone at rehearsals. If you are interested in singing with the Choir, please join us!

Athena Mertes, Choir Director

Our Community Registry

Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory

Fay Peronis on January 11, 2011. Funeral on January 18.

George Nikols on January 16, 2011.

Funeral on January 22 at St. Demetrios in Elmhurst, IL.

Alice Hallis on January 19, 2011. Funeral on January 24.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

February 6

Ushers: Marina Adamy, Demetrious Asim, Darrick Cole, George Bochanis, Jim Monoyudis and Alex Sparkuhl

Memorial: Departed Members of Philoptochos; Constantin Oancea

Philoptochos Kids 'n Cancer Collection

Fellowship: Orthodox Family Fellowship

February 13

Ushers: John Fotopoulos, Stephanie Demoleas, Marina Adamy, Spiros Filios, Alex Sparkuhl and Sam Koutsulis

Memorial: Christina Manis (1 year); Sofia Baltoumas (3 years)

Fellowship: Folk Dance Group FDF Luncheon

February 20

Ushers: Sam Koutsulis, Spiros Filios, Demetrious Asim, Darrick Cole, George Kakavulias and Demetrios Philippou

Fellowship: Philoptochos

February 27

Ushers: George Kakavulias, George Bochanis, Demetrios Philippou, Stephanie Demoleas, John Fotopoulos and Jim Monoyudis

Fellowship: Forerunners, Seniors of St. John the Baptist

*The Community of St. John the Baptist is invited to the
40-Day Memorial for George Nikols
Friday, February 25 at 6:00 pm - Makaria follows*

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

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Parish Council: Spiros Filios

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! Please remember that your child must be registered in order to attend Church School and be part of such a fulfilling program. Wondering what your child is doing? Take a look at the lesson plans on the bulletin boards outside of the classrooms.

We are collecting wide-mouth bottles (water, power-aid, etc.). Please bring them to your child's teacher by *Monday, February 14*.

Family Worship Sunday will be *February 20*. For the students that will not be going to FDF, Jennia and I have a craft project in Kokkos Hall right after Holy Communion.

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 vivaleenie@cox.net

Youth Choir News



Hi Youth Choir Members! The chanting on Sunday, January 9 was just beautiful. Remember our New Year's resolution: Come early to Church so we can start the Doxology at 9:50 am on Sundays!

We are still practicing on Sundays after Church School at 12:15 pm for about 15 minutes. We are learning a new Cherubic Hymn to sing at a future Sunday Liturgy.

The Youth Choir will chant the Divine Liturgy on *Sunday, February 13*. Again, please be early. Due to the FDF presentations that day, the FDF participants will be excused after Communion to get ready; the rest of the group will finish chanting the Liturgy. Everyone looks forward to hearing your wonderful voices. Thanks to all who participate!

Best of luck to all the Dancers for the upcoming Folk Dance Festival. Love, Presvytera Maria

GOYA

Hello GOYAnS! This month we anticipate our journey through Lent, beginning with the *Triodion on Sunday, February 13*, which prepares us for the First Day of Lent, *Clean Monday on March 7*, and culminates with *Great and Holy Pascha on Sunday, April 24*.

This year we have two GOYA Retreats available and we encourage all our parish teens to participate. The first will be on the weekend of *March 4-6*. We are planning to travel to Valley Trails Retreat Center in Castaic for the Southern California GOYA Retreat, which is organized by the Metropolis of San Francisco Youth Director, Deacon Niko Bekris. It will be a time of getting yourselves prepared for our holy Lenten journey with the Sacrament of Confession, guest speakers such as Fr. Gary Kyriacou (FDF Chairman) and fun activities such as zip-lining and much more! The price is approximately \$95, which includes food and accommodations – transportation is additional. Please contact GOYA Advisors Effie Lekar or Tammy Chomakos asap to hold your spot. We will give more details through our Church Weekly Bulletin.

Whether you make it to California or not, please join us for our very own Annual GOYA Lenten Retreat on the Church grounds on *Friday, March 18 through Saturday, March 19*. There is no cost, but you must RSVP by *Friday, March 11*, so we can prepare for meals and supplies. Please be dressed appropriately for Salutations to the Theotokos, followed by Holy Confession on Friday evening; also bring comfortable sweats for sleeping and any other overnight necessities, as well as a change of clothes for Saturday. Come learn about the most holy season of our Orthodox Faith and, of course, have a fun time doing so with your peers, priests and chaperones.

GOYA is our youth ministry for Junior and Senior High students.

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

Greek Folk Dance

Thank You, Parish Council! The Greek Folk Dance Ministry would like to thank the Parish Council for donating some of the proceeds of the St. John Name Day Dinner/Dance to the ministry. Your support is greatly appreciated. It was a wonderful event and everyone had a great time! If you were there, you can see how much our youth love to dance: You could not get them off the dance floor and they were pretty much the last to leave that night!

Dance Luncheon - February 13, 2011 is the date of our Annual Luncheon. You are in for a real treat when you see our dancers perform the suites they have learned for the Greek Folk Dance Festival (FDF). As an added treat, we will have live musicians playing with Stavroforoi. We will also be holding a raffle at the luncheon with hopefully lots of wonderful prizes. Tickets for the luncheon are \$10 per person and can be purchased on Sundays after Liturgy. This event is a sell-out each year, so we recommend you buy your tickets early.

Practice Dates and Times - FDF is just weeks away and our kids are working hard and have been practicing for hours each week to perfect their competition performances. Although all parents should have received emails regarding additional dance practices, the following practice schedule is the most current:

Liondaria: Sundays 12:30-1:15 pm (all dancers) and Tuesdays 5:30-6:30 pm (FDF dancers only).

Delfinia: Sundays 1:00-3:00 pm, Mondays 6:00-8:00 pm, Tuesdays 6:00-8:00 pm.

Hrisi Thisavri: Sundays 1:00-3:00 pm, Tuesdays 6:00-9:00 pm, Fridays 5:30-8:30, and Saturdays 1:00-3:00 pm.

Stavroforoi: Sundays 1:00-3:00 pm, Tuesdays 6:30-9:00 pm, and Saturdays 1:00-3:00 pm.

Since this is crunch time in preparation for the competition, it is important that the dancers not miss any practices and that they are punctual.

Sign-Up for 2011-12 Dance Year Coming Soon! The Greek Folk Dance Ministry at St. John Church is one of our largest youth ministries. Our dancers form life-long friendships not only within our Las Vegas community, but also with youth from other parishes that attend FDF in Faith, Dance and Fellowship each year. We always welcome new dancers, so look for registration information in *The Desert Messenger* sometime in the spring or send an email to Jtlia@aol.com for more information. I will be keeping a list of those interested so you can be contacted once registration begins.

Tina Liaos and the Folk Dance Board

Orthodox Family Fellowship (OFF)

February is going to be an exciting month for our families.

First, we would like to wish our FDF dancers well on their upcoming performances this month in Ontario. All of you have worked very hard, so now show them what you are made of.

Secondly, OFF will be collecting hand towels and wash cloths for the homeless the entire month of February. The Salvation Army has made a suggestion for us to hand out these items for the homeless to use while at their facilities. Please leave the new towels and cloths in the blue bin by the Church Office.

In Christ's Service, Michael and Tami Stefanatos tami.stefanatos@gmail.com



HOPE and JOY

Good luck to all the youth participating at FDF on President's Weekend in Ontario. We will not have an event in February, but please mark your calendars for "Game Day" in Kokkos Hall on **Sunday, March 6**, 12:30-2:30 pm. We will have a wide variety of games, everything from *Chutes and Ladders* to *Chess*. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP with Sharon. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

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

Orthodox Connection Las Vegas

I would like to thank all those who participated in our Baklava baking class and our Annual Holiday Party. The food and company were great and it is always nice to spend time and get to know our fellow members of the Faith.

Special thanks go to: Maria Shinas and Alexia Chandrinou for conducting the Baklava baking class; Sophocles Frangakis, who provided the lamb chops at wholesale through Kyklos Grill at the Galleria Mall, as well as Demetri Asim, who helped to cover the cost; Father John for showing off his barbecuing skills by preparing the lamb chops. Lastly, thank you to all who participated and brought food to complete the meal. I pray that we have as good of a turn-out for all our events this year.

Our next event will be held on *Saturday, February 26*, 4:00-7:00 pm at Las Vegas Rescue Mission, located at 480 W Bonanza Road, Las Vegas 89106. We will be assisting others in preparing and serving meals to the homeless and helping to clean up afterwards. Please dress in clothing that can get dirty and wear close-toed shoes. Please RSVP as space is limited for volunteers and names must be given prior to arrival.

As always, all active Orthodox Christians 21 years and older are welcome to attend any OCLV event.

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

Orthodox Bookstore

I would like to extend a big 'thank you' to all who have come forward with suggestions and requests for new items for the Bookstore. I have been doing my research and keeping an eye out for special items and book titles that have been asked for.

Going forward, I would be happy to help with any special purchase requests, *though all must be prepaid before placing the order*. I have had the opportunity to test this system with icon requests and can say I am happy with the outcome.

I look forward to this year and the continued presence of this ministry. Happy Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple!

Matthew Castillo, Bookstore Director

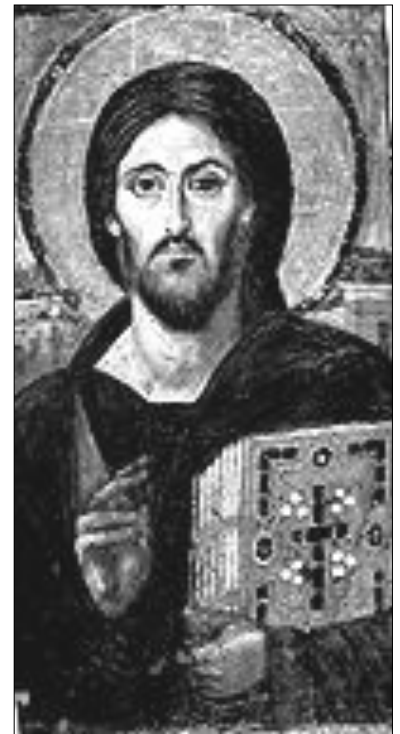
Forerunners - The Seniors of St. John the Baptist

Our annual Shoebox project was again a great success, thanks to the generous contributions of many of our Church members. These gifts were deeply appreciated by the Nevada Partnership of Homeless Youth. Our own Ruth Plentzas was the originator, and the personal time she dedicates to this ministry is amazing. Our heartfelt thanks go to Ruth.

We have filled all officer positions except for one - President. I have agreed to continue as President until someone else steps up, and at that time I will assist as Vice President. Ruth Plentzas has accepted the position of Treasurer.

We invite new members to Forerunners: Only \$10 per year. Please join us at our next luncheon on *Tuesday, February 8* in Panos Hall. Lastly, our next scheduled Fellowship Hour is on *Sunday, February 27*.

Charles Teed



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

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

Kokkos Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee for the Kokkos Scholarship Fund is pleased to announce that applications will be available at the Church Office on *Tuesday, February 1*. If you wish to receive your application via email, please contact Karen at karen@vegasgreekorthodox.com. The applications must be returned on or *before Friday, April 1*. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered.

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

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

Please contact the Church Office for more information at (702) 221-8245.

2011 AHEPA Scholarships

The Order of AHEPA, Las Vegas Chapter 314, announces the availability of scholarship applications for 2011. Worthy students are encouraged to submit applications for either one of the two types of scholarships being offered for 2011.

The first type of scholarship being offered is the *"Journey to Greece."* This is a month-long study program July 9- August 5, 2011. It is sponsored in conjunction with the University of Indianapolis, and takes place in Athens, Greece. Students may select two out of six courses, and upon completion will earn six transferable university credits.

The second type of scholarship being offered for 2011 is the standard *Academic Scholarship* for entering college, or continuing college students. It consists of an award to assist students in meeting their tuition and registration requirements.

Additional information and applications for both scholarships are available at the St. John Greek Orthodox Church Office. Deadline for submittal is *Tuesday, March 15*.



PAN ARCADIAN FEDERATION OF AMERICA
LAS VEGAS ALEA CHAPTER #115

Announces the Annual

APOKREATIKO / MACARONADA

Sunday, February 27 at 6:30 pm

Come join in the fun at the beautifully remodeled
MAD GREEK CAFÉ

8565 W. Sahara at Durango (South East corner)

Traditional spaghetti and roast chicken dinner

CASH BAR, LIVE GREEK MUSIC AND DANCING

Space is limited so hurry and purchase your tickets today

TICKETS: Adults \$35, Children 12 and under \$15

5 and under no charge

Available for purchase after Liturgy every Sunday in February

Reserved tables of 8 and 10 available with advance purchase

You may also contact Vicki Kelesis after 5:00 pm at (702) 375-1363

Proceeds go to support our philanthropic and cultural activities

Everyone is WELCOME!

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

Abernathy, Gordon and Akaterine	Dounis, Kiki	Kourlos, Georgia	Rodis, Dimitri and Jennifer
Adamy, Marina	Economon, Andrew and Stacy	Koutsulis, John and Eileen	Salon, Nicholas and Janelle
Agnos, Dimitrios and Angeline	Edmunds, Paul and Barbara	Koutsulis, Sam and Effie	Salvarlis, Thomas and Joyce
Alcala, Phil and Georgia	Eliades, Aristotelis and Caroline	Kover, Barbara	Savvas, Savva
Alex, Jim and Renee	Eliades, Harry and Agapi	Kypreos, Peter and Geri	Scott, Ann
Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine	Eliades, Katerina	Kyprianou, Gilbert and Alexis	Shinas, Maria
Anastasiou, Andrew and Kathleen	Eliakis, Peter and Glenda	Latelle, Penny	Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia
Andraktos, Manuel	Eliakis, Varthie and Lee Ann	Lazarakis, John and Panagiota	Skandros, Georgia
Andrews, Catherine	Eliopoulos, Goldie	Lekar, Michael and Effie	Skerbetz, Frank and Sophia
Aristides, George and Diana	Exarhos, Nick and Sharon	Leone, Stephen	Snow, Clifford and Christina
Asim, Demetrious	Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean	Liaos, James and Tina	Snow, Stephanie
Bacon, Ken and Dianne	Eyler, John and Elizabeth	Liaos, Steven and Francine	Snowden, Robert and Niki
Balason, Anna	Filios, George and Nitsa	Liaos, William and Irene	Soper, Bobby and Maria
Balason, Voula	Filios, Spiridon and Eleni	Likourinou, Steve and June	Sotira, Dhimitra
Balodimas, James	Flangas, Bill and Marilyn	Lymberopoulos, Mary	Soursos, Savvas and Helene
Bauck, Jeremy and Amy	Flangas, Gus and Tamara	Malamatos, Kindina	Spanopoulos, Elias
Berendji, Jim and Vivian	Fotopoulos, John and Barbara	Maniatakos, Ted and Maria	Sparangis, Spyro and Helen
Berta, Irene	Frangakis, Constantine	Manolakos, Jennifer and John	Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette
Bieker, Adam and Buckalew,	Frangakis, John	Manos, Patricia	Stanford, Mike and Victoria
Cassie	Frangopulu, Hristina	Mansour, Muna	Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki
Bochanis, George	Frantzen, Robert and Margery	Manteris, Art and Sue	Stefanatos, Michael and Tami
Borzekas, Stephen	Franzi, Jack	Markakis, Mike and Catherine	Stefanatos-Hetzel, Joanne
Brilis, George and Satoko	Gear, Darius	Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki	Stenos, Louis
Britten, Ronald and Carol	Georgiou, Byron and Thérèse	Mavros, Michael and Debbie	Stephanos, Stanley and Aspasia
Brown, Faye	Georgiou, Trula	Mezilson, Evangeline	Stika, Arthur and Melinda
Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Georgis, John and Kaliopi	Miller, Mary	Stock, Helen
Capadalis, Tim and Marling	Gialketsis, Barbara	Millet, Jennie	Szukiewicz, Joe
Captain, Nicholas and Maria	Goddard, Elizabeth	Mirich, Kyle	Szukiewicz, Joseph and Jennia
Carabas, Thymios and Sotiroulla	Goldrick, Ethan and Robyn	Moffett, Todd and Eliopoulos, Tina	Tafoya, Steven and Irene
Carahalıs, John and Constance	Gomes, Joseph and Cecelia	Monoyudis, Jim and Julie	Takas, Andrea
Caras, Louis	Gordon, Victor and Demetria	Moraites, Peter	Taxiarchos, Andrew and
Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	Gousias, Elias and Maria	Murnane, Sharon	Alexandra
Carter, Maria	Grillas, Roula	Murphy, Terry and Karen	Taxopoulos, Bryan
Carrico, William and Alexandra	Gruber, Ernest and Zoe	Myers, Stella	Taylor, Katherine
Carson, Michele	Hallis, Louis and Betty	Neocleous, Plato	Teed, Charles
Castillo, Matthew	Hamilton, Mary	Nichlas, Arthur	Thomas, Angie
Chachas, Bessie	Hamilton, Paul and Brandi	Nicholas, John and Estella	Thompson, Maggy
Chachas, James	Harris, Melty and Angeline	Nickolson, Chloe	Touroutoglou, Nikolaos
Chandrinós, Alexia	Harrison, Angie	Nikitas, Rigas and Aphrodite	Tsarouhas, Maria
Chandrinós, Peter	Harrison, Clifford	Nikols, George † and Christine	Tsolis, Kosta
Chomakos, Dean and Tammy	Hernquist, Angela	O'Brien, William and Chris	Tsoukalas, Spyridon
Chomakos, George and Nikki	Hetzel, David	Orlando, Alleck and Jennifer	Tsouras, Christopher and Diana
Chondrakis, Dimosthenis	Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria	Ostis, Sotirios	Vassiliadis, Athena
Christopoulos, Ann	Hoover, Patrick and Pauline	Pacheco, Nia	Vassiliadis, Spiros and Shiona
Christou, Andreas and Toni	Hristopoulou, Spiridoula	Pandelis, Cheryl	Vergos, Charles and Eve
Chumas, Russell and Stella	Kachikis, Paul and Ernestine	Pantelas, Anne	Walter, Vernon and Alice
Cole, Darrick and Carla	Kakavulias, Christina	Pappas, Constantine and Karina	Walters, Lane and Mary
Collins, Dean	Kakavulias, George and Helen	Paton, Mia	Waters, Gary and Susan
Cominos, Ted	Kakavulias, John	Pelletier, Michael	Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina
Conklin, Demetra	Kakavulias, Maria	Pendleton, Tricia	Wilson, Steven and Cleo
Constantine, Bill	Kanelis, Ann	Pentogenis, Michael and Katherine	Womack, Karl
Costuros, George and Marsha	Kanoles, Konstantine and Helene	Petro, Aleko and Georgia	Womack, Kimberly
Cosulas, Rev. Basil and Samantha	Karacostas, Alice	Philippou, Demetrios and Luanne	Wronski, Chuck
Cotsilis, Jenny	Karalias, Petros and Constance	Platis, Anna	Xikis, Victoria
Coutris, Angela	Karas, James	Plentzas, Spiros and Ruth	Zaferatos, Ted and Marinella
Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	Karas, John and Marcie	Polimerou, Angeline	Zander, Becky
Delalis, Dina	Karvounidis, Nick and Alexandra	Poulos, Christine	Zarras, Nick and Chery
Demoleas, Stephanie	Katris, Nick and Kathryn	Pouridis, Para and Kouli	Zimmerman, Angela and Paul
Demopoulos, Tommy and Vasiliki	Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon	Prather, Moses	Zouboulis, James and Tina
DeWindt, Dennis and Susan	Katsikakis, Evangelos	Prifti, Mirela	
Diamantis, Filippos and Liliana	Kolinas, Claire	Prud'homme, Edwin and Penny	
Doering, Bruce and Lynn	Kontos, Spero and Diana	Punsalan, Basil and Sophie	
Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia	Kostopoulos, Georgia	Radosta, Athena	
Dougan, Linda	Kotonias, George and Patricia	Rifakes, John and Carol	
Dounis, Dina	Kountanis, Pat	Rigas, Anthony and Mary	
Dounis, Georgia	Kouretas, Demetri and Amanda	Roberts, Christopher	

*"You shall see
greater things . . ."
~John 1:50*



FEBRUARY 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>6 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy <i>Philoptochos Memorial</i> 12:30 pm Liondaria 1:00 pm Delfinia/ Hrisi Thisavri, Stavroforoi</p>	<p>7 6:00 pm Delfinia 6:00 pm Youth Ministries Mtg.</p>	<p>1 5:30 pm Liondaria 6:00 pm Delfinia 6:00 pm Hrisi Thisavri 6:30 pm Stavroforoi 7:00 pm Philoptochos Board Meeting</p> <p>8 11:30 am Forerunners 5:30 pm Liondaria 6:00 pm Delfinia 6:00 pm Hrisi Thisavri 6:30 pm Stavroforoi 7:00 pm Philoptochos General Meeting</p>	<p>2 <i>Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple</i> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Adult Choir: Sopranos & Altos 7:00 pm Adult Study</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10 <i>St. Haralambos (Liturgy celebrated on 2/9)</i></p>	<p>4 5:30 pm Hrisi Thisavri 5:30 pm Clergy Meeting</p>	<p>5 1:00 pm Hrisi Thisavri/ Stavroforoi</p>
<p>13 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy <i>Youth Choir Chants</i> Dancers Luncheon and Performances</p>	<p>14 6:00 pm Delfinia</p>	<p>15 5:30 pm Liondaria 6:00 pm Delfinia 6:00 pm Parish Council 6:30 pm Hrisi Thisavri 6:30 pm Stavroforoi</p>	<p>16 6:00 pm Adult Choir Practice - Bass & Tenor 7:00 pm Adult Study</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 6:00 pm Adult Choir Practice - All 7:00 pm Adult Study</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 6:00 pm George Nikols Memorial & Makaria</p>	<p>26 <i>1st Saturday of Souls</i> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Liturgy/Memorial 4:00 pm OCLV at Las Vegas Rescue Mission</p>
<p>27 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:30 pm Pan Arcadian Macaronada at Mad Greek Café</p>	<p>28 6:30 pm Church School Teachers Mtg.</p>					

Folk Dance Festival in Ontario, CA through 2/21

Folk Dance Festival through 2/21

The Desert Messenger

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THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord

*You Who sanctified by Your Birth a virgin womb,
and blessed the hands of Symeon as was appropriate,
did come, indeed, O Christ our God, and saved us all.*

*But bring peace to the nation in the time of war,
and secure in strength the rulers You truly loved,
as the only One Who love mankind.*

-Kontakion, Meeting of Our Lord

