

# The Desert



# Messenger

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

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Volume 9, Issue 7 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV July/August 2011

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**From  
Father  
John**

Beloved in Christ:

Summer provides many opportunities for cook-outs, family gatherings, recreational activities, vacations, weekend outings and the like. Even in Las Vegas, with its scorching temperatures, we want to take advantage of the season for a little renewal before fall arrives with its more rigid and often hectic schedule of activities with school, work and a host of other commitments that quickly stack up. But in the process of renewing our minds and bodies during the summer months, do we also take the initiative and time necessary to refresh our souls?

Our Orthodox Christian theology is unquestionably clear that God created humans as a union of the body, mind and soul. *“The soul activates and directs the whole body and all the members of the body... (and) just as it is God’s task to administer the world, so also it is the soul’s task to guide the body.”* (Archimandrite Hierotheos Vlachos, *Orthodox Psychotherapy*, p. 110) However, because of sin, this union is diseased and ailing and, with death, even severed: As we are therefore in desperate need of healing and wholeness, our Lord Jesus Christ came in the flesh, voluntarily endured His Passion and Death on the Cross and gloriously Resurrected from the Dead in order to restore the unity of body, mind and soul, and to reconcile us, as whole humans, with God. For that reason, the full tradition of the Orthodox Church, which is the mystical Body of Christ, *“consists in healing and bringing to life the soul which is dead from sin. All the sacraments and the whole ascetic life of the Church contribute to this healing.”* (Vlachos, p. 115)

Sadly, many of us have adopted a mindset that for a few months we can take a vacation from Church and, consequently, attendance at the Divine Liturgy and other parish activities drops significantly each year during the summer, whether or not our members are in town. As summer provides an opportunity for refreshment and renewal, when our “time away” is filled with activities that do not incorporate prayer, spiritual reading, worship and sacramental participation, once this season has ended, we consequently return back to our normal routines where we left off – not refreshed or at peace and still sick or stressed out, as we have done nothing fruitful to genuinely restore our body, mind and soul.

Beloved, I pray that summer may find us renewing our souls, together with our minds and bodies, so that we become revived, vitalized and healed. If we travel away, let us incorporate daily prayer and holy readings into our schedule and make a pilgrimage to another Orthodox Church or Monastery for worship and sacraments. If we remain at home, let us take care to develop the rhythm of prayer, fasting, confession and proper preparation for frequently receiving Holy Communion – and make a concerted effort to avoid the strong temptation to become spiritually, physically and mentally slothful during this season. As we say repeatedly in the Divine Liturgy, during summer and in every season, *“Let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.”*

Just as the Lord retreated from His flock for a period, my family and I will be absent in July: Please know, however, that your spiritual needs will be met by Father Dean and Father Paul and, equally so, all of you will remain foremost in my daily supplications before the Lord.

Love in Christ,

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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

**JULY**

**Sunday, July 3/3rd Sunday of Matthew**

Orthros: Tone Two  
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Mark 16:9-20  
Epistle: Romans 5:1-10  
Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33

**Sunday, July 10/4th Sunday of Matthew**

Orthros: Tone Three  
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:1-12  
Epistle: Romans 6:18-23  
Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

**Sunday, July 17/Holy Fathers of the 4th Synod/  
Great Martyr Marina**

Orthros: Tone Four  
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:13-35  
Epistle: Titus 3:8-15  
Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19

**Sunday, July 24/6th Sunday of Matthew/  
Great Martyr Christina**

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

**Wednesday, July 27/Great Martyr Panteleimon  
8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy**

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10  
Gospel: John 15:17-27; 16:1-2  
*Artoclasia (Blessing of Five Loaves) follows Liturgy*

**Sunday, July 31/7th Sunday of Matthew**

Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)  
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:1-10  
Epistle: Romans 15:1-7  
Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

**AUGUST**

*Fast of the Dormition - August 1-14*

**Monday, August 1**

*6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos*

**Wednesday, August 3**

*6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos*

**Friday, August 5**

*6:00 pm Great Vespers of the Transfiguration*

**Saturday, August 6/Transfiguration of Our Savior**

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

*Blessing of the Grapes follows Liturgy*

Epistle: 2 Peter 1:10-19

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

**Sunday, August 7/8th Sunday of Matthew/**

Orthros: Tone Seven (Grave)

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

**Monday, August 8**

*6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos*

**Wednesday, August 10**

*6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos*

**Friday, August 12**

*6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos*

**Sunday, August 14/9th Sunday of Matthew**

Orthros: Tone Eight (Fourth Plagal)

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

*6:00 pm Great Vespers of the Dormition*

**Monday, August 15/Dormition of the Theotokos**

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

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

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

*Artoclasia (Blessing of Five Loaves) follows Liturgy*

**Sunday, August 21/10th Sunday of Matthew**

Orthros: Tone One

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

**Sunday, August 28/11th Sunday of Matthew**

Orthros: Tone Two

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

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

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

Epistle: Acts 13:25-33

Gospel: Mark 6:14-30

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

Now that summer has officially arrived, with the climate to prove it here in Las Vegas and southern Nevada, most of us are engaged in the activities and events that are both enjoyable and expected during these months. Summer is a time for being outdoors, traveling and relaxing with friends and family following what is for most of us a busy and often hectic fall, winter and spring. June brings the annual graduations and the slow uptick in temperature.

As summer passes here in the desert we are increasingly inclined to stay inside in cooler comfort or to travel away to avoid the omnipresent heat. These are the “Dog Days” of summer, with the most hot and often sultry days of the year peaking in July and August. Life is slower during this time, which is in many ways a blessing in itself. This time does offer an opportunity for renewal and restoration – including spiritual renewal and reflection. The slower pace of the season is perfect for reordering our priorities and commitments, including those to Christ and His Church.

As we move through these hot summer months it is important to not be complacent about our spiritual focus or commitments and to take time to reflect upon them. This includes stewardship, participation in the Holy Liturgy and being present in the Church community. It is important to not allow the “Dog Days” to encompass or overshadow our spiritual commitments and activities. In fact, summer offers a prime opportunity to reflect on our stewardship activities over the past few months and to renew our efforts as true and faithful stewards. We should ask these important questions: What have we done so far this year in our stewardship for Christ and our Church community? Who would appreciate a message or call in a time of need? What might we do in the coming months to increase and strengthen our personal stewardship, which builds our spiritual life and commitments, and might perhaps become a model of restoration for others?

The “Dog Days” are a time to restore and revive ourselves. *“Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.” (Psalm 51:12)*

Gary Waters and the 2011 Stewardship Committee

<u>2011 Stewardship Status (June 15, 2011):</u>		Stewardship Target – 2011	\$350,000
Stewardship Families Pledged	419	Stewardship Gifts Pledged	\$298,779
Stewardship Gifts Received	\$174,949	Current Stewardship Deficit	\$51,221
Average Stewardship Pledge	\$713.08	Percentage of Goal Achieved	85%

<u>Pledge Range</u>	<u>Number of Families</u>		<u>\$ of Gifts Pledged</u>
\$1-\$999	313		\$ 102,454
\$1,000-\$2,499	85		\$ 107,685
\$2,500-\$4,999	14		\$ 45,440
\$5,000-\$9,999	6		\$ 33,200
\$10,000-\$14,999	1		\$ 10,000

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Stewards Pledged	391	419	+28
Gifts Pledged	\$293,056	\$298,779	+\$5,723
Gifts Received	\$163,852	\$174,949	+\$11,097
Average Pledge	\$749.50	\$713.08	-\$36.42

*“If one does not confine the commandments of God in his heart as a treasure, the evil one will arrive and seize them.  
~St. Athanasios of Alexandria*

**Parish  
Council  
Report**

In this month's report I would like to thank Jim Monoyudis, our Vice President, for his generosity and love of the Church that truly has no bounds. He has brought a new perspective to the Parish Council and I cherish it.

I would like to speak a little bit now about being inclusive here at St. John Church. We truly never know who we are affecting when we exclude someone. As Christ's true Church we should always endeavor to include anyone who is willing to help serve the Church. Even if we have nothing for them to do, then find something! For the next few months we will need every volunteer we can get for the Greek Food Festival. It is the personal connection with others that brings new people to the Church.

Darrick Cole, John Fotopoulos, Jim Monoyudis, Father John and I traveled to San Francisco and met with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and Father Jon Magoulias to discuss and address the Archdiocese Assessment. I felt it was a productive meeting and, though some may say that we cannot afford to pay even the revised Assessment amount, I think it is a challenge we as a parish can face and accomplish. Believe me, as a former Treasurer of the parish, I understand the limitations of our budget, and at the same time when we accept this duty as other parishes around the Archdiocese have done, we will be better for it.

I would like to thank the Flangas Family for the wonderful event they sponsored in June; it was fun and at the same time raised money for the Church. If anyone else wishes to follow their example, please contact Sheryl for open dates and we will work to make a successful event together. And, as always, if you are having an event, baptism, wedding, birthday party, office party, or if you need meeting space or convention space: call Sheryl, our catering director, and book your event with us. You will be helping your Church as well as showing off our great facilities.

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

*Financial Status for Month of May 2011*

<u>Bank Accounts</u>	<u>Beginning Balance as of 4.30.11</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Internal Bank Transfers Transfers In</u>	<u>Transfers Out</u>	<u>Balances as of 5.31.11</u>
General Operating	\$28,615.71	\$38,158.34	\$45,986.39			\$20,787.66
Building/Maintenance	\$23,167.31	\$3.06	\$1,657.00			\$21,513.37
Community/Education Ctr	\$1,699.51	\$13,314.15	\$15,505.38			-\$491.72
Construction (Loan Paymts)	\$24,994.75	\$2,950.00	\$8,270.59			\$19,674.16
Food Festival	\$26,202.38	\$80.00	\$40.00			\$26,242.38
Icon Money Market	\$7,572.54	\$500.00				\$8,072.54
Library Checking	\$15,600.61	\$2.03	\$471.57			\$15,131.07
On-Line Donations	\$1,200.09					\$1,200.09
Bookstore Checking	\$1,095.28	\$542.00	\$1,198.44			\$438.84
Construction Loan	\$655,730.77					\$650,927.35 *
Revolving Line of Credit	\$0.00					\$0.00
Term Loan (5 year loan)	\$0.00					\$0.00

\*Philoptochos donated \$2,900 toward principal.

Please Join Us for a . . .

**PANIGYRI ('GREEK PICNIC')**

**Sunday, August 21 ~ following Divine Liturgy (12:00 pm) in Panos Hall**

Delicious Greek-style chicken or pork, Greek fries, salad and dessert . . .

All for \$15

Soda, water, beer and wine will be available for purchase

*Hosted by the Tzelalis Family ~*

*All Proceeds benefit St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church*

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

July 3

**Ushers:** Demetrious Philippou, Jim Monoyudis, Stephanie Demoleas, George Bochanis, Darrick Cole and Demetrious Asim

**Memorial:** Constantine Attard (40 days); Phivos Neocleous (4 years), Myrophora Neocleous (22 years)

**Fellowship:** Kakavulias Family - Proceeds will be applied to the Mortgage

July 10

**Ushers:** Marina Adamy, Linda Dougan, John Fotopoulos, Sam Koutsulis, George Kakavulias and Spiros Filios

**Memorial:** George Nikols (6 months)

**Fellowship:** Orthodox Family Fellowship

July 17

**Ushers:** Darrick Cole, Demetrious Asim, Jim Monoyudis, George Bochanis, Stephanie Demoleas and Demetrios Philippou

**Memorial:** Anastacia Constantinidis (40 days); Eugenia Niarkos (1 year)

**Fellowship:** Folk Dance Group

July 24

**Ushers:** John Fotopoulos, Sam Koutsulis, George Kakavulias, Linda Dougan, Spiros Filios and Marina Adamy

**Fellowship:** Orthodox Connection Las Vegas

July 31

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

**Fellowship:** Mavrantonis Family

August 7

**Ushers:** George Bochanis, Linda Dougan, Stephanie Demoleas, Marina Adamy, John Fotopoulos and Marina Adamy

**Fellowship:** Folk Dance Group

August 14

**Ushers:** Jim Monoyudis, Spiros Filios, Linda Dougan, John Fotopoulos, Sam Koutsulis, George Bochanis

**Fellowship:** Pan-Arcadians - Benefits Orthodox Missions in the Philippines

August 21

**Ushers:** John Fotopoulos, Stephanie Demoleas, Demetrios Philippou, Darrick Cole, Demetrious Asim and George Bochanis

**Fellowship:** Tzelalis Family - Panigyri (Greek Picnic)

August 28

**Ushers:** Stephanie Demoleas, Jim Monoyudis, Linda Dougan, Marina Adamy, Sam Koutsulis, George Kakavulias

**Fellowship:** Folk Dance Group

## 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](mailto:frjohn@vegaskgreekorthodox.com)

Website: [vegaskgreekorthodox.com](http://vegaskgreekorthodox.com)

Parish Council: Spiros Filios

Philoptochos: Geri Kypreos

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:  
Amy & Jeremy Bauck

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

"Prayer is the test of everything. If prayer is right everything is right."  
~St. Theophan the Recluse

**Philoptochos  
News**

Greetings! Although we will not have a General Meeting until September, your help is still requested.



Please join us on *Monday, August 15*, when we celebrate the Dormition of the Theotokos with the Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am; Philoptochos will be hosting the Fellowship after Liturgy.

The Panigyri Picnic hosted by the Tzelalis family will be after Church services on *Sunday, August 21*; we will be doing the set-up on Saturday and serving Sunday. If you are able to help, please contact me at (702) 378-7900.

We realize it is summer, but please continue to come to Church when you are in town.

In Christ, Geri Kypreos and the Philoptochos Board



**Notes from the Loft**

The Choir will be on break for the month of July. We will resume again on *Sunday, August 7*. If you are interested in joining the Choir, and need help learning the music, please let me know. Have a wonderful summer vacation!

Athena Mertes, Choir Director

***Our Community Registry***

***Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun***

Nathan, son of Daniel and Almaz Abraham on June 18, 2011. Godparent: Michael Chidane.

Lukas, son of Scott Urbanczyk and Vasiliki Bahos on June 19, 2011. Godparent: Panagiote Tsolis.

***Chrismation***

Anthony Farren on June 12, 2011. Sponsor: Matthew Castillo.

***Marriages: Na Zisete!***

George Issa Rishmawi and Manal Bassam Khoury on May 28, 2011.  
Sponsor: Nura Sayegh Khoury.

Ulrich Zamora and Alexandra Kalkantzakos on May 29, 2011.  
Sponsor: Dimitra Nikolopoulos.

Constantino Anastassiou and Hilary Iannuccilli on June 11, 2011.  
Sponsor: Cathy Anastassiou.

***Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory***

Frances Marie McGregor on May 22, 2011. Funeral on May 28.

George Vlamis on May 25, 2011. Funeral on June 1.

John Liapakis on May 27, 2011. Trisagion on June 3.

Stella K. Hayes on June 7, 2011. Funeral on June 13.

Anastacia Constantinidis on June 13, 2011. Trisagion on June 18.

Moses Prather, Jr. on June 9, 2011. Funeral on June 20.

## ARISTON AWARD

Helen Stock and Faye Brown  
have been selected to receive the *Ariston Award* at a *Grand Event*  
on Saturday, October 22, 2011.

The *Ariston Award* is established by St. John the Baptist Parish to recognize persons who maintain a sustaining relationship with the Orthodox Christian Church or demonstrate a profound appreciation for Greek Culture. Furthermore, Award recipients shall have exemplified qualities of noble character, compassion and charity while achieving a high level of distinction and honor, always respecting the ideals, teachings and traditions of the Greek Orthodox Faith.

*Ariston* means "excellence" in Greek and describes the purpose and intent of this prestigious Award.

For over four decades **Helen Stock** has steadfastly served our community as Church School Director, as a Parish Council member and one term as President, as Food Festival Co-Chairwoman and numerous other leadership positions.

Continuously, since 1978 **Faye Brown** has been a member of our Church Choir while serving, selflessly, as Director for twenty years in addition to her leadership roles in Food Festival, Choir Conferences and countless other projects.

If you should have any questions regarding this celebration, please feel free to contact the Chairmen Alex Sparkuhl or Jim Monoyudis through the Church at (702) 221-8245.

A formal invitation will follow in early September.



### Adult Study: 'Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives'

*The Life and Teachings of  
Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica*

Starting Wednesday,  
August 3 through  
Wednesday, September 14  
7:00-8:30 pm (unless noted)  
in Kokkos Hall

Fr. John Hondros, Instructor

*Books available in our  
Orthodox Bookstore*

## Greek Food Festival Baking Schedule

Save the Dates:

*Saturday, July 9 - Baklava*

*Saturday, July 23 - Baklava*

*Thursday - Saturday, August 4 - 6 - Pastitsio*

*Saturday, August 13 - Kataifi*

*Friday, August 19 - Flavored Koulourakia/  
Kourambiethes with Walnuts*

*Saturday, August 20 - Kataifi/Bougatsa*

*Thursday - Saturday, August 25 - 27 - Dolmathes*

*Saturday, September 3 - Kourambiethes/Tsourekia*

*Saturday, September 10 - Koulourakia/Melomakarona*

*Saturday, September 17 - Karithopita/Diples*

*Wednesday - Thursday, September 21 - 22 - Rice Pudding*

Please join us at 8:00 am in the Kitchen. Lunch will be served.  
Please look to the *Weekly Bulletin* for additional baking dates or changes.

## Youth Ministries

### Greek Folk Dance

Dance Registration continues and is \$75 per dancer through *Sunday, July 31*. Afterwards, the registration fee is \$150 per dancer. Registration forms are available in the Church Office.

The first day of dance practice will be *Tuesday, August 30* and will continue each Tuesday thereafter. Those dancers that performed at FDF 2011 will be performing at the Greek Food Festival and will also practice on Sundays after Church services until the Festival.

Greek Dance will be hosting Fellowship on *Sundays, July 17, August 7 and August 28*, so be prepared to bring some goodies. We will be selling Entertainment Books again beginning in August and are planning our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wine Experience for the fall.

Enjoy your summer and be ready to get your feet moving on August 30!

Tina Liaos and the Greek Folk Dance Board

### Relay for Life

On May 20-21, our GOYAns participated in the *Relay for Life* at Desert Oasis High School. Our team of 23 GOYAns and a few parents relayed on the track overnight for 12 hours to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Our team raised \$2,748, putting them in 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of 49 teams.



The event itself raised over \$28,000 and had 668 participants. Three from our team were in the top 12 for fundraising: Evan Tafoya raised \$695 and ended in 6<sup>th</sup> place; Maddie Moffett raised \$410 and ended in 7<sup>th</sup> place; and Caroline Lekar raised \$210 and finished in 12<sup>th</sup> place. Great job! All of our GOYAns represented St. John the Baptist parish well.

Thank you to our St. John community for the generous donations made to our team.

### GOYA

Yay! Summer is here! Sports night will continue *every Tuesday in July* at 6:00 pm. Additionally, we may throw together a swim party, bowling or a movie: Watch for an email if other activities are planned.

If you are not currently receiving GOYA related emails, please contact an advisor either by phone or email. GOYA is a ministry of the Church for youth in middle and high school.

Have a happy, safe and fun summer! May Christ and Panagia be with you!

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

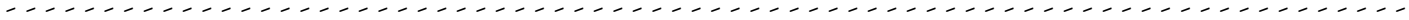


*"Pray, my children, and do not fear.  
The Theotokos, our champion, will again give us the victory."  
~Elder Ephraim of the Holy Mountain*

**Church School**

Hi Everyone! I hope all of you are enjoying the summer season. Our first day of class in the New Ecclesiastical Year will be on *Sunday, September 11*. Please try to have your enrollment form filled out before the first class of Church School, so we can staff our rooms accordingly. Please feel free to call or e-mail me with any questions.

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



**St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church**  
**2011-2012 Church School Registration Form**  
*(One form per child: Duplicate if Needed)*

**Church School Classes Begin Sunday, September 11.**  
*Please return to Karen during the week at the Church Office*  
*or Eileen Koutsulis, Director, on Sundays before classes start.*

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

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

School Grade 2011-2012: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies, Special Needs, Medications: \_\_\_\_\_

Patron Saint and Date of Commemoration: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone (home/cell): \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signed, Parent or Legal Guardian:  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_ Teaching                      \_\_\_ Snack                      \_\_\_ Crafts

Cash Supply Fee Paid Per Student: \_\_\_ \$5

## Orthodox Family Fellowship

Jeremy and I are proud to announce that we have been given the opportunity to direct the Orthodox Family Fellowship (OFF). We are ecstatic to take the reins of this vital portion of our community and are ready to go.

First off, we would like to thank Tami and Mike Stefanatos for their dedication to OFF over the last several years. They have done an amazing job with the program and their work is much appreciated!

For those unfamiliar with OFF, Orthodox Family Fellowship is a ministry in which families with children through elementary school informally gather to discuss meaningful topics that affect young families. It provides an avenue for families to meet other families of the same Faith where we can all relax outside of Church and truly get to know one another.

We will be launching our first event in September and look forward to your family joining us! If you are interested in being on the OFF email list, please contact us through Karen in the Church Office at [karen@vegasgreekorthodox.com](mailto:karen@vegasgreekorthodox.com). In addition, please keep your eyes open for the new Facebook page that will keep you informed of upcoming events.

God Bless, Amy and Jeremy Bauck, OFF Directors

## HOPE and JOY

We had so much fun at Town Square. Everyone enjoyed the playing in the water! Please mark your calendars for the following events during the summer months:

- **Sunday, July 10** - After Liturgy, we will meet at the Orleans Casino Food Court for lunch and then catch the latest summer box office hit!
- **Wednesday, August 10** - Indoor Miniature Golf at King Putt. This is one of those, "have to see it" places; we have heard many good things about it! Please meet at 2:00 pm in front of King Putt, located at 7230 West Lake Mead.

For more information, please call Sharon at (702) 292-0850. Looking forward to seeing you!

Your HOPE & JOY Advisors, Sharon Katsaros and Jenn Orlando



## Youth Choir News



Happy Summer! The Youth Choir will be taking a break in July and August. However, if anyone wants to join us at the Chanters Stand, you will be more than welcome.

The Youth Choir will officially begin chanting again on **Sunday, September 11**, which is the first day of Church School. We welcome and encourage new voices to join us as well!

Love in Christ, Presvytera Maria

## Orthodox Bookstore

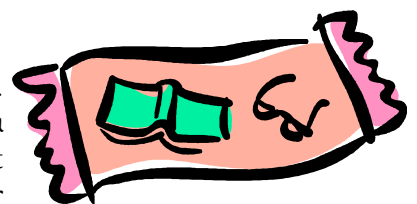
Come, check out our books and get your summer reading started.

With "vacation" season officially here, it is a great time to dive into a new book on your trip, or even if enjoying time off at home, to explore that book you have been putting off all year until you had time. While our tendency is to choose a popular title, spiritual reading is always a good thing for the summer months to keep our mind from getting too relaxed.

As the Food Festival approaches, please let me know if any of you are interested in volunteering for the Orthodox Bookstore Booth.

Have a great summer, safe travels, and a Blessed Dormition!

Matthew Castillo, Bookstore Director



***From the Metropolis of San Francisco Youth Office***

“Icons or icons?” - By Rev. Deacon Niko Bekris

Guys . . . Have you ever tried to impress a girl by trying to control a robot rover on the surface of Mars, only to get it stuck in a Martian ditch? Girls . . . Have you ever broken up with a guy because he told you neurobiology is superior to theoretical physics? Something tells me you haven't.

And yet, this hilarity is the essence of CBS' *The Big Bang Theory*, a (mostly) hilarious sitcom with, well, brilliant science nerds as the main characters. The show is now in its fourth season and gaining new viewers with every episode as it climbs the popularity charts. A friend of mine recently sent me a link to a YouTube clip of the show that I thought was hysterical, in which the three main characters, Leonard, Sheldon and Penny, are exchanging Christmas gifts. Penny (the socially with-it, cool girl of the show) gives Sheldon (not a socially with-it guy) a napkin signed by Leonard Nimoy, whom she ran into at a restaurant. I'm not going to explain who Leonard Nimoy is, or his place in sci-fi history (although if you saw the new Star Trek movie two years ago, you know who he is), but needless to say, Sheldon nearly passes out from excitement and goes crazy with happiness. Basically, this is how I would have reacted.

I'm going to guess that your reaction would probably not have been the same as mine, although I will make another guess and say that you do have someone to whom you would have the same reaction if you received an autograph or some kind of memento from him or her – perhaps your favorite pro-baseball player, pop singer, or movie star . . . right? Being “star struck” is only natural, and maybe each of us has met a “star” who's had this effect on us. And yet, as I watched this YouTube clip of a fellow nerd's euphoria, I asked myself a question that I have thought of in the past: What would my reaction be if I was given an autograph from Jesus?

Think about it for a moment: If we met Jesus or had a direct, physical encounter with Him, would our reaction be the same? This takes on a whole different dimension when we consider that, in fact, we do meet Jesus every Sunday when we receive Holy Communion, which is our direct, physical contact with His true Body and Blood. When we pray, read the Bible or gaze at an icon, we are also encountering Jesus. He is always with us, knocking on the door of our hearts (*Romans 4:17*), wanting to share an encounter with us!

There is nothing wrong with diversion; we do need to unwind from time to time to keep ourselves rested and refreshed. And there's nothing wrong with having a favorite star or a hero: God has given each individual different interests, wiring each of us differently, so as to enjoy different hobbies and interests. Yet we should remember that we take nothing with us when we leave this earth but our faith in God. Let us, then, allow our main focus to be on the one True Icon, following the example of the Apostle Thomas, who upon seeing Jesus resurrected, joyfully exclaimed, “*My Lord, and my God!*” (*John 20:28*)



New for 2011 Greek Food Festival . . .

### IOCC Booth

The IOCC Booth will be located next to the Orthodox Bookstore and feature its worldwide missions and programs. Our booth will offer information on the IOCC objectives and accomplishments.

The booth theme and sales inventory will be limited to Orthodox Christmas items. Profits will be divided between the IOCC and our Church. We need you to volunteer for:

- Packing/wrapping of gift items (August and September)
- Creating the PowerPoint segment for Festival DVD
- Representing the IOCC at Festival for information and sales
- One or two crew leaders for overall management

If you are interested, please contact Karen at the Church Office (702) 221-8245.

*We would appreciate any donations to assist in offsetting the initial start-up cost of this booth which include printing, gift items, décor and booth rental.*



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

Abernathy, Gordon and Akaterine	Coutris, Angela	Gordon, Victor and Demetria	Lazarakis, John and Panagiota
Adamy, Marina	Dalacas, Anthony and Eugenia	Gotsopoulos, Dennis	Lekar, Michael and Effie
Agnos, Dimitrios and Angeline	Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	Gott, C. Thomas	Lemelson, Katerina and Carolyn
Agnos, George and Maggie	Dalacas, Nick and Georgia	Gousdovas, Nikos	Leone, Stephen
Alcala, Phil and Georgia	Danik, Mary	Gousias, Elias and Maria	Leonis, Nick and Sophia
Alex, Jim and Renee	Daskalos, George and Voula	Grillas, Roula	Leonis, Tishe
Alexander, Eleni	Dawood, Evon	Grissom, Tony and Georgeea	Leventis, Nicholas and Christina
Alhayek, Majd	Delalis, Dina	Gruber, Ernest and Zoe	Lewis, Foula
Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine	Delalis, Pete and Alysondra	Gulling, April	Liaos, James and Tina
Anastasiou, Andrew and Kathleen	DeMangus, Robert + and Joanne	Hallis, Louis and Betty	Liaos, Steven and Francine
Anastassiou, Constantino and Hilary	Demetriou, Demetrios and Bessie	Hamilton, Mary	Liaos, William and Irene
Andraktos, Manuel	Demoleas, Spero and Grace	Hamilton, Paul and Brandi	Likourinou, Angie
Andrews, Catherine	Demoleas, Stephanie	Harris, Melty and Angeline	Likourinou, Steve and June
Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette	Demopoulos, Tommy and Vasiliki	Harrison, Angie	Luckey, Jason and Shawna
Apostolopoulos, Chris and Katia	DeWindt, Dennis and Susan	Harrison, Clifford	Lymberopoulos, Mary
Arcamuzi, Georgia	Diamantis, Filippos	Hemmers, Oliver and Pantelas, Anne	Malamatos, Kindina
Aristides, George and Diana	Doering, Bruce and Lynn	Herrnquist, Angela	Maland, Tim and Donna
Asim, Demetrius	Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia	Hetzal, David	Malpee, Mack and Kalliope
Attard, Constantine + and Sophia	Dougan, Linda	Hondros, Catherine	Mamasis, Dena
Bacon, Ken and Dianne	Dounis, Dina	Hondros, Christina	Mamasis, Tessie
Balason, Anna	Dounis, Georgia	Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria	Maniatakos, Ted and Maria
Balason, Voula	Dounis, Kiki	Hoover, Patrick and Pauline	Manolakos, Catherine
Balodimas, James	Dudunakis, Michael	Howe, Kiparissia	Manolakos, John and Jennifer
Barney, Richard and Marianthi	Economon, Andrew and Stacy	Hristopoulou, Spiridoula	Manos, Patricia
Bartzos, Sam and Eugenia	Edmunds, Paul and Barbara	Hutchings, Brett and Nancy	Mansour, Muna
Bauck, Jeremy and Amy	Eliades, Aristotelis and Caroline	Iniakina, Elena	Manteris, Arthur and Sue
Berendji, Jim and Vivian	Eliades, Artemis	Kachikis, Paul and Ernestine	Margaretis, John and Lucila
Berta, Irene	Eliades, Gregory and Maria	Kachnik, Alison	Markakis, Mike and Catherine
Bicos, Andriana	Eliades, Harry and Agapi	Kakavulias, Christina	Martinaitis, Louis and Audra
Bieker, Adam	Eliades, Katerina	Kakavulias, George and Helen	Mastakas, Michael
Bingham, Robert and Melissa	Eliades, Pete	Kakavulias, John	Matsis, John and Rebecca
Birtas, Helen	Eliakis, Peter and Glenda	Kakavulias, Maria	Mavrantonis, Kiki and Stacy
Bochanis, George	Eliakis, Varthie and Lee Ann	Kanelis, Ann	Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debra
Borzekas, Stephen	Eliopoulos, Goldie	Kanelos, Mahi	Mavros, Michael and Debbie
Brilis, George and Satoko	English, Marika	Kanelos, Nikki	McKinney, Michael and Mersene
Britten, Ronald and Carol	Esqueda, Victor	Kanoles, Konstantine and Helene	McNear, Elizabeth
Brown, Faye	Exarhos, Nick and Sharon	Karacostas, Alice	Mertes, Patrick and Athena
Buckalew, Cassandre	Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean	Karalias, Petros and Constance	Mezilson, Evangeline
Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Eyler, John and Elizabeth	Karas, James	Mihopoulos, John
Capadalis, Tim and Marling	Failla, Jon and Jennifer	Karas, John and Marcie	Miller, Mary
Captain, Nicholas and Maria	Falcone, Frank and Nancy	Karas, Vasiliki	Millet, Jennie
Carabas, Stephen and Linda	Farren, Anthony and Maritsa	Karris, Mark and Suzanne	Milonas, George and Eugenia
Carabas, Thymios and Sotiroulla	Felecos, Sophia	Karvounidis, Nick and Alexandra	Mimikos, Matina
Carahalios, John and Constance	Filios, George and Nitsa	Katris, Nick and Kathryn	Miner, George and Loreane
Caras, Louis	Filios, Spiridon and Eleni	Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon	Mirich, Kyle
Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	Flangas, Albert and Trudi	Katsikakis, Evangelos	Moffett, Todd and Eliopoulos, Tina
Carrico, William and Alexandra	Flangas, Bill and Marilyn	Kelesis, Dina	Monojudis, Jim and Julie
Carson, Michele	Flangas, Gary and Amanda	Kelesis, John and Vicki	Moraites, Peter
Carter, Maria	Flangas, Gus and Tamara	Kelesis, Paula	Mulopoulos, George and Jennie
Castillo, Matthew	Fotopoulos, John and Barbara	Kentros, William and Fernanda	Murnane, Sharon
Cero, Dean	Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia	Khoury, Ray and Nicole	Murphy, Terry and Karen
Chachas, Bessie	Frangakis, Costa	Kilgore, Richard and Eleni	Murray, Chris and George, Veneta
Chachas, James	Frangakis, John	Kleanthis, George and Zanetta	Myers, Stella
Chandrinos, Alexia	Frantzen, Robert and Margery	Kokenes, Katherine	Nadzan, Don and Athena
Chandrinos, Peter	Franzi, Jack	Koliambas, Eleni	Nedelcu, Ciprian and Laura
Chanos, George	Fronimos, John and Margaret	Kolinas, Claire	Neocleous, Plato
Chomakos, Dean and Tammy	Ganatsios, Nikolaos and Melpo	Kolokithas, Thomas and Angie	Newell, Eric and Devona
Chomakos, George and Nikki	Gear, Darius	Konsolakis, George	Newell, Ronald and Maria
Chondrakis, Dimosthenis	George, Angela	Kontos, Spero and Diana	Nichlas, Arthur
Christopoulos, Ann	George, Louis	Kostopoulos, Georgia	Nicholas, James and Myrna
Christou, Andreas and Toni	George, Pete and Georgia	Kotonias, George and Patricia	Nicholas, John and Estella
Chumas, Russell and Stella	Georgiou, Byron and Therese	Kountanis, Dennis and Panagiota	Nichols, Mary
Clark, Noah	Georgiou, Trula	Kouretas, Demetri and Amanda	Nickolson, Chloe
Cole, Darrick and Carla	Georgis, John and Kaliope	Kouris, Anastasios	Nikitas, Rigas and Aphrodite
Collins, David	Gialketsis, Barbara	Kourlos, Georgia	Nikolopoulos, Nick and Demetra
Collins, Dean	Gialketsis, Bill and Shelli	Koutsulis, John and Eileen	Nikols, George+ and Christine
Collins, James and Barbara	Gialketsis, Julie	Koutsulis, Sam and Effie	O'Brien, William and Chris
Cominos, Ted	Gialketsis, Steve	Kover, Barbara	Olmsted, Travis and Marilyn
Conklin, Demetra	Gialketsis, Babe and Terry	Kuntelos, Simon and Sophia	Orlando, Alleck and Jennifer
Conger, William and Alexia	Gianakoulis, Nick and Magda	Kypreos, Peter and Geri	Osborn, Pearl
Constantine, Bill	Giouzelis, Anastasia	Kyprianou, Gilbert and Alexis	Ostis, Sotirios
Costuras, George and Marsha	Goddard, Elizabeth	Lakis, Antoinette	Pacheco, Nia
Cosulas, Rev. Basil and Samantha	Goldrick, Ethan and Robyn	Lambros, Argere and Mary	Pallis, Paul and Sandra
Cotsilis, Jenny	Gomes, Joseph and Cecelia	Latelle, Penny	Pandelis, Cheryl

## Orthodox Connection Las Vegas

Greetings from OCLV!

It is hard to believe that just over a year ago Father John blessed me with the task of being the director of OCLV.

When I first took the reins I had visions of grandeur about making this ministry a beacon to all those wishing to grow in our Orthodox Faith. My goal was, and still is to bring back those members who are not attending and draw the interest of newcomers to our Church, by inspiring them to participate in this ministry.

Some events have been successful and some have been complete failures, but still each month's activities are planned in advance, and I am and will continue to be there to participate. Admittedly, it would be nice if I had some company – as Jesus said, *“For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”* (Matthew 18:20)

I have asked in the past and ask again today: If anyone has any ideas for future events that they would find interesting, any days or times that would be more convenient, or anyone they think would be interested in attending, please let me know. I love our Church and this Ministry and will continue to strive to make it the beacon that I believe it can be.

Mark your calendars for our summer get-togethers:

- On **Saturday, July 16** at 4:30 pm we will meet at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, located at 480 W. Bonanza Rd., Las Vegas 89106. We will be assisting in serving food and cleaning up after dinner. Please RSVP by **Monday, July 11** so a list of names may be given to the Mission. Wear closed-toe shoes and clothes that you do not mind getting dirty.
- On **Saturday, August 20** at 11:00 am, please join us at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead. Come beat the heat and cool off at the lake. This is a potluck event; hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. We will meet at the picnic area; look for the OCLV banner. Please RSVP to me by **Monday, August 15** and include the dish you will bring.

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



Panos, William and Jeanne  
 Pantinas, John and Monica  
 Pantos, James  
 Papadakis, James and Georgia  
 Papas, Christian and Nicole  
 Papas, Louis and Magaly  
 Papas, Peter and Rita  
 Pappas, Adrian and Diane  
 Pappas, Constantine and Karina  
 Pappas, Rita  
 Paton, Mia  
 Pelletier, Michael  
 Pendleton, Tricia  
 Pentogenis, Mike and Kathy  
 Peterson, Barbara  
 Petro, Aleko and Georgia  
 Philippou, Demetrios and Luanne  
 Platis, Anna  
 Plettzas, Spiros and Ruth  
 Polimerou, Angelina  
 Poulos, Christine  
 Pouridis, Kouli and Para  
 Prather, Moses Jr +  
 Prokopis, Chris and Ritsa  
 Prud'homme, Edwin and Penny  
 Punsalan, Basil and Sophie

Radosta, Athena  
 Raptis, Fr. Dean/Presv. Evonne  
 Rifakes, John and Carol  
 Rigas, Anthony and Mary  
 Roberts, Christopher  
 Robison, Diane  
 Robison, Patricia  
 Rodis, Dimitri and Jennifer  
 Rodis, Sophia  
 Ross, John and Georgia  
 Rothenberger, Marcus/Natasa  
 Rouvas, John and Keri  
 Salon, Nicholas and Janelle  
 Salvarlis, Thomas and Joyce  
 Savas, Christina  
 Savvas, Savva  
 Scott, Ann  
 Setian, Gary and Marie  
 Shinas, Maria  
 Sirhan, Michael  
 Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia  
 Skandros, Georgia  
 Skarlatos, Konstantine and  
 Frangopulu, Hristina  
 Skarlatos, Irene  
 Smith, Kathleen

Skerbetz, Frank and Sophia  
 Snow, Cliff and Christina  
 Snow, Stephanie  
 Snowden, Robert and Niki  
 Soper, Robert and Maria  
 Sotira, Dhimitra  
 Soursos, Savvas and Helene  
 Spanopoulos, Elias  
 Sparangis, Spyro and Helen  
 Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette  
 Spotti, Peter and Alexandra  
 Stamis, George and Effie  
 Stanford, Mike and Victoria  
 Stanford, Nennette  
 Stavropoulos, Bessie  
 Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki  
 Stefanatos-Hetzel, Joanne  
 Stefanatos, Michael and Tami  
 Stenos, Louis and Litsa  
 Stephanos, Aspasia  
 Stergion, Peter  
 Stika, Art and Melinda  
 Stock, Helen  
 Struzas, Maria  
 Szukiewicz, Joe  
 Szukiewicz, Joe and Jennia

Tafoya, Steven and Irene  
 Takas, Andrea  
 Tasio, Pete and Ramona  
 Taxiarchos, Andrew and  
 Alexandra  
 Taxopoulos, Bryan  
 Taylor, Katherine  
 Teed, Charles  
 Thomas, Angie  
 Thompson, Maggy  
 Thome, Tony and May  
 Tomlinson, Christina  
 Touroutoglou, Nikolaos  
 Trebicka, Ardian  
 Tringas, Chris  
 Tsarouhas, Maria  
 Tsolis, Christos and Pat  
 Tsolis, Kosta  
 Tsolis, Panagiote  
 Tsoukalas, Spyridon  
 Tsouras, Chris and Diane  
 Tzelalis, Steve  
 Varinos, Nick and Kiki  
 Vassiliadis, Athena  
 Vassiliadis, Spiros/ Shiona  
 Vaughn, Craig and Sophia

Vavoukakis, Penelope  
 Vergos, Charles and Eve  
 Walter, Vernon and Alice  
 Walters, Lane and Mary  
 Ward, Curtis and Angeliki  
 Waters, Gary and Susan  
 Weisman, Phil and Diane  
 Wilkerson, Chuck / Kristina  
 Willey, Anthony  
 Williams, Anthony and Anna  
 Wilson, Steven and Cleo  
 Womack, Carl  
 Womack, Kimberly  
 Wronski, Chuck  
 Xikis, Victoria  
 Zaferatos, Ted and Marinella  
 Zamir, Michelle and Talor  
 Zamora, Ulrich and  
 Alexandra  
 Zander, Becky  
 Zarras, Nick and Cherry  
 Zimmerman, Paul /Angela  
 Zouboulis, James and Tina

*“Love one another.”*

~Jesus



# JULY 2011 - IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD



*Sunday*

*Monday*

*Tuesday*

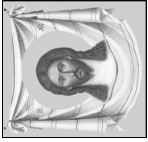
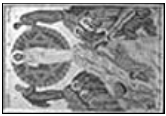
*Wednesday*

*Thursday*

*Friday*

*Saturday*

Fr. John is on vacation July 1-30. If you need a priest, please contact the Church Office.					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	<b>4</b> 7:30 pm Adult Basketball	<b>5</b> 6:00 pm GOYA Sports Night in Panos Hall	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 8:00 am Food Festival Baking: Baklava
<b>10</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:00 pm HOPE & JOY Lunch & Movie at Orleans	<b>11</b> 7:30 pm Adult Basketball	<b>12</b> 6:00 pm GOYA Sports Night in Panos Hall	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 4:30 pm OCLV at Las Vegas Rescue Mission
<b>17</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	<b>18</b> 7:30 pm Adult Basketball	<b>19</b> 6:00 pm GOYA Sports Night in Panos Hall	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:00 am Food Festival Baking: Baklava
<b>24</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	<b>25</b> 7:30 pm Adult Basketball	<b>26</b> 6:00 pm GOYA Sports Night in Panos Hall	<b>27 Great Martyr Panteleimon</b> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy						



# AUGUST 2011 - IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>7</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><b>1</b> 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos 7:30 pm Adult Basketball <b>Dormition Fast August 1-14</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos 7:15 pm Adult Study: <i>Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives</i></p>	<p><b>4</b> 8:00 am Food Festival Baking: Pastitsio</p>	<p><b>5</b> 8:00 am Food Festival Baking: Pastitsio 6:00 pm Great Vespers of the Transfiguration</p>	<p><b>6 Transfiguration of Our Savior</b> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy &amp; Blessing of Grapes 11:00 am Festival Baking: Pastitsio</p>
<p><b>8</b> 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos 7:30 pm Adult Basketball</p>	<p><b>8</b> 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos 7:30 pm Adult Basketball</p>	<p><b>9</b> 6:00 pm Parish Council</p>	<p><b>10</b> 2:00 pm HOPE &amp; JOY at King Putt Mini Golf 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos 7:15 pm Adult Study</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos</p>	<p><b>13</b> 8:00 am Food Festival Baking: Kataifi</p>
<p><b>14</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Great Vespers of the Dormition</p>	<p><b>15 Dormition of the Theotokos</b> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy &amp; Artoclasia <i>Fellowship Follows</i> 7:30 pm Adult Basketball</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b> 7:00 pm Adult Study</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> 8:00 am Food Festival Baking: Flavored Koulourakia/ Kourambiethes with Walnuts</p>	<p><b>20</b> 8:00 am Food Festival Baking: Kataifi and Bougatsa 11:00 am OCLV at Boulder Beach, Lake Mead</p>
<p><b>21</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:00 pm Panigyri (Greek Picnic)</p>	<p><b>22</b> 7:30 pm Adult Basketball</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> 7:00 pm Adult Study</p>	<p><b>25</b> 8:00 am Food Festival Baking: Dolmathes</p>	<p><b>26</b> 8:00 am Food Festival Baking: Dolmathes</p>	<p><b>27</b> 8:00 am Food Festival Baking: Dolmathes</p>
<p><b>28</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p><b>29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist</b> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:30 pm Adult Basketball</p>	<p><b>30</b> 6:00 pm Folk Dance Practice Begins</p>	<p><b>31</b> 7:00 pm Adult Study</p>			

# *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*

*“Every living thing seeks love: man, animals, and plants.*

*All people seek God and long for Him, regardless of whether they are believers or unbelievers.*

*Some people call themselves atheists, but they do not know that in their hearts they long after God.*

*For when someone yearns for justice, love and truth, he is really yearning after God.*

*All people long for love that never changes and justice that is always the same.*

*All living things long for God.*

*The only difference is that some oppose Him and other don't,  
some yearn after Him consciously while others are not aware  
that their yearning is really after God.”*

*- Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives: The Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica*