

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 9, Issue 8 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

September 2011

**From
Father
John**

Beloved in Christ:

Let us start this New Year of the Lord in September by, above all, thanking God for the abundant ways He has imparted His grace on us, our families and our Church during the past year. Regardless of our challenges, our forgetfulness, our sins, our rebelliousness or our shortcomings, His steadfast love and mercy remain forever, so we should always give thanks unto the Lord for He is indeed good. (*Psalm 136:1*)

It is no accident that every Orthodox Christian worship service, including the Divine Liturgy, begins with petitions calling for peace: *“In peace, let us pray to the Lord.”* This is, in all certainty, consistent with the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ, *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” (Matthew 5:9)* Obviously, Christ alone is our peace, having come in the flesh, taken on all the sins of mankind with His voluntary Crucifixion upon the Cross, and reconciled us to God by His glorious third-day Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven.

Our Church liturgical calendar invites us to look to the Cross of our Lord within the first month of the Ecclesiastical Year (*September 14*) and to understand, have faith in and, equally important, personally accept its meaning for us and the world – specifically, that by it we are at peace with God again. But how is it that we personally embrace and take up the Cross of Jesus Christ in our lives and become, as sons and daughters of God, peacemakers together with Him?

Often, we Christians seek peace in an abstract or external way – and we wonder why we live in turmoil! However, where in Holy Scriptures does Christ instruct us to make peace by stopping wars, putting an end to societal evils, changing governments or fixing what we determine to be the shortfalls of others? Instead, our Lord clearly teaches that we become peacemakers by taking up our own Crosses – that is, by struggling to change our own personal actions which are contrary to God’s ways and begin with our warring thoughts.

A contemporary holy man, Elder Thaddeus, writes about the harmful effect of our thoughts: *“The evil is in us. However, this evil itself is not to blame. We are to blame for having let it into our hearts and for having disturbed our inner peace.”* How often do we blame others for destroying our peace, when really we have made little effort to maintain a living relationship with Christ, Who is our Peace, and to work toward keeping our minds and hearts at peace in all circumstances?

People offend or undermine us, and we become angry and defensive, vowing to get even. We are tempted by our passions, we give in, and we wonder why our life is full of confusion. The sins and shortcomings of others are glaringly obvious and we are quick to judge, but we remain blind to the ways we offend God and our fellow man. Beloved, how can we be the peacemakers – that is, the children of God – when we are at constant war in our thoughts, words and actions?

To be a community of Christ that is a genuine light to the world, each of us must seek His peace, starting with ourselves. Let us, then, make the effort to embrace and sustain the peace of Christ in our thoughts and with one another in the coming year so that, as His sons and daughters, we can truly pray to the Lord, serve and glorify Him as One Body.

With love in Christ,

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays: 8:45 am Orthros - 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Church School follows Holy Communion (Beginning September 11)
9:30 am Divine Liturgy on Sunday of the Greek Food Festival, September 25

Sunday, September 4/*12th Sunday of Matthew*
Orthros: Tone Three
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Matthew 28:16-20
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Gospel: Matthew 19:16-24

Wednesday, September 7
5:00 pm Orthros - 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy
(The Nativity of the Theotokos)
Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Thursday, September 8/*Nativity of Theotokos*
(Liturgy Celebrated on Wednesday Evening)

Sunday, September 11/*Sunday Before Holy Cross*
Orthros: Tone Four
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Mark 16:1-8
Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18
Gospel: John 3:13-17
Blessing of Water for New School Year
First Day of Church School Classes

Wednesday, September 14/*Elevation of the Holy Cross (Strict Fast)*
8:00 am Orthros
Procession of Cross at Doxology
9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24
Gospel: John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30

Sunday, September 18/*Sunday After Holy Cross*
Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Mark 16:9-20
Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20
Gospel: Mark 34-38; 9:1

Sunday, September 25/*1st Sunday of Luke/*
St. Euphrosyne/St. Paphnutios of Egypt
Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:1-12
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15
Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

"I will bless the Lord at all times!" ~Psalm 34:1

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

September 4

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

Memorial: Dionisios Kountanis (1 year); Constantine Vavoukakis (1 year)

Fellowship: Orthodox Family Fellowship

September 11

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

Memorial: James Zoumboulis (40 days); Victims of 9/11 (10 years)

Fellowship: Tina Zoumboulis, in Memory of Jim

September 18

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

Memorial: Paraskevi Margaritsanakis (40 days); Those who fell asleep in the battle to capture Tripolitsa in 1822; Founding Pan-Arcadian Alea Chapter Presidents, George Giannakoulis and Tom Andrew

Fellowship: ALEA Chapter of Pan-Arcadians - Tripolitsa

September 25

Ushers: Entire Parish Council

No Fellowship: Please join us for the 39th Annual Greek Food Festival!

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

Here it comes: The Annual Greek Food Festival! What a wonderful time of year and magnificent opportunity to share the traditions and faith of the Greek Orthodox Church with the Las Vegas community! This is our time to shine, and to demonstrate how our Church community comes together for the glory of God. Most important, it is the public display of how we live, believe, and express our faith in our daily life. As such, the Festival is our annual expression to the community of who we are as Christian stewards.

As people come into the Festival they will observe us. They will experience our actions and expressions. They will evaluate our behavior in comparison to their perceptions and understandings of what it is to be a Christian, and the often unfamiliar aspects of Orthodoxy to whatever beliefs *they* have. Whether we are cooking, serving, cleaning, greeting or working within any of the multiple essential duties associated with this event, we should be aware that we are under the observation and, yes, assessment, of those who are both strangers and curious about the Greek Orthodox community. The Food Festival provides not only an opportunity for the diverse participants to enjoy our wonderful hand-prepared foods, but also results in how our community views our Greek Orthodox Christian character and beliefs. So what we present to them, as stewards, is very important.

This annual Festival provides us with two key stewardship opportunities that should not be missed. First, it is one of the most public opportunities to express Christian Stewardship in action. It is through this wonderful Festival that we give our time and talents to God and His Church. We feel good doing it and it is good for the Church by providing new resources. Secondly, it is an opportunity to reconnect to our faith through commitment and action. The Festival reminds each of us that we are a part of the larger and diverse Church community and, at the same time, our obligation to fulfill our stewardship commitments through serving, supporting and growing the Body of Christ. Let’s eagerly embrace this opportunity for faithfulness to God and His Church through our stewardship in action.

Gary Waters and the 2011 Stewardship Committee

<u>2011 Stewardship Status (August 15, 2011):</u>		Stewardship Target – 2011	\$350,000
Stewardship Families Pledged	428	Stewardship Gifts Pledged	\$300,709
Stewardship Gifts Received	\$196,275	Current Stewardship Deficit	\$49,291
Average Stewardship Pledge	\$702.59	Percentage of Goal Achieved	86%

<u>Pledge Range</u>	<u>Number of Families</u>	<u>\$ of Gifts Pledged</u>
\$1-\$999	322	\$ 104,384
\$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	420	428	+8
Gifts Pledged	\$306,806	\$300,709	-\$6,097
Gifts Received	\$218,291	\$196,275	-\$22,016
Average Pledge	\$730.49	\$702.59	-\$27.90

Greek Food Festival Baking Schedule

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.

Parish Council Report

September is here and that means Festival time! The Parish Council is counting on everyone to pitch in and lend a hand! If you are reading this and have not signed up to volunteer at the Festival then THIS MEANS YOU!

I would like to challenge everyone to not only come out and volunteer but also to take the time to think about where you can take over next year. That's right: I'm talking about both this year and next year! We should all look at the booth we are working at this year and think about taking over for the current booth chairman next year. If you are interested, then now is the time. Talk to your booth chairman and mirror him or her, and make the move from volunteer to booth chairman or co-chairman. Believe it or not, it is an exercise in Stewardship; we should be more inclusive, sharing and open with those around us, and the Festival is the perfect time to bring in new and more Stewards.

Greek School is back, with the help of the Pan-Acadians. Please sign up your kids for our Greek Language Classes which start on *Tuesday, September 6*.

I would like to thank the Tzelalis Family for once again putting on a wonderful luncheon for the Church. Their dedication to St. John parish is an inspiration to us all. If anyone else wishes to follow their example, please contact Sheryl for open dates and we will work to make a successful event together.

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 Months of June and July 2011

<u>Bank Accounts</u>	<u>Beginning Balance as of 5.31.11</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balances as of 6.30.11</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balances as of 7.31.11</u>
General Operating	\$20,787.66	\$60,886.31	\$72,359.68	\$9,314.29	\$46,251.04	\$48,432.57	\$7,132.76
Building/Maintenance	\$21,513.37	\$2.69		\$21,516.06		\$21,675.16	-\$159.10
Community/Education Ctr	-\$491.72	\$23,321.00	\$11,113.75	\$11,715.53	\$13,653.02	\$9,184.64	\$16,183.91
Construction (Loan Paymts)	\$19,674.16		\$5,304.90	\$14,369.26	\$1,172.00	\$6,526.30	\$9,014.96
Food Festival	\$26,242.38	\$3,500.00	\$24,067.40	\$5,674.98	\$5,955.00	\$8,203.44	\$3,426.54
Icon Money Market	\$8,072.54	\$1.40	\$62.53	\$8,011.41	\$186.02	\$7,032.00	\$1,165.43
Library Checking	\$15,131.07	\$1.87	\$313.40	\$15,132.94	\$1.65		\$15,134.59
Online Donations	\$1,200.09			\$1,200.09			\$1,200.09
Bookstore Checking	\$438.84	\$377.00	\$171.40	\$644.44	\$281.00	\$1,363.03	-\$437.59
Construction Loan	\$650,927.35			\$649,115.66			\$650,927.35*
Revolving Line of Credit	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00
Term Loan (5 year loan)	\$0.00			\$0.00			\$0.00

*Fellowship donations of \$1,222 towards principal

Philoptochos News

Greetings! As our New Church Year soon begins in Philoptochos, we sincerely hope that your summer was healthy and enjoyable.

In August, we hosted two fellowships as well as helped with the 'Panigyri' Picnic. We want to thank everyone who was generous with their donations and the bakers who provided all of our delectable sweets. We also do not want to forget to say thank you for the beautiful flowers for the Dormition of the Theotokos. Thanks to all for your time and donations.

Our first General Meeting will be on *Tuesday, September 13* at 6:30 pm in Kokkos Hall, with light refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. We will be planning our events for the year and need everyone's participation.

Finally, as Festival baking continues in September, we invite you to please join us.
Your Sisters in Christ, Geri Kypreos and the Philoptochos Board

Thank You . . .

Presvytera Ilean and I would like to thank all of you for your thoughtfulness as I recover from foot surgery. We especially are grateful for your prayers. *-God Bless You! Father Paul Eyler*

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 Office at (702) 221-8245. A formal invitation will follow in early September.



Adult Study Classes This Fall:

Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith

Starting Monday, October 3 at 7:00 pm

For Inquirers, Catechumens and Orthodox Christians

'Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives'

The Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

Continuing each Wednesday in September (unless noted)

7:00 - 8:30 pm - Fr. John Hondros, Instructor

Both Classes Held in Kokkos Hall

Books available in our Orthodox Bookstore

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5300 S. El Camino Rd.
Las Vegas, NV 89118

Rev. Father John Hondros

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Parish Council: Spiros Filios

Philoptochos: Geri Kypreos

Choir: Athena Mertes

Chanters/Youth Choir:
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Church School:
Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers:
Alex Szukiewicz

Stewardship Committee:
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: Paula Kelesis

Orthodox Bookstore:
Matthew Castillo

Bill Andrews Library:
Spero Demoleas

Youth Ministries

Church School

Hi Everyone! Can you believe another school year is starting? I hope everyone had a great summer. Our first day of classes will be on *Sunday, September 11*. Students must be 4 years old (before September 30 - starting Kindergarten next year) through Senior year of High School.

On the first day of classes, the students will receive Holy Communion with their parents and after we will remain in Church to receive our Blessing of the Holy Water. Following Communion, the students will line up on the side of the Church near the baptismal font, and after we receive our blessing, we will head out to the classrooms until class ends at 12:15 pm.

Please make sure you register your children before the first day of class. I will be taking registration forms (*see Page 7*) on Sundays or you can bring them to Karen in the Church Office. Please include your cash supply fee with your completed registration.

I look forward to a great school year and please do not hesitate to email me or to give me a call with any questions or concerns at vivaleenie@cox.net or (702) 521-6516.

In Christ, Eileen Koutsulis, Director

Greek Folk Dance

Dance practice for the 2011-2012 year has begun! Dancers are practicing for their performances at our Greek Food Festival and learning new material for the Folk Dance Festival in February. Our Entertainment Book Sale has also started: You can purchase your Entertainment Book for \$30 from any of the dance families. And please mark your calendars now for our 2nd Annual Wine Walk to be held on *Saturday, November 5* in Panos Hall.

The Dance Ministry will be holding a Swap Meet/Holiday Boutique on *Saturday, December 3* in Panos Hall. We will have spaces available to rent where you can sell your own items, such as clothes, shoes, garage sale items, book, crafts, etc. Proceeds from the rental of the spaces will benefit St. John Church's Operating Fund.

Early Bird Dance Registration has ended, and registration continues through *October 15*. The fee for Greek Dance Registration is now \$150 per dancer. Although registration ends on October 15, we encourage all interested dancers to register as soon as possible, as practices began on *August 30* and continue every Tuesday night. The longer a dancer waits to register and attend practice, the harder it will be to catch up with the rest of the group.

Tina Liao and the Greek Folk Dance Board

GOYA

Hello to All Our GOYAns! It is that time of year again for our Greek Food Festival! We need your help with baking, so please look for those dates in *The Desert Messenger* and Weekly Bulletin. Also, we need everyone the weekend of *September 23-25*, so sign up and volunteer for YOUR Festival. Let's work hard and make it a success!

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

HOPE and JOY

Our next event will be in October! This month we will be dedicating all of our time to the Greek Food Festival. Please help make this year's Festival a success by volunteering for baking, helping out at booths and most of all having fun! OPA! Your Sisters in Christ, Sharon Katsaros and Jenn Orlando

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

Greek Language Classes

Beginning *Tuesday, September 6*, the Pan-Arcadian Federation of America ALEA Chapter will fund and administer Greek Language Classes for beginning students. Students whose parents or grandparents are current Stewards of St. John Church are eligible to enroll. Better yet, the classes are FREE!

Class times are as follows: Ages 8 - 10 - 4:30 - 5:45 pm; Ages 5 - 7 - 6:00 - 7:15 pm. Paula Kelesis is the instructor for both classes.

The registration deadline has been extended to Tuesday, September 6. Please pick up a registration form at the Church Office.

Youth Choir News



Happy New Church and School Year! After a two month hiatus, the Youth Choir will chant the Divine Liturgy on *Sunday, September 11*, which is also the first day of Church School. ALL Youth Choir Members: Please meet in the front right-hand side of the Church at 9:40 am, so we can begin the Doxology at 9:50 am.

We will begin Youth Choir rehearsals the first Sunday of October after Church School. New members are encouraged to join us. More information will follow. Looking forward to another great year for youth and music.

Love in Christ, Presvytera Maria

Orthodox Family Fellowship

Orthodox Family Fellowship will be kicking off the new school year with a potluck on *Saturday, September 10*, 5:00 pm, at the residence of Jeremy and Amy Bauck. We invite all families with children newborn through their graduation of elementary school to join us! This will give us a chance to informally discuss meaningful topics that affect young families and to further strengthen our Orthodox Community. Please call Amy at (702) 250-5064 for directions and to let her know what you will bring.

Look for announcements of all OFF events on our new Facebook page at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-John-the-Baptist-Orthodox-Family-Fellowship/235671876468442?sk=wall>. If you are a Facebook user please search for the St. John the Baptist Orthodox Family Fellowship page and become a fan so that you can stay informed. You can also contact Karen in the Church Office at karen@vegasgreekorthodox.com in order to be added to our email list.

We look forward to spending the evening with your family.

God Bless, Amy and Jeremy Bauck, OFF Directors

Forerunners - The Seniors of St. John the Baptist

Due to a health issue in the Setian Family (our new co-Presidents), the change of office of Presidency will take place beginning January 1, 2012. I will continue in this office until that time.

Once again, we call upon our seniors to continue our great participation in working at our Greek Food Festival. I also hope that our message is read here by those ages 18-35, as we need you to be greater participants as Festival workers. Contemplate this: We old folk are one-by-one passing on; this is the chance for you young people to learn how to keep our wonderful event running smooth over the coming years.

I realize that in these hard times many have found it difficult to contribute as much money as they would like to our Church. The Festival is a great opportunity to give of your time without a cost to the family budget. Please remember that every work hour you give results in money for the Church.

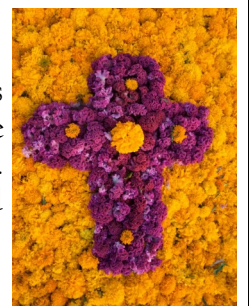
Charles Teed

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." ~Gal.2:20

Orthodox Bookstore

It is September and so much is happening! The Greek Food Festival is upon us once again. It is a New Ecclesiastical Year, and I wish you all a Happy Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Please come and see what is new and what has been ordered for the Festival. If anyone is interested in volunteering time during the Festival, please see me so I can add you to the list.

Matthew Castillo, Bookstore Director



Orthodox Connection Las Vegas

Greetings from OCLV!

Happy New Year, ecclesiastically speaking! I am sure we are all relieved that the heat of the summer is on its way out. If you are anything like me, the heat drains your energy and makes you want to stay inside as much as possible. The summer season seems to be a time when some may drift away from the Church because of vacations, lack of energy caused by the heat, or maybe because Fr. John is on vacation for a month and he would not know if you missed. Well, now the summer vacations are coming to an end, the heat is dissipating, and Fr. John is back to help keep us in line. Being that it is the beginning of the Church Year, let us renew our faith and service to Christ and His Church.

What better way to renew our commitment than to volunteer our time and talents for the Greek Food Festival? As you know, the Festival is the showcase of the Greek Heritage and opens the eyes of the community to the Orthodox Christian Church. Our Church needs us to make this event a success. I would hope that each member of OCLV would make time to volunteer at least the minimum of one shift at this wonderful event. This is a great way to begin the year with some hard work dedicated toward Christ. And do not forget to enjoy the fruits of your labor by inviting friends and family and spending time as a patron of the 2011 Greek Food Festival.

For more information on volunteering, please contact the Church Office at (702) 221-8245.

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

Notes from the Loft

Welcome back everyone! I hope you had a fun and restful summer! Regular Choir rehearsals will resume in September. Please make every effort to attend, so we can continue learning new music.

If you are interested in joining the Choir, new members are always welcome and encouraged. Singing in the Choir is an excellent way to offer your time and talent! We especially need more men in the Choir, as they are far outnumbered by the women. Increasing the number of men in the Choir will help us achieve the balanced, well-rounded sound that we are working toward. I am certain that there are more men in this parish that can sing!

Rehearsals will be held on *Wednesday, September 14* and *Wednesday, September 21* at 6:00 pm. The Youth Choir will sing on Sunday, September 11.

Athena Mertes, Choir Director

ALOSIS TRIPOLITSA!

Members of the Alea Chapter of the Pan-Arcadian Federation of America are inviting the entire parish community to join them on *Sunday, September 18* for a memorial service commemorating those who fell in the battle to capture Tripolitsa from the Ottoman Turks in September 1822.

Immediately following the service, everyone is invited to a Submarine Sandwich Luncheon in Panos Hall. The Alea Chapter is underwriting the entire cost and designating all proceeds to St. John Greek Orthodox Church to help pay off the mortgage. Tickets will be sold at the door: Adults - \$10; Children 12 and under - \$5. Soft drink and dessert are included. Come, enjoy the fellowship and join us in supporting our Church.

Pedicures for the Parish

One of our parishioners has graciously donated a limited amount of pedicures to St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church. This would make a great gift! We are asking for a minimum donation of \$30 and all proceeds will benefit the Church.

If you would like to purchase the pedicure gift cards, please contact Karen at the Church Office at (702) 221-8245 or karen@vegasgreekorthodox.com.





Please Join Us for Our Second Annual

Wine Walk

Saturday, November 5, 2011

7:00 – 10:00 pm

Panos Hall



\$50 in advance or \$65 at the door ~ All guests must be 21 or older with ID

Featuring over 40 different wines from all over the world
and a great selection of champagnes, a raffle, light fare and more!
Please bring your wine-loving family, friends and neighbors!

**For tickets or more information contact Kouli or Para Pouridis at (702) 304-1726,
Tammy Chomakos at (702) 338-4671 or Effie Lekar at (702) 768-5500**

Proceeds benefit Folk Dance Groups of St. John the Baptist

Our Community Registry

Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun

Matthew (Jaylen), son of Majd and Areen Alhayek on June 25, 2011. Godparent: Luai Abuaita.

Constantine, son of Nicholas and Jennifer Tselikis on August 20, 2011. Godparent: Demetrios Mavroidis.

Vasiliki (Kailey), daughter of Michael and Victoria Stanford on August 20, 2011. Godparent: Lance Altenau.

Yannis (Julius), son of Michael and Victoria Stanford on August 20, 2011.

Godparents: Lance and Tina Altenau.

Niko (Nicholas), son of Michael and Victoria Stanford on August 20, 2011. Godparent: Tina Altenau.

Susanna (Brianna) daughter of Michael and Victoria Stanford on August 20, 2011.

Godparents: Lance and Tina Altenau.

Athena, daughter of Nicholas Mascoli and Alexis Herman on August 20, 2011.

Godparent: Zachary Franzi.

Marriage: Na Zisetel

Marcus Rothenberger and Natasa Christodoulidou on June 25, 2011.

Sponsor: Theano Christou.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory

Claire Kolinas on July 22, 2011. Funeral on July 28.

Antigone Margiolas on July 23, 2011. Funeral on July 29.

James G. Zoumboulis on August 9, 2011. Funeral on August 13.

Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance . . . and protect Your nation with Your Cross!

The Desert Messenger

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

The Way of the Lord

*Lifted up of Your own will upon the Cross,
bestow Your mercy on the new nation
that bears Your Name.
Make the Orthodox people glad
in Your strength,
giving them victory over their enemies.
May Your Cross assist them in battle,
as a weapon of peace and
unconquerable ensign of victory.
- Kontakion, Elevation of the Holy Cross*



*9/11/01 ~
We Will Always
Remember!*

