

# The Desert



# Messenger

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

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Volume 4, Issue 3 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

March 2006

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## From Father John

Beloved in Christ:

*By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion.  
... How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? (Psalm 137:1, 4)*

The journey that we Orthodox know as Lent begins with “*Kathara Deftera*” (“*Clean Monday*”) on **March 6**. Before we embark on our 40-day pilgrimage to Pascha – our return to the Heavenly Zion, the New Jerusalem, and the Kingdom of God – we must first recognize and understand our exile from God. It is fitting that on the Sunday before Lent the hymns reflect on “the Expulsion of Adam from Paradise.” Just as the above Psalm speaks of the Jews that were held captive by their enemies in a foreign land, the Church reminds us liturgically that all of mankind has been separated from God through sin, and thus exiled from Paradise: “*Adam sat before Paradise and, lamenting his nakedness, he wept: ‘Woe is me! By evil deceit was I persuaded and led astray, and now I am an exile from glory . . .’*” (*Doxastikon, Vespers on Saturday before Lent*)

For a meaningful journey, we must identify with those held captive in Babylon and share their intense longing for their homeland. Father Alexander Schmemmann writes in his classic *Great Lent*: “. . . man was created for paradise, for knowledge of God and communion with Him. Man's sin has deprived him of that blessed life and his existence on earth is exile. Christ, the Savior of the world, opens the door of paradise to everyone who follows Him, and the Church, by revealing to us the beauty of the Kingdom, makes our life a pilgrimage toward our heavenly fatherland. . . . Lent is the liberation of our enslavement to sin, from the prison of ‘this world.’” Christ, through His Passion and Life-giving Resurrection, makes Paradise a possibility for each and every one of us. Apart from Christ and His Church, it is impossible to return to the glory for which we were created. Lent, then, is our journey *through the Church* that reconciles us to God.

Our Church provides us with spiritual tools during our Lenten pilgrimage to help liberate us from sin – fasting, increased worship and repentance. We fast because *through food* Adam and Eve were rebellious toward God and cast out of Paradise. From the Orthodox perspective, fasting is not equated with dieting or giving up certain foods; rather, it is in obedience to our Lord's teaching that “**man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.**” (*Matthew 4:4*) As we cannot fast properly without simultaneously feasting on God's Word, the Lenten season offers many opportunities for us to gather for worship. Our “Lenten Challenge” is to go beyond keeping Sunday as our one day dedicated to the Lord. We are encouraged to step up our spiritual effort by attending the various evening services that are offered: Vespers on Sunday at the various Orthodox parishes, Great Compline on Monday, the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts on Wednesday, and the Salutations to the Theotokos on Friday. Finally, our return to Paradise necessitates that we take the time reflect on the ways we personally have been slaves to sin; like the Prodigal Son, true repentance and confession changes our longing for God into communion with Him again. As the “Waiting Father,” my door is open for all who will knock.

May all of you have a Blessed Lenten Journey! Love in Christ,

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

*Sundays: 8:45 am Orthros, 10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
Religious Education follows Holy Communion*

*Weekdays (Unless Noted): 8:00 am Orthros, 9:00 am Divine Liturgy*

**Saturday, March 4/2nd Saturday of Souls**

Epistle: Galatians 5:22-6:2

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-13

*Memorial follows Liturgy*

**Sunday, March 5/Cheesefare/Forgiveness Sunday**

Orthros: Tone Four

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:1-12

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

**Monday, March 6/Clean Monday/Lent Begins**

6:30 pm Great Compline

**Wednesday, March 8**

6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy

**Friday, March 10**

7:00 pm 1st Salutations to the Theotokos

**Saturday, March 11/3rd Saturday of Souls**

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10

Gospel: Mark 2:23-3:5

*Memorial follows Liturgy*

**Sunday, March 12/1st Sunday of Lent/  
Triumph of Orthodoxy**

Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:13-35

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40

Gospel: John 1:44-52

*Procession of Icons follows Liturgy*

**6:00 pm Lenten Vespers at Paul the Apostle**

**Monday, March 13**

6:30 pm Great Compline

**Wednesday, March 15**

6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy

**Friday, March 17**

7:00 pm 2nd Salutations to the Theotokos

**Sunday, March 19/2nd Sunday of Lent/  
St. Gregory Palamas**

Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:36-53

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

**6:00 pm Lenten Vespers at St. John the Baptist**

**Monday, March 20**

6:30 pm Great Compline

**Wednesday, March 22**

6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy

**Friday, March 24**

7:00 pm 3rd Salutations to the Theotokos

**Saturday, March 25/Annunciation of the Theotokos**

Epistle: Hebrews 2:11-18

Gospel: Luke 1:24-38

**Sunday, March 26/3rd Sunday of Lent/  
Veneration of the Holy Cross**

*Procession of the Holy Cross at Doxology*

Orthros: Tone Seven (Grave)

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:1-10

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

**6:00 pm Lenten Vespers at St. Simeon**

**Monday, March 27**

6:30 pm Great Compline

**Wednesday, March 29**

6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy

**Friday, March 31**

7:00 pm 4th Salutations to the Theotokos

*Lent Begins Monday, March 6 ~  
Holy Pascha (Easter) is Sunday, April 23*

**Lenten Services:**

- **Sunday Evening Lenten Vespers:** Offered in each Orthodox parish on a rotational basis
  - **Great Compline:** Prayer service with penitential psalms and ancient hymns
- **Presanctified Liturgy:** Ancient, subdued evening service with pre-consecrated Eucharist
- **Salutations to the Theotokos:** Beautiful poetic hymns to the Virgin Mary, related to the Annunciation

**President's  
Column**

Greetings, Fellow Parishioners:

Here we are approaching March, with the beginning of Lent just around the corner!

Food Festival planning will start soon under the capable leadership of George Nikols and John Matsis. We all need to support them, as this event grows bigger every year. We invite you to attend the meetings and make a commitment to take a leadership role in the Food Festival. Booth Captains, planners, and coordinators extremely important to the success of the event, as are the workers the days of the event itself. Keep informed by attending the meetings and place your name at the top of the list of leadership. Look how successful the Festival was last year, with a profit of over \$400,000. This year, with everyone's help, we can make the Festival even bigger and even more profitable.

The iconography is moving right along. We have received computer generated graphics of the plan for the dome. After receiving the approval of Metropolitan Gerasimos, the iconographer, Christofanis Voutsinas, will begin the actual work in his studio in Greece. September of 2006 will bring him here to install the work in the *Pantokratora* and the two empty spaces in the corners of the Church. This phase will take six weeks to complete. Of course, this project needs financial support, and we need to raise \$230,000. Joanne DeMangus and Cheryl Pandelis have volunteered to help raise this money, and they will be calling on you to participate.

Other projects in the works are the addition to the warehouse by the kitchen, lighting the entire parking lot with sufficient energy-saving lights, adding four security cameras and renovating the fountains.

The next big event on our events calendar is the Greek Independence Day Party in Panos Hall on Saturday, March 25. Please plan to attend this function, sponsored by the AHEPANs, who always do a great party. Please mark your calendar for this and all future Church events. This is one of the ways that our Greek Community flourishes. **Respectfully, Angelo Stamis**

***Sunday Schedules***

**March 5**

**Ushers:** Angelo Stamis, George Filios, Marina Adamy, John Matsis, Sam Koutsulis, George Andrews

**Memorial:** James Giannos (40 days), Steve Pappas (3 years)

**Fellowship:** Philoptochos

**March 12**

**Ushers:** John Nicholas, Kouli Pouridis, George Nikols, George Kakavulias, Pete Kypreos, Peter Papas

**Fellowship:** Daughters of Penelope

**March 19**

**Ushers:** Marina Adamy, John Matsis, Sam Koutsulis, George Andrews, Angelo Stamis, George Filios

**Fellowship:** HOPE & JOY

**March 26**

**Ushers:** George Nikols, George Kakavulias, Peter Kypreos, Peter Papas, John Nicholas, Kouli Pouridis

**Fellowship:** Senior Forerunners

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
GREEK ORTHODOX  
CHURCH**

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Choir: Faye Brown

Youth Choir:

Presvytera Maria Hondros

Religious Education:

Elena Madsen

Altar Servers:

Christopher Hondros

Librarian: Alexandra Spotti

Stewardship Committee:

John Matsis, John Karas

Outreach:

Doris Pina

Hellenic Historical Society:

Nitsa Filios

Philoptochos:

Angela Hernquist

Senior GOYA:

Geo Nikols

Junior GOYA

Effie Lekar,

Alexandra Carrico

HOPE & JOY

Tammy Chomakos, Para Pouridis,

Jennifer Orlando, Christy Vino

Orthodox Family Fellowship:

Michael & Tami Stefanatos

Senior Forerunners:

Tessie Peterson

Greek Folk Dance:

Bessie Stavropoulos

Georgia Bingham, Carla Cole

Greek Language Classes:

Evgenia Sotiropoulou,

Andreas Taxiarchos,

Antonia Tzelalis, Matina Mimikos

**Philoptochos  
News**

Dear *Friends*,

Hopefully you took a few moments and enjoyed the month of February. Our Parish has never been so busy ~ what a great time!

**Our General meeting this month on is March 14 at 7:00 pm.** We are beginning our preparations for Lent, Holy Week, Pascha and the Agape Picnic. Pascha holds special meaning for Philoptochos and our endeavors are an integral part of this celebration. We hope that you will sign up to help and look forward to your participation! At this meeting we will also be assembling 250 lunch bags for the seniors at the Sartini Senior Housing Center. This is a low-income senior center and the Director will be joining us to personally thank everyone for all of the years of support that Philoptochos has given the center. I hope that you will join us and meet this woman who is a true “hero” in every sense of the word as her work is both heartbreaking and inspiring. If you have ever doubted the impact of our donations to the senior center, this will change your mind!

In addition, the efforts that **EVERYONE** has put forth this year have resulted in a budget surplus. In March we will be soliciting your thoughts and opinions for how this surplus should be donated to our National, Metropolis, and local charities! As always, you do not have to be a member to participate ~ *the more hands and hearts, the better!*

**Angela Hernquist and the Philoptochos Board Members**

**Notes From the Loft**



The 2006 Winter Choir Business Meeting took place the weekend of January 20-22, hosted by St. John the Baptist Choir of Anaheim. We had 12 Churches represented at the meeting. There are 60 Churches in the Metropolis of San Francisco, 42 of which are members of the Choir Federation.

The 2006 Church Music Conference will take place in San Francisco. The Westin Hotel near the airport will be the conference headquarters. Rooms will be \$109 per night plus tax. Registration will be approximately \$175 to \$200. This year Dr. Ted Bogdanos will be honored for his liturgical hymns and works. He will conduct the adult choir.

A report was given by Kathy Meck of San Diego, chair of the 2005 Music Conference. She reported that the conference was a financial success and that her commitment had the full backing of the Parish Council, Philoptochos, Youth and Dance Groups, and the Clergy. She stated that 172 singers had attended, the largest number ever. During old business I corrected Kathy’s report and stated that perhaps the 2004 Music Conference in Las Vegas may not have been as financially successful, but that we had 217 participants and 297 in attendance.

In the absence of Father James Diavatis due to illness, Father James Adams, presently substituting in Long Beach, opened and closed the meeting with a hymn and prayer. On Sunday, 14 of the 26 delegates sang with the St. John Choir. Bill Bobolis of Sacramento was the Host Director. **Victoria Xikis, Delegate**

**Youth and  
Children’s Choir**

The Youth Choir will again chant the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, March 5 at 9:45 am. People have been enjoying our singing so let’s keep up the good work. The Youth Choir will again chant the *Heretismi* (Salutations) Services on Friday nights during Lent. Rehearsals will begin at 6:00 pm on Friday, March 10, 17, 24, and 31, with services following at 7:00 pm

We had a fantastic turnout for the first-ever Children’s Choir last month. The next rehearsals for the Children’s Choir will be Sunday, March 5, 12, 19, and 26, following Religious Education.

I thank all the parents form both Choirs for all your support. Have a wonderful and blessed Lenten Season.

**Love, Presv. Maria**

***Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian***

***Lord and Master of my life, cast away from me the spirit of laziness, idle curiosity, love of power and vain talk. But grant me, Your servant, the spirit of moderation, humility, patience, and love.***

***Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own faults and not to judge my brothers and sisters.***

***For You are blessed forever. Amen.***

## Religious Education Program

This month we will be focusing on the Lenten Season and continue learning about the Saints for March. The classes will make a mini presentation directly after the Gospel is read in the Divine Liturgy during the month of March and part of April. In March, the classes presenting will be Pre K and Kindergarten on March 19, 4th/5th and 6th - 8th graders on March 26. In April the classes presenting will be the 1st, 2nd-3rd on April 2nd and 9th - 12th grade on April 9. The Procession of Icons will be on March 12. The students are asked to bring an Icon from home, unless the teachers tell you otherwise. The students will be participating in the procession. Once again, we will be doing the Annual Pennies and Prayers in partnership with the Ladies Philoptochos. The students will be collecting each Sunday in class and collecting during Fellowship Hour starting on March 19. So bring that loose change from home!

Father John will be starting his four-week discussion series with the 6th - 12th graders on Monday, March 13, 7:30-8:30 pm (after Compline) in Kokkos Hall. The series — "*Where We Are . . . and Where Are We Going?*" — will include various topics of discussion regarding our Faith and questions this age group has always wanted to ask. The series will conclude on April 3. Parents are welcome too! We are planning a discussion series for 3rd - 5th grade after Pascha.

If you have any questions, please contact **Elena Madsen, Director, 287-3030**

### Senior GOYA

***We need an advisor!*** So if anyone wants to help us, please talk to Father John.

The Pancake Breakfast has been postponed to after the holy Lenten season. Speaking of Lent, GOYA is going on their annual Lenten retreat in Boulder City. This is a time when the kids have one-on-one time with Father John and have workshops to get closer to God and to each other. We are leaving Friday, March 3 and coming back Saturday in the afternoon. We will be discussing three topics related to *Living in God's Presence*: Keeping God in our life, using a muddied mirror as a tool for discovery, and learning by example from the Biblical texts.

Again, if you wish to help lead GOYA as an advisor, please contact Father John. Thank you.

**Geo Nikols Senior GOYA President**

### Junior GOYA

Hello Junior GOYANS! Gear up for our Lenten Retreat in Boulder City on March 3 and 4.

It is a Church-sponsored event to help us in our journey through Lent. We will drive up Friday afternoon and leave Saturday afternoon. We have scheduled Divine Liturgy, a workshop, meals and more. We need you to sign-up due to limited space, so please call right away.

This will be a great opportunity to bond with your friends and your faith. Please call to sign-up and for any questions to the advisors: Alexandra Carrico 655-8641 and Effie Lekar 768-5500.

Love in Christ, **Alexandra and Effie**

## HOPE and JOY

We want to congratulate all of our dancers that participated at FDF this year in San Diego, especially the young ones from HOPE and JOY. You make us all very proud!

Our unseasonably warm weather has made us cancel our Mount Charleston trip twice. Hopefully, next year will make up for it. Please look in the Weekly Bulletin for upcoming activities this month.

Mark your calendars: April 15 ~ Saturday of Lazaros (Palm Tying); April 21 ~ Epitaphio Service at 3:00 pm with Children's Procession. Looking ahead, we will be going to a 51's Baseball Game on Saturday, May 13. Tickets are \$8 for all ages. If you are interested in attending, please call Para Pouridis at 304-1726 to reserve a seat. Look for April's Desert Messenger for more details.

Pre-school through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, all are welcome. **For more information call HOPE: Christy Vino 228-7657 or Para Pouridis 304-1726 JOY: Tammy Chomakos 338-4671 or Jennifer Orlando 370-6195**

## Folk Dance News

While athletes from the world over gathered in Turin to vie for medals at the Winter Olympics, Greek Orthodox youth congregated in San Diego during President's Weekend for a competition of a different kind. The much anticipated Greek Folk Dance Festival — commonly referred to as FDF in dance circles — drew young people from



throughout the Metropolis of San Francisco, Chicago, Boston, New York, and even Greece and Bulgaria for its 30th annual event.



St. John the Baptist parish, which has participated in the festival from the early years, was represented by two groups: Delfinia, which competed in the Advanced Primary category, and Argonaftes, in the Senior category. Like those competing for the Olympics, our youth spent several months practicing — and during the last month on an



almost nightly basis — in preparation for a gold medal performance. Under the able directorship of Bessie Stavropoulos (Argonaftes), Georgia Bingham and Carla Cole (Delfinia), and Presvytera Maria Hondros (Delfinia Choir), the Saint John the Baptist Dance and Choral Teams came home winners.



Delfinia, performing for the first time, showed well in both their Mainland and Cretan suites, but excelled in the Division II Choral Competition. The group placed second, singing the hymns of Theophany and St. John the Baptist and ending with the popular Greek folk song, "Psaropoula." Argonaftes shined in both of their Thracian suites, winning the special achievement award in their competitive category for their "Sitir Havasi" dance.



Congratulations to all our young people who represented our parish with dignity and "kefi." Special gratitude is extended to all the parents who organized the youth, and were there throughout the weekend to offer a helping hand and cheer our kids on. The team spirit from Las Vegas was unsurpassed. *"Eis Anoteri . . . Kai tou Chronou!"*



## Orthodox Family Fellowship

We would like to thank the Orlando Family for hosting the February Fellowship at their home. We all had a great time. Our review of the first chapter in the book, *Children in the Church*, went well. I want to remind everyone to mark June 3 on their calendars, for the Lake Mead boating fellowship. The big Pontoon boats cost \$240 for the day and hold up to 10 people, with a \$150 deposit. I need to get an interest list going, so if you could e-mail me at [tgstef@hotmail.com](mailto:tgstef@hotmail.com), I would greatly appreciate it. Please include the number of family members who will join us; this will help determine how many boats we need and the cost per family. I need to reserve the boats by April to ensure we get them. If your family owns a boat, please join us as well, so we can water ski, go tubing and boarding. This will be lots of fun so plan on coming!

The March Lenten Fellowship will be held at the home Rich and Vivi Baldwin on Saturday, March 11 at 6:00 pm. Please call for directions (363-4776). Remember: we will be reviewing chapter two of *Children in the Church*. Child care to be provided for a small fee.

We will be collecting peanut butter and jelly, crackers and Ziplock sandwich bags to donate to Shade Tree. Please bring them to the Baldwin's home and we will get them delivered. We look forward to seeing everyone and hope to see bright new faces as well. May God keep us all safe out of harm's way until we meet again. In Christ Service, **Mike and Tami**

## Senior Forerunners

The March Senior Forerunners Luncheon will be a Buffet at The Orleans. Please come and join us for a wonderful lunch (with many Lenten options) and great time. We will be at The Orleans on Tuesday, March 21, at 11:30 am. The cost is only \$10. Please call either **Aphy 873-9370 or Tessie at 645-8715** for reservations. Any senior interested in the Medicare Part D prescription coverage, please contact Lori Wilson (Faye Brown's Daughter) at 796-2123.

## AHEPA News

Applications are now available at the Church Office for the AHEPA Chapter #314 Scholarships for 2006. Students who meet the criteria are encouraged to fill out applications.

The deadline for submitting has been extended to **March 8, 2006**.

**George Nikols, President**

### Holy Confession:

*Lent is the "season of repentance" for Orthodox Christians. Father John is available for Confession, by appointment, during the weekdays of Lent. Please do not wait until Holy Week, as Father will not hear Confessions that week.*

### Recent Sacraments

#### *Baptized into Christ*

**Sofia**, daughter of George and Michelle Bosnos, on January 29, 2006.  
Godparent: Dorothea Eliakis Maland.

**Nadia Angeliki**, daughter of Mourad and Kathleen Agrebi, on February 7, 2006.  
Godparent: Theodora Springer.

**Anna (Bridget) McMahon** (Adult Baptism) on February 12, 2006.  
Godparents: Dean and Yancey Pappas.

**Aleksandra**, daughter of Jesse and Dianna Eyler, on February 25, 2006.  
Godparents: Pamela Eyler and John Eyler.

#### *Marriage*

**Alexander Elias Papaefthimiou and Kara Jean Mulkern**  
on February 4, 2006. Koumbaros: Nicholas Papaefthimiou.

*Na Zisete!*

#### *Fallen Asleep in the Lord*

**James J. Giannos** on January 21, 2006. Funeral on January 27.  
**Athena Priamos** on February 8, 2006. Funeral on February 11.

*May their memory be eternal.*

The Las Vegas AHEPA FAMILY Invites You To Celebrate

# GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2006

Cocktails 6:30 pm - Dinner 7:30 pm

St. John The Baptist Greek Orthodox Church  
Panos Community Center, Las Vegas, Nevada

## INCLUDING

AHEPA CHAPTER 314 SCHOLARSHIP  
AWARDS DINNER

*COMPLETE SIT DOWN GOURMET DINNER*

Greek Salad - Fish - Pilaf - Greek Beans

Rolls and Butter - Dessert - Coffee - Soda

Donation: Adults \$30.00 - Children under 14 yrs. \$15.00

GREEK AND AMERICAN MUSIC

FOR YOUR DANCING PLEASURE



FOR RESERVATIONS CALL

GEORGE NIKOLS - 871-5909 or GILBERT KYPRIANOU - 876-3178

## Parish Outreach

### *Newcomers Committee: Volunteers needed!*

We are going to put forth an effort to expand the Outreach goals in the near future and *we need your help!* With the rapid growth of our city, we have new faces every Sunday in Church. We hope that you will remember to reach out to those who come to visit us on Sundays, since their first impression of our parish is a very important one. Our goal is to welcome newcomers with open arms and we encourage everyone to do so when they see a new face.

If you would like to assist in this very worthy ministry, please call me at 515-0275. **Doris Piña.**

### *Adult Greek Dance Night*

The next session will be held on Friday, March 3 at 7:30 pm. We will not have a dance night on April 7 since it falls during Lent.

### *Stewardship Report*

March marks the beginning of the spring, a time of renewal for all of nature. As of February 22, we have pledges from 328 stewards for a total of \$290,125 or 58 percent of our 2006 goal. The good news is that this is slightly ahead of where the Stewardship drive has been for the past couple of years. However, since the Parish has grown in terms of facilities, ministries and personnel the financial obligations have grown accordingly. Therefore, at the current rate of pledges, we currently forecast a shortfall of the \$500,000 Stewardship target set by the Parish Assembly on December 4, 2005. When there is a shortfall in projected Stewardship revenue, the Parish Council is must divert needed funds earned during the annual Greek Food Festival to cover operating expenses.

One of the most important issues on the agenda at this past Parish Assembly meeting was the issue of the utilization of a line of credit for the purpose of completing the next phase of iconography as well as some other necessary capital improvements and long neglected maintenance items. Two schools of thought were communicated at the December Parish Assembly, one advocating the importance of a debt free community and the other advocating the utilization of a line of credit to keep up with the growth of our community and improvement of our facilities, *both schools of thought have merit.*

The key factor that necessitates securing a line of credit is directly related to Stewardship. If the pledges made by our Stewards and other parishioners who partake of the services and ministries offered by St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church were sufficient to take care of the operating expenses of our community, there would be no need to obtain lines of credit. This would allow the proceeds from our Greek Festival to be utilized for the desired capital improvements. Unfortunately, the shortfall in the Stewardship program every year forces our elected Parish Council to utilize proceeds from the Festival as a de facto overdraw protection account to cover operating expenses.

If you are not a 2006 Steward, please make your pledge today, and if you are currently a Steward and have the ability to be more generous, God Bless You. Let's take our Stewardship seriously by meeting our obligations to the Lord by supporting the Church and its many ministries, actively participating in the Parish Assembly meetings and voting for and supporting our Parish Council.

**John Matsis and John G. Karas, Stewardship Committee Cochairmen**

**SPECIAL  
TOWN HALL  
MEETING  
WITH THE  
PARISH  
COUNCIL ON  
TUESDAY,  
MARCH 28,  
6:30 PM IN  
KOKKOS  
HALL TO  
DISCUSS THE  
POLICIES AND  
PROCEDURES  
OF PANOS  
HALL AND  
THE  
COMMUNITY  
AND  
EDUCATION  
CENTER**

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**ALL PARISH  
STEWARDS  
ARE INVITED  
TO ATTEND  
AND  
PARTICIPATE**

## St. John the Baptist Bookstore

Greetings in Christ from your parish Bookstore. What better way to prepare for our Lord's Resurrection than to read His Holy Scripture? NOW is an important time to visit the Bookstore to pick up the *Orthodox Study Bible*, and learn more about Christ and His Church. Father John always has recommended titles that are wonderful reading in preparation for the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha. Stop by and we will try to help you find the book that will enrich your soul, and that will hopefully be inspiring through your own "Lenten journey."

Bibles, icons, and crosses are a few of the items available; along with special order requests. Speaking of "special order requests," now is the time to place orders for those unique gift items for Pascha. We still have a few *Daily Lives of the Saints* Calendars left, but they are going fast, and we will not order anymore this year. This guide is filled with a wealth of information. The Bookstore is open every Sunday after Divine Liturgy, as well as Monday through Friday during Office Hours. Extra available time to shop during Lent will be after Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesdays, and Fridays before Salutations. Call **Jennia at 558-1387** for more information, or you may email me at: [jszukiewicz@cox.net](mailto:jszukiewicz@cox.net).

## Lenten Retreat

The 10th Annual GOYA Lenten Retreat is scheduled for **Friday, March 3 and Saturday, March 4** at the Retreat Center in Boulder City.

All Junior and Senior GOYA members as well as any Greek Orthodox teenagers are welcome to attend.

Registration forms and permission slips are available by email and the Church Office. Please email Bernadette Anthony at [bdants@yahoo.com](mailto:bdants@yahoo.com) for more information.

## Treasurer's Report for January 2006

	<u>ANNUAL BUDGET</u>	<u>JANUARY</u>
Stewardship	500,000.00	50,485.00
Other Income*	299,000.00	21,507.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>799,000.00</b>	<b>71,992.50</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>725,325.00</b>	<b>52,801.17</b>

\*Other Income refers to funds deposited into the operating account that are generated from book store sales and various donations for candles, Church rental, memorials and trays. These calculations do not include funds of the Community and Education Center or groups' fundraisers.

## Stewardship Committee Report

Here is a review of the current operating costs versus forecast income of our parish as established in the 2006 budget. In general, forecasted expenses and projected income are broken down as follows:

	<u>FORECASTED EXPENSES</u>		<u>PROJECTED INCOME</u>
Administration	\$107,450	Bookstore	\$ 10,000
Archdiocese	\$ 46,300	Candles	\$ 68,000
Church Edifice/Community Center	\$175,450	Contributions	\$ 30,000
Clergy (2)	\$143,740	Fund Raisers (1)	\$ 45,000
Metropolis	\$ 3,500	Greek Classes	\$ 10,000
Ministries (3)	\$ 29,300	Religious Services	\$ 6,000
Personnel	<u>\$219,585</u>	Stewardship	\$500,000
		Trays	\$ 40,000
		Reimbursements	<u>\$ 90,000</u>
Total Budget vs. Total Income	\$725,325		\$799,000

(1) St. John Name Day, AGAPE picnic etc. (does not include the annual Food Festival)

(2) Includes all three priests

(3) Includes expenses for Bookstore, Youth Ministries, Greek Language, Religious Education, Folk Dance Group and Hellenic Historical Society

# MARCH 2006 - IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>5 Forgiveness Sunday</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	<b>6 Lent Begins</b> 6:30 pm Great Compline	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 4:30 pm Beg. Greek School 6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy 8:00 pm Adult Study	<b>9</b> 4:00 pm Kindergarten Greek School 5:30 pm Adult II Greek School	<b>10</b> 3:30 pm Int. Greek School 5:30 pm Adult I Greek 7:00 pm 1st Salutations to the Theotokos	<b>11 3rd Saturday of Souls</b> 8:00a m Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial
<b>12 1st Sunday of Lent/ Triumph of Orthodoxy</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy <i>Procession of Icons</i> 6:00 pm Lenten Vespers at St. Paul the Apostle	<b>13</b> 6:30 pm Great Compline 7:30 pm Teens/Parents Class with Fr. John	<b>14</b> 7:00 pm Philoptochos General Meeting	<b>15</b> 4:30 pm Beg. Greek School 6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy 8:00 pm Adult Study	<b>16</b> 4:00 pm Kindergarten Greek School 5:30 pm Adult II Greek School	<b>17</b> 3:30 pm Int. Greek School 5:30 pm Adult I Greek 7:00 pm 2nd Salutations to the Theotokos	<b>18</b>
<b>19 St. Gregory Palamas</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Lenten Vespers at St. John the Baptist	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm Great Compline 7:30 pm Teens/Parents Class with Fr. John	<b>21</b> 11:30 am Senior Forerunners-Orleans 6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting	<b>22</b> 4:30 pm Beg. Greek School 6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy 8:00 pm Adult Study	<b>23</b> 4:00 pm Kindergarten Greek School 5:30 pm Adult II Greek School	<b>24</b> 3:30 pm Int. Greek School 5:30 pm Adult I Greek 7:00 pm 3rd Salutations to the Theotokos	<b>25 Annunciation of the Theotokos</b> 8:00a m Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Greek Independence Day
<b>26 Veneration of the Holy Cross</b> 8:45 am Orthros & Procession of Cross 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Lenten Vespers	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm Great Compline 7:30 pm Teens/Parents Class with Fr. John	<b>28</b> 6:30 pm Town Hall Meeting: Parish Council and Stewards re Panos Hall	<b>29</b> 4:30 pm Beg. Greek School 6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy 8:00 pm Adult Study	<b>30</b> 4:00 pm Kindergarten Greek School 5:30 pm Adult II Greek School	<b>31</b> 3:30 pm Int. Greek School 5:30 pm Adult I Greek 7:00 pm 4th Salutations to the Theotokos	

# *The Desert Messenger*

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church  
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THE DESERT MESSENGER

## *The Way of the Lord*

*The Church services for the Lenten spring . . .  
warn the faithful not to boast in their fasting,  
not to flaunt it in public,  
not to compare themselves with others,  
not to condemn those who eat.  
They teach clearly that if one fasts from food  
while not fasting from sins, one's fasting is in vain.  
And they constantly remind us,  
while exhorting us to abstinence,  
that the devil never eats.  
(Father Thomas Hopko, The Lenten Spring)*