

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 23, Issue 9 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

October 2025

From
Father
John

Beloved in Christ:

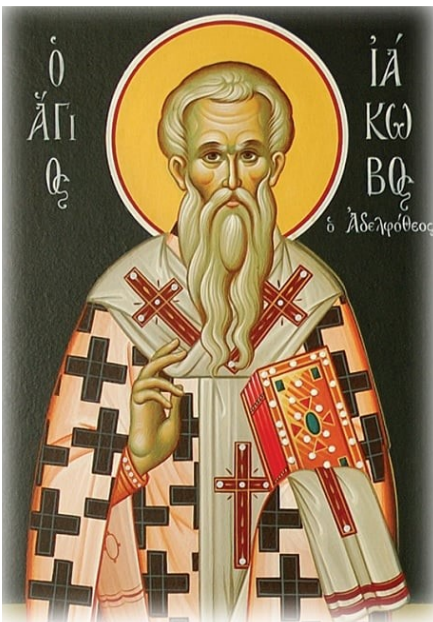
Do we ever stop and think about the power of our words – or the accountability we must have for what we say or write or post online? As a priest, I could be culturally categorized as a nano-influencer: I am a public figure and speaker, although I avoid creating content on social media, and I am not consciously seeking people to follow me. Instead, I am actively engaged as a "fisher of men and women" to be followers of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Holy Orthodox Church.

Realistically, whether I see it or not, and whether I like it or not, I am an influencer by grace and virtue of the ordination I received and as such, I am highly mindful about the words coming through my lips or fingertips (even as I write this). If we think about it, all of us are influencers, in one way or another: As parents, in our professions, as teachers, through our military rank, as civic leaders, among our peers, as Godparents, in our volunteer organizations – and increasingly so, through our online presence and activity. While we are hopefully mindful of the influence we have and use our words appropriately (and in a Godly fashion, if we are Christians), we must admittedly and painfully also be aware that there are too many times when we carelessly and thoughtlessly utter insensible words toward others, without regard to the effect on their souls – and moreover, how our words offend God!

We are increasingly reaping the consequences of abusive, bullying and harassing words in our homes, our relationships in our schools, in our workplaces, and more so, online in various forms. Left unresolved, these harmful words become the seeds of anger, resentment and alienation that are rooted deeply in the souls of so many: Over time, these seeds multiply and yield negative and hurtful patterns of dialog and chatter which, once reaching over-saturation, explode into the ever-growing hateful and divisive rhetoric we experience everywhere in our country, and throughout the world. *"So the tongue is a little member and boasts of great things,"* wrote the Holy Apostle James, the First Bishop of Jerusalem. *"How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is an unrighteous world among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the cycle of nature, and set on fire by hell."* (James 3:5-6)

Hundreds of years later, Elder Ephraim of Arizona, echoing the teachings of the Holy Church Fathers, wrote, *"Whoever guards his tongue guards his soul from great sins and grievous falls."*

(Continued on Page 3)



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Church School follows Holy Communion

All our Sunday Divine Services are Available on Live-Stream!

Access the Live-Stream on <http://youtube.com/vegasgreekorthodox>

Sunday, October 5/*Second Sunday of Luke/
Holy Martyr Charitina/St. Methodia the
Righteous of Kimolos/St. Eudokimos the
Unknown of Mount Athos/Ss. Peter, Alexis,
Jonah, Hermogenes and Tikhon, Metropolitans
of Moscow*

Orthros: Fourth Plagal Tone Eight

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

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

Memorials: Met. Ilia (3 years); George Chomakos

Fellowship: Folk Dance Groups

Saturday, October 11/*Holy Apostle Philip of the
Seventy Apostles*

5:00 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, October 12/*Holy Fathers of the Seventh
Ecumenical Synod /St. Symeon the New
Theologian/Holy Martyrs Probus, Andronicus,
and Tarachus of Tarsus/St. Cosmas the
Hymnographer, Bishop of Maiuma/Holy Martyr
Domnina/St. Wilfrid of York*

Orthros: First Tone

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

Epistle: Titus 3:8-15

Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

Memorial: Christine Poulos (40 days); Hannah
Kotsinadelis (1 year)

Fellowship: Hellenic Historical Society

Sunday, October 19/*Third Sunday of Luke/
Holy Prophet Joel/Holy Martyr Varys/St. John of
Rilas/Holy Hieromartyr Felix and St. Eusebios
the Deacon/St. John the Wonderworker of
Kronstadt/St. Frideswide of Oxford*

Orthros: Second Tone

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

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-33; 12:1-9

Gospel: Luke 7:11-16

Fellowship: Pan-Arcadians

Artoclasia follows (Papap Family for St. Luke)

Monday, October 20/*St. Gerasimos of
Cephalonia/Great Martyr Artemios/
St. Matrona the Righteous of Chios/
Holy Andronicus the Righteous Martyr*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10

Gospel: Luke 9:18-22



Thursday, October 23/*Holy Apostle Iakovos
(James)/Righteous Father Ignatios, Patriarch of
Constantinople*

9:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Iakovos

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel: Matthew 13:54-58

Sunday, October 26/*Sixth Sunday of Luke/
Great Martyr Demetrios the Myrrh-Streaming/
Commemoration of the Great Earthquake in
Constantinople (740)/St. Eata of Hexham*

Orthros: Third Tone

Resurrection Gospel: John 20:19-31

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10

Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

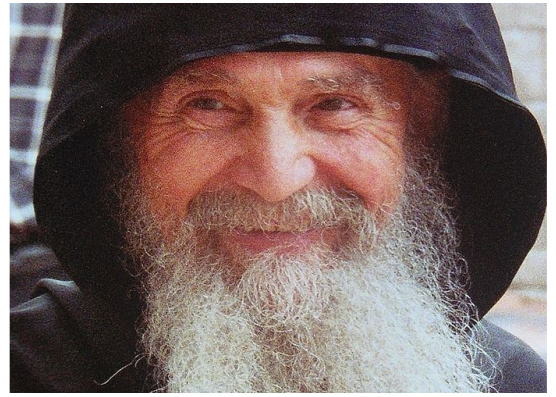
Fellowship: Daughters of Penelope "OXI" Day

From Father John (Continued from Page 1)

The Holy Elder of blessed memory continued: *“I beg that you not criticize one another, for this is downright egotism. . . . Be particularly afraid of inner criticism, that is, thoughts of criticism, because it does not come to light through the spoken word, in which case it is likely to be corrected by someone who hears it . . . (and) which imperceptibly makes us fatally guilty and deprives us of the life of Divine grace and offers as a most bitter drink the death of the soul.”* The only remedy for our out-of-control words is repentance, wrote the Elder, quoting Abba Arsenios, a Desert Father: *“I have often repented for speaking, but I have never repented for keeping silent.”* (*“On Condemnation,” Counsels from the Holy Mountain*)

Finally, let us *“walk carefully”* as we approach Church for the Divine Services. *“Do not be hasty with your mouth. And do not let your heart be quick to utter a word before God: For God is in Heaven, and you are on Earth; therefore, let your words be few.”* (*Ecclesiastes 5:1*) Yes, the passions are especially aroused and activated when we gather to worship: Let us therefore be attentive to what we hear, see, think and speak, keeping our hearts and minds toward the Lord.

With Love in Christ,

An Evening of Prayer, Fellowship and St. Paisios

Saturday, October 11

5:00 pm Great Vespers

Then, in Kokkos Hall:

5:45 pm Potluck Supper

6:15 pm St. Paisios Film ~ Part 1

7:15 pm Discussion

7:30 pm Conclusion

All are Welcome for this
Monthly Gathering!





6 CLASSES

ON THE ORTHODOX FAITH

Wednesdays 6:30-8:00 pm beginning on
October 1 in Kokkos Hall

For inquirers, catechumens, and Orthodox Christians who want
to know more about the ancient, Apostolic Faith

We will cover:

- Theology and Church History
- Sacraments and the Divine Liturgy
- Spirituality and Prayer
- A "Show and Tell" in our magnificent Byzantine Church.



Parish Council Report

Food Festival! With our 52nd Greek Food Festival around the corner, the time has come for all of us to decide how much success we want for this important event that showcases our Faith, Culture and Food. The success of this event is directly tied to our Church community members' volunteer time and work for the Festival. As members of St. John community, we are the best representatives to step forward to work at the Festival.

There are many booths to which to volunteer your time and talents, and many different things you can do to help make this Festival the most fun and best ever. The Food Festival Chairman Steve Tzelelis and Committee Members Alex Mavros and Stephanie Demoleas, and their entire team, have been working tirelessly for the past year to make this event a resounding success. We are offering new and exciting activities and amenities that should make this family friendly event a fun and positive experience for everyone.

You will all appreciate the new look to our upgraded and improved Festival Magazine. It is in full color and has a new updated modern and refreshed look to it. This year, there has been a tremendous amount of advertising in the magazine. Our heartfelt thanks go out for all of their hard work and time spent to Marilyn Flangas, who made sure this advertising was such a success in the magazine, and Catalina Magee for the outstanding design and layout in producing this magazine. Also, our appreciation is for the amazing Sasa Giouzelis who is the force behind us selling almost 400 raffle tickets before the Festival begins.

It is not too late to volunteer. Please call the Church Office and we can put you in touch with several booth captains who are still in need of volunteers. There is a lot to do, so please step forward and help. Let's have a strong showing to volunteer our time to make this Festival the best one ever.

Iconography! The outpouring of support for our Iconography Project has been overwhelming with the financial contributions that have been given by our individual parishioners, ministries and other Church related groups. We thank our Priests, Father John and Father Florin, for their efforts leading the fundraising for this beautiful project that will enhance our Church interior and our Church services. We are not at the finish line yet, but we are getting close.

The last phase of our Iconography Project is for the 6 ceiling Festal Icon panels. These panels are at a cost of \$60,000 each. The ceiling panels for the Nativity, Crucifixion, Resurrection, Pentecost have all been paid for in full. This is an amazing accomplishment. The Ascension ceiling Icon needs only \$5,000 more and the Last Judgment Icon needs \$55,000.00 for its completion. If you know anyone, any family, any friend group or ministry that wants to contribute to complete this project, please have them speak with our Priests.

The Parish Council wishes our St. John Church community a safe and successful 2025 Greek Food Festival. It is very important to recognize that the success of our Festival is based on our participation and involvement in positively promoting our faith, culture and food.

Sincerely, George T. Bochanis, Parish Council President



Daughters of Penelope

Please join the Daughters of Penelope on Sunday, October 26, immediately following Divine Liturgy to commemorate and celebrate the 85th Anniversary of OXI Day. A light lunch will be served.



BELIEVE. BELONG. BE LOVED. STEWARDSHIP 2025!

Although our focus has been on our Greek Food Festival and Iconography, it is important to not let our Stewardship become forgotten. Stewardship is the financial backbone of support for our Church. It allows us to maintain and keep operating our beautiful Church and Halls, where our youth events such as Church School and GOYA take place. Stewardship also allows us to provide two Priests for our Church community, and it allows us to maintain our 10 acre Church grounds for everyone to use.

If you have not renewed your Stewardship for this year, please consider doing this soon. Remember, if everyone just increased their Stewardship by 10% from the amount offered last year, we will meet our goals for this year and become less reliant financially on having to do outside fundraising events. That is our ultimate goal.

If you are new to our Church community, please prayerfully consider a generous Stewardship commitment. As *2 Corinthians 9:7* says: Giving to the Church is a cheerful act rather than one out of compulsion. We thank all of you who have committed to your 2025 Stewardship Pledge, and we hope to have all of those who have not yet committed from last year, to please do so again, continuing to support our Church and all it provides us.

Sincerely, George T. Bochanis, 2025 Stewardship Chair

*Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisi*

Loukia (Lucy) Allen, daughter of Darin and Vasiliki Allen, on September 6, 2025.

Godparents: Bryan Taxopoulos and Irene Skarlatos.

John Potter, son of Brendan Potter and Marina Paulsen, on September 7, 2025.

Godparent: William Vasilios Bruninga.

Theodoros (Dorian) Bochanis, son of Alexander Liguori and Athena Bochanis, on September 13, 2025.

Godparents: Theodore Bochanis and Aris Bochanis.

Anna (Rachel) Flannery (Adult Baptism) on September 20, 2025.

Godparent: Erin Eleni Bruninga.

Paisios (Ryan) Silvas (Adult Baptism) on September 20, 2025.

Godparent: William Vasilios Bruninga.

Chrismation

Dionysios (Darin) Allen on September 6, 2025. Sponsor: Steven Thompson.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory!

Patricia Lambropoulos on September 1, 2025. Funeral on September 8.

Christine Poulos on September 4, 2025. Funeral on September 22.

Ernest Flangas on September 4, 2025. Funeral on October 3 in Ely, NV.

Philoptochos News



"To everything there is a season, at time for very purpose under Heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1) How many of us recognized this verse also as a song? Sorry if you will be humming it all day now. But maybe it will remind you that the Ladies Philoptochos Society will be reaching to all the members for support this fall season. This is the Season of Agape!

Please mark **Sunday, October 12** for a quick Fall Meeting, where we will ask you to "invite your one." The Ladies Philoptochos Society offers "Faith, Friendship and Philanthropy". As your Army of Agape, we will showcasing upcoming events and traditions of our Philoptochos that our community counts on.

Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, November 2** for the Departed Member Memorial and the remembrance of Ss. Cosmos and Damian, our beloved Patron Saints of the Ladies Philoptochos.

This date will also be the start of the Holiday Pastry, and Christmas Card. This year we will also be hosting the Holiday Party at Church. Invitations and flyers will be available at the Philoptochos Booth at the Food Festival and in the *Weekly Word*.

So, "turn, turn, turn" your hearts and helping hands to the Ladies Philoptochos – we look forward seeing you!

Remember to Choose Joy this season. It is going to be exciting.

Your Sister in Christ, Bernadette Anthony, Philoptochos President

See Something, Say Something!

The Security Committee has been in communication with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department regarding the security and safety of our Parish. Considering the many events occurring across the nation, we have arranged for safety training for our community **on Sunday, October 19**, after Divine Liturgy, in Kokkos Hall.

The presentation, "See Something, Say Something" should last approximately 30-45 minutes. So, grab your coffee and refreshments and join us in this informative session.

We will have a question-and-answer session as well. Keep in mind that this will be the first presentation from Metro and we will have follow-up sessions regarding incidents that may occur during the Liturgy. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Church Office or speak with Alexia Conger after Liturgy.

Yours in Christ, Alexia Conger,
Parish Council Vice President



Iconography Phase 4: We are Nearing the End!

*“We venerate Your immaculate Icon, O good Lord . . .”
(Hymn for the Sunday of Orthodoxy)*

Beloved in Christ:

Glory to God for All Things! By God’s grace, 4 of the 6 Festal Icons – the Nativity of Christ, the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the Pentecost Icons – are fully donated!

There is still an opportunity to participate in this blessed project, which will be the final Phase of Iconography in our beloved St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church. As of today, we have received \$55,000 in donations for the **Ascension Icon** and are seeking \$5,000 to complete this Icon.

High above the entrance into the Nave will be the glorious **Icon of The Second Coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ**. God’s plan of Judgment and Salvation is affirmed in the Holy Gospels and New Testament Epistles, the Book of Revelation, and the Creed. Moreover, the Last Judgment is commemorated every year on Meat Fare Sunday (Apokreas) in the last week before Great and Holy Lent. This is the appropriate Icon to complete the Great Feasts of our Lord because His Second Coming is the culmination of His plan of salvation for the world.

We are inviting you to participate in donating this Icon: We have received a \$5,000 donation and we are requesting \$55,000 more at \$5,000 minimum offerings for this magnificent Icon.

With 12 more donations (1 for the Ascension, and 11 for the Second Coming) at \$5,000 each, the entire Festal Icons in the ceiling will be fully donated! Now is the time for us to respond prayerfully and generously, for by this time next year we all will be inspired by the Heavenly Grandeur and Divine Grace of **Phase 4 of our Iconography!** Again, it is a blessing to participate in this final Phase of Iconography in our beloved Church!

To sponsor a specific Festal Icon, or donate toward the Festal Icons, please contact **Father John**. Our goal is to have the funds raised by the end of 2025. All donations are tax-deductible and a letter supporting this will be provided from the Church.

We thank God for your prayers and timely support and generosity! Your love is truly encouraging!

With Continuous Love and Gratitude in Christ,

Father John and Father Florin

From Father Florin

St. Philip, the Apostle of the 70

St. Philip the Deacon is one of the seven deacons first appointed by the Holy Apostles in Jerusalem. (*Acts 6:1-7*) After the preaching and subsequent stoning of St. Stephen the Deacon (*Acts 7*), Saul appears to have initiated an aggressive persecution of the Church in Jerusalem. (*Acts 8:1-3*) All but the Holy Apostles were “scattered” throughout the region. Philip went North to the city of Samaria (*Acts 8:4-25*) where he preached and healed, amazing the residents. Apparently, the miracles were so amazing that a popular magician, Simon, converted and began following Philip. The Holy Apostles, upon hearing of the widespread acceptance of the Holy Gospel in Samaria, sent Peter and John who Baptized many in the Holy Spirit.

While Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching to Samaritan villages along the way, God called Philip to head South to Gaza (*Acts 8:26-40*), along a wilderness road. On the road, he met an Ethiopian Eunuch returning home from pilgrimage in Jerusalem, who was also a respected counselor to Candace, the Ethiopian Queen. He was apparently reading the Prophet Isaiah out loud on his way home. God called Philip to join the Ethiopian, and a lively discussion of Scripture and Jesus ensued; following, the Ethiopian asked to be immediately Baptized in nearby water. As they left the water, the Spirit snatched Philip away to the northern city of Azotus, and he preached his way north to Caesarea, where he appears to have remained.

The last Scriptural reference to St. Philip is when he and his four unmarried daughters, each with the gift of prophecy, hosted Paul in his home along with his companions as they traveled through Caesarea. (*Acts 21:7-10*) Due to his consistent work of preaching as he journeyed throughout the region, Philip the Deacon is also known as Philip the Evangelist. (*Acts 21:8*) But St. Philip the Deacon and St. Philip the Apostle are different and often confused.

Little is known of Philip's daughters, though they are referred to as prophets not only in the Book of Acts, but by Eusebius, who places them alongside Agabus (*Acts 11:27-28; 21:10*), Judas, and Silas. (*Acts 15:22, 27, 32*) Holy Tradition holds that two of his daughters remained with Philip through his old age. Their names may have been Irais and Charliline (or Mariamne), though these are names given by Tradition far from their historical existence. The other two, Hermione and Eutychis (or Eutychiane or Eukhidia) traveled to and evangelized in Ephesus. Hermione suffered at the hands of the Emperors Trajan and Hadrian, making her a martyr of the Church. She is commemorated by the Orthodox Church on September 4. There is speculation that the recently uncovered 1600-year-old Byzantine Basilica in Ashdod Yam may have been built to bury the body of one of Philip's daughters.

St. Philip is commemorated *on October 11*. The Orthodox Church also includes Philip among the Seventy Apostles (*Luke 10:1-20*) and refer to him as a Protodeacon (“first” deacon). As a member of the Seventy, he is also celebrated on January 4 as a part of the feast of the “Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles.”

It is worth noting the result of Philip's interaction with the Ethiopian Eunuch. As a eunuch, he was likely captured, enslaved, and castrated as a youth. His castration may have meant that he was not allowed to enter the temple in Jerusalem (*Deuteronomy 23:1*), even as a foreigner on pilgrimage to the Holy City. His identity as an “Ethiopian” does not indicate his nation but rather is a generic Greek term for dark-skinned Africans. He also appears to be a person of significant trust and authority, serving as counselor and treasurer for Queen Candace, a name given to all the female rulers of the region of Kush (now northern Sudan). His religious status is ambiguous and he could have been a convert to Judaism, though his castration may have precluded his full membership, while others argued that as a dark-skinned African, he must have been a Gentile. His reading of *Isaiah 53:7-8* perhaps reflects his own struggle with suffering as the result of injustice: *“In His humiliation justice was denied Him.”* (*Acts 8:33; Isaiah 53:8*) *(Continued on Page 11)*



From Father Florin (Continued from Page 10)

Surely Philip's story of the unjust persecution of our Lord, Jesus Christ, His death at the hand of civil and religious authorities, and His Resurrection underlay the Eunuch's insistence on being immediately baptized in the nearest patch of water available. Once Philip disappeared, the Eunuch joyfully returned home. Tradition has it that he evangelized his homeland, the Kingdom of Kush, which was conquered by Aksum in the 4th century. Aksum is the ancient name for the region now known as Ethiopia. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church understands one of its earliest converts to Christianity to be "Simon Bachos the Eunuch" who Irenaeus of Lyons (*Against the Heresies* 3:12:8, circa 180) identifies as the eunuch Philip met on the road to Gaza. This connection is also reflected in the works of Eusebius of Caesarea and Origen of Alexandria.

Fr. F. J. Ristade.



Orthodox Bookstore

Greetings from the Bookstore!

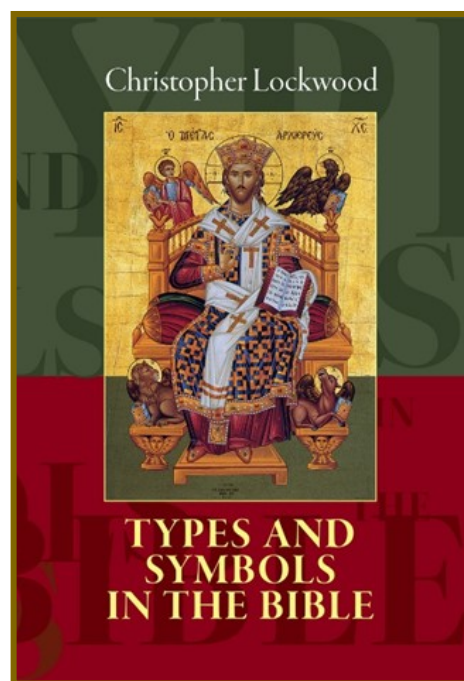
New from St. Sebastian Press and featured this month is *Types and Symbols in the Bible* by Christopher Lockwood. Intended to be read alongside and in consideration of the Scriptures, it is a great companion book as we head into the new Church Year and begin the new cycle of readings including hymns and daily prayers. Specifically, we learn about how the coming of Christ and the Church "fulfill and complete the faith of the Old Testament Israelites."

Lockwood further explains that "everything written down in the Holy Scriptures had to be fulfilled in order for God's promises, spoken on oath to the righteous patriarchs and prophets of old, to be shown to be true. The Christian faith must therefore be seen not as a restoration of something which had been lost, or a novel invention of clever men, but as a continuation and fulfillment of that which was already clearly present and established by God Almighty." That which was "already present" is revealed in Old Testament types and symbols and how they came to be fully expressed in Jesus Christ.

From the back cover: Many regard the Bible today as a book that records events which are already complete, which should only be interpreted literally or historically. Approaching Holy Scripture through types and symbols, however, reveals the hidden and infinite mystery contained in its pages. This transforms the faithful reader from a passive viewer of distant events into an active communicant of that eternal mystery, making it possible to find the living Christ on every page.

Stop by after Divine Liturgy for your copy or any other devotional needs in store. Anna and I look forward to seeing you!

Serving You with Love in Christ, Paraskevi Santamaria, Bookstore Director



*Jesus said them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house." And He did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief."
(Matthew 13:57-58)*

Ministry News

Church School

Hi everyone! I hope you are all enjoying the school year so far. We are off to a great start with registrations. For Pre-K, your child must be 4 by August 1. We must have a registration on every student, so please make sure you register your child so they can participate in Church School.

The last day we will be accepting students for the 2025-2026 Church School year is **Sunday, November 9**. Another requirement of Church School is that the immediate family must be current 2025 Stewards of our Church. Please see any Parish Council member or Karen to fill out that paperwork.

If you are interested, we are always looking for snacks. You can also send your child with their own water bottle – we have no issues with that.

Family Worship Dates to Remember:

Sunday, November 2: Nevada Day.

Sunday, November 30: Thanksgiving Weekend.

Please reach out to me with any questions of concerns.

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



*Blessing of New
Church School Year*



Greek Folk Dance

We are in the final push of registration for all dance groups. We are pleased to announce we will have 4 groups this year. This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved, meet some new members of our community, and preserve our beautiful cultural heritage! Please see Karen for a registration form! Practices are on Sunday afternoon and Tuesday evening (for competitive groups only).

Please join us at *Chipotle Mexican Grill at 7340 Arroyo Crossing Parkway, Suite 100, Las Vegas, on Sunday, October 5 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm*, as we fundraise for our Ministry! If you show the flyer in *The Desert Messenger* they will donate 25% of the purchase to our cause! Flyers will also be available during Fellowship *on October 5* as well!

Finally, the Metropolis of San Francisco has announced that the annual Folk Dance Festival will be held in Phoenix, Arizona *on February 12-15, 2026*. We are looking forward to putting together our various dance suites for the competition! As always, we will be hosting a Glendi and Preview of our Dances *on February 7, 2026!* Save the date!

Much Gratitude, Folk Dance Board

All Youth Event

We thank our parents and youth who gathered to distribute groceries for those in need at the *Just One Project Pop Up and Give!*

Thank you all for volunteering at our Soda Booth during the Greek Food Festival! Your help was huge and was very much appreciated by everyone, as every year! I am sure you all had fun, too!

This month, as announced previously by email, we will all gather *on Saturday, October 11, at 11:00 am*, at *Gilcrease Orchard (7800 North Tenaya, Las Vegas)*. The tickets were purchased on September 23 and, unfortunately, there are no onsite tickets for sale.

We will pick apples and pumpkins, and we will hang out with each other and have fun outdoors. Looking forward to seeing you there!

With Love in Christ, Father Florin



Young Adults - 18 Years through Early 30s

Dear Young Adults of St. John the Baptist,

I would like to thank every one of you for helping our Church during the Greek Food Festival! Your help, as always, was very much appreciated. Thank you all again for your dedication and hard work!

This month, we will go out and play mini golf *on Saturday, October 18, starting at 5:00 pm*, at *PopStroke, located in Town Square (6617 South Las Vegas Blvd., Las Vegas)*. Get ready for an evening of fun and fellowship. Looking forward to meeting with you all.

With Love in Christ Our Lord, Father Florin

Mr. & Mrs.

We would like to thank Thomas and Catalina Magee for graciously hosting an amazing dinner at their beautiful home in August. We enjoyed a wonderful meal, great fellowship and a lively discussion.

This month, we will meet for a Mediterranean Potluck *on Saturday, October 25, starting at 5:00 pm*, at the home of Tim and Janet Bryant. For their address and to let us know what you will bring, please contact Karen at the Church Office. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Yours in Christ, Father John, Presvytera Maria, Father Florin and Presvytera Alexandra

Kali Parea - For the 40+ Crowd

Thank you all for your help at the Greek Food Festival last month! It was hard work, but we also had a great time together!

This month we will gather *on Sunday, October 26, starting at 1:00 pm*, for a St. Demetrios Name Day Celebration at, of course, *Demetri's home*. For his address and to let him know you are coming, please contact Demetri directly. Thank you again to all of you!

With Love in Christ, Demetrious Asim, Kali Parea Advisor



Forerunners - Our Seniors Fellowship

We hope you had a pleasant Summer and pray you are in good health. We thank all our Seniors who came out and volunteered for our Greek Food Festival.

Memory Eternal to Effie Koutsulis and Christine Poulos, two of our faithful members.

The Forerunners will have their kick-off Luncheon *on Monday, November 10 at 11:30 am*. We will not meet in October as I am traveling. We are looking forward to fun, good food, and games as we begin our monthly get-togethers. Please bring a friend with you!

Love in Christ, Paula Kelesis for the Forerunners

Youth Greek Language Classes

Katerina Katelouzou will continue to teach our Children this year – we are grateful for her dedication. This year, we will be offering two classes, Pre-K and First Year. *Classes will begin on Thursday, October 9. Pre-K will meet 6:00 – 7:00 pm, cost is \$100; and First Year will meet 4:30 – 6:00 pm, cost is \$200.* If you are not currently a Steward of the Church, the fee increases. If you are interested in joining, please obtain a Registration Form (and a Stewardship form if applicable) from Karen at the Church Office, so we can ensure textbooks are ordered in time.

Lastly, the Greek Language Program at St. John the Baptist, proudly sponsored by the Pan Arcadians, is dedicated to preserving our Hellenic language, faith, and traditions for future generations. As our program continues to grow, we are seeking your support to raise funds for essential classroom supplies, additional staff to better serve our students, and a fun, educational end-of-year field trip that will reward their hard work. *Most importantly, a portion of the funds raised will go toward the sacred Iconography of our beloved Church, a blessing that will enrich our spiritual home for years to come.*

By supporting this effort, you are not only investing in the education and growth of our youth but also contributing to the beauty and spiritual life of our Parish. Every donation, no matter the size, helps us nurture our children, strengthen our community, and honor our Orthodox faith and Greek heritage. If you wish to donate, please scan this QR code!

Contact Katerina Katelouzou if you have any questions.



Adult Greek Language Classes

George Kouris will continue teaching the Adult Language Classes on *Tuesdays from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm*. Cost is \$100 per person.

If you are interested in joining, please obtain a Registration Form from Karen at the Church Office, so we can order your textbooks.

Contact George Kouris if you have any questions.

Byzantine Chanters and Choir

The first Sunday of October is National Church Music Sunday – this year, *on October 5*. Established in 1982, this day is set aside to honor and recognize all the Musicians (including those who have fallen asleep in the Lord), whether they are singers, chanters, educators, readers, directors, organists, and even Clergy in our Parishes throughout the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in America. It falls on or near the Patron Saint of Music, St. Romanos the Melodist (*October 1*).

So why is this so important? In our Holy Orthodox Church, every Divine Service – no matter the language or jurisdiction – incorporates the chanting of hymns and reading of Psalms and Scriptures. Liturgical music is such an integral part of our worship: The responsibility of our Church musicians is to lead and guide the congregation to participate more prayerfully in that worship. From the myriads of hymns composed by our Church Fathers, it is the musicians who bring to life these hymns of praise for the Glory of God.

Personally, it is a privilege and honor to acknowledge and thank our dedicated group of singers and chanters who have worked so hard improving their skills to help lead our parishioners into a more prayerful worship. Please take the time to thank them for their time and talent. If anyone wishes to be a part of this vital group, please step up! I am always willing to help interested people who wish to learn our Liturgical worship. We practice after Divine Liturgy every Sunday for about 15 minutes as needed.

With Love in Christ, Presvytera Maria



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5300 El Camino Road
Las Vegas, NV 89118

Rev. Father John Hondros
frjohn@vegasgreekorthodox.com

Rev. Father Florin Ristache
frflorin@vegasgreekorthodox.com

Rev. Deacon John Nixon
deaconjohn@vegasgreekorthodox.com

Karen Rawlinson
Administrative Assistant
karen@vegasgreekorthodox.com

Charity Joy Mills
Facilities Event Planner
stjohnthebaptistplanner@gmail.com

Bookkeeper: Michelle Eugenio
accounting@vegasgreekorthodox.com

Housekeeping: Claudia Kasiotis
Custodian: Dimitrios Kladouchos

Office Hours
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Telephone: (702) 221-8245
www.vegasgreekorthodox.com

Parish Council: George Bochanis

Philoptochos: Bernadette Anthony

Stewardship Committee: George Bochanis

Homeless Outreach: Dimitrios Kladouchos

Maintenance: Steve Tzelalis

Building Committee: Eleni Filios

Byzantine Chanters and Choir:
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Church School: Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers: Father John & Mark Stransky

GOYA: Father Florin & Maha Habiba

Orthodox Family Fellowship:
Father Florin

Young Adults: Father Florin

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek Language: Paula Kelesis

Mr. & Mrs.: Father John & Presvytera Maria,
Father Florin & Presvytera Alexandra

Kali Parea: Demetrious Asim

Forerunners: Paula Kelesis

Orthodox Bookstore: Paraskevi Santamaria

Hellenic Historical Society:
Nitsa Filios, Cheryl Pandelis & Susan Stamis

Greek Food Festival: Steve Tzelalis

Photography and Live-Streaming:
Bill & Erin Bruninga

Building Committee

Happy Fall!

As we begin the New Ecclesiastical Year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many blessings and accomplishments of this past year. With God's help and your support, we were able to:

- Install beautiful new floors in the Hall
- Repaint the interior of the Hall
- Complete stucco repair and repaint the exterior of the Hall building

Repair the masonry border wall on the east side of the field

Looking ahead, our focus will be on completing the final phase of our Iconography project. In just 10 short months, our Iconographers will return to install these magnificent works of sacred art.

Our second installment payment is due in December, and we are making great progress thanks to your generosity:

- The Nativity, Crucifixion, Resurrection and Pentecost Icons are *fully donated* – thanks be to God!
- The Ascension Icon has received \$55,000; we are seeking an additional \$5,000.
- The Last Judgment Icon has received \$5,000; we are seeking another \$55,000.

While we know it may sometimes feel as though we are constantly asking, the reality is that our Parish cannot flourish, and such sacred projects cannot be completed, without your continued support and generosity. Every contribution, no matter the amount, brings us closer to completing this final chapter in the beautification of our beloved Church.

With gratitude and prayers,
Eleni Filios, Building Committee Chair



DO GOOD WITH CHIPOTLE



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH DANCE PROGRAM

25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH | 4-8PM
**7340 ARROYO CROSSING PKWY STE 100, LAS VEGAS,
NV, 89113**

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **GGDBQDN**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT



For online orders to count towards the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$150 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

STEWARDSHIP 2025

Make your Pledge online at the QR code below
or return your Stewardship Form and offering to the Church Office.

“BELIEVE, BELONG, BE LOVED!”



Please detach and return to St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

+++++

Please Print Name(s), Address, Phone and Email

“BELIEVE, BELONG, BE LOVED!”

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
5300 El Camino Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89118
(702) 221-8245

As a blessed member of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, I/we commit to \$ _____
per week/month, with the total amount for the year 2025 of \$ _____.

Signed: _____

Orthodox Christian: Yes No

Signed: _____

Orthodox Christian: Yes No

Others sharing in the gift (children): _____

Hellenic Historical Society

In 2009, the community of St. John the Baptist celebrated “Our Golden Heritage,” the 50th anniversary of the founding of our beautiful Greek Orthodox Church. Among the activities of the 3 days of festivities were extensive historical displays of the time leading up to the 1959 incorporation of St John in Las Vegas and subsequent related events.

One of the displays was “World Odyssey,” the stories of the many families who over time came to Las Vegas and St. John Church; speaking of those families’ roots and the paths that led them to Orthodoxy. Whether born to Greek Orthodoxy or discovering it during our life journey, we are all bound by our beautiful Faith and our personal histories are mutually interesting from that and many other perspectives.

On October 12th, the Hellenic Historical Society will be hosting Fellowship after Divine Liturgy and will be displaying images of the 2009 “World Odyssey,” with the intention of adding to it all the new families who have journeyed to our community since then; and gathering up those who may have missed it the first time around. Forms will be available at fellowship and there will be plenty of pictures displayed for your viewing pleasure.

This new “World Odyssey” will be presented in 2026 and we’re looking forward to beginning the process of collection and organization of your personal stories, which can be as brief or as lengthy as you wish them to be.

Thanks for your kind attention.



BELIEVE. BELONG. BE LOVED. STEWARDSHIP 2025!

Acovino, Richard and Angela	Castoro, Mariane	Fenlason, Nathan and	Hutson, Eugenia Arger -
Adamy, Marina	Chachas, Bessie	Zmina-Fenlason, Jennifer	Ilic, Predrag
Agouridis, Lambros and Erika	Chachas, James	Feola, Richard	Iteen, Robert and Sophia
Alcala, Georgia	Chaivarlis, James and Christina	Filios, George and Nitsa	Jaehn, Aden
Alford, Cynthia "Mary"	Chamie, Elie, Emil and Claudine	Filios, Spiridon and Eleni	Jandete, Johanna
Alhayek, Areen and Majd	Chandrinos, Alexia	Filios, George Jr.	Jaynes, Christine
Allen, John and Nana	Chanos, Jennifer	Filios, Nicoletta	Jensen, Matthew and Michelle
Allen, Darin and Vasiliki	Chomakos, Dean and Tammy	Fischer, Cheryl	Kachikis, Ernestine
Alsup, Trever and Kelly	Chomakos, George	Fitzgerald, Norman and	Kakavulias, George and Helen
Anastasakis, Elaine	Chomakos, Kosta	McCullen, Sandra	Kalianiotis, Labros and Rena
Andary, Oscar	Chondrakis, Dimosthenis and	Flangas, Aleni	Kalkas, John and Irene
Andrews, George	Kragerud, Kaaren	Flangas, Gary and Amanda	Kambouris, Evangelia
Andricopulos, Margo	Christou, Toni	Flangas, Gus and Tammy	Kanis, Constantinos and Katie
Anghel, Vincentiu and Julia	Ciulla, Anthony and Kleri	Flangas, Marilyn	Kaptain, Nicolas
Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette	Cocores-Ely, Caron	Fleischer, Bob and Penny	Karas, James
Antoniadis, Panagiotis and	Coll, Patrick and Anita	Foskaris, Nicholas	Karas, John + and Marcie
Katherine	Collins, David	Foster, Kyle and Mia	Karris, Mark and Suzanne
Antoniou, Dimitri	Conger, William and Alexia	Fotopoulos, John and Barbara	Kasiotis, Claudia
Antoniou, George and Candace	Conger, William	Fountas, Constantinos	Katelouzos, Vasileios and Katerina
Arger, Louis	Conklin, Demetra	Fountoulakis, Vasileios	Katopodis, Efstratios
Aristides, George and Diana	Corey, Amanda	Franco, Emilia	Katre, Sotir Mark
Asim, Demetrious	Costacos, John	Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia	Katris, Nick and Theana
Athens, Maria	Costas, Charles and Louise	Frangakis, Sophocles and Tara	Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon
Atkins, Sean and Christina	Costas, Philip	Fukushima, Gabriel and Katina	Katsikakis, Evangelos
Atsidakos, Andrew and Libby	Costuros, George and Marsha	Gantcheva, Galia and	Kelesis, John and Vicki
Avdoulos, Pagona and Chryssa	Creasman, Stone	McDaniel, Rodney	Kelesis, Paula
Ayalewu, Membe	Crist, Adam and Kanistra	Gebrehiwot, Kiros	Kiflezgi, Rahel
Balaouras, Panos and Helen	Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	Geiger, Dan and Dora	Kirchner, Barlaam
Balason, Voula	Dalacas, Eleni	Gekakis, George	Kirollos, Michael and
Baldwin, Richard and Vivi	Dalacas, Georgia	Generales, John and Arlene	Molina, Adriana
Balodimas, James	Damascus, Peter	George, Pete and Georgia	Kokkinis, Peter and Jennifer
Barbarino, Demetra and Nick	Daskalos, Voula	Georgis, John	Kokkinopoulou, Anastasia
Barrett, Jeremiah	Daughters of Penelope	Ghebreab, Daniel and Selam	Kokkinos, Christina
Bartel, Ioanna and Robert	Davis, Matthew and Christine	Gialketsis, Julie	Koliambas, Eleni
Beeler, Mike and Carolyn	Deep, Joe and Alexi	Gialketsis, William and Rachelle	Konsolakis, George and Sofia
Belch, George	Demas, Spiro and Rita	Giouzelis, Anastasia	Konsolakis, Eleni and
Belojevic, Marija	Demetriou, Andrew	Girleanu, Nicolae-Radu	Garcia, Manoli
Berendji, Jim	Demolas, Maria and	Goodman, Linda	Konstantarakis, Voula
Bieker, Adam and Cassie	Nour, Reza	Gordon, Victor+ and Demetria	Kontos, Diana
Bieker, Georgea	Demoleas, Spero and Grace	Gorgan, Patrick	Koroni, Tara
Birtas, Helen and Ann	Demoleas, Stephanie	Grabovoi, Daphne	Kostopoulos, Georgia
Bjorklund, Danielle and	Deslis, Dimitrios	Granillo, Abrahan	Kountanis, Panagiota
Géronsini, Justin	Diktakis, Gregory	Gutierrez, Connie	Koupais, Mario and Cheri
Bland, James and Sherry	Dominguez, Eric and Amalia	Gutierrez, Daniel	Kouretas, Daniel
Blume, Michael	Doran, Neil and Eugenia	Hagos, Yohannes and Mebrat	Kouris, Demitris and Terry
Bochanis, Aris and Savannah	Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia	Hailemichael, Harenet	Koutsulis, John and Eileen
Bochanis, George	Dounis, Georgia	Hajiyero, George	Koutsulis, Sam and Effie+
Boehm, Alexy and Cone, Jayme	Dounis, Kiki	Hamilton, Mary	Kriekie, Jonathan and Iryna
Booth, Paul and Alina	Dramitinos, Mary	Hamilton, Paul and Brandi	Kypreos, George
Boskovic, Jelena	Dudunakis, Michael	Haney, Eleni	Kypreos, Lesley
Bowman, Jennifer	Earl, Christine Michaelides	Haralambakis, Demetre and Dimitra	Kypreos, Peter and Geri
Brennan, Peter and Maria	Eliades, Artemis	Haramis, John and	Kyriannis, Justin and Linda
Britten, Ronald and Carol	Eliades, Eleni and	Kitsios, Eugenia	Kyriazopoulos, Constantine Jr.
Brown, Faye	Garza, Everardo	Hastings, Teri	Lagomarsino, Victor and Sophia
Bruninga, William and Erin	Eliades, Gregory and Maria	Herman, Don and Effie	Lakkis, Christina
Bryant, Timothy and Janet	Eliades, Harry and Agapi	Hollar, Michelle and	Lakkis, Sahar
Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Eliades, Katerina	DiGioia, Antonio	Lamancusa, Lisa
Call, Jeremy and Cayla	Eliades, Telly	Hondros, Christina	Landahl, Richard and Johana
Carabas, Sotiroulla	Eliades-Prusha, Virginia	Hondros, Christopher and Darlene	Langis, Xenophon and Panagiota
Carahalas, John and Constance	Eliakis, Peter	Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria	Lauchlan, Michael and Antonina
Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	Eliakis, Varthie	Howard, Eddie and Willie	Lavine, Frederick
Carrico, William and Alexandra	Eyler, John and Elizabeth	Howe, David and Ana	Lee, David and Alexandra
Carstensen, Kathleen	Eyler, Reagan	Hristopoulou, Spiridoula	Lee, Sherry
Carter, Maria	Failla, Jennifer	Hurey, Heather	Lekar, Caroline

BELIEVE. BELONG. BE LOVED. STEWARDSHIP 2025!

Lekar, Michael and Effie
 Leong, Marissa and Elaine
 Leonis, Nick and Sophia
 Leonis, Tishe
 Leventis, Nicholas and Christina
 Liaos, James and Tina
 Likourinou, Angie
 Likourinou, Steve and June
 Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine
 Loughton, Dustin and Rena
 Lucas, Nicholas and Linda
 Magee, Thomas and Catalina
 Makris, Apostolos
 Mangafas, Kyriakos and Eleftheria
 Manolakos, Catherine
 Manos, Constantine and Michele
 Markantonis, Demos and Kate
 Markantonis, George and Sarah
 Matsis, John and Rebecca
 Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki
 Mavros, Alex and Jen
 Mavros, Debbie
 Mazzorana, Vicki
 McKinney, Michael and Mersene
 McManus, Jeanette
 McPherson, Robert and Marie
 McSweeney, Farolyn
 Mehas, Andrew and Samantha
 Melnichuk, Andrew
 Menegatos, James
 Merritt, Devin and Sonia
 Middleton, Sherrill
 Mikelis, Nikolas and Angela
 Monk, Theodore and Marissa
 Monolakis, Anthony
 Monoyudis, Jim and Julie
 Morris, Steve and Patricia
 Mulopulos, George and Jenny
 Murray, Christopher and
 George, Veneta
 Neshiwat, Mark
 Neville, Dennis
 Newell, Ronald and Maria
 Nicholas, Christina
 Nicholas, John and Estella
 Nichols, George and Tereza
 Nichols, Stella
 Nicolas, Samer and Christine
 Niforos, Helen
 Nikou, Volha
 Nixon, Deacon John and
 Diakonissa Ellyn
 Olmsted, Travis and Marilyn
 Osborn, Alexandra and
 Spotti, Peter
 Pahigiannis, Nikon
 Paikos, Tom and Elizabeth
 Palivos, Peter and Vicky
 Pallis, Paul
 Pan Arcadian Alea Chapter
 Pandelis, Cheryl
 Panos, Jeanne
 Papas, Christian and Nicole
 Papas, Peter and Rita

Pappas, Panagiotis and Andrea
 Paschalis, Evangelos and Maria
 Payan, Luis and Eleni
 Pendleton, Kali
 Pendleton, Tricia
 Penev, Kamen and Miglena
 Petersen, Todd and Diane
 Petriuc, Constantin
 Petro, Aleko and Georgia
 Petrou, Jim+ and Penelopi
 Philoptochos Society
 Pierro, Joe and Rhonda
 Pilatos, Emmanuel and Erica
 Polimerou, Angeline
 Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra
 Poulis, Chris and Francine
 Pouridis, Kouli and Para
 Powell, Scott and Angela
 Powers, Russell and Rebecca
 Prestage, Adam and Courtney
 Pytikakis, Manos and Elaine
 Rallis, Irene
 Randis, Anastasia
 Raptis, Presv. Evonne
 Rasmussen, Scott and Rebecca
 Refosco, Angela
 Rey, Robert and Patricia
 Rigas, Anthony and Mary
 Rigas, Evie
 Rihani, Gary and Linda
 Ristache, Fr. Florin and
 Presv. Alexandra
 Rivera, Elias and April
 Robison, Diane
 Rodis, Dimitri and Angeline
 Rodis, Sophia
 Roselli, Augustine
 Rotas, Beatrice
 Sakkas, Georgios and
 Stavropoulos, Bessie
 Salon, Janelle
 Salonikis, Valentinos and Sophia
 Santamaria, Jennifer and Robert
 Schmid, Hans and Elizabeth
 Searles, Chrysoula Sourla
 Seelios, Diplarakos
 Setian, Gary
 Shipman, Chad and Anastasia
 Siamas, Harry
 Simos, Tony and Lorie
 Simpson, Bryan and Julie
 Sinclair, Bill
 Sirhan, Michael and Khuri, Imtisl
 Snow, Clifford and Christina
 Soteropulos, Gust and Rita
 Sotiropulos, Chris and Jessica
 Sourso, Helene
 Spanos, Paraskevas
 Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette
 Spirtos, Nicholas
 Spotti, Nyssa Eleni
 Stamis, Angelo and Susan
 Stathopoulos, Hristos and
 Anastasia

Staubs, Douglas and Anastasia
 Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki
 Stransky, Mark
 Stransky, John and Rachel
 Swartz, Noah
 Szukiewicz, Joseph and Justina
 Tadich, Andrea
 Tadich, Katarina
 Tafoya, Steven and Irene
 Taxopoulos, Bryan and Irene
 Thanos, Nicholas and Victoria
 Theros, James and Kathryn
 Thompson, Maggy
 Tijiboy, Ana
 Tijiboy, Christine
 Tim, Anna
 Torolopoulos, Eleni
 Tsarouhas, Maria
 Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katerina
 Tsobanoglou, Niki and Paris
 Tsois, Christos and Panagioula
 Tsois, Kosta and
 Burgos, Nairobi
 Tsortanidis, Sophia
 Tsouras, Christopher and Diana
 Tzelalis, Antonia
 Tzelalis, Steve
 Tzelalis, Vaso
 Varellas, Billy
 Varinos, Nick and Kiki
 Varonos, Nicholas and Alexis
 Vervilos, James and Anna
 Vigil, Michael

Vorgiatzidis, Gina
 Wadlow, Nicholas and Pamela
 Wagner, Sophye
 Wallace, Robert and Katerina
 Waterhouse, David and
 Aleighzja
 Weishar, Dale
 Williams, Anthony and Anna
 Williamson, Daniel and
 Stavroula Halatsis-
 Wilson, Cleo
 Wilson, Clyde
 Wilson, Kelly and
 Egi, Junichiro
 Womack, Kimberly
 Xerogianes, Nikki
 Xikis, Victoria
 Yurkov, Andre and Kalina
 Zaferatos, Ted
 Zakis, Popi
 Zamir, Michelle and Talor
 Zapanti, Angela and
 Sinopoulos, Irene
 Zarkos, Nick and Dina
 Zarras, Nick and Chery
 Zekichev, Timothy and
 Morris, Alexandra
 Zervas, Dionisios and Cacilda
 Zimmerman, Paul, Angela,
 Christopher and Vangeli
 Zimmerman, Paul and Julie
 Zmina, Stephen and Cynthia

*"I press on toward the goal for the prize
 of the upward call of God in Christ
 Jesus." (Philippians 3:14)*



**2025
Stewardship
Report**
(as of 9/22/25)

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$622,853 (\$617,044 in 2024)
Stewardship Gifts Received: \$488,623 (\$442,285 in 2024)
Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$134,230 (\$174,759 in 2024)
Stewardship Families Pledged: 427 (428 in 2024)
2025 Goal: \$700,000

***“BELIEVE,
BELONG,
BE LOVED!”***

<u>Average Pledge</u>	<u>No. of Families</u>	<u>Amount Pledged</u>
\$1 - \$500	183	\$ 49,816
\$501 - \$1,000	75	\$ 57,148
\$1,001 - \$2,500	113	\$174,077
\$2,501 - \$5,000	32	\$114,256
\$5,001 - \$9999	16	\$101,187
\$10,000 & Above	8	\$126,369
Total Families	427	\$622,853

Church Account Summaries - August 2025

Nevada State Bank Accounts	July	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	August	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$117,332.63	\$86,741.23		827.50	\$120,069.07	\$83,177.29	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$24,125.49					\$24,125.49	
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$57,435.40	74,565.37		\$8,297.97	\$13,820.41	\$109,882.39	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$357,811.93	\$36,185.37		\$1,188.27	\$3,182.12	\$389,626.91	
Building & Maintenance (B&M)	\$169.66	\$1,175.00		\$40.00		\$1,304.66	
Folk Dance Group	\$28,042.62	\$545.00		\$117.85	\$375.00	\$28,094.77	
Hellenic Historical Society	\$790.96					\$790.96	
Designated Funds	July	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	August	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$34,086.94	\$1,845.00		\$1,188.27	\$3,182.12	\$31,561.55	
Restricted Funds	July	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	August	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
ICON	\$38,361.39	\$34,340.37				\$72,701.76	
ICON (Panels)	\$88,000.00					\$88,000.00	
Faithtree	\$1,626.39					\$1,626.39	
Youth Choir	\$2,989.18					\$2,989.18	
Church School	\$124,455.04					\$124,455.04	
GOYA	\$530.36					\$530.36	
Eyler Memorial Fund	\$0.00					\$0.00	
Emergency Fund	\$5,000.00					\$5,000.00	
Three Priests	\$62,322.63					\$62,322.63	
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
Kitchen Servicing & Cleaning	\$0.00					\$0.00	
Designated, Restricted and Other Total	\$357,811.93	\$36,185.37	\$0.00	\$1,188.27	\$3,182.12	\$389,626.91	
Building and Maintenance Funds	July	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	August	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Building Fund	\$169.66	\$175.00		\$40.00		\$304.66	
Hall Project	\$0.00					\$0.00	
Giving Tree	\$0.00	\$1,000.00				\$1,000.00	
HVAC	\$0.00					\$0.00	
Building & Maintenance Funds Total	\$84.66	\$1,175.00	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$1,304.66	
Other Funds	July	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	August	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$75,388.23					\$75,388.23	Balance as of 12/31/24

August 2025 Candles **\$6,307.10**
August 2025 Trays **\$5,255.05**
August 2025 Candles & Trays **\$11,562.15**



OCTOBER 2025 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1 6:30 pm Six Classes of the Orthodox Faith: Class #1	2	3	4
5 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Chanters/Choir Practice	6 Fr. Florin at Archdiocesan Presbyters Council National Retreat 10/6-9	7 6:00 pm Parish Council 6:00 pm Audit Committee 6:00 pm Adult Greek Language Class	8 9:00 am Homeless Outreach 6:30 pm Six Classes of the Orthodox Faith: Class #2	9 4:30 pm Youth Greek Language Classes Begin	10	11 11:00 am All Youth at Gilcrease Orchard 5:00 pm Great Vespers, Potluck and St. Paisios Series #1
12 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Chanters/Choir Practice 12:30 pm Philoptochos Meeting in Kokkos Hall	13	14 6:00 pm Adult Greek Language Class 6:00 pm PC Budget Meeting	15 9:00 am Homeless Outreach 9:30 am Clergy Meeting 6:30 pm Six Classes of the Orthodox Faith: Class #3	16 4:30 pm Youth Greek Language Classes	17	18 5:00 pm Young Adults Mini Golf at PopStroke at Town Square
19 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy and Artoclasia Chanters/Choir Practice 12:30 pm Safety Training in Kokkos Hall	20 St. Gerasimos of Cephalonia 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	21 6:00 pm Adult Greek Language Class	22 9:00 am Homeless Outreach 6:30 pm Six Classes of the Orthodox Faith: Class #4	23 Holy Apostle Iakovos (James) 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 4:30 pm Youth Greek Language Classes	24	25 5:00 pm Mr. and Mrs. at Tim and Janet Bryant's Home
26 St. Demetrios 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 1:00 pm Kali Pareia St. Demetrios Name Day Party at Demetri Asim's Home	27	28 6:00 pm Adult Greek Language Class	29 9:00 am Homeless Outreach 6:30 pm Six Classes of the Orthodox Faith: Class #5	30 4:30 pm Youth Greek Language Classes	31	

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



*“Therefore I
endure
everything
for the sake
of the elect,
that they
also may
obtain
salvation in
Christ Jesus
with its
eternal
glory.”
(2 Timothy
2:10)*