

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 18, Issue 12 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

December 2020

**From
Father
John**

Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, δοξάσατε, Χριστὸς ἐξ οὐρανῶν, ἀπαντήσατε.
Christ is born; glorify Him! Christ is come from heaven; go and meet Him!

Beloved in Christ:

I pray you and your loved ones are in good health: If due to the pandemic you have been afflicted physically, emotionally, financially or spiritually, may our loving and merciful God restore you fully! As we near the closing of 2020, we must be grateful that we are ending on a note of hope. While all peoples throughout the world are eagerly anticipating the availability of a vaccine for COVID 19, we Christians must put our faith in something greater . . . something more permanent . . . indeed, in the One Who is the Antidote for all the infirmities of our fallen human race: With the celebration of the Great Feast of our Lord Jesus Christ's Nativity in the Flesh, we are again this year assured that *"God is with us!" (Isaiah 7:14)*

This is not to say that the Orthodox Christian Faith is out of touch with our needs in this life – indeed we continuously pray in every Divine Service for those who are sick and suffering, for our civil leaders, for those who serve us, for our community and, yes, for peace in the world. However, as the followers of Jesus Christ, we must understand that our Savior was incarnate – that is, He became Man while remaining fully God – not to assure us a good life in this fleeting world, but rather to grant each of us the Gift of Everlasting Life in His Kingdom! In the words of St. Paul: *"But when the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons and daughters."* (Galatians 4:4-5)

In one of the beautiful Orthros hymns for the Nativity Season, we faithful are invited to *"go and meet"* the newborn Christ, just as the shepherds and Magi did over two-thousand years ago. How is this possible, we might wonder, in the midst of a pandemic, with the possibility of contracting the COVID 19 virus, with restrictions placed on Church attendance, and with mandates directing us to avoid others outside our household as well as public gatherings? By looking to two Gospel narratives of the Nativity, we will receive some helpful insight.

According to St. Luke's account, the humble shepherds, while keeping watch over their flock at night, received the revelation by an angel of our Lord's Birth as well as a vision of a multitude of the Heavenly host glorifying God. The detailed response of the shepherds is more revealing: They *"went with haste"* to the manger; they made known the revelation they had received; and they returned to their fields *"glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen."* (Luke 2:8-20) In various ways, God has revealed Himself to us – and each of us has a personal experience: We must respond as the shepherds, remaining vigilant with humble faith in this dark world, going with haste each day to encounter Him in the manger of our hearts through prayer, confessing to others the good news of His salvation, and praising and glorifying Him in every circumstance.

(Continued on Page 3)



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

*All our Sunday Divine Services are Available on Live-Stream!
Access the Live-Stream on <http://youtube.com/vegasgreekorthodox>*

Sunday, December 6/*10th Sunday of Luke/
St. Nicholas of Myra, the Wonderworker*

Orthros: Tone One

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

Epistle: Hebrews 13:17-21

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Memorials: Michael Augousti (6 months); and
Christ Chachas.

Saturday, December 12/*St. Spyridon of
Trimythous, the Wonderworker/
St. Peter the Aleut*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19

Gospel: John 10:9-16

Sunday, December 13/*11th Sunday of Luke/Holy
Forefathers of Christ/Eustratios, Auxentios,
Evgenios, Mardarios, and Orestes the Martyrs/
St. Lucia the Virgin Martyr/St. Herman of Alaska*

Orthros: Tone Two

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

Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11

Gospel: Luke 14:16-24

Sunday, December 20/*Sunday Before the Nativity
of Christ/Holy Ancestors and Prophets/
Prophet Daniel and the Three Holy Youths/
St. Ignatios of Antioch*

Orthros: Tone Three

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

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Memorials: Thomas Foskaris (40 days); Andreas
Christou (7 months); and William Flangas (2 years).

Thursday, December 24/*Eve of the Nativity
of Christ*

6:00 pm Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-12

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Friday, December 25/*The Nativity in the Flesh of
Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ*

9:00 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-20

Sunday, December 27/*Sunday After the Nativity/
Holy and Righteous Joseph the Betrothed/
Holy Prophet David the King/*

*St. James (Iakovos), the Brother of the Lord/
St. Stephen the First Martyr and Archdeacon*

Orthros: Tone Four

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

Epistle: Acts 6:8-15, 7:1-5, 47-60

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

Friday, January 1/*Circumcision of Christ/
St. Basil the Great and His Mother St. Emelia*

9:00 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Epistle: Colossians 2:8-12

Gospel: Luke 2:21-20, 40-52



CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!

From Father John (Continued from Page 1)

In St. Matthew's account, we are told of the Magi from the East who made the long journey, following the star – which could not be seen by the evil King Herod, who sought to destroy the Christ-child – in order to worship Him: Moreover, they offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh – acknowledging Him as King, Priest and the One Who would suffer and die for us. (*Matthew 2:1-11*) As with the Magi, the Church is open to all, regardless of ethnic origin, who willingly embrace and follow the True Faith in the Trinitarian God, and who serve and worship Him with courage and without fear, especially in the face of adversity. May this Holy Season bring about our spiritual awakening and renewal, for His glory and our sanctification.

With Love in the Incarnate God,




Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services

Thursday, December 24

Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

6:00 pm Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Friday, December 25

Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

9:00 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Please be prepared to receive Holy Communion at both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Liturgies.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

2020 Christmas Card Submission Form

Name and Phone or Email:

Print Your Name as you wish it to appear on the card (names only - no greeting, please):

Donation: \$25 per family. Deadline: Sunday, December 6, 2020.

Please submit form and payment to Philoptochos c/o St. John the Baptist Church.

Parish Council Report

We want to again thank everyone who has worked so hard and contributed so much of their time, talents and treasures to keep our Church going during these most difficult of times. This month, I would like to share a recent appeal that was sent by our Treasurer, Skip Ruffner:

2020 has been a challenging year to say the least and we pray that your families, friends, co-workers and neighbors have all been healthy.

Our Parish Council, Priests and Financial Committee have been working to mitigate financial challenges since the onslaught of COVID-19. We are so blessed and thankful for the efforts to pay off the mortgage in December of 2019; this has been incredibly significant to our ability to meet our financial obligations in 2020. Not being able to celebrate Holy Week and many feast days, along with the cancellation of the Greek Food Festival, our annual income has been significantly reduced. That said, we have received many very generous donations this year and we have been deferring expenses when able to preserve funds. We were able to receive Payroll Protection Plan funds from the government and we have every expectation these funds will be converted to a grant. Through the end of October 2020, we have met most of our financial obligations/operating expenses, including 50% of our Total Commitment to the Archdiocese. We have had opportunities to borrow money at low interest rates but have rejected this option. You worked so hard to pay off the mortgage and we are doing all we can to avoid returning to a debt position.

We are humbly appealing for your financial assistance through additional donations and continuing to meet Stewardship commitments.

On behalf of the Priests and Parish Council, I would like to thank those who have already responded so generously to this appeal, which allowed us to meet our operating expenses in November. We are still projecting a shortfall in operating funds for December. We urge each and every one of you who have the means, to continue contributing to help provide for and maintain the future of our Church.

Parish Council Elections will take place on Sunday, December 6, following the Divine Liturgy. These elections are very important to the leadership and administration of our Church. There are six seats open for election and the candidates for the 2021-22 term are: *Nicholas Barbarino, Spero Demoleas, Spiros Filios, Constantinos Kanis, John Koutsulis, June Likourinou and Kouli Pouridis.* Please be sure to wear your face mask and practice social distancing when voting. Please call Karen at the Church Office if you want an Absentee Ballot: All Absentee Ballots must be returned to the Church Office *by Friday, December 4 at 5:00 pm.*

Thank you to those who participated in the recent Parish Assembly, both in person and via Zoom. I will give a more detailed report next month.

In closing, we look forward to the time when we can all worship in Church together in person without fear and without restrictions. We urge everyone to be safe, and to comply with the guidelines and mandates for dealing with and defeating COVID-19, and we urge everyone to take care of one another during these taxing times. The more we allow God to direct and guide our lives, the more power and blessings we are going to have.

God Bless and Have a Merry Christmas! Gus Flangas, Parish Council President

*Our Church is open for the scheduled Divine Services,
on a first come/first served basis.*

*Once our Church has reached capacity, per the State mandates,
our Parish members will be directed to Panos Hall.*

*There will be no Fellowship Hour or Kollyva until the restrictions are lifted.
For the health and safety of all, please follow the posted guidelines.*



Parish Council Elections ~ 2021-22 Term

Sunday, December 6 ~ following Liturgy ~ Panos Hall Foyer
Face Masks and Social Distancing will be Required to Vote

Six available positions ~ Our Nominees are:



Nicholas Barbarino



Spero Demoleas



Spiros Filios



Constantinos Kanis



John Koutsulis



June Likourinou

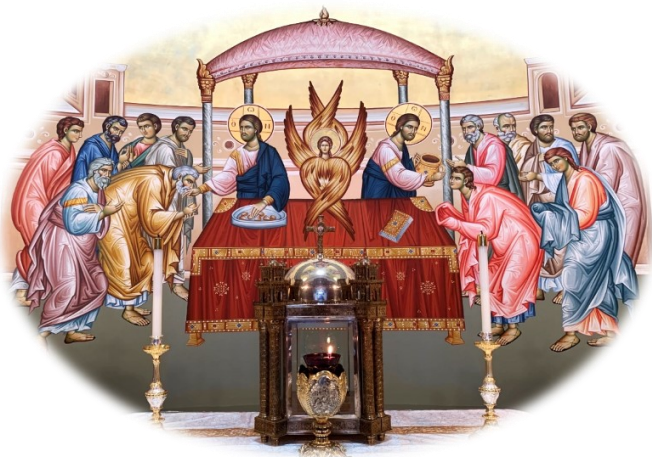


Kouli Pouridis

All 2020 Parish Stewards are eligible to vote!

*For current Stewards unable to be present on Election Day,
please call Karen for an Absentee Ballot. Absentee Ballots must be returned to the
Church Office by Friday, December 4, 2020 at 5:00 pm.*

Stewardship and Community Outreach



Glory to God for all things! Our 2021 Parish Stewardship Theme is CONNECTION! We are all called to connect with Christ, our Church, and one another. After all, didn't our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ connect with us? Is He not the Greatest Almsgiver in the entire cosmos?

In the life of St. John the Merciful, there is a story about a vision he had when he was 15 years old. The vision he beheld was of a beautiful maiden who appeared more radiant than the sun. She stood beside his bed and then touched him. When he arose from bed he made the sign of the honorable Cross and asked who she was. She said, "I am the first daughter of the great King."

He bowed to her reverently. She went on to say to him that "If thou wilt have me as thy friend, I shall take thee before the King, and He shall love thee exceedingly. For no one else has such boldness before Him as do I, for whom He came down from the heavens to the earth and took flesh that He might redeem man." After thinking deeply and praying, St. John recognized the beautiful maiden as ALMSGIVING, for which the all-good Logos became incarnate on account of His love.

God is love and redeems us in His love. *"God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* (1 John 4:9-10) Thus Jesus Christ's coming into the world is the fulfillment of the Old Covenant prophecies; He gave us His New Covenant.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ took on human flesh and became like each one of us, except for sin. He condescended to be *"made a little lower than the angels"* (Hebrews 2:7), to experience our fallen human condition, out of His great love for His creation. He showed us how to die to sin and to be born again in Him through Baptism as He said to Nicodemus, *"... unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."* (John 3:5)

He called for us to, *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"* (Matthew 3:2), and He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind (Matthew 9:27-30, John 9:1-12), gave hearing to the deaf (Mark 7:31-37), raised the dead (Mark 5:22-43, Luke 7:11-15, John 11:1-44), and fed the multitudes (Matthew 14:13-21, 15:32-38) with both physical and spiritual food.

He continued showing His great love for mankind through His 12 Apostles, telling them to preach: *"The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons."* (Matthew 10:7-8) He subsequently commanded the 70 other Apostles to do likewise.

During the Mystical Supper, Jesus instituted the Eucharist when He broke bread and said, *"Take, eat; this is My Body... Drink from it all of you. For this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins."* (Matthew 26:26-28) Following this august event, Christ our Lord willingly went to His Passion, experiencing great suffering and humiliation at the hands of those He created. This subsequently led to His Crucifixion and Death, fulfilling his words: *"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."* (John 15:13) Christ Rose from the dead, and as the Head of our Church, He has assured His body of faithful believers that we will also resurrect to eternal Life.

As an epilogue to the story of St. John the Merciful, who was noted for his great almsgiving, please enjoy this final detail: When St. John fell asleep in the Lord, the first daughter of the great King, ALMSGIVING, came and fulfilled her promise. She brought him the crown he had earned from God and she escorted the beloved saint's soul to the great King, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As the Lord has shown His deep love and commitment to connecting with each one of us in so many ways, let us make every effort to return that same commitment to Him, to our Church, and to one another.

Have a Blessed Christmas! Stewardship and Outreach Committee

Philoptochos News

Dearest Sisters of Philoptochos and Parish Members,
I come to you in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In this challenging year, the hope for salvation and rescue is once again found in our Holy Orthodox Faith. As we prepare for a holiday season much different from years past, may Christ protect our country from this pandemic, from ill-health, and may He shower His divine blessings on everyone. Let us celebrate the Christmas Miracle while remembering the need of others.

I would like to thank everyone for the many wonderful cards, texts and prayers for me and our family in response to my beloved husband Karl's passing. The love shown is incredibly special to me. Karl loved the Church and everyone in our St. John the Baptist Community so very much.

The Lord has given us all the responsibility to look after those less fortunate than us. During these extraordinary times, any contribution you can make for any of our very worthwhile programs will play a big part in creating some comfort and a ray of happiness for those most vulnerable.

St. John Community Christmas Card 2020: Our Philoptochos Chapter is again offering all our Parish Members the opportunity to express the glorious message of our Lord's Nativity and greetings to all on our large mailing list. Please complete the form *on Page 3*, and return it with your payment of \$25 to Philoptochos; or call Karen at the Church Office for more information. *The Deadline for the Christmas Card name submission is Sunday, December 6.*

Philoptochos Christmas Raffle: Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, our Chapter had to suspend most of our projects and fundraisers this year. We invite you to participate in our Virtual Raffle by purchasing a ticket for \$50 each. Three fabulous prizes will be given away at the *Virtual Drawing on Sunday, December 20 at 6:00 pm:* 1st Prize – A beautiful 14 carat gold diamond Cross; 2nd Prize – Las Vegas Raiders basket with autographed memorabilia, and two game tickets for the 2021 season (TBD); and 3rd Prize – A lovely Icon of the Nativity of Christ made by the Sisters of the Life-Giving Spring Monastery in Dunlap, CA. Proceeds benefit our many charities. Tickets can be purchased at lasvegasphiloptochosstjohn@gmail.com or by calling Karen at (702) 221-8245. If paying by check, please make it payable to Philoptochos, and write "Christmas Raffle" in the memo.

Christmas Bake-less Pastry Support:
Due to COVID 19 concerns, our primary fundraiser – Christmas Pastries – has been canceled this year. As our fundraising capabilities have been substantially diminished, while the needs at the many charities and for the people we help have not, we kindly ask the members of our community to donate whatever you can, knowing that every offering will go to the assistance of individuals and families in need.

Thank you as always for all that you do each and every day in helping those in need by your continued support to our Philoptochos Chapter here in Las Vegas. I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas Season!

With Love in Christ, Benita Beeman, Philoptochos President



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Rev. Father John Hondros
frjohn@vegaskgreekorthodox.com

Rev. Father Seraphim Ramos
frseraphim@vegaskgreekorthodox.com

Karen Rawlinson
Administrative Assistant

Michelle Eugenio
Bookkeeper

Mara Braun
Catering & Events

Constantin Petriuc & Ramona Tasios
Maintenance & Grounds

Office Hours
Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Telephone: (702) 221-8245
www.vegaskgreekorthodox.com

Parish Council: Gus Flangas

Philoptochos: Benita Beeman

Stewardship & Community Outreach:
Justina Szukiewicz

Choir: Athena Mertes

Chanters & Youth Choir:
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Church School: Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers: Father John

GOYA:
Kouli Pouridis & June Likourinou

Orthodox Family Fellowship:
Jelena Boskovic & Amy Khuri

Young Adults:
Fr. Seraphim

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek School: Paula Kelesis

Mr. & Mrs.:
Fr. John, Fr. Seraphim & Presvyteres

Kali Parea: Demetrious Asim

Adult Basketball:
TBD

Forerunners: Victoria Xikis

Orthodox Bookstore:
Paraskevi Santamaria

Greek Food Festival: Gus Flangas

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

Photography & Live-Streaming:
Bill & Erin Bruninga

Ladies Philoptochos
of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

1st Prize: A beautiful Cross with Mother of Pearl and Diamonds set in 14 Carat Gold (Value \$1,630).

2nd Prize: Las Vegas Raiders Basket with autographed memorabilia, two tickets for the 2021 season (game TBD), and other Raider items.

3rd Prize: A glorious 14x8 Icon of the Nativity of Christ made by the Sisters at the Monastery of the Holy Theotokos – the Life-Giving Spring, in Dunlap, CA.

Tickets are \$50 each.

Virtual Drawing on Sunday, December 20 at 6:00 pm.

Purchase tickets . . .

By email at lasvegasphiloptochosstjohn@gmail.com

By phone at (702) 221-8245 (Office Hours M-F, 9-5)

By check payable to – Philoptochos, memo – Christmas Raffle

Mail to St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church,

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

“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done.” (Proverbs 19:17)

From Father Seraphim

The History of our Church offers many examples of the most extraordinary individuals who dedicated their lives entirely to God. Their stories span continents and centuries, varying greatly, yet one thread that links each of them is their ultimate and surpassing love for God no matter their age, profession, ethnicity, language, or whether they were male or female. The category of martyred Saints endured whipping, stoning, imprisonment, starvation, public mockery, fire, drowning, wild beasts, lacerations, and other forms of torture because of their belief in Jesus Christ and their refusal to offer worship to false gods. When faced with enormous pressure to deny Christ they stood firm and fearless even unto death.

One such individual named Barbara lived in the city of Heliopolis (modern day Cairo, Egypt) in the third century. She was a lovely and delightful girl; the daughter of Dioscorus, a wealthy nobleman and pagan. Barbara was exceedingly beautiful, and her father always kept a close watch over her. In his zeal to protect his young daughter, Dioscorus built a magnificent tower within a fortress for her to live in to keep her safe. He spared no expense providing her with every material luxury – the best food, clothing, servants, and teachers. But he forbade her to have friends or to even speak to anyone without his permission. When Barbara came of age, many military officers of Heliopolis asked her father for her hand in marriage, for they had heard of her great beauty and charm. He refused, however, to give his promise to anyone until he conferred with his daughter. Barbara responded by telling her father, “I do not desire that you should speak to me any longer on this subject, lest you should constrain me to take my life and thus deprive yourself of your child!” Dioscorus left the fortress believing that in time he could convince her to consent to marriage, thinking she spoke contrary to marriage due to peevishness or disobedience. He did not know that she desired to remain a virgin.

Dioscorus then decided to add a magnificent bathing house to the fortress, and left the plans with his builders, instructing them to begin work while he departed for another city where he had some pressing business. During her father’s absence, Barbara had the opportunity to leave her living quarters and observe the erection of the bath house. Upon discovering that the building was to have only two windows, she asked the builders to install a third, and assured them that she would assume the responsibility. While Dioscorus was able to control her environment he was unable to prevent Barbara from exercising her acute intelligence. Through contemplating the reflection of God in nature, Barbara had miraculously come to the knowledge of the One God in Trinity and turning aside from vanities, she felt in her heart a longing for Christ. Barbara came to accept the Christian faith and was baptized in secret.



(Continued on Page 10)

Ministry News

Young Adults

Dear Young Adults,

I know this year has been disappointing in terms of what we have been able to do together in person for all these many months. There is a song from *Beauty and the Beast* sung by Lumiere that has a line, “What’s a servant when he’s not serving?” I ask myself the same question: “What’s a priest without his people?” As we carefully hone the virtues of patience and endurance, let us remember to always pray for each other and still find ways to be there for each other so that negativity and stress do not get the best of us. The Lord is still coming into the darkness of our world and His light cannot be covered or overcome – even by something like this pandemic and isolation.



That being said, we will continue with our monthly video chats: Please join us for a Zoom Meeting *on Sunday, December 13 at 5:00 pm* to discuss not only the life and miracles of St. Spyridon the Wonderworker of Trimythous – but also to reflect on Christmas Traditions, the Feast of the Holy Nativity and the role of the Incarnation in our lives. We customarily do a white elephant gift exchange, so perhaps we can figure out a way so send each other gifts in the mail since we will not be able to gather in person this year for our annual after-Christmas feast.

Information regarding the meeting login and ID will be emailed out to everyone on our list. If you do not receive these emails and would like to be added, please contact Father Seraphim at frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com. We hope to see you there!

Christ is Born! Father Seraphim

From Father Seraphim (Continued from Page 9)

When her father returned and inquired about the altered building plans he noticed that the bath house he had ordered for construction now had three windows instead of two. He asked the artisans why this was and they referred him to Barbara. When questioned she made the sign of the Cross and showing her father the three fingers, she declared her faith in the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having learned about her belief in the Christian God, Dioscorus became enraged at Barbara, hunting her down as she fled from him in the nearby mountains, and dragging her back to the city. Despite threats, deprivations, and beatings, she held to her faith in Jesus Christ. Turning her over to the governor of the city who tried to persuade her to offer incense to Caesar and the pagan gods in order to escape a death sentence, Barbara refused, and was subjected to yet more tortures. Another young woman named Julianna, seeing Barbara’s courage and unyielding faith, stepped forward and declared belief in Christ as well. Both were executed – Barbara at the hand of her own father – in the reign of the impious tyrant Maximian (286-305 AD).

St. Barbara’s discarded body was secretly retrieved by pious Christians and received a Christian burial. In time her holy relics were preserved by the Church in Constantinople and in the twelfth century the holy relics of the great martyr were transferred to Kiev by Barbara, the daughter of the Byzantine Emperor Alexius Comnenos, who married the Russian prince Michael Izyaslavich. They rest even now at Kiev’s Saint Vladimir Cathedral, where an Akathist to the saint is served each Tuesday and many miracles are recorded to this day. In her icon in our Church here in Las Vegas, her outstretched left arm shows her open palm facing the viewer, as if saying “stop” to the ways of the world, to sin, and false beliefs, while in her right hand she holds the symbol of martyrdom: the precious cross. *On December 4*, our Church celebrates the Feast Day of the Great-Martyr, St. Barbara.

With Love in Christ,

Father Seraphim

Ministry News

Church School

Hi Everyone! I hope you all have a wonderful Nativity Season.

We miss seeing you in the classroom and are still praying that we will be able to do some sort of in-person Church School after the first of the year.

In the meantime, I hope you are enjoying the *Orthodox Journeys* curriculum that Karen emails every week. Here is a link for 2020-2021 Catalog and Order Form from the Orthodox Christian Education Commission in case you are interested in purchasing materials for home learning: <http://orthodoxchristianed.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/OCEC-Catalog-2020.pdf>. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or need any suggestions: Call me at (702) 521-6516 or email me at vivaleenie@cox.net.

We hope to see you at the Divine Liturgy on Sundays and for Christmas.

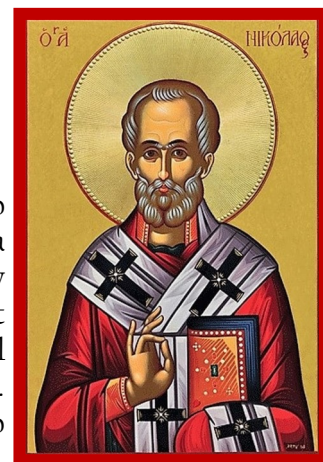
In Christ, Eileen Koutsulis, Church School Director

Orthodox Family Fellowship

Please join us **on Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 pm** for a Zoom Meeting to discuss not only the life and miracles of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker of Myra and Lycia – but also to reflect on Christmas Traditions, the Feast of the Holy Nativity and the role of the Incarnation in our lives. We usually do a white elephant gift exchange, so perhaps we can figure out a way so send each other gifts in the mail since we will not be able to gather in person this year for our annual Christmas feast.

Information regarding the meeting login and ID will be emailed out to everyone on our list. If you do not receive these emails and would like to be added, please contact Father Seraphim at frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com. See you then!

Blessed Nativity! Father Seraphim, Amy Khuri and Jelena Boskovic



GOYA - For Teenagers

Thank you to those who still take the time to log on and enjoy some fellowship for an hour on Sunday afternoons. We may be a small group left after eight months and everyone being “Zoomed out,” but we still enjoy speaking about Christ and His Saints, His Church, and eternal life.

Please join us **on Sunday, December 6 at 5:00 pm** for a Zoom Meeting to discuss not only the life and miracles of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker of Myra and Lycia – but also to reflect on Christmas Traditions, the Feast of the Holy Nativity and the role of the Incarnation in our lives. We customarily do a white elephant gift exchange, so perhaps we can figure out a way so send each other gifts in the mail since we will not be able to gather in person this year for our annual after-Christmas feast.

Information regarding the meeting login and ID will be emailed out to everyone on our list. If you do not receive these emails and would like to be added, please contact Father Seraphim at frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com. See you then!

With Love in our Newborn Christ, Father Seraphim, Kouli Pouridis and June Likourinou

Greek School

I miss you and hope you and your families are well. Although we are not having in-person Greek School, the publisher of our textbooks, Papaloizos Publications, has many resources and education materials available for both children and adults in book form or digitally. Please check out www.greek123.com. If you need any help, please contact me at (702) 249-4740 and I will gladly help you. Please keep looking in *The Desert Messenger* for updates on Greek School here at St. John the Baptist Church. Paula Kelesis, Director

Orthodox Bookstore

Nativity Greetings from the Bookstore!

There is a key scene in a favorite 90s legal thriller of mine in which Tom Cruise's character, Lt. Caffey, hands his witness the Standard Operating Procedures Manual for the Marine base and asks him to, "Turn to the page that says where the mess hall is." He is making the point that everyday common actions in the life of a Marine are not necessarily all spelled out in a manual or book – and since the witness appeared well fed, he must have been eating without specific written instructions on how or where to do so! "I guess I just followed the crowd at chow time," the witness replied, since it was simply a part of his daily routine, as was the more secret and unwritten tradition of the "Code Red" peer-on-peer disciplinary practice that happened to be at issue in court that day.

As Orthodox Christians striving to lead a daily life in Christ, we too, live by traditions that are not exactly spelled out in the Bible as if it were an SOP manual. We reject the concept of *Sola Scriptura* (scripture alone) as a means for comprehending and living the totality of a Christian life, especially since the New Testament did not exist as a single volume for the first few generations of Christians. Early Christians had Apostolic Tradition handed down to them in the life of the Church, consisting of both open and hidden teachings (ie, "The doors! The doors!" from the Divine Liturgy), leading to the entirety of the Way of the Lord in the Holy Spirit in the Church – from which sprang forth the written Gospels and Epistles much later.

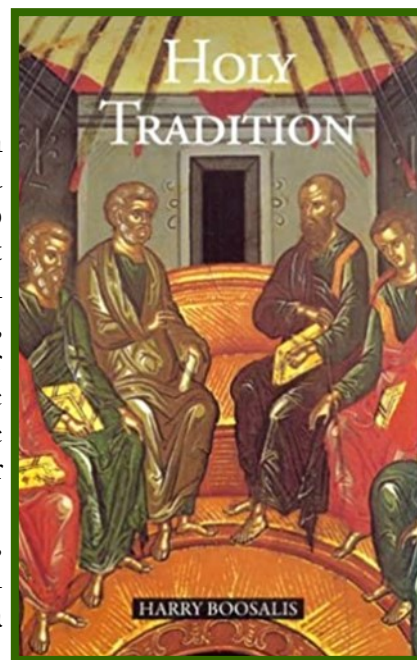
In this month's selection, *Holy Tradition: Ecclesial Experience of Life in Christ* by Harry Boosalis, St. Basil the Great is quoted as making this point: "Concerning the teachings of the Church . . . we have received some from written sources, while others have been given to us secretly, through Apostolic Tradition. Both sources have equal force . . ."

Moreover, Boosalis states in this collection of introductory lectures for first-year seminarians: "Faithfulness to Tradition is not a loyalty to antiquity, but rather the living relationship with the fullness of the Christian life."

As the Church Militant, we are a lot like Marines on a base with our own traditions steeped not in antiquity for the sake of nostalgia or various ethnic customs, but for the sake of the health and salvation of our souls. In the spirit of the Holy Nativity of Christ, you are invited to come and check out this short and easy read on how the life of the Holy Spirit gave birth to Holy Tradition in our Church. Professor Boosalis makes it all exceptionally clear.

As usual, please see Karen during the week or stop by after Divine Liturgy on Sundays (masks and physical distancing required) to shop. We have the 2021 *Daily Lives Calendars* now available, in addition to various new icons, wall blessings, holiday cards, ornaments, holiday incense kits, and other small gift items for your seasonal shopping. Come and see!

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



AHEPA Las Vegas Chapter 314

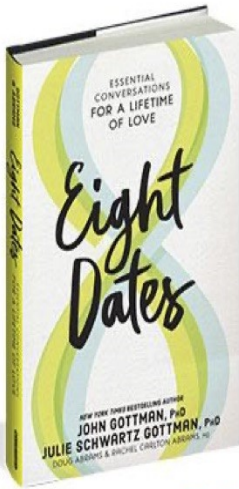
The AHEPA 314 Chapter of Las Vegas would like to wish everyone a Blessed Nativity. Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. May this Christmas bring you and your family the promise of a better tomorrow full of love and joy. We will meet via Zoom *on Tuesday, January 5, 2021*. Please email us at ahepa314@gmail.com if you are interested in becoming involved with AHEPA. Steve Liaos, Acting President (702) 518-8018





METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO YOUNG MARRIED COUPLES

“ESSENTIAL CONVERSATIONS
FOR A LIFETIME OF LOVE”



Join us and other couples in our Orthodox community for 1-hour virtual sessions twice a month, in a complimentary series featuring discussions from *Eight Dates* by John Gottman, Ph.D., designed to strengthen your commitment to one another and to God.

THURSDAYS AT 6:30PM PST

OCTOBER 15	NOVEMBER 12	DECEMBER 3	JANUARY 7	FEBRUARY 4
OCTOBER 29	NOVEMBER 19	DECEMBER 17	JANUARY 21	FEBRUARY 18

VISIT EITHER WEBSITE BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.gosfyouth.org

www.familywellnessministry.org



YOUTH &
YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRIES



Family Wellness Ministry



Tatiana Grant, Iconography



Come, believers, let us see the place where Christ has been born. With the Magi, those three kings who from the orient are, now let us follow to where the star is proceeding. Ceaselessly do Angels sing praises there. Shepherds in the field sing a worthy song, saying: Glory in the highest be to Him Who was born today in the grotto from the Virgin and Theotokos, in Bethlehem of Judea.
(Kathisma, Nativity of Christ, Translated by Father Seraphim Dedes)



Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun!

Alexandra Maria, daughter of Travis and Veneta Shaffer, on October 30, 2020.
Godparent: Katerina Maria Diamantis.

Vassilios Markos (Travis), son of Travis and Veneta Shaffer, on October 30, 2020.
Godparent: Eugenia Georgiou Diamantis.

Justinian (Blair) Laird on October 31, 2020 (Adult Baptism).
Godparent: William Vasilios Bruninga.

Photini (Leeann) Laird on October 31, 2020 (Adult Baptism).
Godparent: Jennifer Paraskevi Santamaria.

Elias (Eliezer), son of Blair and Leeann Laird, on October 31, 2020.
Godparent: William Vasilios Bruninga.

John (Lemuel), son of Blair and Leeann Laird, on October 31, 2020.
Godparent: Eleni Bruninga.

Joseph, son of Blair and Leeann Laird, on October 31, 2020.
Godparent: Eleni Bruninga.

Fotini (Brianna) Eck Kouretas on November 6, 2020 (Adult Baptism).
Godparent: Vasiliki Eliades.

Christopher Yaroslav, son of Christopher and Stephanie Rodriguez, on November 14, 2020.
Godparent: Christina Kushnir.

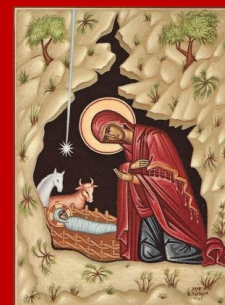
Stavros, son of Constantinos and Katie Kanis, on November 24, 2020.
Godparent: Athena Pitts.

Marriages: Na Zisete!

Sean Alexander Atkins and Christina Kakavulias on November 7, 2020.
Koumbaros: Dimitri Dalacas.

David Lee and Alexandra Lee on November 8, 2020.
Koumbara: Eleni Bruninga.

*Having been granted the longed-for experience of the Advent of
God, the Christ-pleasing people tearfully prays to see the
regeneration, the life-giving Baptism. All-pure and holy Virgin,
grant us the favor, to venerate that glory.
(Troparion of the Nativity, Translated by Father Seraphim Dedes)*





CONNECTION!

*“ . . . that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You;
that they also may be one in Us . . . ” (John 17:21)*

CONNECTING WITH . . . CHRIST OUR CHURCH AND ONE ANOTHER

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

+++++

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

2021 CONNECTION

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
Las Vegas, Nevada

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 2021 of \$ _____.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Orthodox Christian: Yes No

Orthodox Christian: Yes No

Others sharing in the gift (children): _____

With Gratitude to God for Our Pledged Stewards in 2020
If you wish to become a Parish Steward, please fill out Pledge Form and return to Karen

Acovino, Richard and Angela
 Adamy, Marina
 Albertson-Reizakis, Yianna
 Alcalá, Georgia
 Alex, Steve
 Alexander, Eleni
 Alford, Cynthia "Mary"
 Alvarado, Jessie and
 Cokotis, Julie
 Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine
 Anastasiou, Andrew and
 Kathleen
 Andary, Oscar
 Andrews, Catherine
 Andrews, Chris and Pamela
 Andrews, George
 Andricopoulos, Margo
 Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette
 Anton, Mike and Carol
 Antonopoulos, Dimitri
 Arbuio, Elizabeth
 Aristides, George and Diana
 Asim, Demetrious
 Athens, Maria and
 Centers, Scott
 Ayoub, Bashar
 Bacon, Ken and Dianne
 Balaouras, Helen
 Balaouras, Paris
 Balason, Voula
 Baldwin, Richard and Vivi
 Balodimas, James
 Barbarino, Dee and Nick
 Bartzos, Eugenia
 Beeler, Mike and Carolyn
 Beeman, Karl Jr. and Ivana
 Berendji, Jim and Vivian
 Bernier, Micah and Alissa
 Berta, Irene +
 Bieker, Adam and Cassie
 Birtas, Helen and Ann
 Bjorklund, Danielle
 Bledsoe, Lori
 Bochanis, George and Enid
 Booth, Alina
 Brennan, Peter and Maria
 Britten, Ronald and Carol
 Brown, Faye
 Bruninga, Bill and Erin
 Bucy, Brent and Elaine
 Cahill, Irene
 Campbell, Theodore and Cheryl
 Cappony, Martha
 Carabas, Stephen and Linda
 Carahalas, John and Constance
 Caredis, Jon and Marjorie
 Carrico, William and Alexandra
 Carter, Maria
 Chachas, Bessie
 Chachas, James
 Chagares, Kiki
 Chamie, Elie, Emil and Claudine
 Chandrinos, Alexia

Chanos, Jennifer
 Chomakos, Dean and Tammy
 Chondrakis, Dimosthenis and
 Kragerud, Kaaren
 Christian, Chloe +
 Christou, Andreas + and Toni
 Ciulla, Anthony and Kleri
 Cocores-Ely, Caron
 Collins, David
 Cominos, Ted
 Conger, William and Alexia
 Costacos, John
 Cosulas, Fr. Basil and
 Presv. Samantha
 Cotsilis, Jenny
 Crist, Adam and Kanistra
 Cromwell, Michael and Allison
 Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia
 Dalacas, Eleni
 Dalacas, Georgia
 Daskalos, George and Voula
 Daughters of Penelope
 DeMangus, Joanne
 Demas, Spiro and Rita
 Demolas, Maria and
 Nour, Reza
 Demoleas, Spero and Grace
 Demoleas, Stephanie
 Demopoulos, Vasiliki
 Dimitri, Patricia, Martha and
 Janet
 Dominguez, Eric and Amalia
 Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia
 Dramitinos, Mary
 Earl, Christine Michaelides
 Eliades, Artemis
 Eliades, Telly and Caroline
 Eliades, Gregory and Maria
 Eliades, Harry and Agapi
 Eliakis, Peter and Glenda
 Eliakis, Varthie and LeeAnn
 Eyler, John and Elizabeth
 Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean
 Farren, Anthony and Maritsa
 Felecos, Nektaria
 Fenlason, Nathan and
 Zmina-Fenlason, Jennifer
 Filios, George and Nitsa
 Filios, Spiridon and Eleni
 Fischer, Bob+ and Cheryl
 Fitzgerald, Norman and
 McCullen, Sandra
 Flangas, Gary and Amanda
 Flangas, Gus and Tamara
 Flangas, Marilyn
 Fleetwood, Thomas and Melissa
 Fletes, Richard and
 Herzig, Stephanie
 Foster, Kyle and
 Pierro, Maria Elena
 Fotopoulos, John and Barbara
 Fountas, Constantine
 Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia

Frangakis, Constantine
 Frangakis, John
 Frangakis, Sophocles and Thekla
 Garza, Everardo and
 Eliades, Eleni
 Gebreamlak, Efrem and Mihret
 Geiger, Dan and Hart, Dora
 Gekakis, George
 Generales, John and Arlene
 George, Pete and Georgia
 Georgis, John
 Georgis, Pete and Keshia
 Ghebreamlak, Daniel and
 Ghermay, Selam
 Gialketsis, Bill and Shelli
 Gialketsis, Julie
 Gialketsis, Steve
 Gialketsis, William
 Gianakoulis, Nick and Magda
 Gideon, Jesse and Sara
 Giouzelis, Sasa
 Goodman, Robert and Linda
 Gott, C. Thomas and Kitty
 Green, Michael and Susan
 Gruber, Ernest and Zoe
 Gutierrez, Connie
 Gutierrez, Daniel
 Hadzoglon, Christos
 Halatsis-Williamson, Stavroula
 Hamilton, Mary
 Hamilton, Paul and Brandi
 Hanna, Robert and Julie
 Harrison, Angie
 Hastings, Teri
 Hemmers, Oliver and
 Pantelas, Anne
 Henderson, Jimmie Laverne
 Herman, Martin and Diane
 Hertberg, Jennifer
 Hetzel, David and Joanne
 Hoadrea, Jimmy and Monci
 Hondros, Catherine
 Hondros, Christina
 Hondros, Christopher and Darlene
 Hondros, Fr. John and
 Presv. Maria
 Hondros, Marissa
 Houlis, Ila and Debbie
 Howard, William and Willie
 Hristopoulou, Spiridoula
 Iteen, Robert and Sophia
 Jensen, Matthew and Michelle
 Kachikis, Ernestine
 Kakavulias, George and Helen
 Kakavulias, John and Elizabeth
 Kakavulias, Christina
 Kalkas, John and Rena
 Kambouris, Litsa
 Kanis, Constantinos and Katie
 Kaptain, Emmanuel
 Karalias, Petros and Constance
 Karas, James
 Karas, John and Marcie

Karris, Mark and Suzanne
 Katopodis, Efstratios
 Katris, Nick and Theana
 Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon
 Katsikakis, Evangelos
 Kelesis, Paula
 Kiflezgi, Rahel
 Kinard, Panorea
 Kirchner, Gary
 Kleanthis, George and Zanetta
 Koliambas, Eleni
 Konsolakis, Eleni
 Konsolakis, George and Sophia
 Kontos, Diana
 Kostopoulos, Georgia
 Kountanis, Panagiota
 Koupais, Mario and Cheri
 Koupais, Pat
 Koutsulis, John and Eileen
 Koutsulis, Sam and Effie
 Kratky, Frank and Constance
 Kushnir, Christina
 Kushnir, Stephanie
 Kypreos, George and Lesley
 Kypreos, Peter and Geri
 Kyriazopoulos, Constantine Jr.
 Lakkis, Christina
 Lamancusa, Lisa
 Lambros, Kyriakos and Mary
 Latelle, Penny
 Lavine, Frederik
 Lekar, Caroline
 Lekar, Michael and Effie
 Leong, Marissa
 Leonis, Nick and Sophia
 Leonis, Tishe
 Leventis, Naomi
 Leventis, Nicholas and Christina
 Liaos, Jim and Tina
 Liaos, Steven and Francine
 Likourinou, Angie
 Likourinou, Steve and June
 Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine
 Loughton, Dustin and Rena
 Malamatos, Kindina
 Malpee, Kalliope
 Manakides, Tommy and Ginger
 Maniatakos, Ted and Maria
 Manolakos, Catherine
 Manos, Constantine and Michele
 Manteris, Arthur and Sue
 Maravic, Marija
 Markakis, Joseph
 Markakis, Sandy Kiriaki
 Markantonis, Demos and Kate
 Markantonis, George and Sarah
 Markantonis, Victoria
 Matsis, John and Rebecca
 Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki
 Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debra
 Mavros, Alex and Jen
 Mavros, Debbie
 Mavroudis, Frank

With Gratitude to God for Our Pledged Stewards for 2020

McManus, Jeanette
 McKinney, Michael and Mersene
 McPherson, Robert and Marie
 McSweeney, Farolyn
 Mehas, Andrew and Samantha
 Melton, Don and Susan
 Menegatos, James
 Merritt, Devin and Sonia
 Minas, Arthur and Eva
 Mitchell, Tom
 Moffett, Todd and
 Eliopulos, Tina
 Monoyudis, Jim and Julie
 Monroe, Guy and Joanne
 Moore, Brenda
 Mulopulos, George and Jenny
 Murray, Christopher and
 George, Veneta
 Myers, Stella
 Neal, Travis and Crystal
 Neocleous, Plato
 Newell, Ronald and Maria
 Nicholas, Christina
 Nicholas, John and Estella
 Nichols, George and Tereza
 Nichols, Mary
 Nichols, Stella
 Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra
 Nixon, John and Ellyn
 Pahigiannis, Nikon
 Paikos, Tom and Elizabeth
 Pajak, Scott and Angela
 Palivos, Peter and Vicky
 Pallis, Paul
 Pan-Arcadians
 Pandelis, Cheryl
 Panos, William and Jeanne
 Papalois, John and Maria
 Papas, Christian and Nicole
 Papas, Peter and Rita
 Pappas, Panagiotis and Andrea
 Pappas, Rita
 Pappas, Spiros and Libby

Pappas, Stella
 Paschalis, Evangelos and Maria
 Paton, Mia and Kirani, Laura
 Paul, Janet
 Payan, Luis and Eleni
 Pelletier, Michael
 Pendleton, Tricia
 Peratikos, Tony
 Pertsinides, Irene
 Petriuc, Constantin
 Petro, Aleko and Georgia
 Petrou, Jim and Penelopi
 Philippou, Demetrios and
 Luanne
 Philoptochos Society
 Pierro, Joe and Rhonda
 Pitts, Anton and Athena
 Polimerou, Angeline
 Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra
 Poulis, Chris and Frances
 Poulos, Christine
 Pouridis, Kouli and Para
 Powers, Russell and Rebecca
 Punsalan, Basil and Sophie
 Pursell, Robert and Mary
 Radosta, Athena +
 Ramos, Fr. Seraphim and
 Presv. Olenka
 Raptis, Presv. Evonne
 Rasmussen, Scott and Rebecca
 Rigas, Anthony and Mary
 Rigas, Evie
 Rihani, Gary and Linda
 Rihani, Fr. Malek and Presv. Dina
 Rivera, Elias and April
 Robison, Patricia and Diane
 Rodis, Dimitri and Angie
 Rodis, Sophia
 Rosenthal, Joseph and Stephanie
 Rotas, Beatrice
 Rowe, Eleni
 Rudolph, Brandon
 Ruffner, Skip and Kathy

Rowe, Eleni
 Rudolph, Brandon
 Sakkas, Georgios and
 Stavropoulos, Bessie
 Salon, Janelle
 Salonikis, Valentinos and Sophia
 Santamaria, Jennifer and Robert
 Savvas, Savva
 Setian, Gary and Marie
 Shive, Brian and Mary
 Sirhan, Michael and
 Khuri, Imtisal
 Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia
 Skandros, Stephanie
 Skaris, John and
 Spyropoulos, Helen
 Smith, Kathleen
 Snow, Clifford and Christina
 Snowden, Robert and Niki
 Sorkhabi, Arian and
 Habiba, Maha
 Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette
 Spotti, Peter and Alexandra
 Staubs, Douglas and Anastasia
 Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki
 Stefanatos, Michael and Tami
 Stinis, Pam and Greg
 Stransky, Mark
 Stransky, Jack and Rachel
 Szukiewicz, Alex
 Szukiewicz, Joseph and Justina
 Tackley, Richard and
 Manteris, Stephanie
 Tafoya, Steven and Irene
 Takas, Andrea
 Tasios, Ramona and Pete
 Taxopoulos, Bobby and Marylou
 Thanos, Nicholas and Victoria
 Theros, James and Kathryn
 Thompson, Maggy
 Thompson, Steve and Aliki
 Tohme, Tony and May
 Tsarouhas, Maria

Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katerina
 Tsolis, Christos and Panagioula
 Tsolis, Panagioti
 Tsortanidis, Sophia
 Turman, Maria and Lucas
 Tzelalis, Steve
 Tzortzis, Maria
 Varinos, Nick and Vasiliki
 Wadlow, Nicholas and Pamela
 Wainscott, Betty
 Wallace, Robert and Katerina
 Walter, Vernon and Alice
 Ward, Curtis and Angeliki
 Waterhouse, David and Aleighjza
 Webb, Taylor
 Welles, Brigitte
 Wells, Adrienne
 Wheeler, Charles and Alyce
 Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina
 Williams, Anthony and Anna
 Wilson, Kelly and
 Egi, Junichiro
 Wilson, Lori
 Wilson, Steven and Cleo
 Womack, Karl
 Womack, Kimberly
 Wood, Nadine
 Wronski, Chuck
 Xenios, Anthony
 Xerogiannes, Nick and Nikki
 Xikis, Victoria
 Yfantis, Evangelos
 Yurkov, Andre, Nikolina and Dani
 Zaferatos, Ted
 Zaharoudakis, George and Anna
 Zarkos, Nick and Dina
 Zarras, Nick and Chery
 Zervas, Dionisios
 Zimmerman, Paul and Angela
 Zmina, Stephen and Cynthia



*“And the Word became
 flesh and
 dwelt among us,
 full of grace and truth;
 we have beheld
 His glory,
 glory as of the only Son
 from the Father.”
 (John 1:14)*

LIGHTING A CANDLE FOR YOU:

Your Priests are here to light a candle for you and your loved ones on a request basis. Please call Karen at the Church Office with your request. Any offering you can make during these challenging times, though not required, will be most appreciated.



2020 Stewardship Report (as of 11/30/20)

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$475,896 (\$488,431 in 2019)
 Stewardship Gifts Received: \$443,328 (\$435,754 in 2019)
 Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$32,568 (\$52,677 in 2019)
 Stewardship Families Pledged: 407 (420 in 2019)
 Average Pledge to Date: \$1,169 (\$1,163 in 2019)
 Average Pledge Needed: \$2,445 (407 Families)

Church Account Summaries - October 2020

Nevada State Bank Accounts	September	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	October	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$85,772.26	\$40,324.14	\$2,634.69	\$72,583.74	\$54,372.16	\$1,775.19	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$227.68	\$2,500.00			\$54.51	\$2,673.17	Transfer to GOA for C&E Website Expense
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$176.47			\$15.00		\$161.47	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$224,002.89	\$1,858.00	\$375.00	\$2,658.35		\$223,577.54	
Folk Dance Group	\$17,966.00					\$17,966.00	
Hellenic Historical Society	\$3,292.94					\$3,292.94	
Designated Funds	September	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	October	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$4,098.70	\$1,858.00	\$375.00	\$1,446.03		\$4,885.67	
Ornaments	\$1,169.41					\$1,169.41	
Restricted Funds	September	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	October	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
ICON	\$140,367.76			\$1.32		\$140,366.44	
Library Account	\$1,470.77					\$1,470.77	
Giving Tree	\$1,936.97					\$1,936.97	
Faithtree	\$2,837.39			\$1,211.00		\$1,626.39	
Building Fund	\$25,169.26					\$25,169.26	
Youth Choir	\$2,989.18					\$2,989.18	
Church School	\$1,306.37					\$1,306.37	
Three Priests	\$39,033.50					\$39,033.50	
Roof Appeal	\$3,041.22					\$3,041.22	
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$142.36					\$142.36	
Designated, Restricted, and Other Total	\$224,002.89	\$1,858.00	\$375.00	\$2,658.35	\$0.00	\$223,577.54	
Other Funds	September	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	October	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$70,650.45					\$70,650.45	

October 2020 Candles **\$3,876.00**
 October 2020 Trays **\$2,842.00**
Total October Candles & Trays \$6,718.00



DECEMBER 2020 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		1	2	3	4	5
		6:00 pm PC Candidates Meeting in the Library	5:00 pm Teen Class: Faithtree Relationship Project 6:30 pm PC Candidates Meeting in the Library			
6 St. Nicholas 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:00 pm Parish Council Elections 3:00 pm OFF Zoom 5:00 pm GOYA Zoom	7	8 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting in Kokkos Hall	9 5:00 pm Teen Class	10	11	12 St. Spyridon 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
13 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm Young Adult Zoom	14	15	16 5:00 pm Teen Class	17	18	19
		Father John & Presv. Maria on Papou & Yiayia Duty 12/14-12/24				
20 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Philoptochos Virtual Drawing	21	22	23 5:00 pm Teen Class	24 Eve of the Nativity 6:00 pm Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil	25 Nativity of Christ 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Church Office Closed	26
27 St. Stephen 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	28	29	30 5:00 pm Teen Class	31	JAN 1, 2021 Circumcision of Christ/St. Basil 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil Church Office Closed	

The Desert Messenger

*St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
5300 South El Camino Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89118-1922*

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Joyous Nativity!



THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord

December 12: St. Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bishop of Trimythous

“Some thieves went into Spyridon’s pasture. When they had seized as many rams as they wanted, they tried to leave the field, but an invisible force riveted them to the earth and they could not move from the spot.

At dawn, the bishop came to the pasture, and, seeing the thieves, reproached them mildly and told them to try, in future, to live by their own labor and not by thieving. He then caught a ram and gave it to them, saying: ‘Take this, so that your trouble and night vigil should not have been in vain’, and he sent them away in peace.”

~ St. Nikolai Velimirovic, The Prologue from Ochrid

