

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 18, Issue 2 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

February 2020

**From
Father
John**

Beloved in Christ:

Our country has been immersed in the continuous live feed of the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump, and those on both sides of the political fence are still engaging in hurling vitriolic daggers at one another – exacerbating the divisiveness that unfortunately exists in our so called “United” States of America. While many in the US unfortunately challenge whether or not we should be “one nation under God” – and moreover that we should be one nation under the President – we Orthodox Christians (that is, those of the “correct faith”) must ask ourselves if taking part in this “battle” is what God really wants us to do.

It all depends. If we are fighting for our freedom to believe in Jesus Christ and to worship in our Church, then yes, it is a battle worth waging. But if the argument is over political preferences or power or candidates, well then, this is not the best use of our time and energies, and can even prove to be spiritually detrimental. We Orthodox Christians are called to be a “light” to the world, shining brightly before all, that they may see our good works and give glory to our true Father, Who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:14, 16) When we are engaged in heated political debates or casting aspersions toward those who do not align with our party lines – especially given that neither party consistently supports our Orthodox Christian ethics – are we truly shining the light of Christ and illumining the souls of others?

Through Baptism, we died to our old self and became a new person, united with Jesus Christ – that is, we received our identity as “Christians” as well as a name that identifies with a Saint of God: Moreover, through Holy Chrismation we were granted the gift of the Holy Spirit, so that we might fulfill our potential to become holy. Receiving Holy Communion for the first time on the day of Baptism, we started our journey toward holiness: It is only through our active life in Christ’s Church and our continuous participation in the Holy Mysteries, we receive “*grace upon grace.*” (John 1:16) Given all this, our first and foremost internal and public identity ought to be as Orthodox Christians: Our loyalty must always be to our Lord Jesus Christ over any other worldly allegiance or political affiliation and, instead of participating in worldly debates or arguments or controversies, we must be ready and willing to offer a spiritually meaningful witness when called to the task of doing so. Sadly, so many of us Christians remain either silent about God’s Truth or worse, become “a spectacle to the world,” but not in the same manner as the Apostles: We display our sinful passions, our hatred and our ugly words, instead of our virtues, our love and our inspired words that seek to guide others to Christ. As our Lord says, when we choose not to shed the light of His Truth to the fallen world, we become like those who light a lamp and then put it under a bushel! (Matthew 5:15)



As Orthodox Christians we must relate to the world in this manner: “*In a word, what the soul is to the body, Christians are to the world. . . . The soul dwells in the body, but is not of the body; likewise Christians dwell in the world, but are not of the world.*” (The Epistle to Diognetus 6:1, 3) Yes, having been granted rational minds by our Creator, we can form our opinions and make our decisions:

(Continued on Page 3)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*Sundays: 8:45 am Orthros - 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Church School follows Holy Communion*

Sunday, February 2/*The Meeting of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple*

Orthros: Tone Eight (Fourth Plagal)

Festal Gospel: Luke 2:25-32

Epistle: Hebrews 7:7-17

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Sunday, February 9/*Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee/Triodion Begins/Leavetaking of the Presentation/St. Nikephoros of Antioch*

Orthros: Tone One

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Matthew 28:16-20

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

Triodion Begins: No Fasting This Week

Monday, February 10/*Hieromartyr Haralambos*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10

Gospel: John 15:17-27; 16:1-2



Sunday, February 16/*Sunday of the Prodigal Son/ Martyr Pamphilos and Companions/St. Flavian Patriarch of Constantinople*

Orthros: Tone Two

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Mark 16:1-8

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

Fast on Wednesday and Friday

Saturday, February 22/*1st Saturday of Souls
8:00 am Orthros*

9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

Gospel: Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36

Sunday, February 23/*Meatfare Sunday/The Last Judgment/St. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna*

Orthros: Tone Three

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Mark 16:9-20

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Abstain from Meat this Week

Saturday, February 29/*2nd Saturday of Souls/
St. John Cassian the Confessor*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial

Epistle: Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-13



Many Blessings from the Lord as we began the New Year! "Let us come into His Presence with thanksgiving." (Psalm 95:2)



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 2

Ushers: Peter Papas, Justina Szukiewicz, Alex Mavros, Stacy Mavrantonis, Mark Karris
and John Matsis

Fellowship: Ladies Philoptochos Society

FEBRUARY 9

Ushers: Telly Eliades, Demetrious Asim, Gus Flangas, John Koutsulis, Spiros Filios and Skip Ruffner

Memorials: Departed Philoptochos Members; Eugenia Dalacas (3 years); Angie Agnos (4 years);
and Tammy Meyers (5 years)

Fellowship: Folk Dance Group - FDF Preview Luncheon

FEBRUARY 16

Ushers: Stacy Mavrantonis, Alex Mavros, Mark Karris, Justina Szukiewicz, John Matsis
and Peter Papas

Fellowship: Kali Parea

FEBRUARY 23

Ushers: Gus Flangas, Skip Ruffner, Telly Eliades, Spiros Filios, Demetrious Asim
and John Koutsulis

Memorial: Soterios J. Georgopoulos (1 year)

Fellowship: Ladies Philoptochos Society - Kids 'n' Cancer

*Open to me the gates of repentance, O Giver of Life, for early in the morning my
spirit hastens to Your holy temple, bringing the temple of my body all defiled.
But as one compassionate, cleanse me, I pray, by Your loving-kindness and mercy.
(Sunday Orthros, Idiomela from the Triodion, Translation by Father Seraphim Dedes)*

From Father John (Continued from Page 1)

We can assess the current situation of our country, and choose to like or dislike, agree or disagree, and as citizens of this nation we are thankfully free to vote how we choose – although the current social and political tendencies toward embracing anti-God ideologies may rob us of this freedom in years to come. In the end – and more specifically, at the point when this life ends for us – what matters most is that, although we live on this earth, we must know and live as if our true citizenship is in heaven. (*Diognetus 5:9*) This is why our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth: And this is why, during His Passion, Jesus prayed to His Father *for us* – who are His children by grace, our words and our moral actions – and *not for the world*, which identifies with godlessness and continues to embrace the ways of darkness. (*John 17:9*)

As we enter *the period of the Triodion starting on Sunday, February 9*, I pray we will take to heart the messages of the Gospel verses we will hear on each of the four Sundays leading into Great and Holy Lent, especially during these volatile days in which we live – that through humility, repentance, mercy and forgiveness, God may be truly glorified in us.

With love in Christ,



Parish Council Report

The New Year is off to a very good start. The St. John Name Day Luncheon was truly amazing. Congratulations and many thanks to all of you who gave of your time, culinary talents and effort to put on this special event in honor of our Church, especially John Koutsulis, Telly Eliades, Steve Tzelalis, Marika Lamancusa, Sam Koutsulis and their hard working crew.

We just had our first Parish Council Meeting of 2020, and have set forth the major priorities for the coming year and are presently working on a vision for the years to come. As mentioned in this column last month, we are going to have “**Town Hall Parish Vision Meetings**” to receive input from everyone in our Parish to develop and implement a coherent and sustainable **Vision**, harmonious with our Faith and our needs for the future. Along with help from the Metropolis, we hope to fully succeed in this effort. We will soon publish the dates for these meetings and, as stated last month, we fervently hope that those who have a stake in our future will attend and contribute their critically important feedback.

This year our priority is to put a new roof on the Church before our Iconography and other portions of the interior are ruined. As we have said, we have managed to keep the roof in fairly decent working order over the past several years through a series of repairs; however, we are rapidly coming to the point where these types of repairs will no longer fill the bill, and thus a new roof can no longer wait. At the risk of being repetitive, in the very near future we will also need to: Repair and paint the exteriors and interiors of the Church and Community Center; repair and stripe the parking lots; replace parts of the roof on the Community Center; refurbish the floors in Panos and Kokkos Halls; strip the floors in the kitchen and apply an industrial grade sealant; repair and overhaul the fountains; refinish the stained concrete near the entrance to the Church; replace the post lights near the entrance to the Church; completely redo and replace the irrigation system for the landscaping; and eventually replace the HVAC.

We have some amazing things coming up in February. Our Folk Dance Groups will be going to Anaheim during Presidents’ Weekend to compete in and enjoy this year’s annual Greek Orthodox Folk Dance Festival (FDF). FDF is the largest gathering of Greek Orthodox Youth in the Country and provides our dancers great opportunities to meet and mingle with other Orthodox Youth from all over the Metropolis. To get ready for the event, our Dance Groups are putting on a *Glendi on Saturday, February 8 at 6:00 pm in Panos Hall*. There will be live music by musicians from Greece, food and beverages, and lots of dancing. The price is \$20 per person. On the next day, *Sunday, February 9 following the Divine Liturgy*, there will be a *Preview Luncheon* featuring our dancers performing their FDF dance suites. It will provide them an opportunity to perform before an audience in preparation for their competitions. Our kids in the Dance Ministry have worked very hard for FDF and we urge everyone to get behind and support them.

On Saturday, February 29 at 6:00 pm, the Philoptochos and Pan Arcadians are hosting the *Annual Mardi Gras 2020*. This is a very cool event featuring lots of food and beverages, dancing, and prizes for the best costumes. Last year’s Mardi Gras was a huge success and a lot of fun, and this year’s should be even better. It is a great event for the whole family. The price is \$50 per person. Kids 12 years and under are \$15, and a table of ten is \$450. All the proceeds will go directly toward replacing the roof on the Church to protect our Iconography and Church interior. Please come and have lots of fun and support this very important endeavor.

As stated last month, we are putting together a Photo Directory of all Parishioners. We truly believe that this is very important to the community and will help us to get to know one another better. It is being spearheaded by Bill and Erin Bruninga, who have generously volunteered their time, expertise and efforts to make this a reality. All sittings for your pictures will be in Panos Hall after Divine Liturgy on Sundays. Please get behind this effort and get your pictures taken. It should only take around five minutes of your time to get highly professional photos taken.

The *2020 Greek Food Festival* is scheduled for *September 11 through 13*. Although our Festival is the most unique in the entire Country, we are presently working on giving it a new look and feel, and to modernize it somewhat. We are looking for new innovative ideas to make it even better and more efficient. We will be holding brainstorm meetings this month, so please check the *Weekly Bulletin* for dates and times.

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Parish Council Report *(Continued from Page 4)*

Just to let you know, the *Annual Metropolis Clergy Laity Conference* is scheduled for *February 24-25* at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA. This annual gathering provides a forum for the leadership of all our communities to deliberate on important matters for our Metropolis and engage in dialogue and fellowship to enrich our common ministry. If you have an issue you would like to discuss at the forum, please advise members of the Parish Council.

In closing, we want to again thank the various Church ministries and organizations, and the many individuals for all the work they do and have done to help us secure the future of the Church. It clearly takes a lot of work from the entire community to maintain our Church. Please step forward whenever you can and pitch in. Thank you and may God bless.

In Christ, Gus Flangas, Parish Council President



Pan Arcadians: Annual Mardi Gras Gala!

The Pan Arcadians and Philoptochos are proud and pleased to announce the *Mardi Gras Gala on Saturday, February 29* at 6:00 pm in Panos Hall. Once again we will have a traditional Macaronada, with plenty of food served family style, Greek music and dancing, and Mardi Gras costumes. ALL PROCEEDS will go into a fund to replace the roof on our Church. This project is absolutely necessary to protect God's House and to preserve our beautiful iconography. The price is \$50 per person, \$450 for a table of 10, \$15 for children ages 6-12, and free for kids 5 and under. Tickets are available on Sundays or with Karen during the week.

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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:
Nicholas Asim & Melissa Fleetwood

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek School: Paula Kelesis

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

Kali Parea: Demetrious Asim &
Joy Wolfenbarger

Adult Basketball:
Nate Dallas

Forerunners: Vicki Xikis

Orthodox Bookstore:
Constantine Frangakis,
Paisios & Mary Pursell

Greek Food Festival: Gus Flangas

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

Photography: Bill Bruninga

**Philoptochos
News**

Dearest Sisters of Philoptochos and the St. John Community,

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather and having a wonderful start to the New Year! For those who are not members of the Ladies Philoptochos, please join the generations of women who have given their time and wisdom to make a difference in the larger community and within the life of our Church. You will find as I have, that friendships made in Philoptochos are like none other: It is a true sisterhood in Christ! We enjoy a lot of laughter and fun conversation while helping those in need.

On January 12 we celebrated the Name Day of our Church, St. John the Baptist. Special thanks to Kiki Mavrantonis, Eileen Koutsulis, Andrea Tadich, Helen DiMario, Melissa Fleetwood, Paula Kelesis, Carolyn Beeler, Bernadette Anthony, Marika Lamancusa and all the ladies that assisted the Parish Council with setting up and serving the food at the luncheon.



On that same date we had the cutting of the Vasilopita and collection for St. Basil's Academy. A big thank you to Dora Hart and Yiota Kaponikolou for making and providing the four large Vasilopites, in celebration of St. Basil. They were delicious! The sweet loaves were blessed, cut and distributed by Father John to the congregation. Thank you so very much Cheryl Pandelis, for



purchasing the Vasilopita that was auctioned off. Thanks also go out to Jennifer Chanos and Maria Athens for holding the collection baskets benefitting St. Basil's Academy in Garrison, NY – a home for troubled children and directly in line with the vision of Philoptochos as “friends of the poor.” I would like to thank a very special man, Pete Eliakis, for baking and donating nine beautiful Vasilopites for Philoptochos to sell, which all went very quickly. Sincere appreciation is extended to all for your love and generosity!



On January 19 we had our first General Meeting of the New Year. We welcomed in our new members as well as all the wonderful ladies who continue to work diligently every day to help those in need. Many goals and upcoming projects were discussed with so much enthusiasm. We served a light lunch, which everyone enjoyed, and we thank all who were in attendance.

Below are our February events:

Sunday, February 2 – Go Red for Women. February is National Heart Awareness Month, to help raise attention for heart disease. According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States. Be especially good to your heart this month and make some positive changes for a healthier you. Thank you, Estella Nicholas, for agreeing to be our lovely hostess for Fellowship; we will have many other women to assist her. Please wear red for heart awareness!

Sunday, February 9 – Departed Members Memorial. A memorial will be held for our Departed Philoptochos Members in the Church following Divine Liturgy. We will have a table with pictures and mementos, so please provide any pictures you might have of those who fallen asleep in the Lord. Kollyva will be offered. All Philoptochos women are asked to attend the memorial service, in honor of our beloved departed Philoptochos members with respect and reverence. Please come to Church appropriately dressed and sit in the first three pews. Let us remember that THEY are the ones who preserved and carried on to us the sacred trust given to them by God to care for the poor, the young, the elderly, the sick, the orphaned, and the widowed. May their memories be eternal!

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Stewardship and Community Outreach

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” (1 Peter 4:10)

How do we choose to spend our time? Today’s world offers us myriads of ways to spend our time. Upon reading this, surely the mind will wander to whatever this preference may be to each of us in whatever amount of free time we do have.

God willing, when our thoughts turn to what is at the top of the list, a strong priority is placed on serving and supporting our beloved Parish of St. John the Baptist. This service can be fulfilled in a multitude of ways, so we hope and pray that you have an inclination of grace to reach out and offer your time, talent and treasures for the betterment of your soul and spiritual life, as well as for the benefit and growth of the Holy Greek Orthodox Church here in Las Vegas.

Please feel free to contact me, or even more importantly, Fr. John with any questions regarding opportunities to serve and support. If even the widow’s mite was received by Christ as a worthy gift, then surely we can do even one additional thing to help in making an offering of service to God this year beyond what for us is “normal.”

In Christ’s Service, Justina Szukiewicz, Stewardship and Outreach Committee



Through our 2020 Stewardship Pledge, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God! Please return your 2020 Pledge Card to benefit your Church and your soul. Thank You!

Philoptochos News *(Continued from Page 6)*

Sunday, February 23 – Kids ‘n’ Cancer Collection and Fellowship. The mission of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Kids ‘n’ Cancer Ministry is to provide support for children afflicted with cancer and other life-threatening diseases. The Kids ‘n’ Cancer Camp Agape Ministry offers a life-changing, all-expense paid experience for children and their families. It provides opportunities for enjoyment, learning, and building self-esteem and confidence in a safe setting. The kindness and caring that surrounds them offers an ideal environment for therapy and healing. Please be generous. Thank you to our wonderful Litsa Smith for offering to be our hostess.

Saturday, February 29 at 6:00 pm in Panos Hall – Mardi Gras Gala! Philoptochos and the Pan Arcadians are planning a fun evening for all who attend with great food, music, dancing and fellowship! All of us are encouraged to wear costumes and get ready to dance! Tickets are \$50 per person or \$450 for a table of 10, and \$15 for children 12 and under. All proceeds will go toward replacing the Church roof to protect our beautiful Iconography.

Coming up in March:

Monday, March 2 – Great Lent Begins.

Tuesday, March 10 – Philoptochos General Meeting (two hostesses needed).

Saturday, March 21 – Lenten Retreat with Father Theodore Dorrance.

Sunday, March 22 – Holy Cross Collection.

Sunday, March 29 – Lenten Vespers Hosted by Our Parish.

Please reach out to me with any comments or suggestions. I look forward to seeing everyone at all our upcoming events!

With Love in Christ, Benita Beeman, Philoptochos President



Please join us for an Evening of
Dinner and Dancing at our

Glendí

Featuring Live Musicians from Greece

\$20

Kids Under 5 are Free

Panos Hall

Saturday, February 8, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Cash Bar

All Proceeds to Benefit Greek Folk Dance Ministry

From Father Seraphim

On February 14-16, the Metropolis of San Francisco will host FDF – the annual Folk Dance Festival – which is the largest gathering of Orthodox youth and exhibition of authentic Greek folk dance, costume and music in the world. Over 3,000 participants (and thousands more family, relatives and friends) will come together for the 44th time since 1976 to dance, sing and compete in front of judges on a large stage with other dance groups from the many Greek Orthodox Parishes on the West Coast, Alaska and Hawaii. Our Parish will be sending over 30 participants, making up two dance groups and their directors.

There are many positive reasons to participate in the Greek Folk Dance Ministry: Physical exercise and skill, learning and mastering authentic dances from different regions and islands of Greece, and getting the opportunity to meet and build lifelong friendships with other Orthodox Christian young people. Indeed, a principal reason for participating in a dance group is the sense of community and belonging it fosters, especially given the huge problem of loneliness in our society.

With all of these positive and beneficial blessings coming from participating in a dance group at our Church, there is a serious potential hazard: It is possible that someone could have grown up with their parents regularly attending the Church services and even volunteering, having been through the Church School classes, attended Orthodox Family Fellowship and GOYA, and been a member of the Greek Folk Dance groups . . . and then in their college and adult years, have *nothing* to do with the Church. Unfortunately, there is a large number of young adults missing, who did “all the right things” growing up. Yet they were unable to receive an adequate instruction and formation in the Orthodox Faith, such that it would be a primary and enduring part of their identity as they matured into the freedom of adulthood.

Allow me to share the Mission Statement of FDF, established at the beginning in the 1970s: “*Let every original Signatory, (future Council Members, Advisory Board Appointees) future Sponsors and Participants keep ever inviolate the teachings and principles of Orthodoxy. That the nature of this Annual Event is for the sole and exclusive purpose of bringing our youth (and young adults) together in a spirit of Christian fellowship and love.*” We must reflect if, given the large number of former dancers “missing in action” in the life of the Church, we have truly sought through the Folk Dance Ministry to keep the vision of those pioneers of FDF.

Father Gary Kyriacou, Chairman of the FDF Board of Trustees, has spoken about his vision for every dance director in every Parish, to be first and foremost a Youth Minister: An agent to bring each and every child, teenager or young adult under their instruction not only to a greater expertise in the field of dancing, but also closer to Christ. This vision is still a work in progress. The tradition of Greek folk dancing itself, with its modest costumes, chaste interaction and dignified movements between the dancers, and the traditional recognition of the good and positive differences between men and women, has so much potential for the growth of virtue in those who undertake the discipline of learning its intricate craft. As a Church, however, we are doing a disservice to our youth if we only educate them in the steps of different regions’ dances and not in the soul-saving steps toward a vibrant and enduring relationship with Jesus Christ.

As we ponder on how to impart our Faith to the next generation, let us remember that the dance ministry – or *any* ministry – cannot save us. These things provided by the Church are meant to be one part of the larger process of our salvation, as a means of closeness to the Church and our brothers and sisters in Christ. Without a deeper and personal ongoing connection to the sacramental life of the Church and our daily acts of faith and devotion, these ministries become nothing more than a sport or extracurricular activity. Ultimately, our primary identity can mistakenly be placed somewhere other than Jesus Christ, so that after dance ends, we no longer participate in the life of the Church – we outgrow the Faith we never really understood or loved. May our youth, through the example and guidance of our young adult and adult leaders, come to deeply know and love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and may they grow into lifelong members and practitioners of our Holy Orthodox Faith.

With Love in Christ,

Father Seraphim

Youth and Family Ministries

Church School



Hi Everyone! We are back on track after the busy holiday season, and still working on our understanding of and living out the Nicene Creed in all our grade levels.

What a blessing it was to have so many children present at the Blessing of the Waters on January 5 for Theophany, one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church. During the cutting of the Vasilopita the following week, so many children were called up by Father John to receive a piece, and it was nice to see how excited the children were.

I know the folk dancers are gearing up for FDF: Many blessings for a successful competition! We are all so proud of your hard work.

Please remember to bring an icon from home *on Sunday, March 8*, as our Church School students will take part in the Procession of Icons for the commemoration of the Triumph of Orthodoxy on the First Sunday in Lent. In Christ, Eileen Koutsulis, Church School Director (702) 521-6516 or vivaleenie@cox.net

Youth Choir News

There will be a *quick practice on Sunday, February 2 at 12:15 pm* after Church School. The Youth Choir will chant the Divine Liturgy *on Sunday, February 9, so please be early at 9:45 am*. With Love in Christ, Presvytera Maria



Greek Folk Dance

As we are making our final preparations for FDF we look forward to sharing our hard work with everyone. Mark your calendars for a *Glendi with Live Greek Music on Saturday, February 8 at 6:00 pm in Panos Hall (please see flyer on Page 8)*. This is always a fun event and gives us all the opportunity to dust off our dancing shoes and celebrate our Hellenic culture! Tickets are only \$20 for dinner and entertainment and are now on sale. There will also be a cash bar. Additionally, there will also be a wonderful raffle with the opportunity to win tickets to see the Vegas Golden Knights! Please plan on attending as we would love to see Panos Hall full! Tickets are on sale during fellowship or with Karen in the Church office.

Then on the next day, *Sunday, February 9*, we will have our *Annual Preview Brunch* during Fellowship Hour. Please plan on staying to support our dancers and witness their FDF suites performed in traditional Greek Costume attire. Our youth, directors and parents will participate in *FDF from February 13 through 17*— your support is greatly appreciated!

With Much Gratitude, The Folk Dance Board

Greek Language Program



The kids are back in full swing for second semester. Teachers have been busy teaching their students the Greek National Anthem and “Ti Ypermaho,” which they will perform *on Sunday, March 22* for their Greek Independence Day Program.

Paula Kelesis, Greek School Director (702) 249-4740

“For You, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. Upon You I have leaned from my birth; You are He Who took me from my mother’s womb.”
(Psalm 71:5-6)

GOYA ~ For Teenagers

This month we will gather for a GOYA Prosfora Baking night *on Sunday, February 23 from 5:00 to 7:30 pm*. We will get to knead, bake, and mix together the flour, water, and yeast that it takes to make a loaf of bread which becomes the Body of Christ in the Divine Liturgy! We will be assisted by the women of our Parish who bake the bread regularly for the Church. In addition, we will have a short presentation on meaning of the Prosforon, and an opportunity to write down the names of our loved ones for prayer – both alive and deceased. We will keep the regular schedule of eating together and having time for some games and enjoyment after we are all done baking.

Additionally this month, some of our GOYANs will be participating in FDF in Anaheim, CA the weekend of February 14-16. We wish you safe travels, an exciting and safe experience, and successful performances of your dance suites! May God be with you all!

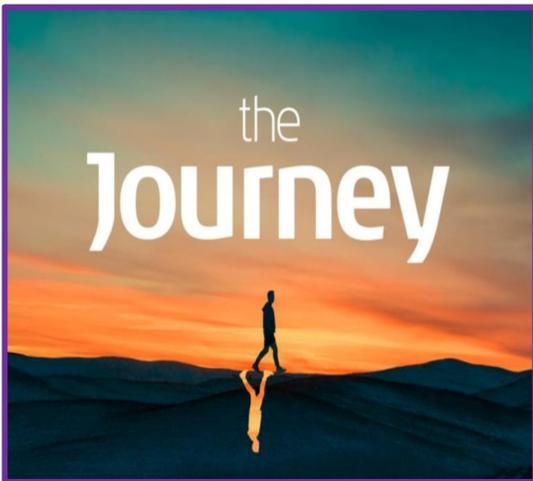
With Love in Christ, June Likourinou and Kouli Pouridis, GOYA Advisors

Orthodox Family Fellowship

February is the month in which the Triodion (the Book of the Fast) begins, preparing us for the Holy Season of Lent! We will be having our annual *OFF Lenten Mini-Retreat on Saturday, February 29*, immediately following the Divine Liturgy for the Saturday of Souls. At 9:00 am, we will have the Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy and Memorial. At 11:00 am the kids will gather for a light snack in Panos Hall and then *from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm* we will have Lessons, Confession, a Craft, and Outdoor Play!

Please come to this amazing event, so that we may strengthen our Faith in God and deepen our relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ! See you there!

In Christ, Amy Khuri and Jelena Boskovic, OFF Advisors



Journey to Pascha

**A Lenten Mini-Retreat
For Young Children
(4-11 years old)**

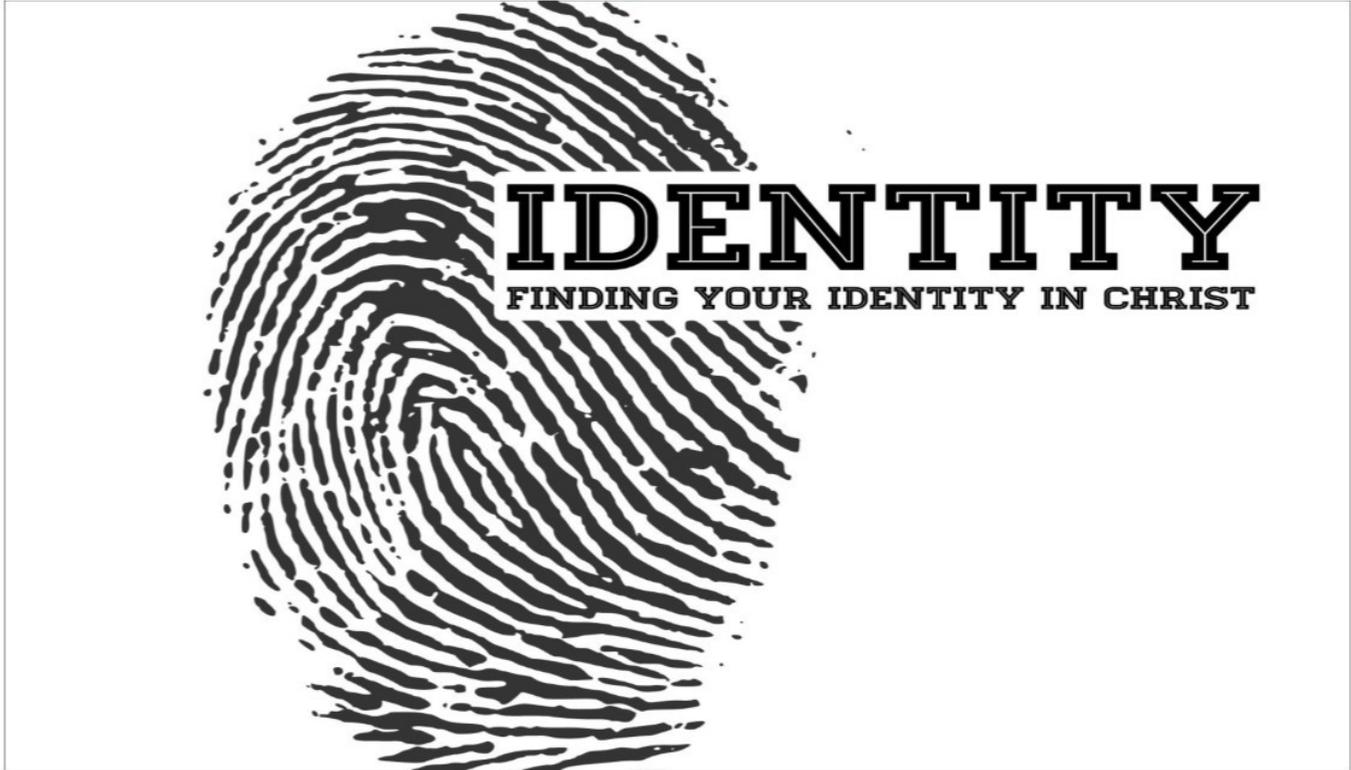
Saturday, February 29

9:00 am – Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy and Memorial

11:00 am – Light Snack in Panos Hall

11:30 am - 1:30 pm – Lessons/Confession/Craft/Outdoor Play

2020 Orthodox Teen Overnight Retreat



**Friday, March 27 at 6:00 pm through
Saturday, March 28 at 1:30 pm**

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

All Middle School and High School Students are welcome!

What to Bring:

- ♦ Wear Church clothes
- ♦ Casual clothes and running shoes (dress warm!)
- ♦ Sleeping clothes, sleeping bag, pillow, toothbrush, etc.

THE LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
AND PAN ARCADIANs

INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR THE 2020

Mardi Gras Gala



Saturday, February 29 at 6:00 pm

Panos Hall

Adults \$50 Children 6-12 \$15 Children 5 & Under Free

Table of 10 \$450 Tickets Available at Sunday Fellowship or Church Office

**FEATURING GREEK MUSIC AND GREEK DANCING
FAMILY STYLE MEAL WITH WINE
COSTUME PRIZES AND MORE!**

**All Proceeds Benefit the Church Roof Replacement
to protect our place of worship and beautiful iconography**

Adult and Young Adult Ministries

Young Adults

Thank you to everyone who came out for our Christmas Party and Sammy's Pizza Night!

This month we will gather for a potluck dinner at the home of Daniella Yurkov *on Saturday, February 22 at 6:00 pm*. Please bring a side dish, salad, drinks or dessert, and come ready for an enjoyable evening of fellowship, food, and spiritual discussion!

For directions and to RSVP, please contact Dani or Father Seraphim. See you there!

In Christ, Niko Asim and Melissa Fleetwood, YA Advisors



Mr. & Mrs. - A Couples Fellowship



This month we will be meeting at the home of Thomas and Kitty Gott on the evening of *Friday, February 28 at 6:00 pm for a Cheesefare Potluck* gathering! Please bring your favorite dairy dish, or dessert to share (no meat) – and RSVP with Kitty so that we can provide a balanced menu.

Additionally, our Parish will have two different opportunities for you to have a night out together! First, *on Saturday, February 8 at 6:00 pm* we will be having a *Glendi* evening of dancing, live music, and excellent food. Please come out to thoroughly enjoy yourself, and to support our Folk Dance groups!

Then we will be attending the *Mardi Gras Gala on Saturday, February 29 at 6:00 pm*. This is another amazing opportunity to gather with fellow Parish members and couples as we prepare for the Lenten journey toward Pascha with a parish party! There will be lively Greek music and dancing, excellent food and fun entertainment, building on the incredible event in 2019. Wear your costumes! Proceeds benefit our Church Roof Replacement Fund.

Yours in Christ, Father John, Father Seraphim, and their Presvyteres

Kali Parea - "Good Company" for the 40+ Crowd

The Kali Parea Christmas Party on December 29 at BJs on the west side of town was a great success: We had almost 40 people show up! Fun games, fellowship and food were enjoyed by all!

For the month of February Kali Parea is graciously being hosted at Stephanie Demoleas' home *on Sunday, February 9 at 5:00 pm*. Our Priests will be performing a house blessing and then we will share in a potluck dinner. Our home is the first Church, and St. John Chrysostom shares many ways on how to turn your home into a domestic Church. One way is to invite your priest into your house for a House Blessing every year; another way is through frequent prayers, the lighting of incense, and the hanging of icons with a vigil lamp burning. Please RSVP to Demetri Asim and bring a dish as we come together in Stephanie's home. See you there!

Our Parish will have two different opportunities for you to have a night out together! First, *on Saturday, February 8 at 6:00 pm* we will be having a *Glendi* evening of dancing, live music, and excellent food. Please come out to thoroughly enjoy yourself, and to support our Folk Dance groups! Secondly, the Philoptochos and Pan Arcadians will be hosting the *Mardi Gras Gala on Saturday, February 29 at 6:00 pm*. This is another amazing opportunity to gather with fellow Parish members as we prepare for the Lenten journey toward Pascha with a parish party! There will be lively Greek music and dancing, excellent food and fun entertainment, building on the incredible event in 2019. Wear your costumes! Proceeds benefit our Church Roof Replacement Fund.

Love in Christ, Lydia Joy Wolfenbarger for Kali Parea

Forerunners - The Seniors of St. John the Baptist

Thank you to Cheryl Pandelis for the donation of the Vasilopita for our January Forerunners Luncheon. Mike Beeler was the blessed recipient of the St. Basil's Coin. If you did not attend our January luncheon you certainly missed out big time! Steve and the entire volunteer culinary crew outdid themselves, and especially Yiota and Marika who made the delicious stuffed cabbage! We also would like to thank Marika for the wonderful surprise of our bougatsa dessert, which was absolutely scrumptious! Raffle prizes and bingo followed and all had an enjoyable time. The Forerunners would also like to thank our Parish Council President Gus Flangas for attending our luncheon. Faye and I would also like to thank all of the volunteers who have helped us and are helping us make the Luncheons a great success!

This month our luncheon is *on Monday, February 10 at 11:30 am* in Kokkos Hall. We promise another pleasant fellowship luncheon with our seniors celebrating Valentine's Day. Friendly reminder that membership dues are \$20 and payable at the February luncheon meeting, if you have not already paid them already.

Farewell to Gilbert Kyprianou a very special dear friend and fellow Bronxite: May your memory be eternal! A special get well greeting to our very own Guy Monroe, who helps all ministries – may you have a speedy recovery. As always our love, prayers and good wishes go out to all of our homebound friends.

With Love in Christ, Victoria Xikis for the Senior Forerunners

Notes from the Choir Loft



A huge thank you to all who attended and organized the Church Music Institute last weekend! A special thank you goes to Kathy Ruffner, Demetri Asim and Presvytera Maria for their leadership in organizing and executing the event at the local level – and to Christopher Hondros for organizing the very successful CMI, which was under the musical instruction and direction of John Boyer and Samuel Herron. It was a wonderful event for all who participated, and moreover for our parishioners who thoroughly enjoyed worshipping with the beautiful antiphonal chanting.

We will begin our Holy Week/Pascha rehearsals at the start of Lent in March. If you would like to join the Choir, please come up to the Choir Loft any time. We love to see new faces!

Athena Mertes, Director



Adult Study with Father John
Sunday Epistle and Gospel Readings
and
Churchianity vs. Christianity
By Metropolitan Anthony Bloom



Join us every Wednesday, 7:00 - 8:30 pm, in Kokkos Hall.

All are Welcome. Bibles and Metropolitan Bloom's book are available in our Bookstore.

*Guide me in the paths of salvation, O Theotokos, for I have befouled my soul with shameful sins and I heedlessly squandered all of my life's resources.
 By your intercession deliver me from every uncleanness.*

Church Music Institute at St. John the Baptist

Forty chanters, ranging from beginning to advanced, gathered in late January for a two day Church Music Institute focusing on the hymns for the Great Feast of the Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple. This was the first CMI with the new expanded format, with masterclass offered by John Michael Boyer, Protopsaltis for the Metropolis of San Francisco, and workshops by Samuel Herron, Protopsaltis of Assumption Church in Scottsdale. Our Parish was treated to heavenly antiphonal chanting for the entire weekend.



“Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the lands! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His Presence with singing! Know that the Lord is God! It is He Who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.” (Psalm 100:1-3)

*The Clark County Orthodox Clergy Association
Invites All Adults to Join Us for the*

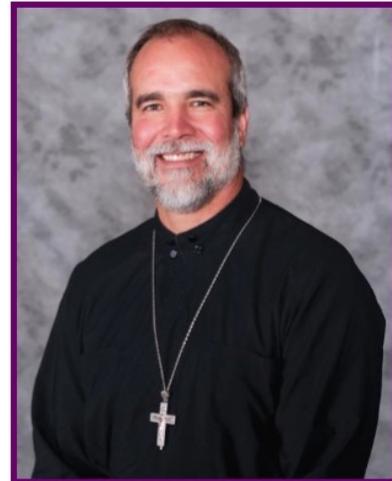
Annual Lenten Retreat

Watchfulness in the Midst of Noise and Distraction

Saturday, March 21, 2020

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

**Rev. Father Theodore Dorrance
Retreat Speaker**



Program

9:00 am	Divine Liturgy
10:15 am	Registration and Refreshments
10:45 am	<i>The Challenge of Spiritual Watchfulness</i>
12:00 pm	Lenten Lunch
1:15 pm	<i>Watchfulness: Lent and Holy Week</i>
2:30 pm	Break
2:45 pm	<i>Watch and Pray</i>
4:00 pm	<i>Questions and Answers</i>
5:00 pm	Great Vespers

**\$15 per person,
includes lunch.**

RSVP by March 13, 2020.
Cash or checks only.
Payable to St. Paul Church,
Memo: Lenten Retreat

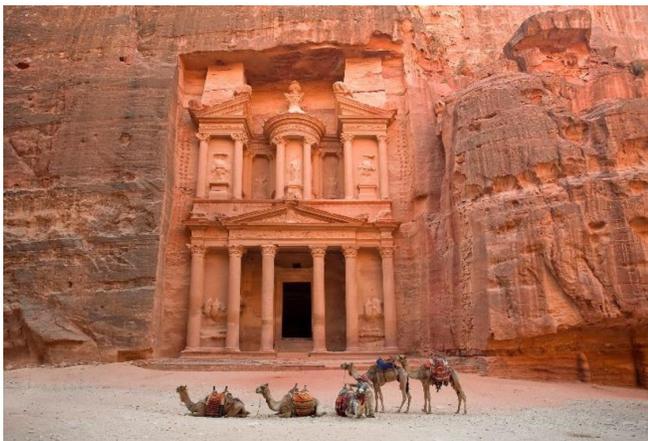
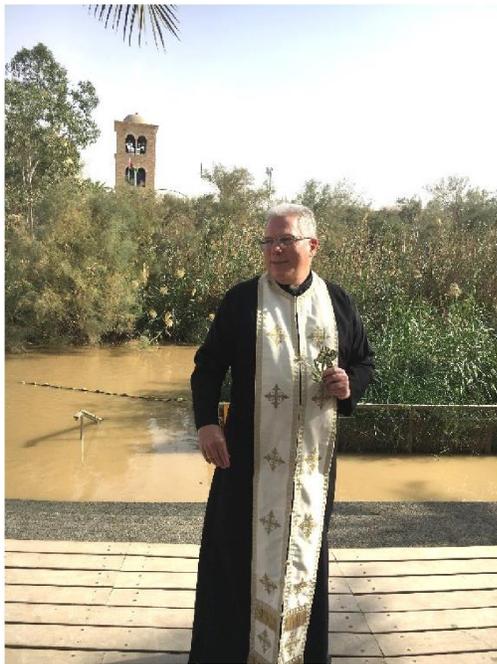
Father Theodore was ordained in 1991. He served the Ascension Cathedral in Oakland, CA for two years as an assistant priest, St. Katherine in Redondo Beach, CA as proistamenos for four years, and founded the parish of St. John the Baptist in Portland, OR, which he served for 20 years. He has four children: three girls and a boy. The three oldest are married, and the fourth is in college. He and Presvytera Stacey are blessed with six grandchildren. While in the Metropolis of San Francisco, Father Theodore served as a member of the Metropolis Council, Vicar of the Northwest region, and Director of the Metropolis Ministry of Missions and Evangelism. In 2017, he transferred into the Metropolis of Denver to direct the new Office of Parish Health and Church Growth. He is also working on his Doctor of Ministry in Leadership. When he gets the chance, he enjoys the beautiful outdoors, fly fishing, hiking in the mountains, and taking long walks with his beautiful wife.

“Behold, the Lamb of God!” (John 1:29, 36)

**A Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Jordan River for
the Feast of Holy Theophany and throughout the Holy Land,
Mount Sinai, Egypt and Petra, Jordan**

Spiritual Leader: Very Reverend Father John Hondros

January 9-22, 2021



Heritage Tours
1628 Azure Springs Avenue
Henderson, NV 89014
www.mgatours.com

For Further Information
Contact Victoria Xikis, Tour Director
(702) 419-5294 or
Paula Kelesis, Tour Director
(702) 249-4740

Final Itinerary and Price will be
available on the website
in February 2020

Orthodox Bookstore

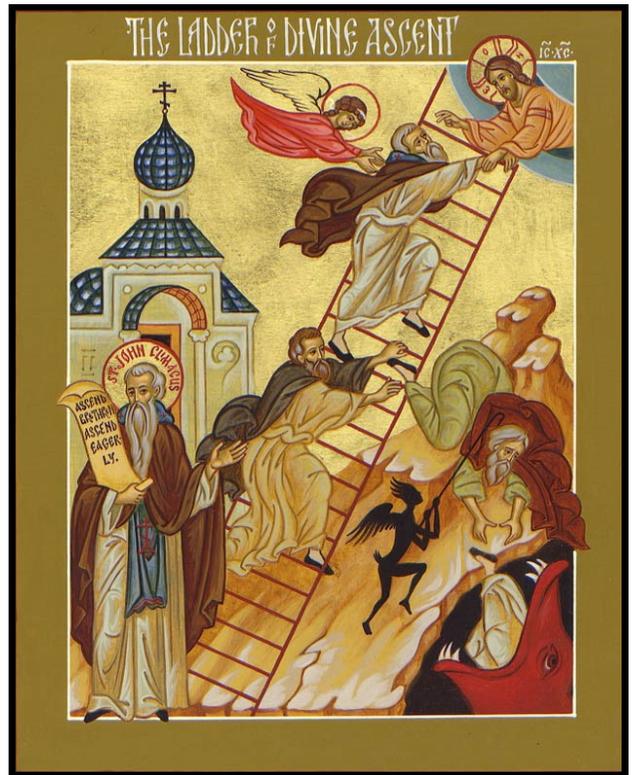
Greetings from the Bookstore!

This month we are featuring *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, written by Saint John of the Ladder (in Greek, "Climacos"). It was written while the author (who received his surname from this book) was abbot of the Monastery of St. Catherine on Mount Sinai in the 7th Century AD.

From Step 25 – On Humility:

“Whoever is eager for the peaceful haven of humility will never cease to do all he possibly can to get there, and with words and thoughts, with considerations and explanations, with questionings and probings, with every device, with prayer and supplication, with meditation and reflection, he will push onward, helped by God, humiliated and despised and toiling mightily, and he will sail the ship of his soul out from the ever-stormy ocean of vainglory. For the man delivered from this sin wins ready pardon for all his other sins, like the publican in Scripture.”

Until next month, God willing,
Constantine Frangakis and the Bookstore Team



When I ponder in my wretchedness on the many terrible things that I have done, I tremble for that fearful day, the Day of Judgment. But trusting in the mercy of Your compassion, like David I cry to You, “Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy.”



Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun

David Lee (Adult Baptism) on December 21, 2019.
Godparent: C. Thomas Gott.

Alexandra (Sandra) Lee (Adult Baptism) on December 21, 2019.
Godparent: Eleni Bruninga.

Elizabeth (Isabella), daughter of David and Sandra Lee on December 21, 2019.
Godparent: Eleni Bruninga.

Juliana (Giuliana), daughter of David and Sandra Lee on December 21, 2019.
Godparent: Eleni Bruninga.

Miriam (Mia), daughter of Truman Celestine and Luwam Ghermay on December 22, 2019.
Godparent: Rahwa Ghebrecristos.

2020 VISION: STEWARDS OF OUR CHURCH

Acovino, Richard and Angela	Demopoulos, Vasiliki	Kountanis, Panagiota	Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra
Adamy, Marina	Dramitinos, Mary	Koupais, Pat	Poulis, Chris and Frances
Alcala, Georgia	Earl, Christine Michaelides	Koutsulis, John and Eileen	Pourides, Kouli and Para
Alford, Cynthia "Mary"	Eliades, Artemis	Koutsulis, Sam and Effie	Powers, Russell and Rebecca
Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine	Eliades, Telly and Caroline	Kratky, Frank and Constance	Pursell, Robert and Mary
Anastasiou, Andrew and Kathleen	Eliades, Harry and Agapi	Lakkis, Christina	Radosta, Athena
Andrews, Catherine	Eliakis, Peter and Glenda	Lamancusa, Lisa	Ramos, Fr. Seraphim and Presv. Olenka
Andrews, George	Eliakis, Varthie and LeeAnn	Lambros, Kyriakos and Mary	Rigas, Anthony and Mary
Andricopoulos, Margo	Eyler, John and Elizabeth	Lavine, Frederick	Rihani, Gary and Linda
Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette	Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean	Lekar, Caroline	Rodis, Dimitri and Angie
Anton, Mike and Carol	Felecos, Nektaria	Lekar, Michael and Effie	Rosenthal, Joseph and Stephanie
Aristides, George and Diana	Fischer, Bob and Cheryl	Leonis, Tishe	Rotus, Beatrice
Asim, Demetrious	Flangas, Marilyn	Liaos, Jim and Tina	Rudolph, Brandon
Athens, Maria and Centers, Scott	Flangas, Gus and Tamara	Liaos, Steven and Francine	Ruffner, Skip and Kathy
Bacon, Ken and Dianne	Foster, Kyle and Pierro, Maria Elena	Likourinou, Steve and June	Sakkas, Georgios and Stavropoulos, Bessie
Balason, Voula	Frangakis, Constantine	Loughton, Dustin and Rena	Salonikis, Valentinos and Sophia
Balodimas, James	Frangakis, John	Manolakos, Catherine	Santamaria, Jennifer and Robert
Barbarino, Dee and Nick	Frangakis, Sophocles and Tara	Manteris, Arthur and Sue	Setian, Gary and Marie
Bartzos, Eugenia	Garza, Everardo and Eliades, Eleni	Maravic, Marija	Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia
Beeler, Mike and Carolyn	Gekakis, George	Matsis, John and Rebecca	Smith, Kathleen
Beeman, Karl Jr. and Ivana	Generales, John and Arlene	Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki	Snow, Adrienne
Berendji, Jim and Vivian	Gideon, Jesse and Sara	Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debra	Snow, Clifford and Christina
Bernier, Micah and Alissa	Gideon, Jesse and Sara	Mavros, Alex and Jen	Snowden, Robert and Niki
Berta, Irene	Giouzelis, Sasa	Mavros, Debbie	Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette
Bieker, Adam and Cassie	Gott, C. Thomas and Kitty	Mavroudou, Frank	Sorkhabi, Arian and Habiba, Maha
Britten, Ronald and Carol	Gutierrez, Connie	McManus, Jeanette	Staub, Douglas and Anastasia
Brown, Faye	Gutierrez, Daniel	McPherson, Robert and Marie	Stefanatos, Michael and Tami
Bruninga, Bill and Erin	Hamilton, Mary	McSweeney, Farolyn	Stinis, Pam and Greg
Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Hammers, Oliver and Pantelas, Anne	Menegatos, James	Stransky, Mark
Cahill, Irene	Hertberg, Jennifer	Merritt, Devin and Sonia	Stransky, Jack and Rachel
Campbell, Theodore and Cheryl	Hetzl, David and Joanne	Minas, Arthur and Eva	Szukiewicz, Joseph and Jennia
Carabas, Stephen and Linda	Hondros, Catherine	Moffett, Todd and Eliopoulos, Tina	Tafoya, Steven and Irene
Carahalos, John and Constance	Hondros, Christina	Monoyudis, Jim and Julie	Thome, Tony and May
Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	Hondros, Christopher and Darlene	Moore, Brenda	Thompson, Maggy
Carrico, William and Alexandra	Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria	Mulopoulos, George and Jenny	Thompson, Steve and Alik
Carter, Maria	Hondros, Marissa	Myers, Stella	Tsarouhas, Maria
Chachas, Bessie	Houlis, Ila and Debbie	Neocleous, Plato	Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katerina
Chachas, James	Howard, William and Willie	Nicholas, Christina	Tsolis, Panagiot
Chagares, Kiki	Iteen, Robert and Sophia	Nicholas, John and Estella	Wadlow, Nicholas and Pamela
Chamie, Elie and Claudine	Kachikis, Ernestine	Nichols, George and Tereza	Wallace, Robert and Katerina
Chandrinou, Alexia	Kakavulias, George and Helen	Nichols, Mary	Walter, Vernon and Alice
Chanos, Jennifer	Kambouris, Litsa	Nichols, Stella	Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina
Chomakos, Dean and Tammy	Kanis, Constantinos and Katie	Nixon, John and Ellyn	Wilson, Kelly and Egi, Junichiro
Chondrakis, Dimosthenis and Kragerud, Kaaren	Karalias, Petros and Constance	Pajak, Scott and Angela	Wilson, Steven and Cleo
Christou, Andreas and Toni	Karas, John and Marcie	Pallis, Paul	Womack, Karl
Cocores-Ely, Caron	Karris, Mark and Suzanne	Panos, William and Jeanne	Womack, Kimberly
Collins, David	Katopodis, Efstratios	Papalois, John and Maria	Wood, Nadine
Conger, William and Alexia	Katris, Nick and Theana	Papas, Christian and Nicole	Xerogiannes, Nick and Nikki
Costacos, John	Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon	Papas, Peter and Rita	Zaferatos, Ted
Crist, Adam and Kanistra	Keslis, Paula	Pappas, Rita	Zimmerman, Paul and Angela
Cromwell, Michael and Allison	Koliambas, Eleni	Pappas, Spiros and Libby	Zmina, Stephen and Cynthia
Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	Konsolakis, Eleni and Sophia	Paschalis, Evangelos and Maria	
Dalacas, Eleni	Kontos, Diana	Paton, Mia and Kirani, Laura	
DeMangus, Joanne	Kostopoulos, Georgia	Payan, Luis and Eleni	
Demoleas, Stephanie		Pelletier, Michael	
		Pendleton, Tricia	
		Pierro, Joe and Rhonda	
		Pitts, Anton and Athena	

Let us flee the Pharisee's exalted parlance; let us learn the Publican's humble demeanor, and with sighs unto the Savior cry out and say, "To us be gracious, O only forgiving Lord." (Kontakion, Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, Translation by Father Seraphim Dedes)



2020 VISION: CHRIST CHURCH COMMITMENT

*“Your eye is the lamp of your body;
when your eye is sound, your whole body
is full of light . . .” (Luke 11:34)*

2020 Stewardship Report (as of 1/28/20)

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$266,423 (\$321,618 in 2019)
 Stewardship Gifts Received: \$72,636 (\$75,917 in 2019)
 Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$193,787 (\$245,702 in 2019)
 Stewardship Families Pledged: 219 (239 in 2019)
 Average Pledge to Date: \$1,217 (\$1,346 in 2019)
 Average Pledge Needed: \$4,544 (219 Families)

Church Account Summaries ~ December 2019

Nevada State Bank Accounts	November	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	December	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$13,489.49	\$85,939.02	\$6,760.66	\$19,607.93	\$53,335.66	\$33,245.58	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$3,020.10	\$3,000.00		\$1,000.00		\$5,020.10	
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$5,507.44	\$1,174.00	\$328.00	\$2,862.00	\$64.72	\$4,082.72	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$176,134.77	\$62,948.02	\$1,250.09	\$2,038.55	\$6,878.86	\$231,415.47	
Folk Dance Group	\$19,886.39	\$2,302.00	\$100.00	\$4,465.29		\$17,823.10	
Hellenic Historical Society	\$3,300.94					\$3,300.94	
Mortgage Account	\$0.00					\$0.00	Mortgage Balance \$0.00
Designated Funds	November	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	December	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$2,587.12	\$2,668.00		\$760.05	\$82.92	\$4,412.15	
Ornaments	\$1,087.41					\$1,087.41	
Restricted Funds	November	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	December	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
ICON	\$139,267.76	\$100.00				\$139,367.76	
Library Account	\$1,470.77					\$1,470.77	Account owed \$21,000. Funds used to make payroll and pay bills in 2015
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$30,160.02			\$5,000.00	\$25,160.02	Young Adults deposit error- Will be transferred to GOA in 1/2020. \$5,000 transferred to credit 2019 Stewardship
Giving Tree	\$0.91					\$0.91	
Building Fund	\$12,869.17	\$10,000.00	\$1,250.09		\$100.00	\$24,019.26	
\$300,000 One Year Plan	\$0.00					\$0.00	Transferred Balance to Building Fund
60th Anniversary Funds	\$10,697.31	\$20.00		\$1,278.50	\$1,695.94	\$7,742.87	
Youth Choir	\$2,989.18					\$2,989.18	
Church School	\$1,306.37					\$1,306.37	
Three Priests	\$2,684.49	\$20,000.00				\$22,684.49	
Roof Appeal	\$522.68					\$522.68	Mold Ebatement/Renovations
Baptismal Water Heater	\$69.24					\$69.24	
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$142.36					\$142.36	
Designated, Restricted, and Other Total	\$176,134.77	\$62,948.02	\$1,250.09	\$2,038.55	\$6,878.86	\$231,415.47	
Other Funds	November	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	December	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$67,990.45					\$67,990.45	

December 2019 Candles **\$7,870.22**
December 2019 Trays **\$6,285.50**
Total December Candles & Trays **\$14,155.72**



The AHEPA Las Vegas Chapter 341

We will not be meeting this month, but look for a meeting notice for March 2020, when we will discuss the *Greek Independence Day activities on Sunday, March 22 following Divine Liturgy.*

We are looking for volunteers to assist with a Membership Drive and we need Brothers to assist with this endeavor.

We are currently looking for Board Members to assist with the redevelopment of the Chapter. If you are interested in a Board Position or assisting with this very important organization, please contact me.

Thank you, Kouli Pouridis, Acting Chapter President

pouridis5@cox.net (702) 604-0885

With the Saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls of Your servants, where there is no pain, no sorrow, no sighing, but life everlasting.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH SATURDAY OF SOULS

Names of those who have Fallen Asleep in the Lord ~ First Names Only Please



_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please submit completed form to Father John



FEBRUARY 2020 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

							1
2 Meeting of Our Lord 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:15 pm Youth Choir Practice in 4th/5th Grade Class 12:30 pm Folk Dance	3	4 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes 6:30 pm Folk Dance Practice	5 7:00 pm Adult Study in Kokkos Hall	6 6:30 pm Folk Dance Practice	7	8 6:00 pm Folk Dance Glendi in Panos Hall	
9 Tridion Begins 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Youth Choir Chants FDF Preview Luncheon 5:00 pm Kali Parea at Stephanie Demoleas'	10 Haralambos the Hieromartyr 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Forerunner Luncheon in Kokkos	11 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes	12 7:00 pm Adult Study in Kokkos Hall	13	14 	15	
16 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Folk Dance Festival	17 Presidents' Day Banks and Schools Closed, but Church Office Open!	18 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting in the Library	19 7:00 pm Adult Study in Kokkos Hall	20	21	22 Saturday of Souls 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial 6:00 pm Young Adults Potluck at Daniela Yurkov's Home	
23 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm GOYA Night "Prosfora Baking"	24 Metropolis of SF Clergy Laity Conference	25 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes Metropolis of SF Clergy Retreat	26 No Adult Study	27	28 6:00 pm Mr. & Mrs. Potluck at Gott Home	29 Saturday of Souls 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial OFF Mini Retreat 6:00 pm Mardi Gras Gala in Panos Hall	

The Desert Messenger

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

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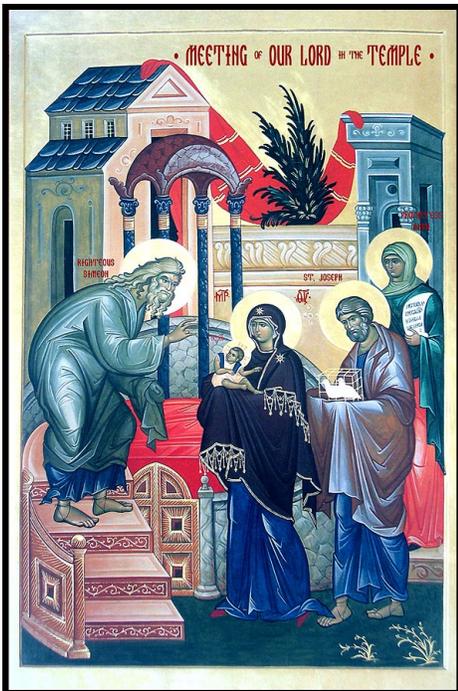
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POSTMASTER : DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE EXPEDITE

THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord



*Apolytikion for the Feast of the Meeting of
Our Lord in the Temple (February 2)*

*Hail, O Woman full of grace, Virgin Theotokos,
from you has arisen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our
God, enlightening those who stand in darkness. You
too, just Elder Symeon, rejoice, for you carried in your
arms the Redeemer of our souls and our Resurrection.*

Kontakion for the Feast

*You sanctified the virginal womb by Your Birth, O
Lord, and blessed the hands of Symeon fittingly, O
Christ God; and even now You came and saved us. Now,
give peace to our nation in time of war, and empower
our leaders, so loved by You, the only One Who loves
mankind.*