

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 21, Issue 6 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

June 2023

From
Father
John

*When the Most High God came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations.
When He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity.
And with one voice we glorify the All-Holy Spirit. (Kontakion of Pentecost)*

Beloved in Christ:

We are often careless about our words, whether spoken, emailed, texted, messaged or posted. By our thoughtless, needless and godless chatter, we negatively impact the already excessive noise that pollutes our planet. Moreover, whether knowingly or not, we contribute to building up walls that divide us from others, forgetting or not caring that each person is created and loved equally by God. How does this happen? In so many ways: We are addicted to our cell phones and oblivious to our surroundings, or even to those in front of us; we talk over one another, and we interrupt; we do not listen and we are quick to judge; we engage in needless chatter in places we should not be doing so (even in Church!); we freely offer our opinion, whether asked for or not; we are mean or unhesitatingly offend, and then cannot understand why others shut us off; and we are quick to criticize others for the things they have said, yet we fail to recognize that our own speech often tends to be overly salty rather than gently seasoned. If only we would attempt to heed to the wise and beneficial words of the Prophet David: *“Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord, keep watch over the door of my lips!” (Psalm 141:3)*

As we abuse our words incessantly – and through them, one another – we foolishly forget their divine roots. Holy Scripture reveals unequivocally that God Himself is the Word and by His Word all things came into being: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . all things were made through Him.” (John 1:1,3)* Our words reflect that we humans are made in the image and likeness of our Creator and are the means through which we are united with Him and each other – particularly in prayer and worship. It is equally true that our words become the way we separate ourselves from God and one another: *“From the same mouth come blessing and cursing.” (James 3:10)* Early on in *Genesis* we read that in ancient times at Babel, humans used words to boldly and selfishly unite and rebel against God – and thus *“the Lord confused the language of all the earth . . . and scattered them abroad over the face of the earth.” (Genesis 11:9)*

Yet in spite of us, God still loves us and His mercy endures forever. *On Sunday, June 4*, fifty days after the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we commemorate *Holy Pentecost*, when the All-Holy Spirit was sent forth upon the Apostles as they were gathered in one place. Through the Holy Spirit, the Apostles were granted the gift of tongues – that is, the ability to speak in various languages – so that they could call all people to repentance and proclaim throughout the world the Good News of salvation in the Risen Christ. *(Acts 2:6-11)* This Apostolic Mission continues still today in the Orthodox Church, uniting all believers in a common Faith, Creed and Worship: Through the Church and Her Holy Mysteries, we are united with the Trinitarian God and each other and, as such, we participate in the Kingdom of God until our Lord returns. As Orthodox Christians we must strive continuously to *“walk by the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25)* and to be vessels of unity – rather than division (which is from the devil) – through the many ways we communicate. *Come and abide in us, cleanse of all stain, and save our souls, O Good One!*

With Love in the Trinitarian God,

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/vegaskgreekorthodox>*

Sunday, June 4/*Holy Pentecost /Holy Father Metrophanes, Patriarch of Constantinople; Ss. Mary and Martha, Sisters of Lazaros; Holy Fathers of the Second Ecumenical Council*
Festal Gospel (Orthros): John 20:19-23
Epistle: Acts 2:1-11
Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12
Kneeling Vespers follows Liturgy
Fellowship: Kypreos Family

Pentecost Week: Fast-free

Sunday, June 11/*First Sunday of Matthew/ All Saints /Holy Apostles Bartholomew and Barnabas/Revelation of the Hymn Axion Estin by the Archangel Gabriel/Holy Father Luke, Archbishop of Simferopol and Crimea*
Orthros: Fourth Plagal Tone
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Matthew 28:16-20
Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2
Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30
Memorial: Justin Terry (1 year)
Fellowship: Ladies Philoptochos Society

Apostles Fast: June 12 - 28

Sunday, June 18/*Second Sunday of Matthew/ Holy Martyrs Leontios, Hypatios and Theodoulos of Syria*
Orthros: First Tone
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Mark 16:1-8
Epistle: Romans 2:10-16
Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23
Memorials: Dimitri Arapoglou (40 days); Departed Members of Tzelalis Family
Fellowship: Tzelalis Family

Saturday, June 24/*Nativity of the Forerunner, St. John the Baptist/St. Elizabeth, Mother of the Forerunner/Holy Father Athanasios of Paros*
8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4
Gospel: Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76, 80

Sunday, June 25/*Third Sunday of Matthew/ Holy Martyr Fevronia/Holy Father Methodios of Nevritos*
Orthros: Second Tone
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Mark 16:9-20
Epistle: Romans 5:1-10
Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33
Fellowship: Tijiboy Family

Thursday, June 29/*Ss. Peter and Paul, Paramount Among the Holy Apostles*
8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:21-33; 12:1-9
Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19

Friday, June 30/*Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles*
8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16
Gospel: Matthew 9:36; 10:1-8



CHURCH 360

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, if you have not yet done so, we respectfully request you take the time to fill out the questionnaire we have prepared. This will enable the Parish to better communicate with you. Click [HERE](#) to access the questionnaire. The information you provide will only be used by the Parish to better serve the members of our community.

**Parish
Council
Report**

Dear Father John, Father Florin, Ministries and Parishioners,

We have much to be thankful for moving forward. Our Parish Assembly meeting was informative and respectful. We appreciate the fact that you have a platform where you voice your concerns and we as a group can address them. We also appreciate the kind words that many of you expressed as to the meeting being informative and productive.

There are quite a few restoration items that are now on track with the building and maintenance team: Specifically, Eleni Filios and Mark Karris. We have gone to contract on the roof over the classrooms, library and offices, which has been an issue over the last few years and now it will be the first major expenditure. Once the roofing has been completed, we will move forward repairing our parking lot. We have received donations from parishioners who want to remain anonymous. Our Parish thanks you for your generosity toward God's House.

I want to recognize Gus Flangas for his tireless work ethic with chairing our Greek Food Festival, as past Parish Council President several years, and for his total devotion to our Parish in every respect. We have formed a committee to honor Gus with the Ariston Award at an event which will take place *on November 4, 2023*. We will be reporting back to the Parish Council and parishioners as we progress toward this date.

I also appreciate the way the Food Festival Committee has come together in unison for the glory of our Lord. Thank you to all who are participating in making our 50th Food Festival Anniversary a very special event.

One more report that brought me to humility was when I learned that Helen Stock, one of our most respected parishioners – may her memory be eternal – through her trust, donated \$150,000 to our Parish for the enhancement of our Church School and its many needs. I pray that God remembers her eternally in His Kingdom, for her love, service and generosity to our Church.

I pray also that each one of you enjoy the summer months and always be safe! May God continue to bless the parish of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church.

With Much Love, John Fotopoulos, Parish Council President

**Philoptochos
News**

Father John and Presvytera Maria, Father Florin and Presvytera Alexandra, President John and Barbara Fotopoulos and All the Lovely and Fabulous Members of the Panagia Chapter of the Ladies Philoptochos Society:

It is my pleasure to review the past year with you as we celebrate our accomplishments, events, fundraisers, and Traditions of our Faith. It has been quite the whirlwind the last two years, as I look over the planned calendars that we submitted and what we did! One thing you can say is that like most women, we can change, adapt and create when asked. Highlighting the past two years is going to be hard but I will try.

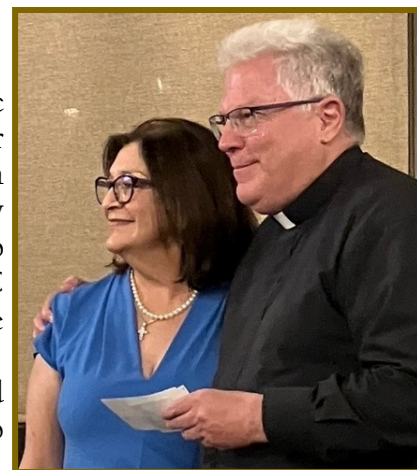
Church Obligations: The contributions we make to our Faith and Church come first. It is our duty, pleasure and privilege to be able to provide for them.

- Feast of the Panagia on August 15 – Our Chapter honors the Panagia with a Fellowship following the Liturgy.
- Vasilopita – St. Basil's Feast Day – We offer the beautiful breads baked by Dora Hart and Yiota Lieblen and blessed and distributed by Father John, benefiting St. Basils Academy.
- Vespers Dinner – We provide a light Lenten supper for the fellow Orthodox Churches in Las Vegas.
- Epitaphion – This labor of love is shared by all who contribute to the flowers and then by the women who decorate the Kouvouklion following the morning service.
- As life goes on, we also answer when called upon as the Church needs.
- We showed our devotion to our beloved Metropolitan Ilia by providing for those in attendance at his funeral services.
- And for a happier occasion, we hosted the Luncheon following Father Florin's Ordination to the Diaconate, and served at the Luncheon after his Ordination to the Priesthood. *(Continued on Page 4)*

Philoptochos (Continued from Page 3)

Fellowships: Our designated Fellowships benefit specific obligations like Holy Cross Seminary, to the extra special celebrations for Kids 'n' Cancer. While we all wear more than one hat in our Church community, it is always amazing how we pull together and put out a yummy array of goodies. I would like to acknowledge Maha Habiba, our Fellowship Chair, along with Helene Souros, Rena Taxopoulos Loughton and the KNC Team for the new and fun Kids 'n' Cancer Fellowship, as well as all the wonderful ladies who stepped up to host Fellowships.

Fundraising: We could not fulfill our many obligations and activities and support the needs of the Church when called upon or help other Ministries.



- Autumn Bake Sale – A true Bake Sale and all the women of Philoptochos contribute.
- Holiday Bake Sale – We have been doing this for so many years and it is an established part of our community. Of course, we could not do this without the fabulous bakers and group of women and men that come to help roll, bake, pour sugar on and then package thousands of cookies.
- Christmas Wreaths – These were added two years ago and has become another easy fundraiser, thanks to the great idea of Christina Snow.
- Agape Picnic Pastries – While we bake, package and sell the pastries, the funds are then given to the Church. Amalia Dominguez and her team, again with the help of our baking team, could not do it without you!
- Wine Wagon Raffle – This was added in 2009 and is such a great success! Christina Snow and her fantastic team of Benita Beeman and Juliana Likourinou worked that Agape Picnic crowd, along with Mary Hamilton who worked her magic.

Social Services: As you know Philoptochos means “Friends of the Poor.” The past two years the Social Services Committee has continued the food distribution to at-risk schools and seniors, put together kits for kids in the hospital, provided for the US Vet, SafeNest and continued our support for Project 150. We have involved the Church community by asking for diapers, books, and bras! Thanks to Social Services Chair Geri Kypreos, Jennifer (Paraskevi) Santamaria, Tina Liaos, Amanda Flangas and Eleni Filios.

The Social Services projects have been funded in most part by the generous donation of the Bartsas Family. For the last 20 years the Ladies Philoptochos Society has received the funds to help the children, seniors and homeless of Southern Nevada. This year we received another generous gift to create a project with a local non-profit, which we were instrumental in creating. The donor has guaranteed to fund the project for a minimum of three years.

Falling under the umbrella of Social Services would be Outreach: Ellyn Nixon and her team visited homebound members of the community and we also sent get well and sympathy cards to members of Philoptochos and St. John's when we knew of them. Please remember to let Karen or any LPS member know about someone needing a visit or the support of a greeting card.

Can you believe that you have done all these things? Can you believe that we have been doing them for years? Can you believe that we will be doing them again? You know we will and hopefully we can also enjoy a fun event or two!

We had an Election of the New 2023-2025 Board of Directors of the Ladies Philoptochos Society Panagia Chapter. Jennifer Paraskevi Santamaria, Election Chair, presented the nominees and they were elected as a slate. The 2023-2025 Board of Directors are: Vicky Palivos, Dora Hart, Benita Beeman, Eileen Koutsulis, Christina Snow, Alexia Conger, Sharon Katsaros, Sonia Merritt, Nana Allen, Maha Habiba, Amanda Flangas, Geri Kypreos, Tina Liaos, Helene Sourso, Rahel Kiflezgi, Presvytera Maria Hondros and me – Bernadette Anthony. The new officers will receive the *Oath of Office on Sunday, June 11*. Thank you to all the new Board Members. The next two years are going to be amazing!

(Continued on Page 5)

Philoptochos (Continued from Page 4)

Kairos Award: Thirty years of this award was celebrated at the President’s Dinner, where a brief history of the award was presented. In 1993, under the presidency of Cheryl Pandelis, the idea of creating an award to honor women who had dedicated years of their precious time to the work of the Philoptochos Ministry. Our then-Parish Priest Metropolitan Ilia suggested the name Kairos, which is an ancient Greek word meaning “the right, critical or opportune moment” and has a qualitative, permanent nature. Further, Kairos “has been used to describe God’s timing in relation to the salvation and redemption of mankind.” All of these can be used to describe our Kairos Award today. This tradition has been repeated throughout the years and the list of the names show the history of St. John the Baptist Church and the Panagia Chapter. This year we honored Sophia Leonis and Carolyn Beeler, both remarkable women who have shared their time and talents with all of us. Congratulations to Sophia and Carolyn, who are truly worthy of this award.

Many of the women on the Kairos Award list are no longer with us – most recently, Linda Carabas, who tragically reposed in the Lord on Mother’s Day weekend. Please keep our beloved and dear sister in Christ, Linda, and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as President of the Panagia Chapter. I am truly blessed by all the talented and dedicated members who love our Faith and our Church and the ideals and work of the Philoptochos. Each one of you are sisters of my heart.

Looking forward to the future – Bernadette Anthony, Philoptochos President



Remembering the Church through Planned Giving

“...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...” Matthew 6:20 (RSV)

For most people, the greatest financial gift we are able to give is what we leave behind when we fall asleep in the Lord. Making a Planned Gift to the Church is an opportunity to leave a legacy that strengthens God’s ministry and expresses our thankfulness to Him. Through a charitable gift, you can help sustain our place of worship first and foremost, allowing the Church to continue to meet the spiritual needs of our current faithful as well as future generations; as well as have a significant positive effect on the ministries of the Church and the people whose lives are changed by them. A charitable gift may also give you substantial current tax benefits as well as estate tax benefits. As part of our Parish Stewardship Committee’s ongoing efforts, we are inquiring if parishioners would be interested in attending a Church hosted meeting/workshop, where estate planning attorneys would come and discuss how basic estate planning tools work such as wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and the probate process; as well as how Planned Giving can be incorporated into one’s estate plan.

Giving to the Church is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values. It is an opportunity to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace. Giving is not a substitute of our commitment – it is an expression of our commitment. Come And See what we can do together with your support.

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you are interested in attending a future meeting/workshop, please email legacygiving@vegasgreekorthodox.com or call the Church at (702) 221-8245 to be placed on the invite notification list for any future events.

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5300 El Camino Road, Las Vegas, NV 89118

Stewardship and Community Outreach

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Glory be to God for all things. As Orthodox Christians, we truly believe that all the time, talents and treasures we have in this life, come from God. We are blessed through Baptism to become members of the Body of Christ – the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. This is followed by Chrismation and then partaking of the precious Body and Blood of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. As such, we become Stewards of these gifts which He has bestowed upon us.

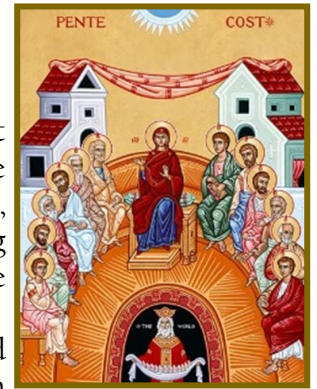
Baptism unites us with Christ, allowing us to participate in His Death and Resurrection, and Chrismation nourishes and strengthens those who are Baptized in the spiritual life through the gift of the Holy Spirit. This blessing of the gift of the Holy Spirit began on Pentecost, when *“there appeared to (the Apostles) divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:3-4)* Although, according to the Holy Fathers, the Church has existed before all time, Pentecost marks the beginning of the New Testament Church on Earth.

In the case of the Holy Apostles, the Holy Spirit transformed otherwise uneducated men into theologians and superb missionaries and evangelists. One sermon alone, from the Apostle Peter, converted over three thousand souls. *(Acts 2:41)* We know throughout history that men and women who have submitted to the power of the Holy Spirit, have uprooted paganism and converted an entire Empire to Christianity in just a few generations. The reason? As St. Paul said, *“It is no longer I who live, but Christ (through the Holy Spirit) lives in me.” (Galatians 2:20)*

Our Orthodox Christian Church believes and professes that the Holy Spirit is the most precious gift we have received from Jesus. He plainly told His Disciples that it was better for Him to leave this world and go to the Father, that He may send His Holy Spirit, Who proceeds from the Father, into the world – into the heart of all believers. *(John 16:6-7)* If we have been Baptized and Chrismated into the Orthodox Church, we can be sure that we have received the Holy Spirit. The key question still facing each of us, however, is to what degree are we allowing the Holy Spirit to direct and guide our lives? Are we cooperating with Him or stifling His Lordship over us through a lack of cooperation? The only thing separating the average Orthodox Christian from the Saints is our willingness to be obedient to the Holy Spirit. Salvation comes about through the Divine operation of God and the human cooperation of man.

Our annual celebration of Pentecost is a reminder to us about our all-important responsibility to be good Stewards of this incredible gift of the Holy Spirit. When we receive the Holy Mysteries of initiation into the Church, but refuse to surrender ourselves to the Holy Spirit, we grieve God. Although Baptism and Chrismation are commanded by God and are absolutely necessary, by themselves they cannot save us. Salvation comes about when we are faithful Stewards of God’s incredible gift, the Holy Spirit. As we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost *on June 4*, let us commit ourselves to further subjugating our wills before the Holy Spirit, just as the Apostles and Saints have done throughout the centuries.

In Christ, Stewardship and Outreach Committee



Our Community Registry

Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun

Anya Grace, daughter of George Tafesh and Lisa Muniz, on April 29, 2023.

Gabriel (Abrahan) Granillo (Adult Baptism) on May 20, 2023. Godparent: John A. Nixon.

Marriage: Na Zisete

Alejandro Belmares Vasquez and Katarina Despina Tadich on May 6, 2023. Koumbara: Eleni Prosser.



Stewardship 2023

WALK IN LOVE

*“Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”
(Ephesians 5:2)*

**Connecting in Love
with Christ,
Our Church
and One Another
Throughout the Year!**

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

+++++

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

“Walk in Love”

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 2023 of \$ _____.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Orthodox Christian: Yes No

Orthodox Christian: Yes No

Others sharing in the gift (children): _____

Building and Maintenance Committee

As we enter the summer months, we will be undergoing some major repairs. After the rainstorms right before Pascha and the roof leak repair in the main hallway of the administrative portion of our community building, we discovered that the substrate over this area of the Hall building is absorbing water and holding it like a “sponge”. This area of the roof is the remaining half that was not replaced. With August monsoon season approaching, we felt that it was a priority to fix this issue right away. Therefore, we will be replacing the roofing over all the classrooms, offices, and part of Kokkos. This will cost \$35,000 and the work is scheduled to begin on June 5.

Once this is complete, we will also be repaving the asphalt of our parking lots as well as restriping the entire grounds. This too has been a much-needed repair and we hope to have it done before our Festival. We ask you to please be mindful when attending services of marked off areas and appreciate your cooperation to help ensure your safety. The parking lot(s) repaving and restriping will cost \$50,000. It is because of your continued support that we can complete these repairs.

There are two additional projects we hope to do, but it requires your generosity. The front fountain has deteriorated, and the pump recently went out. Also, we would like to replace the bollard lights, gate post and interior courtyard lighting. The bids for the fountain have not come in yet, however the light replacement bids are coming in around \$25,000. Any donations toward these two projects would be greatly appreciated.

I want to thank Geri Kypreos for her recent donation of a commercial microwave for the main kitchen as well as all of you who have been so unsparing and benevolent. It is through your continued bountiful giving that I have been able to do all that I have over the past 18 months. I cannot express my sincere gratitude enough. Wishing everyone a wonderful and safe summer.

With Love and Great Appreciation,
Eleni Filios, Building and Maintenance Chair

A Note from the Katre Family

We deeply appreciate and gratefully acknowledge your expression of sympathy shown to our family. Whether you kept us in your thoughts and prayers, sent a lovely arrangement, gave a memorial donation, or helped us in any way, your love and kindness brought us great comfort and will be remembered.

With love and gratitude,
Metropolitan Makarios of Toronto, brother,
Sotir Mark Katre, Eugenia and Christos Kourlos,
and grandchildren, Gabriel Martin, Dhimitra Katre and Ilia Katre

*“I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh.”
(Joel 2:28)*

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

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Rev. Father Florin Ristache
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Karen Rawlinson
Administrative Assistant

Michelle Eugenio
Bookkeeper

Bruce Royal
Maintenance & Grounds

Office Hours

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

Telephone: (702) 221-8245
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Parish Council: John Fotopoulos

Philoptochos: Bernadette Anthony

Stewardship & Community Outreach:
John Karas

Building & Maintenance:
Eleni Filios

Choir: Athena Mertes

Chanters & Youth Choir:
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Church School: Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers: Father John

GOYA:

Fr. Florin Ristache & Maha Habiba

Orthodox Family Fellowship:
Fr. Florin Ristache & April Rivera

Young Adults:
Fr. Florin Ristache

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek School: Paula Kelesis

Mr. & Mrs.:
Fr. John & Presv. Maria,
Fr. Florin & Presv. Alexandra

Kali Parea: Demetrious Asim

Forerunners: Paula Kelesis

Orthodox Bookstore:
Paraskevi Santamaria

Greek Food Festival: Gus Flangas

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

Photography & Live-Streaming:
Bill & Erin Bruninga



Dear Father John, Father Florin and Beloved Fellow Parishioners:

With every good intention this letter is intended to refresh the memory of our community and/or familiarize those of us who may be unaware of the history of the *Hellenic Historical Society*.

In 2003, at the Parish Assembly of that year, the *Hellenic Historical Society* (HHS) was established. From that time through 2009 a concentrated effort was made by our archivists to systematically collect and preserve the first 50 years of history of our St. John the Baptist Church Community and the Greek Community at large in Las Vegas and Nevada. This monumental undertaking guaranteed that our history has not been lost.

In 2009 our community was able to enjoy the fruits of that labor at the 50th Anniversary Celebration. During the 3-day celebration of *Our Golden Heritage*, 740 chronologically ordered display boards with a program guide, presenting approximately 7,500 documents, letters, charters, books, photos, newspaper clippings, invitations, etc. were mounted on the walls of Panos Hall and on the walls of the foyer.

In 2019 at the 2-day 60th Anniversary Celebration of our community, *Our Diamond Jubilee*, we were able to further enjoy the fruits of that initial labor in addition to 50 new display boards. These displays were reproduced and those interested can find five large albums in the Church Library.

Please remember how valuable and interesting our story has been. Too many of us do not know of the events that led us to this magnificent Church where we are today. There are **many gaps in the history** which we would like to fill. To further preserve a more inclusive and detailed history we are asking the Parish Council, the Ministries and Pan Orthodox organizations to **select a member of their body to act as historian to gather past, present and future records and to share these documents with the Hellenic Historical Society.**

We welcome any and all submissions from any member of the community who has material pertinent to the St. John the Baptist Church Community and the Greek Community at large in Las Vegas and Nevada.

We look forward to receiving your historical materials. Please see the guidelines for your submissions.

We count on your continued support of this most important ministry.

Thank you kindly.

Your Sisters in Christ, for Hellenic Historical Society.

Nitsa Filios
nitsalv@aol.com
702 595-6888

Cheryl Pandelis
cheryl.pandelis@outlook.com
702 338-1601

Susan Stamis
susanstamis@gmail.com
702 460-9954



SPECIFICATIONS FOR SUBMISSIONS

- a) actual materials to **Karen Rawlinson at St. John Church Office (702 221-8245)**
(a receipt will be issued for temporarily loaned or permanently donated items)
- b) digital materials (**high resolution** scanned documents, captioned photos, PDF's, etc.).
to **susanstamis@gmail.com**

SUGGESTED MATERIALS *(including but not limited to)*

- a) Documents
- b) Letters
- c) Charters
- d) Books
- e) Newspaper pages or clippings
- f) Invitations
- g) Photos (please include)
 - 1. name of event
 - 2. date of event
 - 3. names of people
 - a) labeled left to right
 - b) front row, second row, third row etc.

We count on your continued support of this most important ministry.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

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702 595-6888

Cheryl Pandelis
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Susan Stamis
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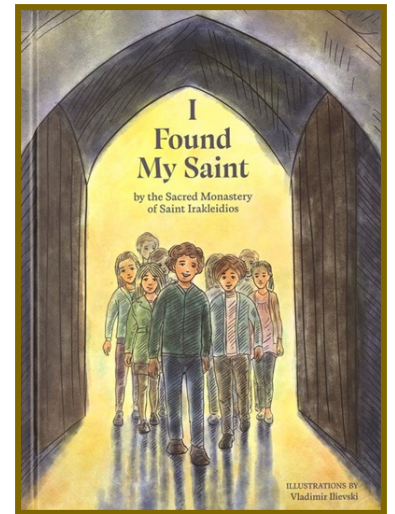
Orthodox Bookstore

Greetings from the Bookstore!

New from Newrome Press this month is a wonderful children's book entitled *I Found My Saint* by The Sacred Monastery of Saint Irakleidios. The book is based on true events described as follows: "Having been named after the ancient Greek pagan hero Iraklis (Hercules), it seemed that young Iraklis Harilaou had no Patron Saint! At least that is what he thought, until one day he was hospitalized suffering from a strange illness. It was then that Iraklis learned that God's providence never leaves us empty handed – or without saintly intercessors!"

From the letter of Nun Prodrómi, Abbess Holy Monastery of Saint Irakleidios: "Dearest Children – the book you are holding in your hands contains the true story of a miracle worked by Saint Irakleidios for a group of middle school students. Through this story, you can see that our Orthodox Saints are close at hand, that they are with us, and that they truly love us. They were children once too, with their own problems and worries, and with beautiful dreams and adventures in their lives. They believed, they struggled, and they became holy, and because of this they understand you and pray to God for you."

Looking forward to seeing you in store for your copy or other Orthodox supply needs!
Serving you with Love in Christ, Paraskevi Santamaria, Bookstore Director



Prospora Baking

Dear Parish Members,

We have been blessed to have a handful of committed members who prepare and bake Prospora, which through your prayers and the descent of the Holy Spirit becomes the Life-Giving Body of Christ that is distributed with His Blood to the faithful at each Divine Liturgy.

However, the number of people baking the Prospora has dwindled, and there is a great need in our community for others to assist in this vital offering of Stewardship. In our Parish, we make it our goal to have freshly baked Prospora for each Divine Liturgy.

Our current bakers are willing to teach others the process, and this is what is required:

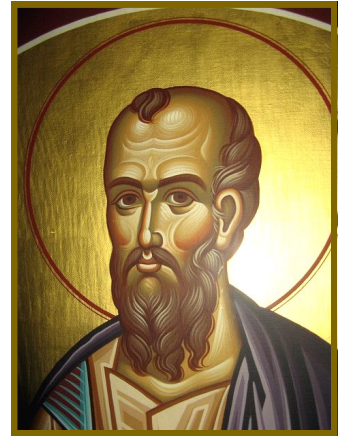
- You must be a Baptized and Chrismated member of the Orthodox Church.
- You must be Sacramentally in good standing with the Church (if married, you are married in the Orthodox Church) and attending the Divine services faithfully.
- You must prepare the Prospora according to the traditional recipe and do so prayerfully. You will be given the customary prayers.
- You must use the Seal on each loaf. Our current bakers will direct you where to find this.
- You must deliver the Prospora in a timely manner (the day before or morning of the service, prior to the start of Orthros).

Although women often offer this service, men are also invited and encouraged to bake Prospora. If you are willing to assist us in this sacred work over the summer, please contact Father John at the Church Office (702) 221-8245. If you are unable to help now, but still interested, please save the date for a training class held by Marcie Karas and Para Pouridis *on Saturday, September 23.*



From Father Florin

On June 29, we honor the *Holy Apostles Peter and Paul*. St. Paul was born around 4 BC in Tarsus, a major city in the province of Cilicia, in Asia Minor, and a place of culture and learning. This region had been made a part of the province of Syria (now in Turkey) which was under Roman rule by the time he was an adult. St. Paul was a descendant of the tribe of Benjamin, one of the first 12 tribes of Israel from which the first king of Israel, King Saul, also came. St. Paul was a Jew, and his Jewish name was Saul. St. Paul's father was a Roman citizen and probably wealthy, which allowed Saul to claim dual citizenship, both in Tarsus and Rome, which was of great help to him later in life. He was educated in Jerusalem and studied under a great teacher, Gamaliel. By the age of five, Paul was studying the Hebrew language as well as Holy Scripture. As Tarsus had Hellenistic influence, he probably also learned the Greek language at that time. He loved to work with his hands and chose to learn tentmaking in his youth.



Before his conversion, Saul traveled from synagogue to synagogue urging the punishment of those who believed that Jesus was the Messiah. He began his persecutions in Jerusalem, although he later denied having known any of the followers of Christ in Jerusalem until after his own conversion. Saul was also present at the stoning of the First Martyr, St. Stephen. (*Acts 8:1*) St. Paul's conversion to Christianity is one of the most monumental events in history and is recorded in *Acts 9:1-19*. This life-changing event occurred while he was on the road to Damascus. Suddenly he had a vision that changed his life, his views, and his reason for being. He saw the Lord Who came to him in a blinding light, proving to him that Jesus was the Messiah and Son of God. This event revealed that St. Paul was chosen by God to become the Apostle to the Gentiles. After his Baptism, he traveled to Arabia, then to Damascus where he remained for three years, after which he went to Jerusalem to meet and get to know the leading Holy Apostles there. It was after this that he began his famous missions to the west.

St. John Chrysostom, the greatest Patristic interpreter of St. Paul, writes that though we honor the Saints, we are also confronted by the fact that they did not escape trials and tribulations in their own lifetimes. Rather, the Saints learn in and from their tribulations about themselves, about the world and about God, and are thus able to find benefit even in events most of us want to avoid. St. Chrysostom writes: "That tribulation served the purpose of the Saints can be heard from David the Prophet, who said: 'It is good for me Lord, that I have been in trouble, that I might learn Your statutes.' Paul said, 'I was caught up into the third heaven, and transported to Paradise. Lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me.' By 'messenger of Satan' Paul does not refer to particular demons, but to men serving the devils: Unbelievers, tyrants, heathens, all who constantly troubled him. 'God,' he said, 'permitted these persecutions that I might not be too much exalted.' Although Paul, Peter and others like them are holy and wonderful men, yet they are but men, and require much caution lest they should allow themselves to be too easily exalted. Nothing is as likely to cause one to presume a high state for himself than a conscience full of good works and a soul that lives in unquestioning confidence." (*Afflictions of Man, O Logos Publications*)

St. Chrysostom notes that holy people recognize that suffering and setbacks contribute to our own humility. St. Paul admits: "*More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.*" (*Romans 5:3-4*) The Saints are not those whose consciences are made clean by all the good works they did, but rather are those who experienced the love of God in their own lives. Rather than focusing on all the good things we do – even when done for God – we should focus on God's love for us, and loving others as He loves us.

Fr. F. J. Ristache.

Ministry News

Church School

Hi everyone! Congratulations to our High School Graduates! We are so happy for you and wish you all the best in the next chapter of your lives.

Church School Commencement and our Field Day were so much fun! Thank you to all our helpers for organizing the fun activities and a special thank you to my husband, John, and Telly for grilling our delicious hot dogs. Much gratitude to Philoptochos for underwriting our food expense!

We hope to see you over the summer. Please continue to think of some fun things to do with your children to fulfill their spiritual life.

Thank you to all our Teachers for their commitment to our ministry, and for educating our children in our Faith all year.

Have a great summer. First day of Church School Classes will be *on Sunday, September 10, 2023.*

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



GOYA - Our Teen Ministry

Dear GOYAnS,

For the next few months, we will have combined Youth Events. I hope you will find the time to join us for our fellowships during the summer months. Please stay tuned for the upcoming announcements in *The Desert Messenger*.

In September, we will resume our GOYA Nights. Until then, let's have fun together!

Thank you so much!

Love in Christ, Father Florin and Maha Habiba, GOYA Advisors

All Youth and Family Event

Please join us *on Saturday, June 17, from 9:00 am until 1:00 pm*, for a long-anticipated *Picnic on Mount Charleston!* We will be meeting at Church at 9:00 am and from there we will head out to Lee Canyon – Lower Lee Meadows National Recreation Area.

Please bring blankets, napkins, utensils, food, drinks, clean up supplies and, of course, balls and other games you may wish to play outside. Get ready for having a fun time outdoors with your friends from Church! Thank you and hope to see you there!

In Christ, Father Florin, April Rivera and Maha Habiba, Youth Advisors



Young Adults - 18 Years through Early 30s

Thank you again for our wonderful fellowships! Our last meeting at the bowling alley was a blast! We will most likely skip our gatherings for the summer months, as I know everyone is very busy with vacation and travel plans. But if you feel otherwise, let me know.

Please keep your wonderful ideas coming for our next meetings, which we are planning on resuming in September. I always look forward to our fellowships and discussions!

With Gratitude in the Lord, Father Florin

Mr. & Mrs.

We would like to thank again Angela and Richard Acovino for the wonderful fellowship we all had at their home in May. We enjoyed a large group, great food and meaningful discussion.

We will resume our wonderful meetings in August. Please stay tuned for upcoming details.

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

Kali Parea - For the 40+ Crowd

We postponed our May gathering, and we are now planning to meet and enjoy a nice breakfast together *on Sunday, June 4 after the Divine Liturgy and Kneeling Vespers.* We will meet *at 1:00 pm at Mr. Mama's* (5693 South Jones Blvd., Las Vegas). If you intend to attend, please call the Church Office *by Thursday, June 1* so we can inform the restaurant of our group size.

Thank you and hope to see you there. In Christ, Demetrious Asim

Forerunners - Our Seniors Fellowship

The “Spring Fling” Luncheon was enjoyed immensely by our Seniors. Father John gave an opening prayer with “Christos Anesti” being sung by all. We had door prizes and a raffle and everyone went home with a bottle of wine to kick off the summer!

Our hard-working and dedicated kitchen staff, Steve Tzelalis, Marika LaMancusa, Michael Beeler, Savva Savvas and Demetri Asim have tirelessly ensured we have delicious food to serve. This last luncheon we feasted on chicken, lamb, pastitsio and spanakopita. Not to mention the delicious cake that was served too. We would like to thank Peter Papas at Yassou, Greek Chicken and Van’s Bakery for providing the food over the past year. Thank you Bea Rotas for satisfying our sweet tooth with the desserts. Thank you to George Goltosos who made the delicious Sangria and cut up the fruit himself! And lastly, thank you Faye for writing the monthly articles and helping organizing the lunches as well as Sophia Leonis for helping setting up.

We hope to have more involvement and cannot wait to see you back in October.

Have a safe and blessed summer! Love in Christ, Paula Kelesis for the Forerunners

Greek Folk Dance

The Greek Folk Dance Board is busy planning for our upcoming dance season! We are excited to welcome all youth, age 4 and up (by September 2023) to join our vibrant Ministry to learn Greek folk dances and participate in the annual Folk Dance Festival that the Metropolis of San Francisco hosts every February.

Please look for the registration form in the July/August issue of *The Desert Messenger*, or with Karen in the Church Office. Registration fees are \$125 per dancer for our competitive groups and \$75 per dancer for our youngest, non-competitive group.

The first dance practice for all returning dancers is *on Sunday, August 13, 2023!* Please mark your calendars! We look forward to seeing all the smiling faces of our dancers in August and hope to see some new ones too! Questions? Email: stjohngreekdance@gmail.com.



**AHEPA FAMILY
SUPREME CONVENTION**

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

**JULY 23-29, 2023
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

**JOIN THE AHEPA FAMILY FOR OUR 101ST ANNUAL
SUPREME CONVENTION IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA THIS JULY!
WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT WEEK IN STORE FOR YOU SO
BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOMS EARLY!**

HORSESHOE - \$69 WEEKDAYS (MONDAY-THURSDAY) & \$99 WEEKENDS (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

PARIS - \$99 WEEKDAYS (MONDAY-THURSDAY) & \$129 WEEKENDS (FRIDAY-SUNDAY)

ALL RATES ARE SUBJECT TO TAXES PLUS A \$25 RESORT FEE

ANYBODY BOOKING OUTSIDE OF THE AHEPA BLOCK IS CHARGED A \$45.95 RESORT FEE

VISIT [HTTPS://BOOK.PASSKEY.COM/GO/SPAHE3](https://book.passkey.com/go/spahe3) TO BOOK YOUR ROOM NOW!



AHEPA FAMILY



**IF YOU PREFER TO CALL
TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION:
877.603.4390 (HORSESHOE)
702.946.7000 (PARIS)
ASK FOR THE AHEPA RATE!**

**MEETINGS WILL BE TAKING PLACE
IN THE HORSESHOE CONVENTION SPACE.
THE TWO HOTELS ARE CONNECTED.**



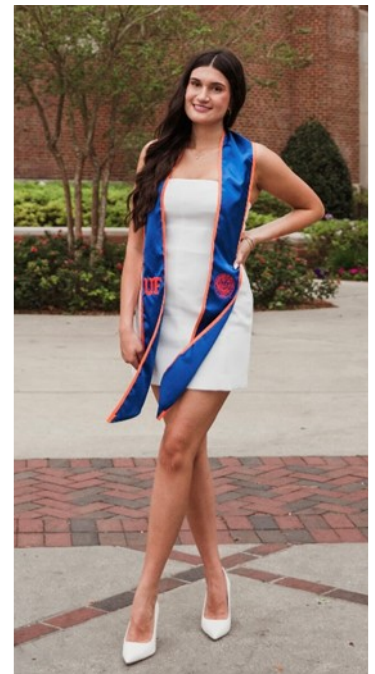
God Bless Our Graduates 2023!

College Graduates



Sophia Vemia Bizov, daughter of Mia and Pavel Bizov, graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno on May 20, 2023 with a Bachelor of Science in Speech Pathology. She plans to continue her education in the Masters Program in the Spring and is currently working as an assistant speech pathologist.

Alexandra Dominguez, daughter of Eric and Amalia Dominguez and granddaughter of Peter and Glenda+ Eliakis, is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Bachelor of Science in Psychological Neuroscience and a minor in Business Administration from the University of Florida. She will be pursuing a JD at the University of California Davis School of Law. Go Gators and Go Aggies!



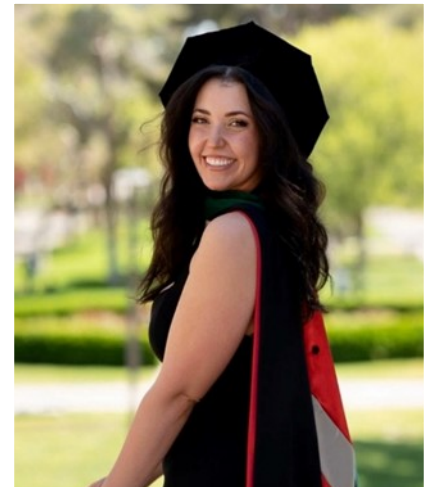
Lindsey Flangas, daughter of Gary and Amanda Flangas, and granddaughter of Bill+ and Marilyn Flangas will graduate this June, 2023 with a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Washington. Lindsey is currently working for Boeing in Seattle as a Mechanical Engineer in research and development, as well as project lead, while finishing up her post graduate degree. We could not be more proud.

Preston T. Francis, nephew of Dr. Nick Spirtos and Dr. Vicki Mazzorana, is graduating from Chapman University with a Masters in Screenwriting. He plans to be a screenwriter/director in the film and television industry.



Jennifer Hertberg graduated from Southern New Hampshire University in April 2023 with a Master's in Business Administration. She is currently working at Red Note Las Vegas and plans to relaunch Uprooting Grief, her own business offering Grief Recovery and Business Consulting services.

Dr. Maritza Kelesis, MD, daughter of George Kelesis and Sandra Robeledo, and niece of Paula Kelesis, graduated from UNLV School of Medicine on May 5, 2023. After four years of rigorous study, publishing research, and hundreds of hours of volunteer work she is graduating at the top of her class. She will be continuing her medical training at the University of Louisville specializing in Emergency Medicine.



Alexandra Irene Liaos, daughter of Steve and Francine Liaos, is graduating Summa Cum Laude from Arizona State University with her Bachelor's in Biomedical Engineering and a Minor in Business. She has loved her time in Phoenix, Arizona these past four years, and is so thankful for all the wonderful people who have supported her along the way. She looks forward to starting the next chapter of her life this fall as a Validation Engineer with Texas Instruments!



Noah Philip Nobert, son of Tanja and Philip Nobert, is graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno with a Bachelor of Business, in Business Management and a Minor in Sports Management/HR. His future plans include the Graduate Assistant Program – Basketball for UNR.



Vangeli (Evangelos) Zimmerman, son of Paul and Angela Collins-Zimmerman, graduated from UCLA with a Major in Business Economics and a Minor in Film, Television and Digital Media. He plans to pursue a career in business and film.

High School Graduates



Alyssa Liaos, daughter of Steve and Francine Liaos, is graduating with an Advanced Honors diploma from Desert Oasis High School. She is excited to attend Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, in the fall to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Physiology. She is grateful for everyone who has supported her thus far.



Andrew Paton, son of Mia Paton, is graduating with a High School Diploma. He is interested in pursuing a career in animation.



Alexander Payan, son of Luis and Eleni Payan, is graduating from Doral Academy Red Rock High School with an Advanced Diploma and received the President's Award for Academic Achievement. Alex is a passionate theater performer and was named Outstanding Video Production Student of the Year. He has played roles on over a dozen plays and musicals throughout his childhood. He is a Millennium Scholarship Candidate and looks forward to expanding his horizons in an apprenticeship journeyman position within the Local Stagehand Union IATSE 720.



Jake Prestage, son of Adam and Courtney Prestage, is graduating from Durango High School, with Honors (Magna Cum Laude). He also received a Scholar Athlete award for academics and leadership on the Durango High School Men's Golf Team. Jake plans to start Southern Utah University's Aerospace and Aviation program in the fall.



Pete Poulis, son of Chris and Frances Poulis, will graduate with his Advanced Diploma from Pahrump Valley High School on May 26, 2023. He is also the recipient of the Hellenic American University Academic Scholarship. He plans to pursue a career in Emergency Services like his Dad and to be able to open his own business and become an entrepreneur.



Sofia Poulis, daughter of Chris and Frances Poulis, is celebrating two graduations. She is graduating from Pahrump Valley High School with her Advanced Diploma on May 26. She was a National Merit Finalist, on the Honor Roll, National Honor Society, and received a Congressional Commendation Award for Community Service. And on May 13 she graduated with her Associates of Science Diploma Magna Cum Laude from Great Basin College. Following graduation Sofia plans to study Biomedical Engineering with a Pre-medical concentration at University of California Irvine. From there, she will be attending Medical School to become an Anesthesiologist.

Anya Santamaria, daughter of Rob and Jennifer (Paraskevi) Santamaria, will graduate from Doral Academy Red Rock High School. Notably, she was one of 5000 students selected nationwide to compete in the Presidential Scholars Program this year. An AP Excellence Scholar and avid Theater student, Anya will attend the Honors College at the University of Nevada Las Vegas and Major in Entertainment Engineering.



Angelina Wagner, daughter of Christopher Wagner+ and Sophye Politis-Wagner, is set to culminate her academic journey in a remarkable achievement as she prepares to graduate from Cristo Rey St. Viator, Class of 2023. Her dedication and perseverance have paid off as she has been awarded a full scholarship to attend the University of Nevada Las Vegas. With great enthusiasm and fondness for the field, she has decided to pursue a career in sports medicine. Angelina's unwavering commitment to her studies and exceptional academic performance has made her a standout student in her graduating class. She has demonstrated an impressive ability to balance her rigorous coursework with extracurricular activities, such as competing at FDF for two years and community involvement. Angelina embodies the true spirit of

academic excellence. Her passion for her religious beliefs has significantly shaped her character and has been a guiding force in all her endeavors.

Nikoletta Zarkos, daughter of Nick and Constantina Zarkos, graduated with Honors from Bishop Gorman High School as Co-Valedictorian and was awarded the Scholars Diploma. Nikoletta will attend Saint Louis University's Medical Scholars BS/MD Program and is the recipient of the Presidential Finalist Scholarship. There she will pursue a major in Medical Sciences and a minor in Public Health, followed by matriculation to SLU's Medical School.



Middle School Graduate



John Confrey, the Godson of Dr. Vicki Mazzorana-Spirtos, is graduating the 8th grade from Fairmont Private Schools in Orange County, California. He is graduating with Head of School Honors and with a Husky Elite award for being one of the top 10 students in his grade for the highest GPA. He will be moving on to high school at Fairmont Preparatory Academy in Anaheim, California. He was accepted into the Advanced Science and Engineering program. We are very proud of our Yianni!

**2023
Stewardship
Report
(as of 5/23/23)**

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$520,776 (\$487,328 in 2022)
 Stewardship Gifts Received: \$288,917 (\$284,767 in 2022)
 Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$231,859 (\$202,561 in 2022)
 Stewardship Families Pledged: 356 (348 in 2022)
 2023 Goal: \$600,000 . . . Keep the Pledges Coming!

**“WALK
IN
LOVE”
(Ephesians 5:2)**

<u>Average Pledge</u>	<u>No. of Families</u>	<u>Amount Pledged</u>
\$1 - \$500	152	\$ 39,460
\$501 - \$1,000	74	\$ 57,990
\$1,001 - \$2,500	86	\$134,878
\$2,501 - \$5,000	25	\$ 93,264
\$5,001 - \$9999	13	\$ 78,964
\$10,000 & Above	6	\$116,220
Total Families	356	\$520,776

“And they devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

Church Account Summaries - April 2023

Nevada State Bank Accounts	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$83,469.76	\$103,537.65		\$33,036.37	\$55,428.22	\$98,542.82	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$136,569.50					\$136,569.50	\$75,000 temporarily transferred from D&R
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$83,284.33			\$9,317.41		\$73,966.92	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$241,217.50	\$154,340.88	\$134.10	\$3,116.48	\$1,477.70	\$391,098.30	\$150,000 donation from Helen Stock Estate for Church School
Folk Dance Group	\$20,721.82			\$10.00		\$20,711.82	
Hellenic Historical Society	\$3,260.47					\$3,260.47	
Designated Funds	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$39,758.88	\$3,334.00		\$1,117.35	\$1,477.70	\$40,497.83	
Ornaments	\$601.33					\$601.33	
Restricted Funds	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
ICON	\$8,677.46	\$1,000.00	\$134.10	\$2.90		\$9,808.66	
Library Account	\$1,470.77					\$1,470.77	
Giving Tree	\$8,889.87					\$8,889.87	
Faithtree	\$1,626.39					\$1,626.39	
Building Fund	\$104,235.94	\$6.88		\$1,996.23		\$102,246.59	
(Transferred to C&E)	-\$75,000.00					-\$75,000.00	Temprary transfer to reduce the account below FDIC \$250,000 threshold
Youth Choir	\$2,989.18					\$2,989.18	
Church School	\$2,116.44	\$150,000.00				\$152,116.44	Donation from Helen Stock Estate
Three Priests	\$51,395.72					\$51,395.72	
Roof Appeal	\$10,283.22					\$10,283.22	
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$530.36					\$530.36	
Panos Flooring Repair	\$23,722.83					\$23,722.83	
Church Flooring Replacement	\$0.00					\$0.00	
Restricted Donation	\$5,654.00					\$5,654.00	From Father Paul
Live Streaming Equipment	\$473.61					\$473.61	
HVAC	\$48,351.50					\$48,351.50	Initial downpayment of \$47K made to vendor
Emergency Fund	\$5,000.00					\$5,000.00	
Designated, Restricted, and Other Total	\$241,217.50	\$154,340.88	\$134.10	\$3,116.48	\$1,477.70	\$391,098.30	
Other Funds	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$61,691.65		\$3,394.81			\$65,086.46	as of 03.31.23
Commonwealth Investments (Icon)	\$121,515.54		\$137.63			\$121,653.17	Change in Investment

April 2023 Candles	\$3,300.93
April 2023 Trays	\$2,612.40
April 2023 Candles - Holy Week	\$15,102.75
April 2023 2023 Trays - Holy Week	\$9,149.00
Total April 2023 Candles & Trays	\$30,165.08



JUNE 2023 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

					1	2	3
						Father Florin on Vacation	
4 Holy Pentecost 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:30 pm Kali Parea at Mr. Mama's	5 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting in Library	6 9:00 am Orthodox Clergy Meeting in Library	7	8	9	10	
11 All Saints 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Philoptochos Board Oath	12	13	14	15 Deadline for July-August DM Articles	16	17 9:00 am OFF and GOYA Day at Mt. Charleston	
18 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	19	20 6:00 pm Greek Food Festival Meeting in Kokkos Hall	21	22	23	24 Nativity of the Forerunner 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	
25 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	26	27	28	29 Ss. Peter and Paul 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	30 Holy Apostles 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy		
				Father John on Vacation			

The Desert Messenger

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

The Way of the Lord



*Let us celebrate with joy this final post festal Feast, O believers; for it is the Feast of Pentecost today, and the fulfillment of the promise and the appointed time. For on this day the fire of the Paraclete descended to the Earth immediately, as in the form of tongues, and illumined the Disciples and made them initiates of Heaven. The Holy Light of the Holy Spirit has appeared and illumined the world.
(Kathisma, Orthros for Pentecost, translated by Father Seraphim Dedes)*