

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 22, Issue 6 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

June 2024

From
Father
John

Beloved in Christ:

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

Forty Days after the Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ we celebrate the Feast of His *Ascension*, and then we conclude the Paschal Season with *Holy Pentecost on Sunday, June 23* and the following week, *All Saints Sunday*.

The Great Feast of Pentecost (from the Greek, meaning "the fiftieth" day after Pascha) is rooted in the Scriptural narrative recorded in *The Acts of the Apostles*: *"When the day of Pentecost had come, they (the Apostles) were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from Heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues (Greek, meaning "languages"), as the Spirit gave them utterance."* (Acts 2:1-4)

Pentecost Sunday is for us Orthodox Christians the Great Feast of the Holy Trinity, and marks the beginning of the Apostolic ministry of growing the Church, after receiving the gift of Ordination as the "first Bishops" by the Life-Giving Spirit, and in direct and obedient response to the Great Commission of Jesus to: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, Baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."* (Matthew 28:19-20)

St. Gregory the Theologian, reflecting on the gift of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles on Pentecost, which was in accordance to God's plan of salvation, wrote: "So that by gradual increase . . . and progress from glory to glory, the light of the Trinity might shine upon the more illuminated . . . for this reason it was, I think, that He gradually came to dwell in the Disciples. He measured Himself out to them according to their capacity to receive Him: At the beginning of the Gospel, after the Passion, after the Ascension, making perfect their powers, being breathed upon them, and appearing in fiery tongues." Moreover, as this gift of the Holy Spirit is given to all Christians through the Holy Mysteries and the fulness of our life in His Church, St. Gregory said: "If He is not to be worshiped, how can He deify me by Baptism? . . . And indeed, from the Spirit comes our new birth, and from the new birth our new creation, and from the new creation our deeper knowledge of the dignity of Him from Whom it is derived." (*Fifth Theological Oration*)

With the celebration of Pentecost, and especially at the Kneeling Vespers on that Holy Day, we Orthodox Faithful will humbly entreat the Divine and Life-Giving Spirit to "come and abide in us" yet again, forgive us our sins, renew our faith, refresh us in our struggles, and reinvigorate our spiritual gifts, so that we may serve and share in the Apostolic ministry of growing His Church. Beloved, what greater love can we show to our saving Lord than by being the Spirit-filled vessels through which He adds to our Parish and the Orthodox Christian Faith, the number day by day those who are being saved. (*Acts 2:47*)

With Love in the Trinitarian God,

Father John



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

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

Sunday, June 2/ *Fifth Sunday of Pascha/ The Samaritan Woman/ St. Nikephoros the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople/ Holy Martyr Erasmios of Ochrid and his Companion Martyrs/ St. Demetrios the New Martyr of Philadelphia/ St. Constantine the New Martyr of the Hagarenes*

Orthros: Fourth Tone

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

Epistle: Acts 11:19-30

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Memorials: Panagiotis Doukakis (40 days); John McSweeney (40 days); Socrates, Kaliopi and Konstantinos Tzelalis, Anna Rouvas and Eleni Eliades

Fellowship: The Tzelalis Family

Sunday, June 9/ *Sixth Sunday of Pascha/ The Blind Man/ St. Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria/ Holy Three Virgin-Martyrs of Chios/ Holy Five Nuns beheaded in Persia: Thecla, Mariamne, Martha, Mary and Enmatha/ Holy Righteous Father Columba of Iona/ Holy Righteous Father Cyril of Belozersk*

Orthros: First Plagal Tone

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

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34

Gospel: John 9:1-38

Memorial: Joanne Monroe (1 year)

Fellowship: Kitchen Crew

Wednesday, June 12

5:00 pm Orthros

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Holy Ascension of Our Lord)

Epistle: Acts 1:1-12

Gospel: Luke 24:36-53

Thursday, June 13/ *Holy Ascension of Our Lord*

(Services on Wednesday Evening)



Sunday, June 16/ *Seventh Sunday of Pascha/ Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council/ St. Tychon the Wonderworker/ Holy Forty Martyrs of Rome/ St. Mark the Just of Apollonia*

Orthros: Second Plagal Tone

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 21:1-14

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Gospel: John 17:1-13

Memorial: Giannoula Brogoli (6 months)

Fellowship: Celebrating Marissa and Theodore



Happy Father's Day!

Saturday, June 22/ *Saturday of Souls*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

Gospel: John 21:14-25

Sunday, June 23/ *HOLY PENTECOST*

Orthros: Festal

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:19-31

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11

Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12

Kneeling Vespers following Liturgy

Fellowship: Kitchen Crew

No Fasting All Week

Monday, June 24/ *Monday of the Holy Spirit/ Nativity of St. John the Baptist*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19

Gospel: Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76, 80

Saturday, 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



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

(Continued from Page 2)

Sunday, June 30/*Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles/Holy Michael the New Martyr of Athens/All Saints*

Orthros: Fourth Plagal Tone

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

Epistle: 1 Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 9:36, 10:1-8

Fellowship: The Tzelalis Family



Parish Council Report

Dear Father John, Father Florin, Deacon John, Ministries and Parishioners,
Christ Is Risen!

We began our beautiful Holy Week with the presence of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and his entourage. The services on Palm Sunday Weekend were spectacular, and our Church was packed on this Great Feast. Thank you again to Steve Tzelalis, Kiki Mavrantonis, Marika Lamancusa, Mike and Carolyn Beeler and the entire crew of cooks, decorators and servers for the amazing Ministry Leaders Dinner with the Metropolitan after Great Vespers. Moreover, many thanks to Steve and his crew, and Nana Allen and the Philoptochos team for setting the tables and cooking the wonderful Palm Sunday Luncheon after Liturgy. Your leadership and participation allowed our fantastic hospitality to shine.

I want to thank as well those who supported the Agape Picnic! This was a magnificent day and, quite frankly, may be one of the best through the hard work of our faithful. There are far too many of you to thank by name. I do want to recognize our Chairman, Steve Tzelalis, Telly Eliades, and all our volunteers who made this event a success, especially Mike Beeler who oversaw the grilling of the lamb. I have heard numerous comments regarding the food and pastries. The lamb was over the top! The music provided by Steve Likourinou did not go unnoticed! Thank you, thank you to all!

Before we know it, the Greek Food Festival will be upon us. The Festival will take place *on September 27, 28 and 29*. Please let us know where you would like to give of your talents. Year after year the challenge is always trying to establish a workforce. Angelo Stamis and his co-chairs are presently conducting meetings with booth captains to identify help. Your cooperation and support will be the key to our success. This is one event that highlights our love for the Church and its existence in the community.

In closing, I pray that your summer is met with the blessings from Above and safe travels through the prayers of our Theotokos.

Yours Always in Christ, John Fotopoulos, Parish Council President



Marriage: Na Zisete

Timothy Bryant and Janet Simon on May 7, 2024.
Koumbara: Diakonissa Ellyn Nixon.



Philoptochos News

Dear Father John, Father Florin, Deacon John, Members of St. John the Baptist Parish, and My Lovely Philoptochos Sisters in Christ,
Christos Anesti!



Once again, we express our thanks and praise to all who made this Blessed Pascha one to remember. From the Red Eggs to the spectacular Epitaphion, “Team Holy Week” had every detail covered to present a smooth and beautiful Pascha. Again, thanks to Effie Lekar and her team and to Dora Hart who gives so much of her time creating a moving and memorable Kouvouklion to commemorate our Lord and His Sacrifice and Resurrection. The Agape Picnic was one for the memory books. It was a breezy day, but our fabulous team of Philoptochos members hosted another Wine Wagon Raffle – thanks to all who contributed wine and bought tickets and to Christina Snow who chaired this event. Congratulations to Sia Dalacas on winning the wagon! The Agape Picnic Bake Sale was a huge success. Many thanks to Nana Allen and her family and to Amalia Dominguez and her family for keeping the sweets flowing all afternoon. We understand that the “special” coffees were a hit this year!

June will be time to concentrate on Social Services. We voted on a HUGE Project to sponsor and help volunteer a “Pop Up and Give” mobile grocery store for a nonprofit called “Just One Project”. We will be asking for volunteers from the entire St. John Community to help with this project. We do not have a firm date yet, so look for information in the *Weekly Word* and the *Sunday Weekly Bulletin* for time, date and place. Please check out this very worthwhile nonprofit for all the projects that they offer. They are more than “Just One Project” and we are very impressed with all that they do.

This year we will be sending two delegates to the 2024 National Philoptochos Convention in San Diego, June 30-July 4. Each San Francisco Metropolis Chapter has been asked to send Koulourakia for the coffee breaks during the sessions. This is a fun opportunity to show what we can do, as there are quiet bragging rights to who has the best. I say quiet, as they are all packaged the same, but those who participate will know their own cookie. Look for a baking date in the *Weekly Word* – because I will hold up our Eleni Kakavulias’ Koulourakia with anyone’s. Just saying!

Then it will be a quiet July, but in August of course we will be hosting the Fellowship for the *Dormition of the Theotokos on August 15*, in honor of the namesake of our chapter, the Panagia. If you would like to host or help with this Fellowship, please let me know. We know that the Greek Food Festival activities will be gearing up and that many of our members will be involved with baking and cooking for the Festival during the summer.

Please remember our Prayer Circle is always ready to include you, your family and loved ones in our prayers. All we need is a name. If you would like to share the reason, all information is kept under strict confidence unless you give us the permission to share. The Power of Prayers can work wonders. Please let our circle pray for you. *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:6-7)*

In closing, I would like to express my personal thanks to the Ladies Philoptochos Society Board: First Vice President Vicky Palivos, Second Vice President Christina Snow, Recording Secretary Eileen Koutsoulis, Treasurer Dora Hart, Corresponding Secretary Helene Soursos, Social Services Chair Geri Kypreos, Fellowship Chair Nana Allen, Amanda Flangas, Rahel Kiflezgi, Sonia Merritt, Sharon Katsaros, Maha Habiba, Tina Liaos, Alexia Conger, Board Member and Parish Council Liaison, and Presvytera Maria Hondros.

Every one of these ladies has offered their hearts, hands and love to this most worthwhile Ministry of our St. John the Baptist. I am so blessed to have them to help me every step of the way.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as President of the Ladies Philoptochos Chapter – Panagia Chapter and I look forward to serving with these women in the good works for our Faith, Church and Community.

Have a safe and wonderful summer.

Bernadette Anthony

Stewardship and Community Outreach

Christos Anesti!

On the fortieth day after Pascha (this year *on June 13*) we celebrate the *Feast of the Holy Ascension*. Shortly before His Ascension, Christ brought His Disciples to the Mount of Olives and instructed them to preach about Him *"to the end of the earth."* (*Acts 1:8*) Our Parish, St. John the Baptist, fulfills this commandment to this very day. We celebrate the Divine Liturgy and commune the faithful, we embrace new catechumens, and we open our doors to inquirers seeking the Truth. We have a thriving Parish with numerous ministries, a variety of regular social gatherings, and many ways in which we collectively give alms and help the needy.

These things are all made possible by Stewardship. As noted above, there are many benefits we receive by having such a large and fruitful Parish, but this is not why we become Stewards. We are Stewards for one reason: Love. We are commanded to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind (*Matthew 22:37*), and we can express this love through loving our Church, which is the Bride of Christ.

May we all have a Blessed Holy Ascension and Pentecost filled with the joy of having a flourishing Parish community which exists because of our love for Christ and His Bride.

In Christ, Richard Acovino,
Stewardship and Outreach Committee

Byzantine Chanters and Choir

Christos Anesti!

Come one, come all! Everyone young and not so young are welcome to join us in the front right pews to sing praises for the Glory of God! We will have a short practice for Pentecost *after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 2 and Sunday, June 9*. Your presence and participation are much appreciated!

Love in Christ, Presvytera Maria



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5300 El Camino Road
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www.vegaskgreekorthodox.com

Parish Council: John Fotopoulos

Philoptochos: Bernadette Anthony

Stewardship & Community Outreach:
George Bochanis

Maintenance: Steve Tzelalis

Building Committee:
Eleni Filios & Steve Tzelalis

Byzantine Chanters:
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Choir: TBD

Church School: Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers: Father John & Mark Stransky

GOYA: Father Florin & Maha Habiba

Orthodox Family Fellowship:
Father Florin & April Rivera

Young Adults: Father Florin

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek Language:
Paula Kelesis & George Kouris

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

Kali Parea: Demetrious Asim

Forerunners: Paula Kelesis

Orthodox Bookstore: Paraskevi Santamaria

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

Greek Food Festival:
Angelo Stamis

Photography & Live-Streaming:
Bill & Erin Bruninga

51ST ANNUAL
GREEK
FOOD FESTIVAL



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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MUCH MORE

START AT

27 TH	3PM - 11PM
28 TH	NOON - 11PM
29 TH	NOON - 10PM

From Father Florin

On June 24, we will celebrate the *Nativity of St. John the Baptist*. Also known as the Forerunner of Jesus Christ, this Saint is highly venerated in the Orthodox Church. There are a couple reasons for this. First of all, he Baptized our Lord Jesus Christ. Secondly, he is the last prophet, the one to prepare the way for the Lord: *“Behold, I send My messenger to prepare the way before Me, and the Lord Whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, He is coming, says the Lord of Hosts.” (Malachi 3:1)* He had the power of the Holy Prophet Elijah, and the Lord Himself said that there was no greater man than St. John: *“I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John.” (Luke 7:28)*

St. John the Baptist's life of prayer and fasting in the wilderness made him a model to the Desert Fathers. The Desert Fathers, in turn, promoted the veneration of St. John the Forerunner. This also meant that his relics were searched out early on. Many were found and are today located in places such as Rome and Syria.

The Birth of St. John is recorded in St. Luke's Gospel. There are many parallels between the Birth of John and that of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Both Births were heralded by an Angel. The Angel told Zacharias, the father of St. John, to *“be not afraid,”* just as the Angel Gabriel announced to the Theotokos. While the Theotokos was a young virgin, John's mother Elizabeth was an old barren woman. This makes both Births rather surprising events. St. Elizabeth and the Theotokos were also pregnant around the same time, with three months overlapping.

St. John was born in the summer, just as the days begin to get shorter. This reflects his mission of calling people to repentance. Also, St. John was a significant herald of our Lord's mission. St. John the Baptist prepared a world living in darkness for the coming light of Christ. St. John's summer Birth also parallels how our Lord was born in winter, a time when light is coming back into the world. We read in the Gospels that St. John the Baptist was described as wearing camel's hair. This is important because the camel's hair is the traditional clothing of prophets, of whom St. John the Forerunner was the last.

The Nativity of St. John represents the first joy sent down by God to the human race, the beginning of its deliverance from the power of the devil, sin and eternal death. It is an expression of our thanks to God Who has delivered us from the horrible barrenness of sin and death. We are no longer impaired by dumbness of spirit which defeats the creative powers of the heart and mind. We are now infused with hope and love which transforms us to transcend our limitations and find a new way of living. Once we are granted this new way of living, we are united to the Divine life and gradually, through our ascetic efforts, we achieve the joyfulness of the grace of God.

As members of the Church, which is the Body of Christ, we are called to proclaim the wonderful works of God. We are to proclaim and show that the creation has been filled with life and praise. God has given us St. John the Baptist to show us how we should prepare ourselves to greet the Lord. Like St. John, we must remind ourselves of the prophetic words which awaken our souls from the sleep of sin. Like St. John, we are called to direct our lives toward repentance by which we embrace of the Giver of Life.

Celebrating the Feast of the Nativity of the Holy, Glorious, Forerunner, and Baptist John, we reaffirm the joy by which God regenerates and transfigures life. He grants us the new life which emerges from sin and death, while He visits and heals us through His grace and love.

Amen.



Fr. F. J. Ristache.

Hellenic Historical Society

CHRISTOS ANESTI!

Welcome to the Hellenic Historical Society's Month of June Blasts from the Past! In order for all of us to be represented more fully in St. John's continually growing vibrant history, we invite parishioners, ministries and Pan Hellenic Organizations to submit photos, documents and printed materials to the Historical Society.

Please contact the church office (702 221-8245) for more information as to how to donate or lend your memorabilia, or contact Susan Stamis (702 460-9954) for guidelines to digitally submit your materials.

THANK YOU!



*Church School Junior Choir
Dagley Plentzas on left - Director
Pres. Ten Evelyn on right
Harriet Herington is Top Left.
Top right is Tall. Tsoyran
Elena Madson is second on left side
bottom row.*

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JUNE
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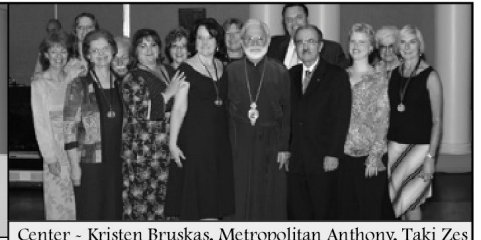
June, 1990	The Hellenic Calendar	
<h3>Choirs Gather in Las Vegas for Conference of Federation</h3> <p>The 1990 Choir Conference of the Federation of Greek Orthodox Church Choirs of the Western States — West will be held in Las Vegas, at the Riviera Hotel from June 22 to 24.</p> <p>The Choir Directors Institute will meet from June 20 to 21. Late registration will be June 1. Special room rates will be offered to conference participants. Workshops will be conducted by highly qualified instructors for both adult and junior choirs. There will be a Banquet and Dance Saturday night, Divine Liturgy Sunday morning with the entire conference choir in attendance, and the conference will conclude with a Farewell Brunch.</p> <p>For more information write to Ruth Plentzas, P.O. Box 82248, Las Vegas, Nevada 89180.</p>		
<p>Front L. to R. Lily Constantinou, Kindina Malamatos, Loukia Manos 2nd Row L. to R. Vangie Kolokithas, Debbie Mavros, Faye Brown, Foula Lewis, Jennie Millet, Lily Fulton Back L. to R. Lula Katre, George Bosnos (Organist), Ruth Plentzas (Director), Fr. Iliia Katre, Kostas Bakalas, Alex Kalavros, Sophia Kyrias</p>		
<h3>CHURCH CHOIR CONFERENCE</h3> <p>Hosted by St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church Ruth Plentzas, Choir Director</p> <p>June 20—June 24 1990</p>		
		170 E



Agapi Eliades, Faye Brown, Ruth Plentzas



Faye Brown, Choir Director



Center - Kristen Bruskas, Metropolitan Anthony, Taki Zes with Music Conference Attendees

CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE

Hosted by
St. John the Baptist
Greek Orthodox Church
Faye Brown, Choir Director

June 17—June 20



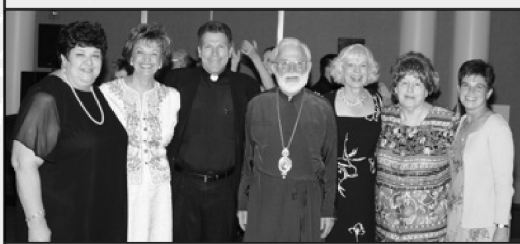
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Unknown, Rita Nikols, Faye Brown, Christine Nikols, Geo Nikols, Chris Hondros



L. to R. Jennie Millet, Sophia Leonis, Kindina Malamatos



L. to R. Debbie Mavros, Faye Brown, Fr. John Hondros, Metropolitan Anthony, Ruth Plentzas, Vicki Xikis, Pres. Maria Hondros



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Front L. to R. Eleni Demolcas, Anastasia Stefanatos, Justin Newell, Caroline Lekar, Emily Creggar, Ian Carson, Michaela Yu, Dean Chomakos, Back L. to R. Fr. John Hondros, Sara Madsen, Yanni Bingham, Marissa Hondros, Catherine Carrico, Theofania Mavrantonis, Katrina Creggar, Eleni Kourafas, George Chomakos, Pres. Maria Hondros Not shown - Aris Bochanis, Alex Szukiewicz, Panagioti Vinieratos



Front L. to R. Kathy Lemelson, Lili Constantino, Stella Bakalas (Organist), Dina Dounis, Kindina Malamatos, Tina Parris 2nd Row L. to R. Faye Brown (Director), Nick Exarhos, Ann Athens, Ritsa Prokopsis, Jennie Millet, Kiki Mavrantonis, Antonia Pappas, Michelle Carson, Pres. Maria Hondros, Filippes Diamantis, Nick Zaras Back L. to R. Steve Eliakis, George Ritsi, Vicki Xikis, Roula Carabas, Fr. Paul Eyley, Fr. John Hondros, Sophia Leonis, Ruth Plentzas, Foula Lewis, Effie Lekar Not shown - Debbie Mavros, Tami Stefanatos, Agapi Eliades

CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCE

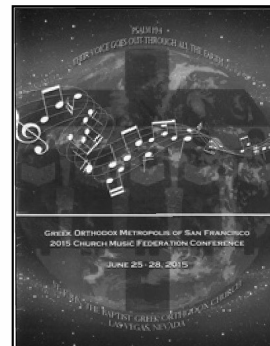
Hosted by
St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
Faye Brown, Choir Director

June 17—June 20

2004



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Message from the Conference Director
VICTORIA XIKIS

WELCOME TO THE 2015 ANNUAL CHURCH MUSIC FEDERATION CONFERENCE!
The parish and church of St. John the Baptist, Las Vegas are honored to be hosting this spectacular event in the heart of our home.

As well as showcasing the sacred music of our beloved Church, this year's conference promises an unforgettable experience for members and the wider community of the Holy Trinity Church. In the midst of an exciting and busy schedule of seminars, clinics, meetings and delicious meals, we invite you to relax in your "right" on Friday. Take in the sights of Las Vegas, enjoy the thrill of the New Year's Eve celebration, and best of all, make new friends.

Have a wonderful experience! Enjoy reconnecting with old friends. Make new ones. Treasure your families while enjoying this event, and may your music continue to go on through all the years. Love in Christ.

Victoria Xikis



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO
CHURCH MUSIC FEDERATION CONFERENCE

JUNE 25-28

2015

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Ministry News

Church School

Christos Anesti!

What a wonderful Church School Year, Lent, Holy Week, Pascha, Agape Picnic and Egg Hunt, Commencement and Field Day!

A special thank you to the teachers and parents for stepping up and helping us make the school year a success. We cannot wait to see you all in the fall for a new Church School year.

During Holy Week it was a joy to see the youth get involved in liturgical activities as Altar Servers, Myrrh Bearers, Readers and Chanters.

Thank you for those who donated money, eggs, candy or filled eggs. The kids had a blast grabbing all those filled eggs on Pascha.

Congratulations to our High School Senior Graduates, class of 2024! We wish you many blessings for whatever path you choose.

We were so happy to see so many kids at Commencement and Field Day. Thanks to the Ladies Philoptochos Society for their donation to cover our pizza party. Thank you to the teachers and parents for helping out at our field day event. It was hot, but super fun!

I hope to see all the youth in Church over the summer. Don't forget that the Bookstore has some great children's options to keep up with our beautiful Faith over the summer.

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



Sunday Youth Chat with the Priest

Dear Parents, Kids and Teens,

The long-awaited summer is here. We all know how much every one of us likes to travel and enjoy time together with our families during this time. For those remaining in town, we have something new to offer this summer.

On Sundays, June 2 and 9, Father Florin will meet with *ALL YOUTH, immediately after the Divine Liturgy in Kokkos Hall for a YOUTH CHAT WITH THE PRIEST*. This will be a 20-30 minute informal Q & A session to keep our youth connected with Christ and our Orthodox Christian Church. If there is a good response, the YOUTH CHAT will continue in July and August.

Thank you and see you in Church.

With love in Christ, Father Florin

Greek Folk Dance

Christos Anesti!

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 2024) 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 dancers is *on Sunday, August 18!* 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.

Sia Dalacas and the Folk Dance Board

Young Adults - 18 Years through Early 30s

Dear Young Adults of St. John the Baptist,

Everyone in our Parish felt your presence, dedication and love for the Church and our community during the Paschal Services, and especially during the dinner and luncheon for Palm Sunday and, of course, the Agape Picnic! Your help and support were much appreciated, and we were amazed by your devotion. A big thank you to all of you!

I am also grateful for all our wonderful fellowships, and especially for the one that we had in May! It was a blast! Thank you for organizing the events and for all your great ideas!

Due to summer vacation and traveling plans, we will resume our meetings in the fall, so please keep your wonderful ideas coming! I am looking forward to our following fellowships and discussions!

Thank you all again very much! With Love in Christ, Father Florin

Mr. & Mrs.

Dear Couples of St. John the Baptist,

We would like to thank again Eli and April Rivera for the wonderful fellowship we all had at their home in May.

During the summer months we will take a break and we will resume our meetings with wonderful and interesting discussions and delicious potlucks in August. Please stay tuned for upcoming details.

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

*Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, present in all places and filling all things.
The Treasury of Blessings and the Giver of Life. Come and abide in us,
cleanse us of all stain and save our souls, O Good One!*

Kali Parea ~ For the 40+ Crowd

We express, once again, our gratitude toward everyone who volunteered and helped in Church with our services during Holy Week, as well as with our luncheons, dinners and the Agape Picnic. Your help made every one of these events a success. As we all need a break, we will continue to meet again starting with the month of August. Until then, see you in Church!

With Love in Christ, Demetrious Asim

Forerunners ~ Our Seniors Fellowship

Christos Anesti!

Our final luncheon before summer was enjoyed by all. 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 and Carolyn Beeler and Demetri Asim – have tirelessly ensured we have delicious food to serve at each luncheon.

Have a fun and safe summer and we will reconvene in October. God Willing!

Love in Christ, Paula Kelesis for the Forerunners

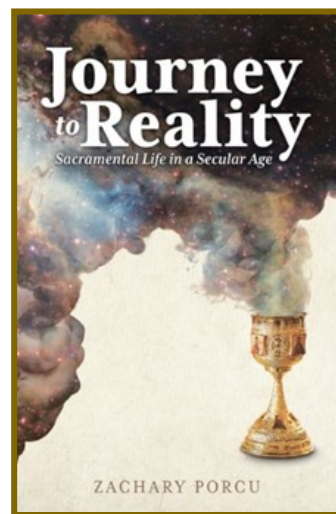
Orthodox Bookstore

New this month from Ancient Faith Publishing is *Journey to Reality: Sacramental Life in a Secular Age*, by Dr. Zachary Porcu. "If we wish to engage the culture," Porcu writes, "we have to speak directly to its issues. We must rediscover the sacramental understanding of ancient Christianity in light of – and clearly distinguished from – the religious culture in which we find ourselves, rather than assuming the two are compatible. Otherwise, we run the risk of believing in Christ but praying to Zeus – and not knowing any better."

From the back cover: Most books aimed at introducing Orthodoxy to the non-Orthodox begin by explaining basic points of doctrine and practice that differ from what the average reader may be familiar with. But for the average American, this approach doesn't go deep enough. In order to be able to fully understand Orthodox doctrine and practice, we have to unlearn an entire secular worldview and become participants in a sacramental worldview instead – a worldview that embraces reality as it truly is. Dr. Zachary Porcu provides a guide to this process that is easily accessible both to Western Christians and to those who lack any grounding in the Christian Faith.

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

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



Building Committee Report

Xristos Anesti! I hope this message finds you well. I'm thrilled to share some updates on our ongoing efforts to enhance our beloved Church facilities.

In recent months, we've encountered some significant expenses, including the necessary replacement of pumps and filters for both the front main and courtyard fountains, amounting to nearly \$13,000. Additionally, we've invested \$4,500 in trimming trees and bushes to maintain our beautiful surroundings. Looking ahead, we have plans to address various concrete repairs on sidewalks and the Church steps. These essential maintenance tasks are vital for ensuring the safety and functionality of our space.

But that's not all. Thanks to the vision of Angelo Stamis and the support of our Festival Committee, we're making strides toward long-term sustainability. Plans are underway to install permanent electric and water stubs in strategic locations on the field, which will significantly reduce annual costs associated with our Festival.

Our focus remains clear: to create a welcoming environment for all, conducive to community gatherings, events, and celebrations. We've already made significant progress, with \$32,600 raised for flooring and \$11,000 toward painting and stucco repairs for our Hall building. But we need your help to reach our goals. Your generosity will enable us to revitalize our cherished spaces and create lasting memories for generations to come.

Join us on this journey of renewal and transformation. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a difference. Together, let's build a brighter future for our Church and community. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or to make a contribution. Your support means the world to us.

Warm Regards, Eleni Filios, Building Committee Chair

Greek Food Festival Report

We're thrilled to announce the exciting preparations underway for this year's 51st Food Festival! Our team has been hard at work, engaging in extensive discussions and planning sessions to enhance the Festival experience and ensure its success. In our pursuit of greater profitability, we've conducted a comprehensive cost analysis of all aspects, evaluating menu items, food, and equipment rentals. Seeking competitive pricing, we're reaching out to a wide array of vendors, both familiar faces and new partners, to fulfill our Festival needs, from food offerings to essential tent rentals and labor services.

While some costs are fixed, such as security and parking, mandated by county regulations, we're strategizing to optimize resources. This involves streamlining booth setups and refining our menu selections to focus on crowd favorites, maximizing efficiency without compromising on quality. Additionally, we're taking measures to manage inventory, minimizing waste and excess from previous years. Collaborating closely with booth captains, we're gathering invaluable insights into past sales trends and identifying essential supplies to empower each booth for optimal performance.

Exciting changes will be happening this year, including the consolidation of food tents and a return to our roots reminiscent of our Sahara Hotel days. Don't miss out on our Raffle with amazing new prizes, including a grand prize of \$10,000 or a travel voucher to Greece! Raffle tickets are now available for sale through the Church Office as well as coupon books through our recently updated Festival website (www.lasvegasgreekfest.com).

For those eager to support our endeavor, we welcome donations and sponsorship opportunities. Reach out to Spiros Filios (702-525-6844) to learn more about how you can get involved.

And last but certainly not least, it goes without saying that we rely on the generous support of our community through volunteerism. Your time and dedication help us reduce expenses and ensure the Festival's success. Stay tuned for more updates, and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Warm Regards, The Festival Committee –

Angelo Stamis, Eleni Filios, George Filios, and Spiros Filios

Congratulations, Graduates!

High School Graduates



Vasilija Boskovic, daughter of Jelena Boskovic and the late Kyriakos Kourakos+, graduated from Bishop Gorman High School with honors as student of the year in sports medicine and the recipient of prestigious Dorothy Day Award for compassion and commitment to the poor. Vasilija is a second degree black belt in taekwondo and a certified taekwondo instructor. She received eight Congressional Awards and one Proclamation for her IT work and community service. Vasilija won the prestigious title of United States of America Teen 2022 with her personal platform “Time, Truth and You” and while officially representing all teens in our country she has had over one hundred and fifty public and speaking appearances. Vasilija had four paid jobs during high school, including paid six months internship at the City of Las Vegas City Hall in its IT audit and compliance department. She is a regional winner and recipient of the Scholastic Art and Writing Gold Key Award for her poem which advanced to the national competition. She went to Tijuana, Mexico under Project Mexico to build a house for the family of four. She speaks several foreign languages and is also a president of American Sign Language Club. Vasilija is a proud Civil Air Patrol Cadet and also LVMPD Explorer. Vasilija

has danced with Serbian folk dance group ten years and also with Greek folk dance group seven years. She graduated from the FBI Teen Academy and has been taking last four years after school IT classes. Vasilija is accepted to attend United States of America Military Preparatory Academy at West Point, New York. Glory to God!

Ava Dominguez, daughter of Eric and Amalia Dominguez, granddaughter of Pete and Glenda+ Eliakis, graduated from West Career and Technical Academy with a focus on Biotechnology. Throughout her high school years, Ava dedicated her time working as a veterinary assistant at Camino al Norte Animal Hospital. This fall, she will begin her studies at the University of Tennessee in the Tickle College of Engineering. Go Volunteers!



Hope Merritt, daughter of Devin and Sonia Merritt, is graduating from Desert Oasis High School. She will be attending UNLV in the Fall and plans to pursue a career in Law.

Connor Pantelas-Hemmers, son of Oliver Hemmers and Anne Pantelas, is graduating from both Advanced Technologies Academy High School, that he attended for the first three years; and also from Delta Academy, that he attended during his Senior year in order for him to spend more time, training and playing High School Football. Connor has decided to take a gap year from studying and go to Welding school. Ultimately, he wants to study Agricultural Business with the aim of owning a Ranch or go into Ranch management.



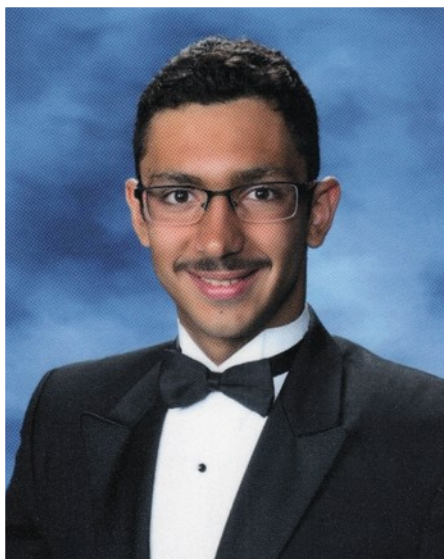
Crystal Pantelas-Hemmers, daughter of Oliver Hemmers and Anne Pantelas, is graduating this year from Coronado High School, Henderson NV. She has completed the Advanced Placement and Honors program with a GPA of 4.883. Crystal has been accepted into the Honors program of Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee; but has chosen to stay closer to home and accept admission into Nevada State University to study to become a Registered Nurse Anesthetist. Nevada State granted Crystal the Presidential Scholarship because of her academic achievement at Coronado.

Evangelos Constantine Kyriazopoulos, son of Constantine Kyriazopoulos, Jr. and DeChandra Busch, is graduating from Advanced Technologies Academy with a College and Career Ready (CCR) Diploma with High Honors (3.8 GPA and Above). He will attend University of Oregon and plans to study Kinesiology and play Soccer.



Sophie Rodis, daughter of Dimitri Rodis and Jennifer Rodis, is graduating from Centennial High School. Sophie will attend University of Nevada, Las Vegas in the fall.

Anna Rouvas, daughter of Yianni and Carrie Rouvas, is graduating from Bishop Gorman High School on the Honors Diploma. Anna will attend the University of San Francisco and will be studying Business Management and Marketing.



Joseph Sirhan, son of Imtisal Khuri and Michael Sirhan, is a graduating valedictorian from Coral Academy of Science Las Vegas High School with Honors Diploma and AP Certificate, Capstone Diploma, and Career and Technical Education Certificate, with an unweighted 4.0 GPA and a weighted 6.0 GPA. As a competitive swimmer he is ranked 5th in Nevada. For his recognition as a National Merit Scholarship Finalist, he will be attending the University of Tulsa on a full ride where he will dual major in Biology and Computer Science on a Pre-Med pathway.

Zoe Zachariou, daughter of Sozos and Aspa Zachariou, graduated with Honors from Bishop Gorman High School. Zoe is an accomplished athlete and dedicated academic, strong in her faith and a loving and sincere person who cares for her family and friends endlessly. She will be attending her dream school San Diego State University and has been accepted into the Fowler School of Business.



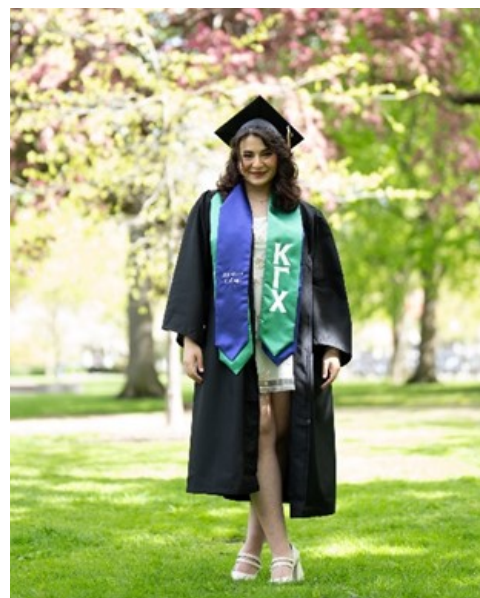
Alexandros Zarkos, son of Nick and Constantina Zarkos, graduated with Honors from Bishop Gorman High School as the class Salutatorian and is awarded the Scholars Diploma. Alexandros will attend Johns Hopkins University where he has been admitted to the school's Medicine, Science and The Humanities interdisciplinary program and will major in Neuroscience.

College Graduates



Vanessa Booth, daughter of Paul and Alina Booth, will graduate in May from Brown University with a Master's in Public Affairs and a concentration in Management and Leadership. She is currently, working as a Public Policy Fellow for Google and will continue through the summer as a full-time fellow. After that, she plans to work in public service for about a year and then continue her education by attending law school.

Elliana Karris, daughter of Mark and Suzanne Karris, will graduate from Emerson College, Boston, MA, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA), Musical Theatre. After commencement, Ellie will begin a six (6) month tour with the Weathervane Theatre Company in Whitefield, NH where she will perform in the following productions: Beautiful: The Carole King Musical; What the Constitution Means to Me; The Wedding Singer; The Story Goes On: The Songs of Maltby & Shire; The Full Monty; Clue; Romeo & Juliet; and Cabaret.



Natalie Katsaros, daughter of Thomas and Sharon Katsaros, graduated with a BA in Journalism from the University of Nevada, Reno. Natalie intends to stay in Reno and pursue a career in her field.



Alexander Staubs, son of Douglas and Anastasia Staubs, graduated May 11, 2024 from UNLV on the Dean's List – Cum Laude. He is a UNLV ROTC Cadet SMP Cadet in the NV National Guard and is Commissioning as 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army active duty on May 10, 2024. With a BA in Criminal Justice. He is heading to Fort Greg Adams in Virginia for Army Quartermaster School in fall 2024.

Maria Staubs, daughter of Douglas and Anastasia Staubs, completed her BA in Journalism at ASU in 3 years – Graduated in May 2023. She graduated from Arizona State University with her Masters in Mass Communication on May 10, 2024. Maria has had a 4.0 GPA since 1st grade and throughout her college career. She was recognized as ASU's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications Outstanding Graduate Student of 2024. In July 2024 she will be joining ABC KGUN9 in Tucson, AZ, as a broadcast reporter.



Sophia Tsiralidis, daughter of Kosmas and Katerina Tsiralidis, graduated from Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro, KY. Sophia received a full-ride scholarship from the Rogers Scholars Foundation. She obtained a BS in Health Sciences with a double minor in Chemistry and Biology. On campus, she was a cheerleader, Peer tutor in Chemistry, Biology, and Psychology, President of multiple organizations, a new student orientation leader, and the Outstanding Leadership Graduate of the class of 2024! Her plans after graduation consist of applying to Medical School and traveling! In 2022, she was granted a Fellowship to pursue skincare research, she graciously worked with the Chemistry department in creating life-changing products in the lab. Sophia created a rejuvenating Vitamin C & E gel serum and Regenerating Night Cream, and her dream is to open up a medical spa and sell her skincare line as a physician.

Holy Week and Pascha 2024



With Gratitude to God for Our Pledged Stewards in 2024

If you wish to become a Parish Steward, please call Karen for a Pledge Form

Acovino, Richard and Angela	Costacos, John	Gialketsis, William and Rachelle	Konsolakis, Eleni and Manoli
Adamatopoulos, Alejandro and Mariana	Costuros, George and Marsha	Giambi, Jason and Kristian	Konsolakis, George and Sofia
Adamy, Marina	Cotsilis, Jenny	Giouzelis, Sasa	Kontos, Diana
Adondakis, George and Kim	Crist, Adam and Kanistra	Girleanu, Nicolae-Radu	Koroni, Tara
Agouridis, Lambros and Erika	Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	Gordon, Victor and Demetria	Kostopoulos, Georgia
Alcala, Georgia	Dalacas, Georgia	Grabovoi, Daphne	Kountanis, Panagiota
Alexander, Eleni	Damascus, Peter	Granillo, Gabriel	Koupais, Mario and Cheri
Alford, Cynthia "Mary"	Daskalos, George and Voula	Gutierrez, Connie	Kouris, Demitris and Terry
Alhayek, Areen and Majd	Davis, Matthew and Christine	Gutierrez, Daniel	Kouris, George
Allen, John and Nana	Demas, Spiro and Rita	Habiba, Maha	Koutsulis, John and Eileen
Anastasakis, Mark+ and Elaine	Demolas, Maria and Nour, Reza	Hagos, Yohannes and Mebrat	Koutsulis, Sam and Effie
Andrews, George	Demoleas, Spero and Grace	Hailemichael, Harenet	Krikie, Jonathan and Iryna
Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette	Demoleas, Stephanie	Hamilton, Mary	Kypreos, George
Aristides, George and Diana	Dimitri, Martha and Janet	Hamilton, Paul and Brandi	Kypreos, Peter and Geri
Asim, Demetrios	Dominguez, Eric and Amalia	Haralambakis, Demetre and Dimitra	Kypreos, Sophia
Atkins, Sean and Christine	Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia	Haramis, John and Kitsios, Eugenia	Kyriannis, Justin and Linda
Ayalewu, Menbe	Dramitinos, Mary	Hastings, Teri	Kyriazopoulos, Constantine Jr.
Balaouras, Panos and Helen	Dunfee, Ekateri	Hollar, Michelle and DiGioia, Antonio	Laird, Blair and Leeann
Baldwin, Richard and Vivi	Earl, Christine	Hondros, Christina	Lakkis, Christina
Balodimas, James	Eliades, Telly	Hondros, Christopher and Darlene	Lamancusa, Lisa
Barbarino, Demetra and Nicholas	Eliades, Eleni and Garza, Everardo	Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria	Landahl, Richard and Johana
Barrett, Jeremiah	Eliades, Gregory and Maria	Hondros, Marissa	Lavine, Frederick
Bartel, Ioanna and Robert	Eliades, Harry and Agapi	Howard, Eddie and Willie	Lee, David and Alexandra
Beeler, Mike and Carolyn	Eliades, Katerina	Hristopoulou, Spiridoula	Lekar, Caroline
Belojevic, Marija	Eliades, Sia	Hurey, Heather	Lekar, Michael and Effie
Berendji, Dimitrios	Eliakis, Peter	Ignadiou, Marios	Leong, Marissa
Bieker, Adam and Cassie	Eliakis, Varthie	Ingraham, Leland and Victoria	Leonis, Nick and Sophia
Bieker, Georgea	Eyler, John and Elizabeth	Iteen, Robert and Sophia	Leonis, Tishe
Birtas, Helen and Ann	Eyler, Reagen	Jandete, Johanna	Leventis, Nicholas and Christina
Bjorklund, Danielle and Geroncin, Justin	Failla, Jennifer	Jaynes, Albert and Christine	Liaos, James and Tina
Bland, James and Sherry	Fenlason, Nathan and Zmina - Fenlason, Jennifer	Jensen, Matthew and Michelle	Liaos, Steven and Francine
Blume, Michael	Feola, Richard	Kachikis, Ernestine	Likourinou, Angie
Bochanis, George	Filios, George and Nitsa	Kakavulias, George and Helen	Likourinou, Steve and June
Boehm, Alexy and Cone, Jayme	Filios, Spiridon and Eleni	Kalkas, John and Rena	Litos, Nicholas and Catherine
Booth, Alina	Fischer, Cheryl	Kambouris, Evangelia	Loughton, Dustin and Rena
Britten, Ronald and Carol	Fitzgerald, Norman and McCullen, Sandra	Kanis, Constantinos and Katie	Lucas, Nicholas and Linda
Brown, Faye	Flangas, Gary and Amanda	Karakoli, Rula	Magee, Gerald and Catalina
Brown, Mark and Alyssa	Flangas, Gus and Tamara	Karalias, Petros and Constance	Makris, Apostolos
Bruninga, William and Erin	Flangas, Marilyn	Karas, James	Manakides, Alexis and Varonos, Nicholas
Bryant, Timothy and Janet	Fleischer, Bob and Penny	Karris, Mark and Suzanne	Mangafas, Kyriakos and Eleftheria
Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Foldes, Peter and Jordan	Kasiotis, Nicholas and Claudia	Manolakis, Catherine
Carabas, Sotiroulla	Foster, Kyle and Mia	Katopodis, Efstratios	Manos, Constantine and Michele
Carahalios, John and Constance	Fotopoulos, John and Barbara	Katre, Ilia Sotir	Mansour, Muna
Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	Fountas, Constantinos	Katre, Sotir Mark	Markantonis, Demos and Kate
Carrico, William and Alexandra	Fountoulakis, Vasileios	Katris, Nick and Theana	Markantonis, George and Sarah
Carter, Maria	Franco, Yolanda	Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon	Martinaitis, Louis
Castoro, Mariane	Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia	Kaytia, Patricia and Little, Martin	Mavrantonis, Kiki and Stacy
Chachas, Bessie	Freund, Kyle and Katherine	Kelesis, Paula	Mavros, Alex and Jen
Chagares, Kiki	Gauvin, Chad and Marissa	Kiflezgi, Rahel	Mavros, Debbie
Chamie, Elie, Emil and Claudine	Gebrehiwot, Kiros	Kinard, Panorea	Mazzorana, Vicki
Chandrinios, Alexia	Gebreybsus, Sador	Kirchner, Gary "Barlaam"	McCarty, David and Soesetyo, Grace
Chanos, Jennifer	Geiger, Dan and Hart, Theodora	Kirollos, Michael and Molina, Adriana	McKinney, Michael and Mersene
Chio, Napoleon	Gekakis, George	Kokkinis, Peter and Jennifer	McManus, Jeanette
Chomakos, Dean and Tammy	Generales, John and Arlene	Koliambas, Eleni	McPherson, Robert and Marie
Chondrakis, Dimosthenis and Kragerud, Kaaren	George, Pete and Georgia		McSweeney, Farolyn
Coll, Patrick and Anita	Georgia, David		Mehas, Andrew and Samantha
Collins, David	Georgis, John		Menegatos, James
Collins, James	Ghebreab, Daniel and Ghermay, Selam		Merritt, Devin and Sonia
Conger, William and Alexia			Meyers, Evon
			Mikelis, Nikolas and Angela
			Monoyudis, Jim and Julie

With Gratitude to God for Our Pledged Stewards in 2024
If you wish to become a Parish Steward, please call Karen for a Pledge Form

Mulopulos, George and Jenny
 Murray, Christopher and
 George, Veneta
 Newell, Ronald and Maria
 Nicholas, Christina
 Nicholas, John and Estella
 Nichols, George and Tereza
 Nicolas, Samer and Christine
 Niforos, Helen
 Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra
 Nixon, Deacon John and
 Diakonissa Ellyn
 Noble, Maria
 Olmsted, Travis and Marilyn
 Osborn, Alexandra and
 Spotti, Peter
 Pahigiannis, Nikon
 Paikos, Tom and Elizabeth
 Pajak, Scott and Angela
 Palivos, Peter and Vicky
 Pallis, Paul
 Pandelis, Cheryl
 Panos, Jeanne
 Papas, Christian and Nicole
 Papas, Peter and Rita
 Pappas, Panagiotis and Andrea
 Paschalis, Evangelos and Maria
 Payan, Luis and Eleni
 Pendleton, Tricia
 Penev, Kamen and Miglena
 Peratikos, Tony
 Petro, Aleko and Georgia
 Petrou, Jim and Penelopi
 Philoptochos Society
 Peterson, Todd and Diane
 Pierro, Joe and Rhonda

Pilatos, Emmanuel and Erica
 Polimerou, Angeline
 Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra
 Poulis, Chris and Francine
 Poulos, Christine
 Pouridis, Kouli and Para
 Powell, Scott and Angela
 Powers, Russell and Rebecca
 Prestage, Adam and Courtney
 Pytikakis, Manos and Elaine
 Raptis, Presvytera Evonne
 Rasmussen, Scott and Rebecca
 Rey, Robert and Patricia
 Rigas, Anthony and Mary
 Rigas, Evie
 Rihani, Gary and Linda
 Ristache, Fr. Florin and
 Presv. Alexandra
 Rivera, Elias and April
 Robison, Diane and Patricia
 Rodis, Dimitri and Angeline
 Rodis, Sophia
 Rotas, Beatrice
 Sakkas, Georgios and
 Stavropoulos, Bessie
 Salon, Janelle
 Santamaria, Jennifer and Robert
 Sehremelis, Andy and Leslie
 Sellen, Jeffrey
 Setian, Gary
 Shipman, Chad and Anastasia
 Simos, Eleni
 Simos, Tony and Lorie
 Simpson, Bryan and Julie
 Sirhan, Michael and Imtisal
 Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia

Song, Adrienne
 Soteropulos, Gust and Rita
 Sotiropulos, Chris and Jessica
 Soursos, Helene
 Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette
 Spirots, Nick
 Staubs, Douglas and Anastasia
 Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki
 Stransky, Mark
 Stransky, John and Rachel
 Szukiewicz, Joseph and Justina
 Tadich, Katarina
 Tafoya, Steven and Irene
 Tasios, Ramona
 Tekle, Asli
 Thanos, Nicholas and Victoria
 Theros, James and Kathryn
 Thompson, Maggy
 Thompson, Steven and Alik
 Tijiboy, Ana
 Tijiboy, Christine
 Tohme, Tony and May
 Torolopoulos, Eleni
 Trebicka, Adrian and Paola
 Tsarouhas, Maria
 Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katerina
 Tsobanoglou, Niki and Paris
 Tsois, Christos and Panagioula
 Tsortanidis, Sophia
 Tsouras, Christopher and Diana
 Tsoutsikos, Costa
 Tzelalis, Antonia
 Tzelalis, Steve
 Tzelalis, Vaso
 Varinos, Nick and Vasiliki
 Vigil, Michael

Voegel, Steven and
 Victoria Markantonis
 Wagner, Sophye
 Wainscott, Betty
 Wallace, Robert and Katerina
 Walter, Vernon and Alice
 Waterhouse, David and
 Aleighzja
 Webb, Taylor
 Welles, Brigitte
 Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina
 Williams, Anthony and Anna
 Williamson, Daniel and
 Stavroula Halatsis-
 Wilson, Cleo
 Wilson, Clyde
 Wilson, Kelly and
 Egi, Junichiro
 Womack, Karl
 Womack, Kimberly
 Xerogianes, Nick and Nikki
 Xikis, Victoria
 Yurkov, Andre and Kalina
 Zaferatos, Ted
 Zakis, Pope
 Zamir, Michelle and Talor
 Zarkos, Nick and Dina
 Zaronis, Mary
 Zarras, Nick and Chery
 Zervas, Dionisios and Cacilda
 Zimmerman, Paul, Angela,
 Christopher and Vangeli
 Zimmerman, Paul and Julie
 Ziu, Eva
 Ziu, Joana
 Zmina, Stephen and Cynthia



**2024
Stewardship
Report
(as of 5/22/24)**

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$536,491 (\$551,045 in 2023)
 Stewardship Gifts Received: \$287,670 (\$289,964 in 2023)
 Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$248,821 (\$261,081 in 2023)
 Stewardship Families Pledged: 370 (358 in 2023)
 2024 Goal: \$600,000 . . . Keep the Pledges Coming!

***“LET
GOD’S LOVE
GUIDE US”***

<u>Average Pledge</u>	<u>No. of Families</u>	<u>Amount Pledged</u>
\$1 - \$500	149	\$ 39,517
\$501 - \$1,000	70	\$ 54,965
\$1,001 - \$2,500	101	\$154,908
\$2,501 - \$5,000	32	\$118,564
\$5,001 - \$9999	14	\$ 87,357
\$10,000 & Above	4	\$ 81,180
Total Families	370	\$536,491

Church Account Summaries - April 2024

Nevada State Bank Accounts	March Ending Balance	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April Ending Balance	Notes
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$52,895.31	\$97,453.39		55,110.53	\$33,264.29	\$61,973.88	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$22,635.49					\$22,635.49	
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$147,863.48			\$2,645.00		\$145,218.48	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$290,973.12	\$3,464.00	\$50.00	\$3,583.89	\$2,409.85	\$288,493.38	
Building & Maintenance (B&M)	\$81,853.36	\$1,523.57		\$40.00		\$83,336.93	
Folk Dance Group	\$24,136.59			\$10.00		\$24,126.59	
Hellenic Historical Society	\$800.96			\$15.00		\$785.96	
Designated Funds	March Ending Balance	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April Ending Balance	Notes
Bookstore	\$42,797.18	\$3,364.00		\$3,177.89	\$2,409.85	\$40,573.44	
Restricted Funds	March Ending Balance	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April Ending Balance	Notes
ICON	\$13,585.29	\$100.00	\$50.00			\$13,735.29	
Faithtree	\$1,626.39					\$1,626.39	
Youth Choir	\$2,989.18					\$2,989.18	
Church School	\$137,141.44					\$137,141.44	
GOYA	\$530.36					\$530.36	
Eyer Memorial Fund	\$20,190.15					\$20,190.15	
Emergency Fund	\$5,000.00					\$5,000.00	
Three Priests	\$66,673.13			\$406.00		\$66,267.13	Marble for Pangari
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
Designated, Restricted and Other Total	\$290,973.12	\$3,464.00	\$50.00	\$3,583.89	\$2,409.85	\$288,493.38	
Building and Maintenance Funds	March Ending Balance	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April Ending Balance	Notes
Building Fund	\$29,102.94	\$270.57		\$40.00		\$29,333.51	
Panos Flooring Repair	\$33,577.33	\$1,253.00				\$34,830.33	
Hall Painting	\$10,283.22					\$10,283.22	
HVAC	\$0.00					\$0.00	
Giving Tree	\$8,889.87					\$8,889.87	
Lighting	\$0.00					\$0.00	
Building & Maintenance Funds Total	\$81,853.36	\$1,523.57	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$83,336.93	
Other Funds	March Ending Balance	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April Ending Balance	Notes
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$74,357.71		\$2,994.88			\$77,352.59	as of 03.31.24
Commonwealth Investments (Icon)	\$143,943.39				5,729.70	\$138,213.69	Change in Investment

April 2024 Candles \$6,764.03
 April 2024 Trays \$3,143.00
 April 2024 Candles - Holy Week \$5,757.03
 April 2024 Trays - Holy Week \$2,137.37
Total April 2024 Candles & Trays \$17,801.43



JUNE 2024 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

Sunday

Monday


Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

							1
2 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Youth Chat with Priest follows in Kokkos Hall Chanter Practice	3		4 6:00 pm Stewardship Committee	5	6	7	8
9 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Youth Chat with Priest follows in Kokkos Hall Chanter Practice	10		11 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting in Library	12 5:00 pm Orthros 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy Holy Ascension of Our Lord (Observed)	13 Holy Ascension of Our Lord (Services on Wednesday)	14	15
16 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Happy Father's Day!	17		18	19	20	21	22 Saturday of Souls 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial
23 Pentecost 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy and Kneeling Vespers	24 Monday of the Holy Spirit/Nativity of St. John the Baptist 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy		25	26	27	28	29 Holy Apostles Peter and Paul 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
30 Holy Apostles 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy							

The Desert Messenger

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

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IS RISEN!*



THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord



*“Then we went to
Constantinople,
and the Greeks
(including the
Emperor himself)
led us to the
edifices where
they worship their
God, and we knew
not whether we
were in Heaven or
on Earth.”
- Emissaries to
Grand Prince
Vladimir of Kyiv
after their visit to
Hagia Sophia in 987*