

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 20, Issue 3 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

March 2022

**From
Father
John**

Beloved in Christ:

As we prepare to enter the holy season of Lent, which begins **on Monday, March 7**, let us come before our Lord Jesus Christ, with all our mind, strength and heart, and respond to His command: *"If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his Cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel's will save it."* (Mark 8:34-35)

There is no way to fully experience the spiritual fruit of the Lenten Fast without self-denial, for it was the opposite – self-gratification – that led to the expelling of Adam and Eve (and all of humanity thenceforth) from Paradise. By voluntarily submitting to the will of God the Father, Jesus Christ reopened the way to Paradise by carrying His own Cross and by His Death upon that same Cross: Through Christ's self-denial, even unto Death, we have received the expiation of our sins and the gift of eternal Life.

Self-denial is particularly challenging in our times, as we are taught from an early age – *for the sake of our self-esteem* – to desire and insist on our own way; as such, we want our own will to be followed, our own opinions to be heard, and our own identity to be affirmed and exalted. This self-centered and self-gratifying approach to life even carries over into our faith, in that we accommodate our beliefs and practices to our own choosing and liking.

During Lent, our Orthodox Church offers all of us the way to fast properly, through increased prayer at home and worship in the Church, through repentance and coming to the Sacrament of Holy Confession, through remembering the poor and serving others, and through humility, forgiveness, and love. If even during the season of Lent we cannot be obedient to anything but our own will, then how can we truly follow Christ by self-denial and carrying our Cross? Without submitting our own will to Christ and His Holy Church, and radically changing the desires and routines of our minds and hearts, we will never truly grasp or experience the liberating joy of Holy Pascha: Instead of basking in the glory of the Resurrection, our journey will only lead us to the temporary self-gratifying enjoyment of the roasted lamb – sadly, just like Adam and Eve!

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

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

Saturday, March 5/2nd Saturday of Souls/St. Konon
the Gardner/Memory of the Holy Ascetics

7:45 am Orthros

8:30 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial

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

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-13

Sunday, March 6/Cheesefare Sunday/Forgiveness
Sunday/Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise/
Finding of the Precious Cross by St. Helen/

42 Martyrs of Amorion

Orthros: Tone Four

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

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Memorials: Eleftheria Stefidou (40 days); Vasiliki

Karas (2 years), George Karas, Areti Christakos

(5 years); and Michael Mavros (5 years)

Forgiveness Vespers follows Divine Liturgy

Fellowship: Hosted by GOYA

Abstain from Meat and Dairy for 40 Days

Monday, March 7/Clean Monday: 1st Day of Lent

6:00 pm Great Compline

Wednesday, March 9/40 Holy Martyrs of Sebaste

6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 11

6:30 pm 1st Salutations to the Theotokos

Saturday, March 12/3rd Saturday of Souls/
Miracle of St. Theodore the Recruit and the Kollyva/
St. Symeon the New Theologian

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10

Gospel: Mark 2:23-28, 3:1-5



Sunday, March 13/1st Sunday of Lent/

Triumph of Orthodoxy/Translation of the Relics of
St. Nikephoros

Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)

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

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Procession of Icons follows Divine Liturgy

Fellowship: Hosted by Dora Hart and Benita Beeman

5:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers and Procession of
Icons at St. John the Baptist

Father John Dresko, Homilist

Lenten Meal follows in Panos Hall

Monday, March 14

6:00 pm Great Compline

Wednesday, March 16

6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 18

6:30 pm 2nd Salutations to the Theotokos

Sunday, March 20/2nd Sunday of Lent/St. Gregory
Palamas Archbishop of Thessaloniki/Fathers of the
Monastery of St. Savas the Sanctified

Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)

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

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Memorials: Kristina Lee Kostopoulos (3 months);

Dimitra Serafim (4 months), Thomas Serafim, Christos

Patsis (2 years), Christos and Georgia Nichols,

Theofanis and Dimitra Mavrantonis; Christopher

Wagner (6 months); and Constantine Birtas

Fellowship: Hosted by Kiki Mavrantonis

Monday, March 21

No Great Compline

7:00 pm "Man of God": St. Nektarios Film at Regal
Red Rock Stadium 16

Wednesday, March 23

6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

(Continued on Page 3)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE *(Continued from Page 2)*

Friday, March 25/Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Hebrews 2:11-18

Gospel: Luke 1:24-38

5:00 pm 3rd Salutations to the Theotokos

6:00 pm 35th

Anniversary Celebration of Father John's Ordination in Panos Hall (by reservation only)

Hail, O Bride Unwedded!



Sunday, March 27/3rd Sunday of Lent/Veneration of the Holy Cross/St. Matrona of Thessaloniki/St. Paul, Bishop of Corinth

Procession of Holy Cross at Doxology

Orthros: Tone Seven (Grave Tone)

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

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6

Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

Memorials: Father Constantine Raptis (5 years);

Xenocrates Berdos (9 months); and Michael Manteris (5 years)

Fellowship: Hosted by Philoptochos for Holy Cross

Monday, March 28

6:00 pm Great Compline

Wednesday, March 30

6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Our Church is fully open for the scheduled Divine Services. If you have been sick for the last 48 hours, please do not come to Church. If you are unable to come to Church, your Priests are here to light a candle for you and your loved ones. Please call Karen with your request.

From Father John (Continued from Page 1)

By God's grace, this month I celebrate my ordination and serving as a priest for 35 years in Christ's Holy Orthodox Church, and in September, 20 years in our beloved parish of St. John the Baptist. Providentially, I was ordained on the Sunday of the Holy Cross in mid-Lent: Serving as a priest necessitates continuous self-denial, carrying many crosses (my own and of those I serve), obedience, humility, repentance and forgiveness, and love, especially when it is difficult to do so.

Admittedly, I have struggled with self-denial and on occasion I have complained about the Cross God has given me to carry: But with His abiding help and grace, my repentance, and your prayers, I have been able to pick up the Cross again and thank Him for the blessing of being His servant. Thankfully, my marriage and family, and the people I serve, have never suffered through my efforts to follow the will of God; the only sorrow for others, to be honest, has usually been the result of my pride, impatience, thoughtlessness, and human weaknesses. Yet, by denying my ego and owning up to my shortcomings, issues get resolved and His grace is continually operative.

Beloved, I pray our Lenten journey to the Cross and Resurrection of our Savior will allow us to truly experience the grace and many spiritual blessings that come through our efforts at self-denial and obedience to Christ and His Church.

With Much Love in Christ,

Father John

Parish Council Report

Reverend Fathers, Parish Council Members, Church Ministries and Beloved Parishioners of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church:

May we all have a Blessed Lent, which begins *on Monday, March 7.*

We will be moving forward with building and maintenance to address and act on items that need repair and or replacement. As we do general maintenance and repairs on our own homes, we must also be committed in keeping God's home intact. Together with the other members of the Parish Council, I walked the entire grounds of our 10-acre campus, including the inside of our building facilities. With the information gathered, identifying the areas of concern, we will discuss and prioritize the repairs/replacement of several items in order of urgency. We will keep our parishioners informed as to which items in need of repair we will address.

It is also important to know that we will need help to finance numerous upcoming projects. Your generosity and support are greatly needed. We encourage your suggestions and thoughts on how to raise the money. Please tell a Parish Council member your ideas: We need all the help we can get! For example, one idea is to have a Vegas Golden Knights party. We can put up a big screen, have hamburgers and hot dogs with other food items and most importantly promote fellowship while gaining some financial aid.

Constantinos Kanis submitted his resignation from the Parish Council due to increased hours required of him with the Fire Department. We are most grateful for Costa's service on the council. We welcome our new council member, Mark Karris, who graciously accepted to serve for the remainder of Costa's 2022 term. Mark is a great addition to the council, with years of experience of serving in our parish.

Congratulations Father John on 35 years as a priest! We are having a *35th Anniversary Dinner on March 25 at 6:00 pm, following the Salutations to the Theotokos at 5:00 pm.* Bernadette Anthony and Geri Kypreos, of our beloved Philoptochos, with the support of the Parish Council, are spearheading this celebration. Ask how you can help! Also, Father John and Presvytera Maria are celebrating 35 years of marriage: Let us all plan to attend for two people who have been vital to our spiritual growth. A big thank you to Cheryl Pandelis and Susan Stamis for putting together letters and Anniversary invitations along with all communication protocols. More to come. Please show your support by saving this date and attending the celebration. Tickets are \$75 per person and Father John asked that the proceeds go to our building and maintenance fund.

For those who attended the Folk Dance Preview Performance on Sunday, February 13, we appreciated your support. From our youngest to our advanced senior groups, we witnessed magnificent performances. These talented youth from our parish prepared for their debut at FDF in Phoenix: Our dance teachers and participants should be proud. Once again, they allowed us to show the attending parishes that the Lord has real talent at our Church in Las Vegas. Through the years that I have attended, I have always felt grateful for the youth of our parish, for they are our future Church leaders. We should make sure that the Folk Dance Ministry is always strong. It is important that we recognize their devotion and be supportive of their ministry. On behalf of the entire parish: Congratulations!

We also want to thank His Excellency Metropolitan Ilia for all he offers our parish: His presence – whether in Church, during the dance performances, or at the Forerunners Valentine's Day lunch – shows his devout support of the parish ministries. *Εις Πολλά Ετη Δέσποτα!*

One more very important subject concerning our new VANCO app. You probably noticed the small kiosk in the Narthex: Our Parish is always trying to come up with innovative ideas that enhance our stewardship and strengthens our ability to communicate. This allows a streamlined way to make your pledges and be made aware of upcoming events.

Thanks to all our faithful for your support. I am truly humbled by your acts of love.

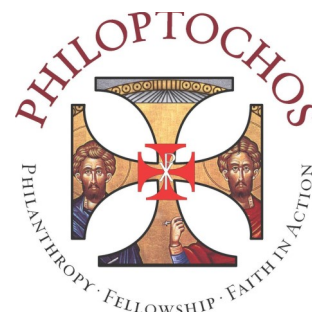
In Christ, John Fotopoulos, Parish Council President

*Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am afflicted; hear me speedily.
Give heed to my soul and redeem it. (Prokeimenon, Forgiveness Vespers)*

Philoptochos News

Dear Father John, Father Seraphim and Members of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church,

On behalf of the Ladies Philoptochos, Panagia Chapter, we wish you a Blessed Lenten Journey. As March begins and we start all the plans for the Lenten and Paschal activities, services, traditions, and prayer for this most holy of times, we realize that everyone's spiritual travel to Pascha is incredibly personal. We all have our unique first step in how we prepare for the Lenten Season. As we fast and pray on how best to show our love and devotion to Christ, the Ladies Philoptochos will be offering several different ways for you to participate in our traditional liturgical events, community service, collections, and Holy Week and Pascha.



Please "Save the Dates" for the following events on your Calendar for March:

Sunday, March 6, immediately following the Divine Liturgy and Forgiveness Vespers – General Meeting and Wine Wagon Kickoff. Calendar review of Lenten, Holy Week and Pascha services and activities. Start of the Wine Wagon collection and ticket sales. Your Wine Wagon donations will be accepted; please donate two bottles of your favorite wine to the wagon we will raffle at the Agape Picnic (a \$10 per bottle minimum please, or a \$20 donation and we will shop for you).

Sunday, March 13 – Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers Lenten Dinner following the Vespers Service at 5:00 pm.

Friday, March 25 – Annunciation of the Theotokos – Celebration of Father John's 35th Anniversary as a Priest. Salutations to the Theotokos at 5:00 pm with Dinner immediately following in Panos Hall (by reservation only).

Saturday, March 26 – Decoration of the Cross. See Dora Hart for more information.

Sunday, March 27 – Veneration of the Holy Cross Fellowship. Maha Habiba, chair.

Membership

The Ladies Philoptochos Society welcomes all women of the Church and those fabulous gentlemen who would like to become associate members. If you are new to the Orthodox Faith, being a member of the Philoptochos is an amazing way to learn more about the traditions of our Holy Church. If you are new to the Las Vegas Community, we are an amazing resource for life in Las Vegas and Southern Nevada. If you are a long time Las Vegan, we miss you! Come on back! Please come to the meeting ***on Sunday, March 6***, to say hello and get involved. No pressure – but we need you!

Outreach and Sunshine

Did you know that we love you? The Ladies Philoptochos has a team of lovely members who would like to visit you. The team is very sensitive to what a person's needs are. Is it just a short visit for prayer and comfort? Or something a little longer for the company? Is it just for recovery from a surgery? Or more long term? Please let Karen know in the Church Office how you or your loved one would like to be contacted. The Philoptochos would also like to send you or a loved one a note to say hello, congratulations, or offer our deepest sympathy for the loss of a loved one. Again, please contact Karen.

Once again, I deeply would like to thank the most amazing women who serve with me on the Board and our fabulous members who always respond with positivity and great ideas on projects. Philoptochos is 90 years "young" and has always been on the cutting edge of the challenges the world and life give us.

As always, I am your servant in Christ, Bernadette Anthony, Philoptochos President

We are entering the godly contest of the blameless Fast. Let us all diligently subdue the flesh through self-control. Let us seek the Lord with prayers and tears, and completely obliterate every vice, and shout to Him: "We have sinned against You. Save us, as You saved the Ninevites of old, O Christ our King. Grant us to share in Your heavenly Kingdom, O compassionate Lord." (Forgiveness Vespers)

The Clark County Orthodox Clergy Association Announces
Pan Orthodox Vespers for the Sunday of Orthodoxy:
Sunday, March 13 at 5:00 pm

Homily offered by Rev. Fr. John Dresko
of St. Paul's Orthodox Church

Hosted by Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
5300 South El Camino Ave, Las Vegas

Followed by a Lenten Meal in Panos Hall at 6:00 pm
Please come and let us worship the Lord together!



You are cordially invited to

“A CELEBRATION”

In Honor of

Very Reverend Father

JOHN S. HONDROS

35 Years of Service to God and the Faithful

Friday, March 25, 2022

5:00 pm - Salutations to the Theotokos

6:00 pm - Celebration Dinner

St. John The Baptist Greek Orthodox Church - Panos Hall

5300 South El Camino Road - Las Vegas, Nevada

\$75 Per Person

By Reservation Only

RSVP by March 15, 2022

Father John's 35th Anniversary Celebration

To Our Dear Fellow Parishioners,

On behalf of the Parish Council of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church and the Ladies of the Philoptochos Society, Panagia Chapter, it is our honor and pleasure to greet you.

Since September 2002, the Reverend Father John Hondros has faithfully guided our Church community here in Las Vegas, Nevada. With joy and gratitude, we announce there will be a *Celebration* honoring our beloved priest on the occasion of the 35th Anniversary of his ordination of March 22, 1987.

Father John Hondros exemplifies the qualities of a good and dedicated priest, through his deep spirituality, faithfulness and his pastoral care for the flock that he shepherds. In order to respectfully and fully honor him, our Church community will gather for a *Celebration* of the ordination of Father John on the evening of March 25, 2022.

The Parish Council and the Ladies Philoptochos Society will jointly share the Chairmanship of this event and will be assisted by many eager volunteers from our Church ministries, the AHEPA family and the Pan Hellenic organizations.

This *Celebration* is open to the entire community by reservation only. Proceeds will benefit the Building and Maintenance Fund for much needed capital improvements to our magnificent facilities after two decades. You will receive your invitation in the very near future and we encourage you to make your reservation promptly as tickets will not be sold at the door.

We look forward to celebrating with all of you as we honor our beloved Father John.

Love in Christ,

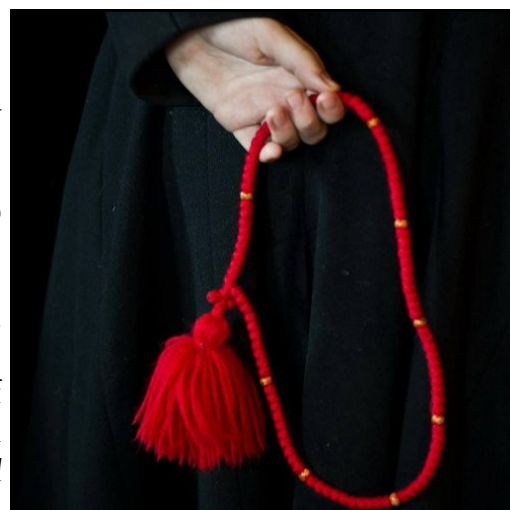
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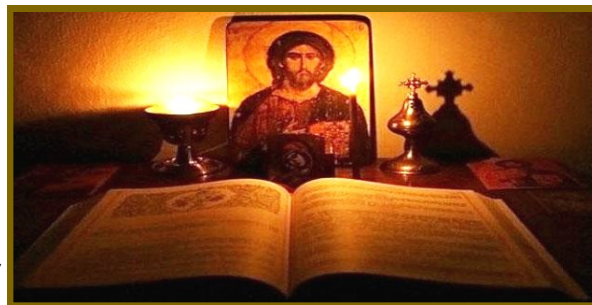
From Father Seraphim

We can all admit that we live distracted lives. Our lives could use a little more intentional effort toward becoming what we were created to be, a Saint. Perhaps technology is easy to blame with its all-intrusive and ever-present availability, into whose embrace we so often turn our attention. Distractions abound in the environments we regularly inhabit. Whether at work, school, or during our times of leisure and even in our homes – which are no longer places of focus and creativity – most likely screens and distractions abound. Perhaps it is because we live in the first-ever human society of *organized distraction* where, according to Matthew Crawford (a social critic of the “hyper-busyness mentality”), ours is a culture “*saturated with technologies for appropriating our attention, where our interior mental lives are laid bare as a resource to be harvested by others.*” With our hungry “consumer minds” being constantly offered tasty mental stimuli by complex economic, technological, and social forces, there exists a deeper spiritual crisis. We no longer know what to value, what to love. Many of us are too exhausted to fight off the temptation of “killing time” or simply “zoning out” to entertainment that leaves us more depleted, isolated, and exhausted than before we came seeking its comfort or rest. What can we do, and where do we turn?

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From Father Seraphim (Continued from Page 9)



We must run to the safety of the Church as a fortress and tower, entering deeply into the Holy Forty Days of Lent so that we will clearly behold the Resurrection – not only of Christ 2,000 years ago, but of our own life in Christ! Entering the Church we find ourselves in the season of repentance, which is *“the renewal and transformation of our mind.” (Romans 12:12)* One helpful way to look at this time of devotion and dedication to the Lord is to imagine the power of our mind and our attention as if it were a river of water. St. Gregory of Nyssa gave us this analogy and said that the “water of our mind” is easily scattered to many different things other than God. This results in weak tributaries, trickling streams and no clear singular goal and course for the waters’ flow. The dispersion of our focus and attention in a myriad of flickering lights on various screens is a tragedy and calls for a movement toward reintegration and reunification: When we return from an external to an internal orientation to Christ, this movement also means a return to our true selves. The Lord said, *“The Kingdom of Heaven is within you” (Luke 17:20-21)*, and Lent is a perfect time to discover this reality with the spiritual disciplines presented by the Church.

As our ability to seriously focus while reading or listening to someone, while studying or praying for any length of time continues to dwindle, we must ask, “Why?” Why is choosing a distraction just so much easier than being still and saying the Jesus Prayer, reading a spiritual book, doing prostrations, taking a solitary walk or listening to Byzantine Chant. Simone Weil, a penetrating author who switched places with someone and went to her death in a concentration camp provides an answer: *“Something in our soul has a far more violent repugnance for true attention than the flesh has for bodily fatigue. This something is much more closely connected with evil than is the flesh. That is why every time that we really concentrate our attention, we destroy the evil in ourselves.”*

One goal of our Lenten fasting – with the increased Church services, confession of our sins, and increased prayer – is to call back our dispersed and fragmented mind from all the distractions, negative emotions, passions, self-destructive behaviors, and sins in which we habitually indulge. Iris Murdoch, author of *“The Sovereignty of the Good”* offers a strikingly clear path forward: *“Where strong emotions of sexual love, or of hatred, resentment, or jealousy are concerned, ‘pure will’ can usually achieve little. It is small use telling oneself, ‘Stop being in love, stop feeling resentment, be just.’ What is needed is a reorientation, which will provide an energy of a different kind, from a different source. Notice the metaphors of orientation and looking . . . deliberately falling out of love is not a jump of the will, it is the acquiring of new objects of attention and thus new energies as a result of refocusing.”* Understood in this context, prayer is simply an attention to God which is a form of love: And we all know that those we love, we easily think about all the time.

In turning away from “the distracted life” – so vogue in our lost and dying culture – toward a life in Christ, our goal is not negative: We are not to simply “stop being distracted.” Rather, we must focus all the love in our heart, all the tiredness of our bodies, all the desire in our soul, all the “water of our mind” on the beautiful Bridegroom of our souls. Christ is the true object of every heart’s longing and the only remedy for our existential restlessness, angst and depressed distraction. Once gathered and placed under the limits of a course and destination we choose, the full power of our mind, now united with our heart, will naturally ascend to God Who has already Himself descended to us. This course of action involving all the spiritual exercises and disciplines the Church offers could be called the great reorientation, the “180-degree turn” of repentance, which begins by falling in love with Christ – the only One Who can satisfy, the only One Who can make us good and happy and beautiful. If we will let Him, by showing up to Church and applying ourselves to these time-tested disciplines, He will accomplish the transformation of our lives and hearts in His love forever.

With Love in Christ,

Father Seraphim



Lenten Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

*Lord and Master of my life,
cast away from me the spirit of laziness,
idle curiosity,
love of power and vain talk.*

*But grant me, Your servant,
the spirit of moderation,
humility, patience and love.*

*Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see
my own faults and
not to judge my brothers and sisters.*

*For You are blessed forever.
Amen.*

HOLY CONFESSION DURING LENT

*Father John is available for Confession by appointment
only during the weekdays of Lent.*

*Do not delay, as Confessions will not be heard
Holy Week.*

*"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just, and will forgive
our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)*

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council: John Fotopoulos

Philoptochos: Bernadette Anthony

Stewardship & Community Outreach:
John Karas

Choir: Athena Mertes

Chanters & Youth Choir:
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Church School: Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers: Father John

GOYA:
Anne Pantelas & Maha Habiba

Orthodox Family Fellowship:
Imtisal Amy Khuri & April Rivera

Young Adults:
Father Seraphim

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek School: Paula Kelesis

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

Kali Parea: Demetrious Asim

Adult Basketball:
Nick Kelesis

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



CHURCH 365

“Let Us Exalt His Name Together!” (Psalm 34:3)

CONNECTING 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

CHURCH 365

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 2022 of \$ _____.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Orthodox Christian: Yes No

Orthodox Christian: Yes No

Others sharing in the gift (children): _____

Stewardship and Community Outreach

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We find ourselves once again with the opportunity the Orthodox Church gives us, to renew and deepen our faith in God and the selfless and ceaseless action of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. We have just completed the Pre-Lenten period with the readings of:

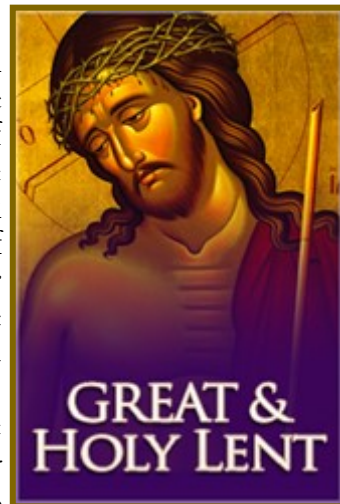
- The Publican and the Pharisee (*Luke 18:9-14*), which is about humility;
- The Prodigal Son (*Luke 15:11-32*), which is about repentance;
- Sunday of Meatfare (*Matthew 25:31-36*), which is about Judgment when the Lord separates the sheep from the goats; and
- Sunday of Cheesefare (*Matthew 6:14-21*), which is about the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise, and forgiving others as God forgives us.

Now we are embarking on a journey through the season of Great Lent, which begins **on Monday, March 7**. Lent is the time we spend in preparation for the Feast of Feasts: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is the living symbol of mankind's entire life, which is to be fulfilled in our own resurrection from the dead together with Christ. Lent gives us a very powerful opportunity to give back to the Lord a portion of our God-given time. It is a time for renewed devotion – of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is a time for repentance, a real renewal of our minds, hearts, and deeds in conformity with Christ and His teachings. It is the time, most of all, for us to return to the great commandments of loving God and our neighbors.

Great Lent is not a season of morbidity and gloominess. Quite the opposite, it is a time of joyfulness and purification! We are called to “anoint our faces” and to “cleanse our bodies as we cleanse our souls.” The hymns from Vespers on the evening of Forgiveness Sunday set the tone of this hallowed season: “Let us cheerfully begin the season of Lent and undergo spiritual struggles. Let us purify and cleanse our souls and bodies. As we fast from foods, let us also abstain from giving in to any of the passions, and instead delight in the virtues of the Spirit. May we persevere in them with love, and then be counted worthy to see the solemn Passion of Christ our God, and to celebrate holy Pascha with spiritual joy.” Another hymn likewise echoes the battle cry of the season: “Your grace has shone forth, O Lord; the illumination of our souls has shone forth. Behold, this is the acceptable season; behold, this is the season of repentance. Let us put away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, so that we may navigate the immense ocean of Lent, and arrive at the third-day Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Savior of our souls.”

It is our repentance that God desires and not our remorse. We should truly have sorrow for our sins, but we should do so in the joy of God's abundant mercy. We also must mortify our flesh, but do so in the joy of our hoped for resurrection into life everlasting. We make ready for the resurrection during Great Lent, both Christ's Resurrection and our own. May this blessed Lenten season bring all of us much reflection on the state of our soul, and with faith in our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, may we know that by His abundant mercy we are being granted everlasting life in His Eternal Kingdom. *Kali Sarakosti!*

In Christ, Stewardship and Outreach Committee



*Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Hear me, O Lord.
 Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Give heed to the voice of my supplication
 when I cry to You. Hear me, O Lord.
 Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands
 as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord.*

STEWARDSHIP AND OTHER GIVING OPTIONS

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

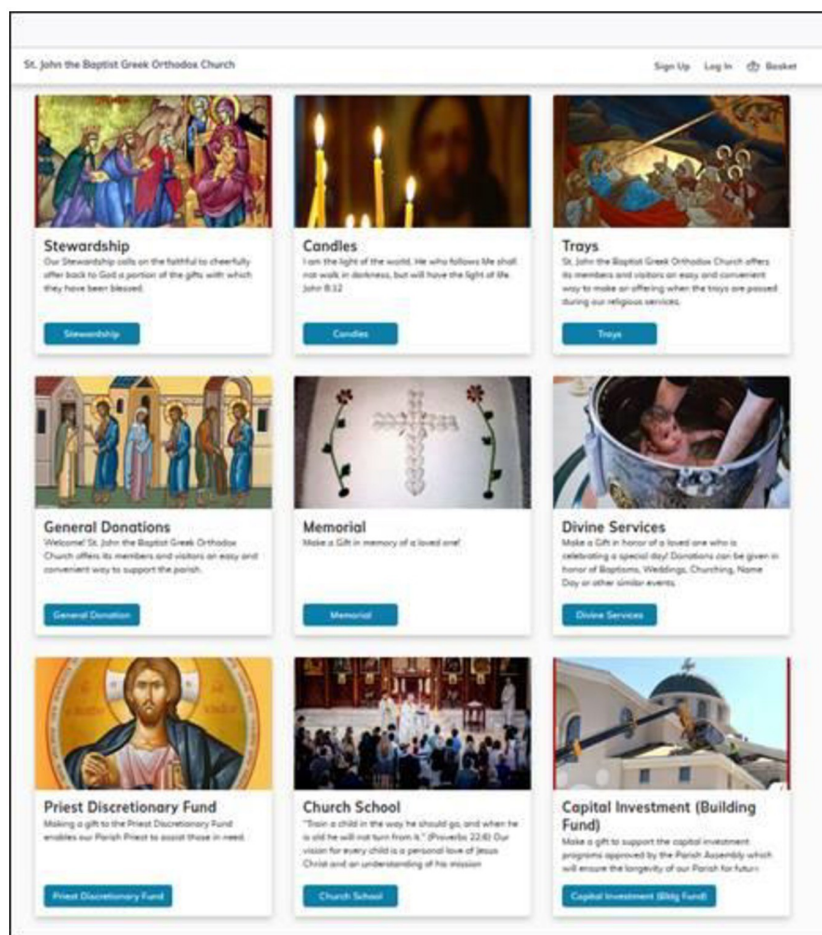
On behalf of Fr. John, Fr. Seraphim and the Parish Council, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support to our Parish.

For 2022 the Parish is launching a new way for our faithful members to offer their Stewardship and other donations. This new way is via VANCO for making our electronic offerings, be it Stewardship, trays, candles and so on. Our goal is to centralize where our members go for their generous support to St. John and to protect your personal credit card or banking information.

In past years the means of making your blessed offerings has been via PayPal, giving the Parish your credit card or banking information to set up your automatic payments, by personal check or cash. However, as of December 31, 2021 PayPal will no longer be available and we will not be requesting your personal credit card or banking information to set up your individual donations. Of course, written personal checks and cash will still be an option.

We pray for your continued support and respectfully request you set up your own account in VANCO for your generous financial support to St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church. You can click on this link (<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YZYE/home>) to go to our Parish VANCO account to set up your personal account.

Should you need any assistance in setting up your account in VANCO, please contact John Karas via email (jkaras@vegasgreekorthodox.com) and he will be more than happy to assist you. Below you can see what our Parish VANCO website looks like.



Ministry News

Church School

Hi everyone! Happy Lent! The year is going well. It is nice to see so many students back in our classrooms. We are still using the *Orthodox Journeys* program and loving it. If you would like me to email you the lessons, I am happy to do that. Please text or email me your email address so I can add you to my list.

Please let your teachers know if you would like to supply any snacks or small bottles of water for the students. Any help is always appreciated.

Per our annual tradition, we will have *the Procession of Icons on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 13*. Please make sure your child brings their icon to participate in the beautiful service. This will be a Family Worship Sunday.

Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

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

Orthodox Family Fellowship (OFF)

We invite the families of the parish to our annual Lenten Mini-Retreat for our OFF Ministry *on Saturday, March 12 from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm* in Panos Hall. This year's theme will be "Prayers for the Departed."

We will be making Kollyva (boiled wheat), learning why and how we pray for our departed loved ones, and the children will have an opportunity to submit names to be read on Sunday and for our own small memorial.

Our children will also have the opportunity for the Sacrament of Holy Confession with Father John.

Please bring a Lenten snack to share! RSVP at frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com.

In Christ, April Rivera, OFF Advisor



GOYA - Our Teen Ministry

Blessed Lent! This month we have two activities to alert your attention to.

First we will be having our Annual Overnight GOYA Lenten Retreat *on from the afternoon of Friday, March 18 to the morning of Saturday, March 19*. (See flyer *on Page 16*.) Please mark your calendars and plan on attending as we will enjoy the opportunity to experience the grace of the Sacrament of Holy Confession, dinner, and breakfast together, sessions on the Season of Repentance – Great Lent – along with our traditional games and fellowship.

Please RSVP at frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com! This is extremely important so we know how many teens to expect, how much food to order and prepare, and how many parent chaperones we will need to stay the night. The list of items needed are included in the flyer so please come with an open heart and ready to learn, to pray, to worship God, and enjoy an unforgettable time with your friends at Church!

Secondly we will have a parish-wide viewing of a newly-released beautiful movie, "Man of God," about St. Nektarios of Aegina, *on Monday, March 21 at 7:00 pm*. (See the flyer *on Page 7*.)

Much Love in Christ, Father Seraphim

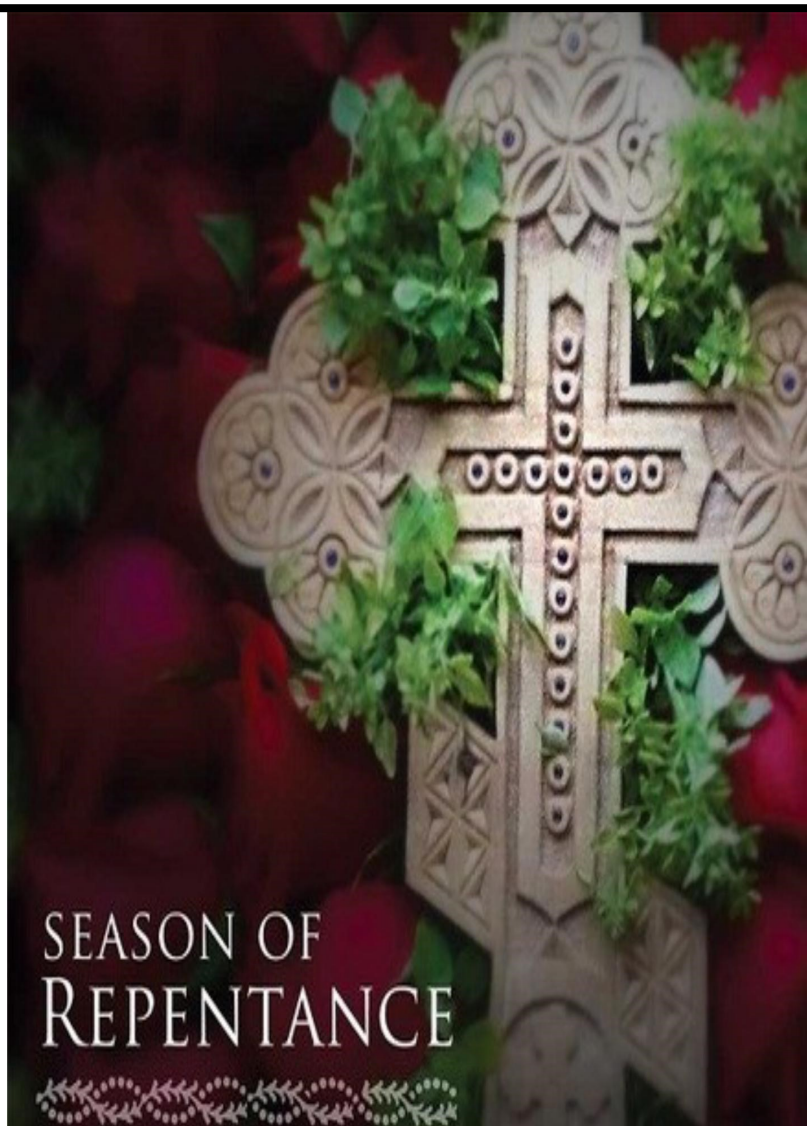
Young Adults

Please join us at Red Rock Bowling Alley *on Wednesday, March 16 at 7:30 pm* for a couple rounds of friendly competition! We will be attending the *Presanctified Liturgy* together beforehand *at 6:00 pm* and then heading over for fun, and fellowship. Games are \$4 and shoe rental is \$4.50. Bring extra money for concessions. Please RSVP with Father Seraphim so we can know how many lanes to reserve. We look forward to seeing you there!

In Christ, Father Seraphim

2022 Orthodox Teen Overnight Retreat

**Come join in the
Lenten Season
and Learn about
Repentance!**



Friday, March 18 at 4:30 pm through
Saturday, March 19 at Noon

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
All Middle School and High School Students are welcome!

What to Bring:

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

Greek Folk Dance

Congratulations to our three folk dance groups who participated in the 45th Annual Folk Dance Festival, held in Phoenix, Arizona on February 17-20. All three groups performed beautifully and made our community so proud! Although this year's Festival was smaller than usual, the theme "Mazi" was fitting, as we gathered with friends and family from other parishes from our Metropolis and shared our love of our culture "Together." We were also blessed with the presence of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America!

Our advanced primary group, Aetopoula, placed 3rd and our advanced senior group, Erimos, placed 4th. Many, many thanks to our dedicated directors, Nick Barbarino, George Karvounidis, Gabi Payan, Kyriacos Philippou, Demetri Pouridis and Niko Pouridis, as well as to all the parents, grandparents, families and friends who supported our groups.

Also, Maya Sorkhabi, a dancer in our Delfinia group, won a FDF scholarship awarded to high school seniors! Congratulations Maya!

Finally, a huge THANK YOU to all the members of our community who supported our dancers at last month's Preview. It was so encouraging and wonderful to see Panos Hall filled with love for our dancers, and we could not be more grateful for the ongoing support from everyone. We will be taking a break from dancing through Great Lent and the end of the school year, and we will resume in August 2022.

Much Gratitude, Folk Dance Board

Mr. & Mrs.

For the month of March we will come together as a group and go see *Man of God* **on Monday, March 21 at 7:00 pm** at Red Rock Theater. You can purchase your tickets online; please see the flyer **on Page 7**.

Then **on Friday, March 25** we will celebrate Father John's 35th Anniversary to the Priesthood in Panos Hall. Invitations have been sent; if you did not receive one, please call Karen in the Church Office. We will start the evening with Salutations to the Theotokos at 5:00 pm; the Celebration dinner will follow at 6:00 pm. The dinner is by reservation only. We hope to see you at both events.

Blessed Lent! Father John and Father Seraphim and their Presvyteres

Kali Parea - For the 40-Plus Crowd

For the month of March we will come together as a group and go see *Man of God* **on Monday, March 21 at 7:00 pm** at Red Rock Theater. Please purchase your tickets online: More information is on the flyer **on Page 7**.

Then **on Friday, March 25** we will celebrate Father John's 35th Anniversary to the Priesthood in Panos Hall. Invitations have been sent. If you did not receive one, please call Karen in the Church Office. We will start the evening with Salutations to the Theotokos at 5:00 pm with the Celebration; dinner will follow at 6:00 pm. The dinner is by reservation only.

Hoping to see you at both events! Blessed Lent! Demetrious Asim



Do You Have an AMAZON Account?
Do you know your purchases on AMAZON
can financially benefit our Parish?

If you do, you can help our Parish by logging into your account by going to: smile.amazon.com.

Sign in with the same account information you use for Amazon.com.

Select your charity: St John Greek Orthodox Church. Location: Las Vegas, NV.

Start shopping! Remember to checkout at smile.amazon.com to generate donations for our parish.

THERE IS NO ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU.

Forerunners - Our Seniors Fellowship

Greetings Senior Forerunners!

WOW! What a wonderful beginning to our first Forerunner luncheon meeting on Monday, February 14, Valentine's Day! Thirty-five seniors were in attendance along with our own Father John and Presvytera Maria, His Excellency Metropolitan Ilia, Father Paul and his grandson Nathan, Presvytera Evonne Raptis and our newly elected Parish Council President, John Fotopoulos.

Our first luncheon was hosted by His Excellency Metropolitan Ilia in memory and celebration for his wife, Presvytera Helen, his mother Eugenia, and for his granddaughter, Dhimitra celebrating her 22nd birthday. His Excellency Metropolitan Ilia blessed the food and then Father John cut our Vasilopita, donated to the Forerunners by Cheryl Pandelis. A big thank you to Cheryl for always thinking of us. The blessed coin went to Steve Tzelalis! Those in attendance noticed someone was missing and it was our dear Florene (Flo) Lee, who faithfully helped set up the luncheons each month and was one of the first to arrive. Sadly, she fell asleep in the Lord on January 15, 2022. May her memory be eternal!

The lunch was beautifully prepared by Steve Tzelalis, Marika Lamancusa, and our very efficient kitchen staff. Door and raffle prizes were presented, and everyone enjoyed playing Bingo after a two year absence. Finally, a thank you to Erin and Bill Bruninga, who were not able to attend but made sure that we received a beautiful assortment of Valentine's Day candies.

Our next Forerunners luncheon and fellowship will take place *on Monday, March 14 at 11:30 am*. Please remember that this will be taking place during Lent. During this meeting Father John will present a short overview of the Lenten Season. A reminder that 2022 Membership dues should be paid at this time. We look forward to seeing all those who were present and many more at the next Forerunners luncheon.

We hope you will be able to join us for two special events: First, to see *Man of God on Monday, March 21 at 7:00 pm* at Red Rock Theater. You can purchase your tickets online; see the flyer *on Page 7*.

Then *on Friday, March 25* we will celebrate Father John's 35th Anniversary to the Priesthood in Panos Hall. Invitations have been sent; if you did not receive one, please call Karen in the Church Office. We will start the evening with Salutations to the Theotokos at 5:00 pm; the Celebration dinner will follow at 6:00 pm. The dinner is by reservation only.

As always, our prayers and good wishes go out to all our seniors in the St. John community who are recuperating in hospitals or other facilities.

Have a Blessed Lenten Season! Love in Christ, Victoria Xikis, for the Forerunners



Adult Study with
Father John and
Father Seraphim

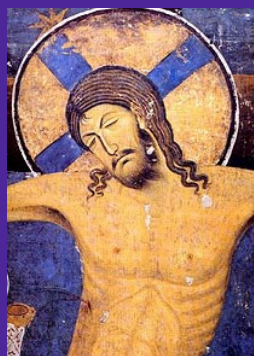
The Art of Prayer

*Join us every Wednesday
through March 2*

6:30 ~ 8:00 pm in Kokkos Hall

March 2: War with Passions

The Art of Prayer is available in our Bookstore



Great Lent begins
on Monday,
March 7

Holy Week is
April 17 ~ 23

Great and Holy Pascha is
on Sunday, April 24

Orthodox Bookstore

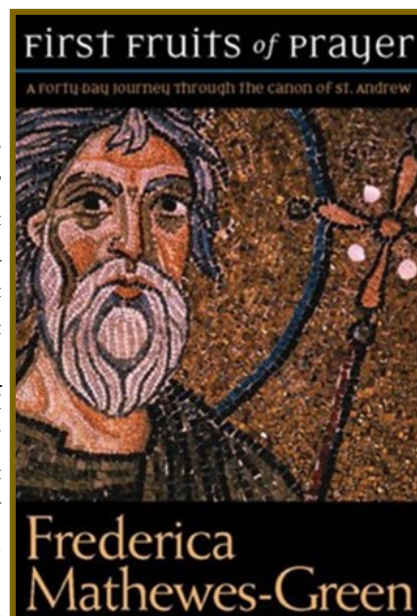
Greetings from the Bookstore and Blessed Lent!

As we enter into the Lenten season once again, the Bookstore is featuring *First Fruits of Prayer: A Forty Day Journey through the Canon of St. Andrew* by Frederica Mathewes-Green. The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (also available in the Bookstore) is an eighth-century hymn of profound repentance, depth of Biblical imagery and overwhelming compunction. The Great Canon is still chanted today in Orthodox Churches throughout the world in quarters at Great Compline during the first four days of the Fast, and again in its entirety on the at Matins on Thursday of the Fifth Week of Great Lent it is chanted along with the life of St. Mary of Egypt. St. Andrew was born in Damascus and spent his early years as a monk in Jerusalem. He later went to serve orphans and the elderly in Constantinople, ultimately becoming the bishop of Crete. He reposed in 740 AD. St. Andrew was considered to be a leading figure in early Christian hymnography.

The Canon is a dialogue between St. Andrew and his soul where continual encouragement for a change of life is expressed. It is commonly known as the "Great Canon of Repentance" as a result. Guiding readers through the Canon, Mathewes-Green offers readers a series of forty prayerful readings with accompanying commentary and questions for further reflection during the Lenten journey.

From the Introduction: "Many contemporary Christians have the sense that believers in the early centuries had a different experience of the faith than we customarily do today – more intense, more rich, and frankly, more challenging. The key was the kind of rigorous self-examination St. Andrew shows us here: a whole-hearted embrace of repentance as a path to self-knowledge and healing, and eventually to union with God." In addition to this month's selection and the Canon of St. Andrew itself, we have other titles and prayer books in stock to help prepare us for the self-reflection involved this season in the Sacrament of Confession and ultimately, the joyous Pascha of our Lord. Once again, Blessed Lent!

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



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FOLK DANCERS!



With Gratitude to God for Our Pledged Stewards in 2022

If you wish to become a Parish Steward, please fill out Pledge Form and return to Karen

Acovino, Richard and Angela
 Adamy, Marina
 Agnos, George and Maggie
 Alexander, Eleni
 Alford, Cynthia "Mary"
 Allen, John and Denise
 Alvarez, Kelly
 Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine
 Andrews, Catherine
 Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette
 Aristides, George and Diana
 Atkins, Sean and Christina
 Avdoulos, Pagona and Chrysa
 Bacon, Ken and Dianne
 Balason, Voula
 Baldwin, Richard and Vivi
 Balodimas, James
 Barbarino, Dee and Nick
 Beeler, Mike and Carolyn
 Beeman, Benita
 Beeman, Karl Jr. and Ivana
 Berendji, Jim and Vivian
 Bieker, Adam and Cassie
 Bieker, Georgea
 Bjorklund, Danielle
 Bledsoe, Lori
 Bochanis, Aris and
 Spataro, Savannah
 Bochanis, George
 Booth, Alina
 Britten, Ronald and Carol
 Brown, Faye
 Brown, Mark and Alyssa
 Bruninga, William and Erin
 Bryant, Timothy and Janet
 Bucy, Brent and Elaine
 Carahalios, John and Constance
 Caredis, Jon and Marjorie
 Carrico, William and Alexandra
 Carter, Maria
 Chachas, Bessie
 Chachas, James
 Chagares, Kiki
 Chamie, Elie, Emil and Claudine
 Chandrinis, Alexia
 Chanos, Jennifer
 Chomakos, Dean and Tammy
 Chomakos, Jeremy and Romina
 Chondrakis, Dimosthenis and
 Kragerud, Kaaren
 Christou, Toni
 Collins, David
 Conger, William and Alexia
 Costuros, George and Marsha
 Cosulas, Fr. Basil and
 Presv. Samantha
 Cotsilis, Jenny
 Crist, Adam and Kanistra
 Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia
 Dalacas, Georgia
 Daskalos, George and Voula
 Demas, Spiro and Rita
 Demoleas, Spero and Grace

Demoleas, Stephanie
 Demopoulos, Dimitrios and Selina
 Demopoulos, Vasiliki
 Dimitri, Patricia, Martha and Janet
 Dominguez, Eric and Amalia
 Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia
 Dramitinos, Mary
 Earl, Christine Michaelides
 Eliades, Aristotelis and Caroline
 Eliades, Gregory and Maria
 Eliades, Harry and Agapi
 Eliades, Katerina
 Eliakis, Peter and Glenda
 Eliakis, Varthie and LeeAnn
 Eyler, John and Elizabeth
 Farren, Anthony and Maritsa
 Feola, Richard
 Filios, George and Nitsa
 Filios, Spiridon and Eleni
 Fischer, Cheryl
 Fitzgerald, Norman and
 McCullen, Sandra
 Flangas, Gus and Tamara
 Flangas, Marilyn
 Flangas, Wanda
 Foster, Kyle and
 Pierro, Maria Elena
 Fotopoulos, John and Barbara
 Fountoulakis, Vasileios
 Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia
 Gauvin, Chad and Marissa
 Gekakis, George
 Georgis, Pete and Keshia
 Geranios, John
 Ghebrea, Daniel and
 Ghermay, Selam
 Gialketsis, Julie
 Goodman, Linda
 Gordon, Victor and Demetria
 Granill, Abraham
 Gutierrez, Connie
 Gutierrez, Daniel
 Hamilton, Mary
 Hamilton, Paul and Brandi
 Hastings, Teri
 Hemmers, Oliver and
 Pantelas, Anne
 Herman, Martin and Diane
 Hertberg, Jennifer
 Hondros, Christina
 Hondros, Christopher and Darlene
 Hondros, Fr. John and
 Presv. Maria
 Hondros, Marissa
 Hristopoulou, Spiridoulia
 Iteen, Robert and Sophia
 Kachikis, Ernestine
 Kakavulias, George and Helen
 Kanis, Constantinos and Katie
 Kapetanios - Fountoulakis, Maria
 Karas, James
 Karas, John and Marcie
 Karvounidis, George

Kasiotis, Nicholas and Claudia
 Katopodis, Efstratios
 Katris, Nick and Theana
 Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon
 Kelesis, Paula
 Kirchner, Gary "Barlaam"
 Kleanthis, George and Zanetta
 Kokinelis, Irene
 Kokkines, Peter and Jennifer
 Koliambas, Eleni
 Kontos, Diana
 Kostas, James
 Kountanis, Panagiota
 Kouris, Demetris and Terry
 Koutsulis, John and Eileen
 Koutsulis, Sam and Effie
 Kypreos, Peter and Geri
 Kyriannis, Justin and Linda
 Kyriazopoulos, Constantine Jr.
 Lakkis, Christina
 Lamancusa, Lisa
 Lambros, Kyriakos and Mary
 Latelle, Penny
 Lavine, Frederic
 Lee, David and Alexandra
 Lekar, Michael and Effie
 Leong, Marissa
 Leventis, Nicholas and Christina
 Lexis, Annette
 Liaos, James and Tina
 Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine
 Loney, Thomas and Chrysi
 Makris, Apostolos
 Malamatos, Kindina
 Maland, Donna
 Manolakis, Catherine
 Manos, Constantine and Michele
 Margaretis, John and Lucila
 Markakis, Catherine and Joseph
 Markakis, Sandy Kiriaki
 Martinaitis, Louis
 Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki
 Mavros, Alex and Jen
 Mavros, Debbie
 Mavroudis, Frank
 McManus, Jeanette
 McKinney, Michael and Mersene
 McPherson, Robert and Marie
 McSweeney, Farolyn
 Menegatos, James
 Merritt, Devin and Sonia
 Meyers, Evon
 Minas, Arthur and Ewa
 Moffett, Todd and
 Eliopulos, Tina
 Mohammednur, Alganis
 Monolakis, Anthony
 Monoyudis, Jim and Julie
 Moore, Brenda
 Murray, Christopher and
 George, Veneta
 Neocleous, Plato
 Nicholas, John and Estella

Nichols, George and Tereza
 Nikitas, Milissa
 Nixon, John and Ellyn
 Pahigiannis, Nikon
 Paikos, Tom and Elizabeth
 Paliyos, Peter and Vicky
 Pallis, Paul
 Pandelis, Cheryl
 Panos, Jeanne
 Papalois, John and Maria
 Papas, Christian and Nicole
 Papas, Peter and Rita
 Pappas, Rita
 Paschalis, Evangelos and Maria
 Pavlicas, Connie
 Payan, Luis and Eleni
 Pendleton, Tricia
 Peterson, Todd and Diane
 Petriuc, Constantin
 Petro, Aleko and Georgia
 Petrou, Jim and Penelopi
 Pierro, Joe and Rhonda
 Pitts, Anton and Athena
 Platis, Anna
 Polimerou, Angelina
 Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra
 Poulos, Christine
 Pouridis, Kouli and Para
 Powers, Russell and Rebecca
 Ramos, Fr. Seraphim and
 Presv. Olenka
 Raptis, Presv. Evonne
 Rasmussen, Scott and Rebecca
 Rigas, Anthony and Mary
 Rigas, Evie
 Rihani, Gary and Linda
 Rivera, Elias and April
 Robison, Diane and Patricia
 Rodis, Dimitri
 Rotas, Beatrice
 Ruffner, Skip and Kathy
 Santamaria, Jennifer and Robert
 Savvas, Savva
 Sechrist, Carl and Christine
 Sehremelis, Andy and Leslie
 Setian, Gary
 Simpson, Bryan and Julie
 Sirhan, Michael and Imtisal
 Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia
 Smith, Kathleen
 Sourso, Helene
 Stathopoulos, Hristos and
 Anastasia
 Staubs, Douglas and Anastasia
 Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki
 Stenos, Louis
 Stransky, Jack and Rachel
 Stransky, Mark
 Szukiewicz, Joseph and Justina
 Tafoya, Steven and Irene
 Tanguay, Steven and Elizabeth
 Theros, James and Kathryn
 Thompson, Maggy

Stewards 2022

Tijlboy, Christine
 Tohme, Tony and May
 Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katerina
 Tsobanoglou, Paris and Niki
 Tsohis, Christos and Panagioula
 Tsohis, Panagiotē
 Tzelalis, Steve, Vaso and Antonia
 Wadlow, Nicholas and Pamela
 Wagner, Sophye
 Wainscott, Betty
 Walter, Vernon and Alice
 Ward, Angeliki
 Webb, Taylor
 Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina
 Williams, Anthony and Anna
 Wilson, Clyde
 Wilson, Kelly and Egi, Junichiro
 Wilson, Steven and Cleo
 Womack, Karl
 Womack, Kimberly
 Xerogianes, Nick and Nikki
 Xikis, Victoria
 Yurkov, Andre, Kalina and Daniella
 Zaferatos, Ted
 Zarkos, Nick and Dina
 Zimmerman, Paul and Angela
 Zimmerman, Paul

FELLOWSHIP HOUR

We would like to thank you for hosting Fellowship Hour.

Below you will find suggested items that you may want to bring for your fellowship.

FOOD ITEMS

PLASTIC PLATES, TABLECLOTHES

AND UTENSILS

DAIRY CREAMER

BOTTLED WATER OR JUICE

Coffee will be brewed by either Constantin or Marc and will be ready for you after Church service. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact any Parish Council member or Karen.



WHAT WE PROVIDE:

Coffee and Filters

Cups and Stirrers

Napkins

Powdered Creamer

Sugar/ Sweet & Low



**2022
Stewardship
Report
(as of 2/24/22)**

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$369,461 (\$372,855 in 2021)
 Stewardship Gifts Received: \$140,991 (\$130,457 in 2021)
 Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$228,470 (\$242,398 in 2021)
 Stewardship Families Pledged: 273 (249 in 2021)
 2022 Budgeted Goal: \$500,000 . . . Keep the Pledges Coming!

*"Let Us
Exalt
His Name
Together!"
(Psalm 34:3)*

<u>Average Pledge</u>	<u>No. of Families</u>	<u>Amount Pledged</u>
\$1 ~ \$500	117	\$ 30,145
\$501 ~ \$1,000	57	\$ 44,451
\$1,001 ~ \$2,500	65	\$ 101,475
\$2,501 ~ \$5,000	21	\$ 78,290
\$5,001 & Above	13	\$ 115,100
Total Families	273	\$369,461

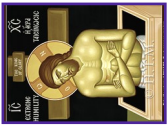
Church Account Summaries ~ January 2022

Nevada State Bank Accounts	December Ending Balance	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	January Ending Balance	Notes
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$102,111.29	\$82,936.35	\$3,689.46	\$22,418.61	\$54,341.21	\$111,977.28	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$39,845.50	\$4,700.00				\$44,545.50	
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$108,352.97	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$192.00	\$21.23	\$108,439.74	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$165,495.26	\$7,639.54	\$600.00	\$126.25	\$3,924.47	\$169,684.08	
Folk Dance Group	\$21,773.00	\$525.00		\$595.00		\$21,703.00	
Hellenic Historical Society	\$3,064.94					\$3,064.94	
Designated Funds	December Ending Balance	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	January Ending Balance	Notes
Bookstore	\$23,422.26	\$1,939.00	\$100.00	\$126.25	\$3,420.78	\$21,914.23	
Ornaments	\$1,169.41					\$1,169.41	
Restricted Funds	December Ending Balance	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	January Ending Balance	Notes
ICON	\$2,702.42	\$700.54			\$503.69	\$2,899.27	\$499.54 Transferred to GOA from ICON for Religious Services (Not Memorial)
Library Account	\$1,470.77					\$1,470.77	
Giving Tree	\$7,889.87					\$7,889.87	
Faithtree	\$1,626.39					\$1,626.39	
Building Fund	\$39,058.50	\$5,000.00	\$500.00			\$44,558.50	
Youth Choir	\$2,989.18					\$2,989.18	
Church School	\$6,306.37					\$6,306.37	
Three Priests	\$57,094.51					\$57,094.51	
Roof Appeal	\$11,183.22					\$11,183.22	
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$142.36					\$142.36	
Restricted Donation	\$10,000.00					\$10,000.00	Undesignated Donation
Designated, Restricted, and Other Total	\$165,495.26	\$7,639.54	\$600.00	\$126.25	\$3,924.47	\$169,684.08	
Other Funds	December Ending Balance	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	January Ending Balance	Notes
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$76,944.03					\$76,944.03	As of 12/31/21
Commonwealth Investments	\$142,712.91				\$8,008.40	\$134,704.51	Change in Investment

January 2022 Candles **\$7,454.36**

January 2022 Trays **\$3,719.00**

Total January 2022 Candles & Trays \$11,173.36



MARCH 2022 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		1	2 6:00 pm Adult Study Class #5	3	4	5 Saturday of Souls 7:45 am Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial
6 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Forgiveness Vespers follows Liturgy Philoptochos Meeting in Kokkos Hall	7 Lent Begins 6:00 pm Great Compline	8	9 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy	10	11 6:30 pm 1st Salutations to the Theotokos	12 Saturday of Souls 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial 11:00 am OFF Lenten Retreat in Panos Hall
13 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Procession of Icons Follows Liturgy 5:00 pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers at St. John <i>Lenten Meal follows in</i> <i>Panos Hall</i>	14 11:30 am Forerunners Luncheon in Kokkos Hall 6:00 pm Great Compline 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	15 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting in Library	16 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy 7:30 pm Young Adults at Red Rock Bowling Alley	17	18 6:30 pm 2nd Salutations to the Theotokos <div>GOYA Overnight Lenten Retreat</div> <div>Metropolis Zoom Clergy Laity</div>	19
20 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	21 7:00 pm Parish Movie Night: <i>Man of God</i> at Red Rock Theater	22	23 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy	24	25 Annunciation of the Theotokos 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm 3rd Salutations to the Theotokos 6:00 pm Fr. John's 35th Celebration Dinner	26
27 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	28 6:00 pm Great Compline 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	29	30 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy	31		

The Desert Messenger

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

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THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord



*The time has come - the start of
our spiritual contests, the victory
over demons, the full armor of
self-control, the angels' dignity,
the confidence before God.
Thereby did Moses become
conversant with the Creator,
and heard the invisible voice.
Lord, through fasting make us
worthy to worship Your Passion
and Holy Resurrection,
as You love humanity.
(Doxastikon, Sunday of Forgiveness)*