



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

Volume 19, Issue 3 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

March 2021

## From Father John

Beloved in Christ:

This month we reach the one-year mark when the world, and consequently our Church services and ministries, came to a screeching halt due to the COVID 19 pandemic. We were into the second week of Lent, having celebrated the Triumph of Orthodoxy and the last in-person service with the Presanctified Liturgy, and literally overnight we – along with almost every other parish worldwide – resorted to live-streamed services with a handful of people present in the Church building. It was, without question, the most trying, humbling and, admittedly, downright depressing Lent, Holy Week and Pascha ever: Not one of us was trained to be a priest during a pandemic, and worshiping during the holiest season of the year without the physical presence of the faithful was like a spiritual journey into the arid wilderness that did not even let up with the Great Feast of Holy Pascha. Fortunately, here in Las Vegas we enjoyed somewhat of a reprieve on the Sunday of Pentecost in early June, when a restricted amount of people were allowed back into the Church with a new look, donning face masks and practicing social distancing.



One year later, we anticipate having our Church at 50 percent capacity – still with face masks and practicing social distancing – as we enter into the 40-day Great Fast of Lent, and for this we are grateful to our merciful God. Although we remain in the midst of a pandemic, we are hopefully seeing light at the end of this very dark, extended and life-threatening tunnel – so much so, that we look forward, albeit cautiously, to celebrating Holy Pascha with an outdoor picnic so that we may as a community proclaim to one another in person, "Christ is Risen!" That is the goal, but as we have learned this past year . . . let us pray, then wait and see what awaits us on the horizon.

Before we can speak about celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, our holy Orthodox Church calls us – in preparation for this Feast of Feasts – to actively engage in a lengthy season of intensified prayer, increased worship, fasting and repentance. Given that all of us "missed out" or, at the most, "participated virtually" in the holy season last year, Great Lent affords us an amazing and potentially life-changing opportunity to connect with Christ and His Church in a deeper and more significant way. If we have become somewhat complacent, let us step up our personal daily prayer life. If we have been reluctant to return to Church, let us take baby steps and show up in person for a less crowded weekday Lenten service. If we have fallen out of the habit of fasting, let us start on the first day of Lent, **Monday, March 15**. And if we have held in a lot of anger or frustration – or perhaps lashed out at others, including online – or become depressed or despondent, or become dependent on or addicted to unhealthy habits during this pandemic . . . let us take a positive step forward for our souls and come to the Sacrament of Holy Confession!

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

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

Saturday, March 6/*1st Saturday of Souls/Finding of the Blessed Cross by St. Helen*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

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

Sunday, March 7/*Meatfare Sunday/The Last Judgment/The Seven Hieromartyrs of Cherson*

Orthros: Tone Six (Plagal Second)

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

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

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

*Abstain from Meat this Week*

Tuesday, March 9/*The 40 Holy Martyrs of Sebaste*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Hebrews 12:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

*Artoclasia (Offered by Lekar/Szukiewicz Families)*

Saturday, March 13/*2nd Saturday of Souls/Recovery of the Relics of St. Nikephoros of Constantinople/Memory of the Holy Ascetics*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial

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

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-13

Sunday, March 14/*Cheesefare Sunday/Forgiveness Sunday/Expulsion of Adam from Paradise/St. Benedict of Nursia*

Orthros: Tone Seven (Grave)

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

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

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Memorials: Robert Anastasios Snowden (40 days); and Chloe Nickolson Christian (1 year).

*Forgiveness Vespers follows Divine Liturgy*

*Abstain from Meat and Dairy for 40 Days*

Monday, March 15/*Clean Monday: 1st Day of Lent*  
6:00 pm Great Compline

Wednesday, March 17/*St. Alexios the Man of God*  
6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 19

6:30 pm First Salutations to the Theotokos

Saturday, March 20/*3rd Saturday of Souls/Miracle of St. Theodore the Recruit and the Kollyva/The Fathers of the Monastery of St. Savas*

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 21/*1st Sunday of Lent/Triumph of Orthodoxy/St. James the Confessor*

Orthros: Tone Eight (Fourth Plagal)

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

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

Gospel: John 1:43-51

*Procession of Icons follows Divine Liturgy*

Memorials: Helen Mulopulos (40 days); and William Liaos (2 years).

Monday, March 22

6:00 pm Great Compline

Wednesday, March 24

6:00 pm Great Vespers of the Annunciation

Thursday, 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

Friday, March 26

6:30 pm Second Salutations to the Theotokos

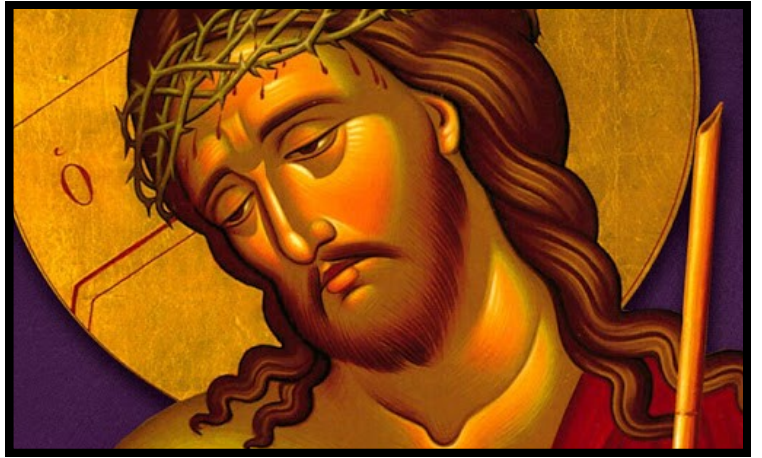
*(Continued on Page 3)*

*"He who walks in uprightness fears the Lord..." (Proverbs 14:2)*

*From Father John (Continued from Page 1)*

If we choose to, and certainly the Church gives us the necessary tools, Lent can be the time for us to decisively make a fresh start in our physical, emotional and especially spiritual life. As the springboard into this holy season, our Lord gives us the following commandment (not suggestion, mind you): *“If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”* (Matthew 6:14-15) If we are unwilling to forgive others from the bottom of our hearts, our fasting will only be pleasing to the demons: On the contrary, to engage in a fast that is pleasing to God, Jesus *“teaches us not to remember wrongs,”* wrote Blessed Theophylact. *“He reminds us of the Father so that we might revere Him, since we are the children of such a Father, and not act as fierce beasts, refusing to forgive.”* My beloved, forgiveness is the mark of true repentance, and the sign of God’s operative grace at work in us. May each of us have a blessed and spiritually fruitful Lent!

With Much Love in Christ,

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*(Continued from Page 2)*

Sunday, March 28/*2nd Sunday of Lent/  
St. Gregory Palamas Archbishop of Thessaloniki*

Orthros: Tone One

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

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

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Memorials: Andreas Christou (1 year); and  
Christos Patsis (1 year).

Monday, March 29

6:00 pm *Great Compline*

Wednesday, March 31

6:00 pm *Presanctified Liturgy*



### *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.*



## Parish Council Report

Greetings to all of our Saint John Family and I pray this finds you all in good health! As we approach March we are coming close to Pascha and the Resurrection of our Lord, and we pray that this celebration carries even more significance this year as we come out of the darkness of all of the constraints that COVID-19 has put on society in general and our community in particular!

*March 15* is the beginning of Lent, and by that time we are hopeful that we will receive directive from the state to allow 50 percent capacity for our services. Between the Church and Panos Hall, this would allow significant attendance at all of our services. And God willing, the Parish Council is planning on holding our Agape Picnic this year as the first social event of our Parish since the pandemic began.

As we did not hold a Greek Food Festival last year, you might have noticed that the lawn has not been maintained and is in bad shape; however, it has now been reseeded, the irrigation system has been repaired, and we will have a healthy lawn for the Agape Picnic *on Sunday, May 2*, as well as the 2021 Greek Food Festival, which is being planned for *September 10-12*. We are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to host these two events, and how wonderful it will be for us as a community to work and celebrate together once again. Of course, you will be hearing more information about both of these events in the coming weeks and months.

If you have not yet made your 2021 Pledge, please do so. The number of pledges is down compared to last year at this time, although the individual giving is higher. We do not need to reiterate the hardships that have occurred due to services first being shut down and then having reduced attendance, so please be generous as we all work together to get back toward normalcy.

As previously mentioned, our Parish received the Payroll Protection Program loans last year for personnel and Clergy, and I am happy to say that the personnel loan has been completely forgiven and the Clergy loan has been partially forgiven. Further, we have applied for and been awarded the Phase 2 loan of PPP for staff, and we are confident that we will be forgiven on paying back this loan as well. We cannot overstate how helpful these forgivable loans have been for the day to day operation of our Church.

We look forward to seeing you all this spring during the Lenten Season as we open up with the goal of full attendance and activities in the near future.

John Matsis, Parish Council Vice-President



## Philoptochos News

Dearest Sisters of Philoptochos and Our Beloved St. John the Baptist Community,

As Great Lent begins, let us focus on drawing closer to God, spiritual renewal, self-awareness in the light of the Gospel, and recognize the fullness of the life in Christ to which each person is called. Time spent in reflection and prayer is the tried and true way to a deeper connection with God, oneself, our neighbor, and the poor.

On February 7, in recognition of our Departed Philoptochos Members, there was a memorial remembering and honoring all the wonderful women who came before us for their dedicated service and the treasure they have passed on to us.

On February 21, Father John gave a beautiful presentation on the mission of the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Kids 'n' Cancer Ministry to provide support for children afflicted with cancer. A collection was taken after the Divine Liturgy, and our parish members responded generously. Kids 'n' Cancer Camp Agape offers a life-changing, all-expense paid experience for children and their families. It provides opportunities for enjoyment, learning, and building self-esteem and confidence in a safe setting. The kindness and caring that surrounds children suffering from cancer offers an ideal environment for therapy and healing.

This month, *Sunday of Forgiveness is on March 14 and Great Lent begins on Monday, March 15.* There will be a *Philoptochos Zoom General Meeting on Tuesday, March 23, at 6:30 pm.* All ladies of our Church community are welcome and encouraged to participate. We will send out the Zoom information the week before the meeting.

### Upcoming Events:

*Sunday, April 4* – Veneration of the Holy Cross: Presentation and Collection benefitting Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology.

*Palm Sunday, April 25* – Collection for Epitaphion Flowers.

*Holy Thursday, April 29* – Dyeing Red Eggs.

*Holy Friday, April 30* – Epitaphion Decorating.

*Holy Pascha, Sunday, May 2* – Wine Wagon Raffle at Agape Picnic.

*Tuesday, May 4 at 6:30 pm* – Zoom Philoptochos General Meeting and Elections.

*Sunday, May 15* – Memorial for Benefactor Mary Bartsas and Departed Family Members.

*Tuesday, May 25* – Presidents Dinner.



During Lent and throughout this year, we can grow in our faith by reflecting on God's Word. Let us never forget, when we see those in despair, to reach out and offer a helping hand.

With Love in Christ, Benita Beeman, Philoptochos President

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

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

*There will be no Fellowship Hour or Kollyva  
until the restrictions are lifted.*

*For the health and safety of all,  
please follow the posted guidelines.*

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society ~ Panagia Chapter



PHILOPTOCHOS ~ FRIENDS OF THE POOR

Philoptochos Stewardship for 2021

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

National Philoptochos Commitment	\$15.00
Metropolis Philoptochos Commitment	\$15.00
St. John Church Panagia Chapter Minimum	<u>\$10.00</u>
TOTAL	\$40.00

Seniors ~ 65 Plus (\$5.00 discount)

Additional Donation \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church  
5300 South El Camino Road  
Las Vegas, NV 89118  
Attn: Ladies Philoptochos/Membership

Make check payable to: Ladies Philoptochos Society



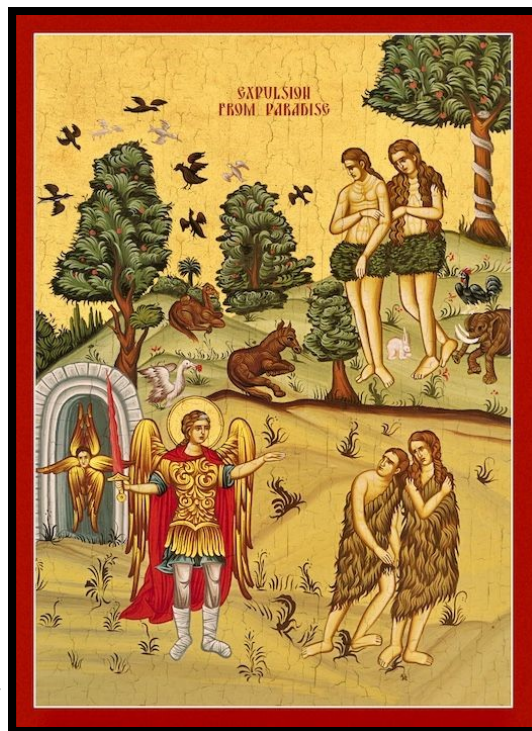
## From Father Seraphim

As we begin the Triodion and prepare to embark on the Lenten journey to the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, I would like to contemplate and examine one aspect of Lent – namely, fasting. Fasting is an essential practice in Orthodox Christianity, which derives from the Gospel itself and the very command of our Savior: *“When you fast do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.”* (Matthew 6:16) That is an imperative command! Orthodoxy is essentially a way of life that involves concrete spiritual practices, of which fasting is just one. These practices are not the end; they themselves are not the aim or goal. Rather, the spiritual disciplines of the Life in Christ are the indispensable means toward the goal of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Indeed, fasting was the very first command from God to mankind: *“Do not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”* (Genesis 2:17) Abstinence – to fast from eating – was the very commandment upon which we were to exercise our free will and proceed in obedience to God toward union with Him in Paradise. We failed. Our Lord warned, *“On the day you eat of it surely you shall die.”* (Genesis 2:17) By an act of *eating* we were kicked out of the Garden of Delights and cursed. In fulfillment of God’s word, the separation of the soul from Him in sin was the spiritual death experienced when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. We fast therefore to regain Paradise.

In the history of salvation we see a much deeper – indeed, essential – practice in fasting. Man was made “hungry” and not just for the material food offered by the world – but for Divine Life and communion with God. We possess an infinite desiring capacity (in our souls) in the face of which no finite thing can ever satisfy us. Fasting is a tool to develop our self-control and to tame the passions. If we cannot control what our own hand puts in our mouth, what can we control? Certainly not what comes out of our mouth! We engage in this discipline out of obedience to Christ and His Church. In the Orthodox Church we fast on Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the year and for four special fasting periods: Lent and Holy Week, the Apostles Fast, the Dormition Fast, and the Nativity Fast. “Strict Fast” means simply that entire day, from midnight until midnight, we do not eat meat, eggs, dairy, or fish. That is the letter of the law. The spirit of the law is to experience the sensation of hunger and not to immediately quench it with something dead.

All food is dead: Meat of course is the flesh of a dead animal, but even fruits taken from trees, if you leave them, will rot. Even the most delicious dishes, if you forget them in the back of the fridge, will mold. Yet, we make this dead food what we are! Our cells, blood, muscles, bones, hair, etc., are all from this ingested and digested food. No matter how much we eat, we will be hungry again, and the very act of eating starts the chemical process which will eventually wear out our bodies and cause them to expire. The only food available to mankind that is actually alive is a reversal of the Garden: In the Orthodox Church we view the Holy Altar (the space behind the icon screen) as an image of Paradise. Directly behind the Altar Table, the Tree of Life is planted (the Cross) upon which hangs the Fruit which gives life to the world (the broken Body and shed Blood of Christ as He hangs upon the Cross). The command from the same God Who walked in Paradise is now, *“Take, eat: This is My Body broken for you and for the life of the world.”* (Matthew 26:26) In receiving Holy Communion into our bodies, we do not make Christ what we are, for we are not stronger than God! He makes us *what He is* – and that is Divine, Holy, Beyond Death, Love Incarnate, and Joy in the Holy Spirit.



*(Continued on Page 8)*



### *Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun!*

Michelle (Joey), daughter of Joshua and Audra Rosenthal, on February 6, 2021.  
Godparent: Stephanie Rosenthal.

Barlaam (Gary) Kirchner (Adult Baptism) on February 13, 2021. Sponsor: Jonathan Harris.

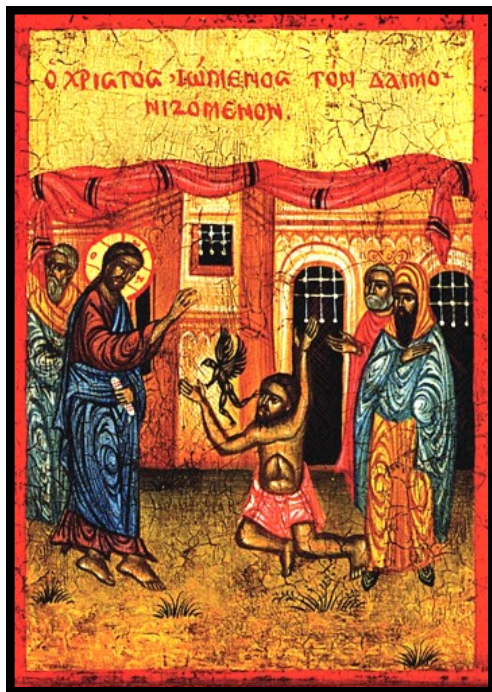
### *Marriage: Na Zisete!*

Joshua Rosenthal and Audra Petas on February 6, 2021.  
Koumbara: Stephanie Rosenthal.

### *Fallen Asleep in the Lord*

Louis Elias Hallis on December 30, 2020. Funeral on January 7, 2021.  
Robert Anastasios Snowden on February 4, 2021. Funeral on February 12, 2021.

## *From Father Seraphim (Continued from Page 7)*



Fasting really comes down to our love for God. We say we love Him, but if we cannot even give up a cheeseburger, it is a pretty weak love. Love always means sacrifice. We cry out to God in the language of asceticism (spiritual discipline). We can only be filled to the extent we are empty: After His Baptism, Christ Himself set the example of a 40-day fast (and it was total!) in the wilderness before encountering the devil. We also see the disciples ask Jesus, after He descended from the mountain of His Transfiguration, why they could not cast out a particularly powerful demon – to which He replied, *“This kind only comes out by prayer and fasting.”* (Mark 9:29) Prayer and fasting go together: St. John Chrysostom said, “Why do you fast from beast and birds and devour your neighbor? The true fast is for the tongue to abstain from slander and the ear to fast from listening to gossip and the feet to fast from places of evil and the eye to fast from looking at what it should not.”

The Church Fathers were like scientists who searched out and found the deeper meaning of so many things in the Scriptures and in the practical aspect of life lived according to the Gospel. They knew what we have also experienced: After a heavy meal, we want to sleep; we are weighed down and are certainly not going to do any serious reflection or pray. As Christians we are called to be alert and awake, always ready to battle temptations and for the Second Coming of the Lord. The last thing we would want is to depart this life in a state of unreadiness. The Holy Fathers also recognized the connection between gluttony and sexual sins: This is why Step 15 in *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* (by St. John Climacos) is Gluttony and Step 16 is Lust, because they go hand in hand.

May we all be inspired to take the Lenten Fast seriously this year. May we strive, as best as we are able, to love God our Savior more than our stomachs, and come renewed and transformed to His Holy Resurrection.

With Love in Christ,

*Father Seraphim*



## Stewardship and Community Outreach



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Glory be to God for all things! As we move through the Triodion toward Lent, we are reminded to practice increased fasting and prayer, continuous repentance for our sins, forgiveness toward those who have transgressed against us, Holy Confession, and increased charity toward others as well as our Parish. All of these lofty Lenten goals are commendable but there is one other element that is essential before these actions can truly affect our journey to salvation. That missing element is the greatest commandment and gift our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ gave us: LOVE!

As Jesus said to us, *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind,”* and *“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”* (Matthew 22: 37-34) Additionally, St. John the Theologian wrote, *“He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”* (1 John 4:8) St. John also wrote, *“God is love and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.”* (1 John 4:16)

What happens when we fail to love the Lord and our neighbor? St. Nicephoros teaches us that even if we should give away all of our wealth as alms, and surrender up our bodily members to fire and wild beasts, even for the sake of piety, and endure ten thousand other torments, the sacrifice of one who remembers wrongs would not be accepted by Christ. St. Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth: *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”* (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

St. Gregory the Great taught that to “sanctify a fast is to show abstinence of the flesh and to be worthy of God by other good things being added.” St. Gregory continued: “To fast, then, by lifting up acts of almsgiving before His eyes, by doing what you do with LOVE of your neighbor, by being holy. What you take from yourself, give to someone else so that your needy neighbor’s body may be restored by the affliction of your own.” Regarding love through almsgiving, St. Leo said, “No act of devotion on the part of the faithful gives God more pleasure than that which is lavished on His poor.” Referring to Holy Confession, St. Augustine wrote, “Never assume that if we live good lives, we will be without sin; our lives should be praised only when we continue to beg for pardon” – that is, confess our sins.

Let us always remember that the greatest act and gift of LOVE of all time is the Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. At the Mystical Supper, He said, *“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”* (John 15:12-13) May we, as children of the loving God, focus all of our spiritual and physical activities, during this Lenten Season and throughout our lives, with LOVE toward God and one another. Let us always remember: *“Love never fails.”* (1 Corinthians 13:8)

In Christ, Stewardship and Outreach Committee



Adult Study with Father John and Father Seraphim:  
*Great Lent*

*Every Wednesday through March 10, 6:30 - 7:30 pm, in Kokkos Hall*  
*We will wear face masks and practice social distancing*



## CONNECTION!

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

## CONNECTING WITH ... CHRIST OUR CHURCH AND ONE ANOTHER

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

+++++

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 2021 CONNECTION

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

As a blessed member of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, I/we commit to \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
per week/month, with the total amount for the year 2021 of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Orthodox Christian: Yes No

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Orthodox Christian: Yes No

Others sharing in the gift (children): \_\_\_\_\_

## *With Gratitude to God for Our Pledged Stewards in 2021*

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

Acovino, Richard and Angela  
 Adamy, Marina  
 Alford, Cynthia "Mary"  
 Alvarado, Jessie and  
   Cokotis, Julie  
 Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine  
 Anastasiou, Andrew and  
   Kathleen  
 Andrews, Catherine  
 Andrews, Chris and Pamela  
 Andrews, George  
 Andricopoulos, Margo  
 Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette  
 Arges, Dimitri  
 Aristides, George and Diana  
 Asim, Demetrious  
 Bacon, Ken and Dianne  
 Balanos, Anastasia and Garyfalia  
 Balason, Voula  
 Balodimas, James  
 Barbarino, Dee and Nick  
 Beeler, Mike and Carolyn  
 Berendji, Jim and Vivian  
 Bieker, Adam and Cassie  
 Bjorklund, Danielle  
 Bledsoe, Lori  
 Booth, Alina  
 Bratta, Georgene  
 Brennan, Peter and Maria  
 Britten, Ronald and Carol  
 Brown, Faye  
 Bruninga, Bill and Erin  
 Campbell, Theodore and Cheryl  
 Carabas, Stephen and Linda  
 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  
 Chondrakis, Dimosthenis and  
   Kragrud, Kaaren  
 Christou, Toni  
 Collins, David  
 Conger, William and Alexia  
 Costacos, John  
 Costuros, George and Marsha  
 Cosulas, Fr. Basil and  
   Presv. Samantha  
 Cotsilis, Jenny  
 Crist, Adam and Kanistra  
 Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia  
 Deep, Joe and Schumacher, Alexi  
 Demas, Spiro and Rita  
 Demoleas, Spero and Grace  
 Demoleas, Stephanie  
 Dominguez, Eric and Amalia  
 Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia

Earl, Christine Michaelides  
 Eliades, Aristotelis and Caroline  
 Eliades, Sia  
 Eliades, Harry and Agapi  
 Eliades, Katerina  
 Eliakis, Varthie and LeeAnn  
 Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean  
 Eyler, John and Elizabeth  
 Farren, Anthony and Maritsa  
 Fenlason, Nathan and Jennifer  
 Fischer, Cheryl  
 Fitzgerald, Norman and  
   McCullen, Sandra  
 Flangas, Gus and Tamara  
 Flangas, Marilyn  
 Fletes, Richard and  
   Herzig, Stephanie  
 Foster, Kyle and  
   Pierro, Maria Elena  
 Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia  
 Gauvin, Chad and Marissa  
 Gekakis, George  
 Ghebreab, Daniel and  
   Ghermay, Selam  
 Gialketsis, William  
 Giouzelis, Anastasia  
 Goodman, Robert and Linda  
 Gordon, Victor and Demetria  
 Gutierrez, Connie  
 Gutierrez, Daniel  
 Hall, Elizabeth  
 Hamilton, Mary  
 Hamilton, Paul and Brandi  
 Hastings, Teri  
 Hemmers, Oliver and  
   Pantelas, Anne  
 Hoadrea, Jimmy and Monci  
 Hondros, Christina  
 Hondros, Christopher and  
   Darlene  
 Hondros, Fr. John and  
   Presv. Maria  
 Hondros, Marissa  
 Houllis, Ila and Debbie  
 Howard, William and Willie  
 Itean, Robert and Sophia  
 Jensen, Matthew and Michelle  
 Kachikis, Ernestine  
 Kakavulias, George and Helen  
 Kambouris, Litsa  
 Kanis, Constantinos and Katie  
 Karas, James  
 Karas, John and Marcie  
 Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon  
 Kelesis, Paula  
 Kinard, Panorea  
 Kirollos, Elhamy and  
   Molina, Adriana  
 Kleanthis, George and Zanetta  
 Kolev, Plamen and Koleva, Slaveya  
 Koliambas, Eleni  
 Konsolakis, Eleni and Sophia  
 Kontos, Diana  
 Kostas, James  
 Kostopoulos, Georgia  
 Kountanis, Panagiota  
 Koutsulis, John and Eileen  
 Koutsulis, Sam and Effie  
 Kypreos, Peter and Geri  
 Kyriannis, Justin and Linda  
 Lakkis, Christina  
 Lambros, Kyriakos and Mary  
 Latelle, Penny  
 Lavine, Frederic  
 Lee, David and Alexandra  
 Lekar, Michael and Effie  
 Leone, Stephen  
 Leonis, Nick and Sophia  
 Leonis, Tishe  
 Leventis, Nicholas and Christina  
 Liaos, James and Tina  
 Likourinou, Steve and June  
 Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine  
 Loney, Thomas and Chrysi  
 Malamatos, Kindina  
 Maland, Donna  
 Manos, Constantine and Michele  
 Markakis, Sandy Kiriaki  
 Markantonis, George and Sarah  
 Matsis, John and Rebecca  
 Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki  
 Mavros, Alex and Jen  
 McManus, Jeanette  
 McKinney, Michael and Mersene  
 McPherson, Robert and Marie  
 McSweeney, Farolyn  
 Menegatos, James  
 Merritt, Devin and Sonia  
 Moffett, Todd and Eliopoulos, Tina  
 Monolakis, Anthony  
 Monoyudis, Jim and Julie  
 Moore, Brenda  
 Murray, Christopher and  
   George, Veneta  
 Myers, Stella  
 Neocleous, Plato  
 Newell, Ronald and Maria  
 Nicholas, Christina  
 Nicholas, John and Estella  
 Nixon, John and Ellyn  
 Paikos, Tom and Elizabeth  
 Pajak, Scott and Angela  
 Pandelis, Cheryl  
 Panos, Jeanne  
 Papalois, John and Maria  
 Papas, Christian and Nicole  
 Papas, Peter and Rita  
 Pappas, Panagiotis and Andrea  
 Pappas, Stella  
 Paschalis, Evangelos and Maria  
 Payan, Luis and Eleni  
 Pendleton, Tricia  
 Pertsinides, Irene  
 Petersen, Todd and Diane  
 Petriuc, Constantin  
 Petro, Aleko and Georgia

Petrou, Jim and Penelopi  
 Philippou, Demetrios and  
   Luanne  
 Philoptochos Society  
 Pierro, Joe and Rhonda  
 Polimerou, Angeline  
 Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra  
 Poulos, Christine  
 Pouridis, Kouli and Para  
 Powers, Russell and Rebecca  
 Punsalan, Basil and Sophie  
 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  
 Rodis, Dimitri and Angie  
 Rosenthal, Joseph and Stephanie  
 Rotas, Beatrice  
 Ruffner, Skip and Kathy  
 Sakkas, Georgios and  
   Stavropoulos, Bessie  
 Salon, Janelle  
 Salonikis, Valentinis and Sophia  
 Santamaria, Jennifer and Robert  
 Savvas, Savva  
 Sechrist, Carl and Christine  
 Setian, Gary and Marie  
 Simpson, Bryan and Julie  
 Sirhan, Michael and  
   Khuri, Imtisal  
 Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia  
 Smith, Kathleen  
 Snow, Clifford and Christina  
 Snowden, Robert+ and Niki  
 Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette  
 Staubs, Douglas and Anastasia  
 Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki  
 Stenos, Louis  
 Stransky, Jack and Rachel  
 Stransky, Mark  
 Szukiewicz, Joseph and Justina  
 Tafoya, Steven and Irene  
 Takas, Andrea  
 Tasios, Ramona and Pete  
 Theros, James and Kathryn  
 Thompson, Maggy  
 Tohme, Tony and May  
 Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katerina  
 Tzelalis, Steve  
 Tzelalis, Vaso  
 Wadlow, Nicholas and Pamela  
 Wainscott, Betty  
 Wallace, Robert and Katerina  
 Walter, Vernon and Alice  
 Wells, Adrienne  
 Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina  
 Williams, Anthony and Anna  
 Wilson, Lori

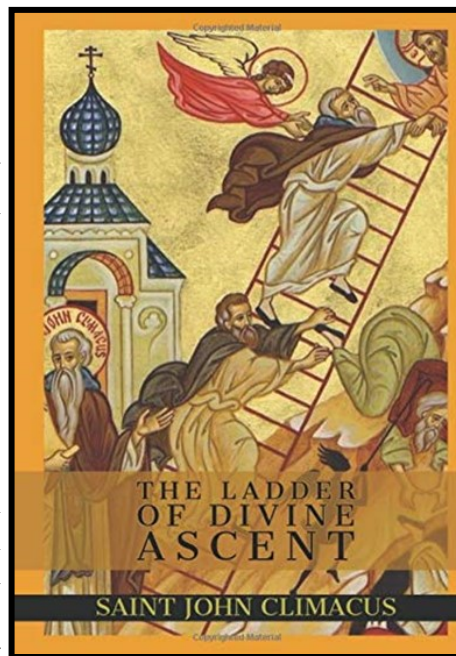
*(Continued on Page 12)*



## Orthodox Bookstore

Greetings from the Bookstore!

Great Lent will soon be upon us and in many Orthodox monasteries this means that our featured selection, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, by Saint John Climacos, will once again be read aloud and contemplated during every meal in the *trapeza* (common refectory where the monks/nuns eat together) over the season. St. John was born in or around 579 and lived in the desert of Sinai. He often prayed in the Church built for the monks by the Emperor Justinian in 556-7 and is usually referred to as “John of the Ladder” after his book that was geared mainly toward the monastic community, but has been revered and read by faithful Orthodox Christians throughout the world ever since it was written. Generation after generation, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* has been passed down in many pious Orthodox families. A few decades ago an anthropologist in the Orthodoxy country of Romania was astonished when he observed that almost every household in Romania – over 95 percent – contained both the Holy Bible and *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. Many years ago, St. John’s majestic work even migrated to this country with the Orthodox faithful who moved here. As a matter of fact, when the printing press was developed, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* was one of the first books ever published in America. This is how revered his work was.



Lay people like ourselves can also benefit from this widely popular classic of Eastern Christendom, in which the need for personal spiritual experience of the Christian is emphasized in stark contrast to a religion of doctrinal acceptance or rule following. The cultivation of humility and purity of heart, for example, are most strongly encouraged as St. John puts forward thirty steps of personal examination, observation, and guidance to assist in our spiritual pilgrimage or climbing of this “ladder.” Our upcoming journey from Lent to Pascha thus complements well, the spiritual objectives that St. John captures within the pages of what was “the most widely used handbook of the ascetic life in the ancient Greek Church” (Russell).

A brief summary and exhortation of St. John Climacos: “Ascend, my brothers, ascend eagerly. Let your heart’s resolve be to climb. Listen for the voice of the one who says: ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of our God.’ (Isaiah 2:3) . . . Run, I beg you, run with him who said, ‘Let us hurry until we all arrive at the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of God, at mature manhood, at the measure of the stature of Christ’s fullness.’ (Ephesians 4:13) Baptized in the thirtieth year of His earthly age, Christ attained the thirtieth step on the spiritual ladder, for God indeed is love, and to Him be praise, dominion, power. In Him is the cause, past, present, and future, of all that is good forever and ever. Amen.”

For your copy and to view or purchase icons, including our new icon of “The Ladder,” please continue to contact Karen during the week or email me at [paraskevilv1971@gmail.com](mailto:paraskevilv1971@gmail.com) for a Sunday appointment.

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

## Pledged Stewards 2021

Wilson, Steven and Cleo  
Womack, Karl  
Womack, Kimberly  
Wronski, Chuck  
Xerogiannes, Nick and Nikki

Yurkov, Andrea, Nikolina and Daniela  
Zaferatos, Ted  
Zarras, Nick and Chery  
Zimmerman, Paul and Angela

See Pledge Form on Page 10!

*At the prayers, O Lord,  
of all the Saints and  
of the Theotokos,  
grant us Your peace and  
have mercy on us,  
for You only are compassionate.*

## Ministry News

### Church School

Hi Everyone! Blessed Lent!

I hope we are all staying healthy and doing well in school. As there are still restrictions on Church gatherings, we are currently unable to offer Sunday Church School Classes for our younger students.

The weekly in-person *Teen Class on Great Lent*, taught by Father John and Father Seraphim, will continue *through Wednesday, March 10: Join your peers at 5:00 pm in Kokkos Hall!*

We continue to email on a weekly basis the *Children's Word Bulletin* as well as the *Orthodox Journeys* lesson plans for each grade level. Parents, I would like some feedback on how you and your children are enjoying these lessons; please email me at [vivaleenie@cox.net](mailto:vivaleenie@cox.net). If you are not receiving these lessons, please contact Karen at the Church Office and she will put you on our email list.

I hope to see you all soon – if not in Church School, then in Church at the Liturgy.

In Christ, Eileen Koutsulis, Church School Director (702) 521-6516

### Orthodox Family Fellowship & GOYA: Combined March Events

Blessed Lent! Kali Sarakosti! This month we will be having two events for all the GOYA and OFF ministries: One digital, and one in-person.

For the first event, we will have a Zoom Meeting, "Getting into Lent," *on Sunday, March 21 at 5:00 pm*. We will discuss the major themes and Sunday celebrations of this great period which leads up to Holy Week and Pascha, deepening our own understanding and Faith. A Zoom link will be emailed and text-blasted to all youth: If you are not receiving either email or text information from the Church regarding youth events and would like to be added to our distribution and contact lists, please let us know at [frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com](mailto:frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com).

Secondly, due to COVID restrictions, we will be combining and shortening our annual "Lenten Overnight Retreat" to a single afternoon event. *Come join us on Saturday, March 27 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm for a GOYA/OFF Mini-Lenten Retreat!* We will have the age groups divided, and do rotations offering the Sacrament of Holy Confession with Father John, a wonderful take-home craft, and classroom instruction. All sanitation and social distancing protocols will be followed. We will not be serving food, so please eat your Lenten breakfast or lunch *before* you arrive!

With questions or to volunteer, please contact Father Seraphim at the above email or (702) 768-7480. We hope to see you there!

Love in Christ, Father Seraphim

### Young Adults

As we enter into the 40-day journey of Great Lent, we would like to invite our Young Adults to also enjoy an outdoor journey in the great and beautiful Red Rock Canyon. Just as Jesus went into the wilderness of the desert while fasting for 40 days and nights, we can join Him in the rocky barrenness of our own preserved wilderness area just 20 minutes outside the city. We will gather directly after Church *on Sunday, March 21*, and head to the entrance of Red Rock Canyon *by 1:00 pm* to begin hiking the Calico Tanks Trail.

Beginning November 3, 2020, the Bureau of Land Management requires reservations for entry to the scenic drive of Red Rock Canyon between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm through May 31, 2021. Timed Entry reservations are available online, along with entry passes, and visitors with annual passes can enter their pass number at checkout. If you plan on joining us for our spiritual encounter with Christ in the desert, please make your reservation at: <https://www.recreation.gov/timed-entry/10075177>. We hope to see you there!

In Christ, Father Seraphim





## Youth Lenten Mini-Retreat

*Saturday, March 27*

*1:00 - 2:30 pm*

*St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church  
(OFF/GOYA Combined Event)*

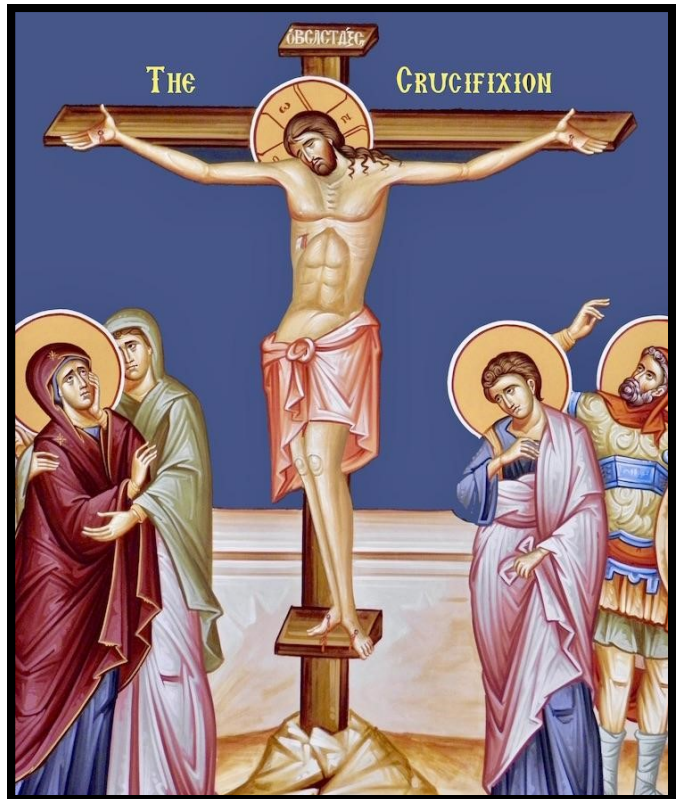
*Age Groups will be divided for  
the three rotations:*

*Lesson on Lent*

*Holy Confession*

*Awesome Craft Project*

To sign up or volunteer  
please contact Father Seraphim  
[frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com](mailto:frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com)



*“We should be careful  
in case it should happen to us  
that while talking of journeying  
along the narrow and hard road  
we may actually wander onto  
the broad and wide highway.”  
(St. John Climacos)*



## Kokkos Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee for the Kokkos Scholarship Fund is pleased to announce that applications will be available at the Church Office *beginning on Monday, March 1*. If you wish to receive your application via email, please contact Karen at [karen@vegasgreekorthodox.com](mailto:karen@vegasgreekorthodox.com). The applications must be returned *on or before Friday, April 16*. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered.

The eligibility requirements were established by Fofo Kokkos in her Last Will and Testament. The Scholarship Committee for the Kokkos Scholarship Fund administers this program under the guidance of Father John Hondros. The Kokkos Will stipulates that two high school graduates of Greek descent within the St. John Community be selected, who are enrolled for higher education to a college or university. The scholarship amounts this year are \$1,500. The students must have an outstanding scholastic record and be in financial need. Also, Parish involvement by the students at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church was important to Fofo Kokkos; therefore, this is also a factor in evaluating the applicants.

Please contact the Church Office for more information at (702) 221-8245.

Note: The Kokkos Scholarships for 2020 have not yet been awarded due to the COVID shutdown. However, the applications are on file and will be reviewed. There will be two scholarships awarded from the 2020 applications in the amount of \$1,500 each, as well as two scholarships in 2021. For the applicants from last year, you are encouraged to once again apply in 2021.

## AHEPA Las Vegas Chapter 314



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

*On March 25*, Greece will be celebrating its 200th Anniversary of Freedom from Ottoman Rule. AHEPA is excited to be part of the events, and encourage you to join. This Supreme Convention is celebrating our 99th Anniversary and will launch the countdown to our 100th Anniversary which will also be monumental. The convention will be held in Athens, Greece *from July 25 to 31*. More information is available at <https://ahepa.org/supreme-convention/>.

Due to our inability to host Fellowship at this time, we will not have a local celebration of Greek Independence Day.

AHEPA 314 is pleased to announce that it will once again offer a Scholarship for high school seniors entering college or current college undergraduate students. Information is available at <https://www.facebook.com/LVAHEPA314>. You can also request a copy of the application from Karen in the Church Office. The deadline for submissions is *April 3, 2021*.

You will also find a link to the Chapter website where you can make a donation to the Scholarship Fund or pay your dues. Please email us at [ahepa314@gmail.com](mailto:ahepa314@gmail.com) if you are interested in becoming involved with AHEPA.

Thank You, Steve Liaos, Acting President (702) 518-8018

*“The Abbot Mathois said, ‘The nearer a man approaches to God, the greater sinner he sees himself to be. For the Prophet Isaiah saw God, and said that he was unclean and undone.’” (The Sayings of the Desert Fathers)*

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH5300 S. El Camino Rd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89118Rev. Father John Hondros  
frjohn@vegaskgreekorthodox.comRev. Father Seraphim Ramos  
frseraphim@vegaskgreekorthodox.comKaren Rawlinson  
Administrative AssistantMichelle Eugenio  
BookkeeperMara Braun  
Catering & EventsConstantin Petriuc & Ramona Tasios  
Maintenance & Grounds*Office Hours*

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

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

Parish Council: Gus Flangas

Philoptochos: Benita Beeman

Stewardship & Community Outreach:  
Justina Szukiewicz

Choir: Athena Mertes

Chanters & Youth Choir:  
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Church School: Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers: Father John

## GOYA:

Kouli Pouridis &amp; June Likourinou

Orthodox Family Fellowship:  
Jelena Boskovic & Amy KhuriYoung Adults:  
Fr. Seraphim

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek School: Paula Kelesis

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

Kali Parea: Demetrious Asim

Adult Basketball:  
TBD

Forerunners: Victoria Xikis

Orthodox Bookstore:  
Paraskevi Santamaria

Greek Food Festival: Gus Flangas

Hellenic Historical Society:  
Nitsa Filios, Cheryl Pandelis &  
Susan StamisPhotography & Live-Streaming:  
Bill & Erin Bruninga*Third Saturday of Souls:  
St. Theodore and the Miracle of the Kollyva*

St. Theodore, who was from Amasia of Pontus, contested during the reign of Maximian (286-305). He was called Tyro, from the Latin *Tiro*, because he was a newly enlisted recruit. When it was reported that he was a Christian, he boldly confessed Christ; the ruler, hoping that he would repent, gave him time to consider the matter more completely and then give answer. Theodore gave answer by setting fire to the temple of Cybele, the "mother of the gods," and for this he suffered a martyr's death by fire.

Following his repose, St. Theodore became known for his wondrous miracle during the reign of Julian the Apostate. The pagan emperor Julian, knowing that Christians purify themselves during the first week of the Fast of Great Lent, planned to defile them especially at that time. Therefore, he secretly commanded that during those days the markets be filled with foods that had been defiled with the blood of animals offered in sacrifice to idols. But by divine command the Martyr Theodore appeared during sleep to Archbishop Eudoxios of Constantinople. The Saint revealed to him the tyrant's plan, then told him to call the faithful together immediately on Clean Monday, the First Day of Lent, and prevent them from purchasing those foods, but rather to make *kollyva* (boiled wheat) to supply their needs. Thus, the intent of the Apostate was brought to naught, and the pious people who were preserved undefiled for the whole of Clean Week, rendered thanks to the Martyr on the Saturday, and celebrated his commemoration with *kollyva*. This miracle took place in 362, and the Orthodox Church continues this commemoration each year to the glory of God and the honor of this Martyr.

St. Theodore the Recruit, the Great Martyr, is commemorated on February 12. His miracle of the *Kollyva* is commemorated on the First Saturday of Lent, on the Third Saturday of Souls.

*Apolytikion of First Saturday of Lent  
(Second Tone)*

*Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the holy Martyr Theodore rejoiced; for having been made a whole-burnt offering in the fire, he was offered as sweet bread unto the Trinity. By his prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.*





## LIGHTING A CANDLE FOR YOU:

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



### 2021 Stewardship Report (as of 2/23/21)

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$312,671 (\$376,070 in 2020)  
 Stewardship Gifts Received: \$130,567 (\$127,208 in 2020)  
 Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$182,103 (\$248,862 in 2020)  
 Stewardship Families Pledged: 247 (264 in 2020)  
 Average Pledge to Date: \$1,266 (\$1,425 in 2020)  
 2021 Budgeted Goal: \$500,000 ... Keep the Pledges Coming!

## Church Account Summaries ~ January 2021

Nevada State Bank Accounts	December	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	January	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$28,542.26	\$311,873.83	\$1,527.14	\$63,463.88	\$81,033.00	\$197,446.35	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$1,673.17					\$1,673.17	
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$401.47	\$4,714.00		\$2,598.63	\$1,259.00	\$1,257.84	Purchase and sales of Post Festival Pastries
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$227,299.25	\$1,744.00	\$1,259.00	\$225.95	\$1,633.72	\$228,442.58	All expenses were for Bookstore merchandise and Bookstore merchant credit card fees.
Folk Dance Group	\$17,966.00					\$17,966.00	
Hellenic Historical Society	\$3,292.94					\$3,292.94	
Designated Funds	December	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	January	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$7,597.38	\$1,744.00	\$1,259.00	\$225.95	\$1,633.72	\$8,740.71	
Ornaments	\$1,169.41					\$1,169.41	
Restricted Funds	December	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	January	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
ICON	\$140,376.44					\$140,376.44	
Library Account	\$1,470.77					\$1,470.77	
Giving Tree	\$1,936.97					\$1,936.97	
Faithtree	\$1,626.39					\$1,626.39	
Building Fund	\$26,169.26					\$26,169.26	
Youth Choir	\$2,989.18					\$2,989.18	
Church School	\$1,306.37					\$1,306.37	
Three Priests	\$39,033.50					\$39,033.50	
Roof Appeal	\$3,041.22					\$3,041.22	
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$142.36					\$142.36	
<b>Designated, Restricted, and Other Total</b>	<b>\$227,299.25</b>	<b>\$1,744.00</b>	<b>\$1,259.00</b>	<b>\$225.95</b>	<b>\$1,633.72</b>	<b>\$228,442.58</b>	
Other Funds	December	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	January	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$78,372.33					\$78,372.33	

January 2021 Candles **\$5,325.00**  
 January 2021 Trays **\$3,243.00**  
**Total January 2021 Candles & Trays \$8,568.00**



# MARCH 2021 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5:00 pm Teen Class #5: Great Lent 6:30 pm Adult Study Class #5: Great Lent	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6 1st Saturday of Souls</b> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial
<b>7</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	<b>8</b>	<b>9 The 40 Holy Martyrs of Sebaste</b> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting in Kokkos Hall	<b>10</b> 5:00 pm Teen Class #6: Great Lent 6:30 pm Adult Study Class #6: Great Lent	<b>11</b>	<b>12 13 2nd Saturday of Souls</b> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial
<b>14</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy <b>Forgiveness Vespers follows Liturgy</b>	<b>15 Lent Begins</b> 6:00 pm Great Compline	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy	<b>18</b>	<b>19 20 3rd Saturday of Souls/St. Theodore</b> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial
<b>21</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy <b>Procession of Icons</b> 1:00 pm Young Adults Hike at Red Rock 5:00 pm GOYA/OFF Zoom	<b>22</b> 6:00 pm Great Compline	<b>23</b> 6:30 pm Philoptochos General Zoom Meeting	<b>24</b> 6:00 pm Great Vespers of the Annunciation	<b>25 Annunciation of the Theotokos</b> 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	<b>26</b> 6:30 pm 2nd Salutations to the Theotokos
<b>28</b> 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	<b>29</b> 6:00 pm Great Compline	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy		<b>27</b> 1:00 pm GOYA/OFF Mini-Lenten Retreat

# *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*

*Let us set out with joy upon  
the season of the Fast, and prepare  
ourselves for spiritual combat.  
Let us purify our soul and  
cleanse our flesh;  
and as we fast from food,  
let us abstain also from every passion.  
Rejoicing in the virtues of the Spirit  
may we persevere with love,  
and so be counted worthy to see  
the solemn Passion of Christ our God,  
and with great spiritual gladness  
to behold His Holy Pascha.  
(Forgiveness Vespers)*

