

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 21, Issue 7 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV July/August 2023

From
Father
John

Beloved in Christ:

With the extreme heat conditions in the desert during the summer, all of us usually have one thing in mind – to head for the coast! For those of us who are unable to travel to Greece or even to make the five hour trip to the cool beaches, the next best thing is to take a dip in the swimming pool to relieve and reenergize us from the fatigue caused by the heat.

Similarly, we Christians often find ourselves fatigued from the scorching heat of our circumstances or our sins. Acknowledging that spiritual weariness is part of our fallen condition, the Orthodox Church provides an occasion at the peak of summer to receive spiritual refreshment. During the fourteen-day fast preceding the *Feast of the Dormition (Kimisis – Falling Asleep) of the Virgin Mary on August 15*, it is customary to gather in the Church to chant the *Paraklesis (Intercessory Prayer) to the Most Holy Theotokos*. According to the preface to the service, the Paraklesis is also to be chanted “in times of distress and sorrow.” During the period of the fast, the Paraklesis will be chanted *on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 6:00 pm*. It is customary to bring a list of names among the living for the priest to commemorate. (Please use the form on Page 8.) The reason for this service is defined in the first melodic ode:



*With my temptations surrounding me,
Searching for salvation,
I have sought refuge in you;
O Mother of the Word, and ever-Virgin,
From all distresses and dangers deliver me.*

Throughout the Ecclesiastical Year, from September through August, we have many opportunities for spiritual growth. Still, our life in Christ can be likened to sailing on a ship: There are times of calmness and there are periods of great tempests. The Church is to the Christian as the Ark was to Noah and his family – a place of refuge from the storms of this life, the powerful attacks of the evil one and the drowning weaknesses of our flesh. And no one understands our struggles and needs more than our Mother, the *Panagia (All Holy One)*. Having already experienced the bodily resurrection, she joins her Son and God, our Lord Jesus Christ, in Heaven, ever concerned for our souls and praying before His Throne for our deliverance and redemption.

Whenever we are feeling beat up, exhausted or overwhelmed, our temptation may be to succumb to a state of spiritual lethargy. As this is dangerous to our soul and may result in death, let us make every effort to seek the refreshment that our Lord and His Mother so willingly offer us in the Church. The Prophet David writes: “*Blessed is the man . . . (whose) delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water . . .*” (Psalm 1) I pray that you and yours are continuously invigorated spiritually, not only in the remaining summer months but throughout your lives.

With Much Love in Christ,

Father John

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

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

JULY

*Sunday, July 2/Fourth Sunday of Matthew/
Robe of the Theotokos in Vlachernae/Synaxis of
the Most Holy Theotokos of the Orphan/
St. Juvenal, Patriarch of Jerusalem/St. Juvenal,
First Martyr of America/St. John Maximovitch,
Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco*

Orthros: Third Tone

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

Epistle: Hebrews 9:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

Fellowship: Kakavulias Family, in Memory of Maria

*Sunday, July 9/Fifth Sunday of Matthew/
St. Pancratios, Bishop of Sicily/St. Dionysios the
Orator/St. Metrophanes of Mount Athos/
Hieromartyr Methodios of Lampis*

Orthros: Fourth Tone

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

Epistle: Romans 10:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1

Fellowship: Kali Parea Gyro Luncheon

*Wednesday, July 12/St. Paisios the Athonite/
Holy Martyrs Proklos and Hilarios of Ancyra/
Holy Father Michael of Maleinus/Ss. Gerasimos of
Byzantium and Akakios the Young Ascetic*
8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 2:9-16; 3:1-8

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-36

*Sunday, July 16/Holy Fathers of the Fourth
Ecumenical Council/Holy Hieromartyr
Athenogenes of Heracleopolis/Virgin Martyr Julia
of Carthage*

Orthros: First Plagal Tone

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

Epistle: Titus 3:8-15

Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19

Memorial: Joanne Monroe (40 days); Athanasios
Demopoulos; Milisav Tadich (1 year), Departed
Members of the Mickles and Tadich Family; and
Patricia Dimitri (1 year)

Fellowship: Mavros Family

*Thursday, July 20/Holy Prophet Elias/Synaxis of
the Russians Perfected in France: Protopresbyter
Alexios Mednedkov, Presbyter Dimitrii Klepinin,
Mother Maria Skobtsova and Her Son Yuri, and
Ilia Fodamiskii*

8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: James 5:10-20

Gospel: Luke 4:22-30

*Sunday, July 23/Seventh Sunday of Matthew/
Hieromartyr Phocas/Prophet Ezekiel/Holy Mother
Pelagia of Tinos*

Orthros: Second Plagal Tone

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

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

Memorial: Daniel Larson (3 years)

Fellowship: The Karris Family

*Wednesday, July 26/Holy Martyr Paraskevi of
Rome/Holy Martyr Hermolaos and Companions*
8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5

Gospel: Mark 5:24-34

*Thursday, July 27/Great Martyr and Healer
Panteleimon*

8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and
Blessing of the Artoclasia

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10

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

*Sunday, July 30/Eighth Sunday of Matthew/
Apostles Silas and Silvanos of the Seventy/
St. Julitta of Caesarea*

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and

Ordination of John Nixon to the Diaconate

Orthros: Grave Tone

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

Fellowship: Parish Luncheon

(Continued on Page 3)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE (Continued from Page 2)

AUGUST

Dormition Fast August 1-14

Wednesday, August 2

6:00 pm *Paraklesis to the Theotokos*
(Please Use Paraklesis Form on Page 8)

Friday, August 4

6:00 pm *Paraklesis to the Theotokos*

Sunday, August 6/*Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*

Orthros: Festal

Festal Gospel (Orthros): Luke 9:28-36

Epistle: 2 Peter 1:10-19

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Blessing of the Grapes

Fellowship: Tzelalis Family

Monday, August 7

6:00 pm *Paraklesis to the Theotokos*

Wednesday, August 9

6:00 pm *Paraklesis to the Theotokos*

Friday, August 11

6:00 pm *Paraklesis to the Theotokos*

Sunday, August 13/*Tenth*

Sunday of Matthew/Leave-Taking of the Transfiguration/Holy Father Maximos the Confessor

Orthros: First Tone

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

Fellowship: Kakavulias Family



Monday, August 14

6:00 pm *Great Vespers of the Dormition*

Tuesday, August 15/*Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary*

8:00 am *Orthros* - 9:00 am *Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Artoclasia*

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Fellowship: Philoptochos

Sunday, August 20/*Eleventh Sunday of Matthew/*

Holy Prophet Samuel/Holy Martyr Loukios the

Counselor/Holy Martyr Stephen, First King of

Hungary/St. Hierotheos, Bishop of Hungary/Holy New Martyrs Manuel and John

Orthros: Second Tone

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 21:14-25

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12

Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

Fellowship: Panagias Luncheon

Sunday, August 27/*Twelfth Sunday of Matthew/*

Holy Martyr Poimen/Great Martyr Phanourios, the Newly Revealed/Holy Martyr Anthousa

Orthros: Third Tone

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

Epistle: Ephesians 6:10-17

Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

Blessing of the St. Phanourios Cakes

Fellowship: Greek Folk Dance

Tuesday, August 29/*Beheading of*

the Holy Prophet and Forerunner

John the Baptist

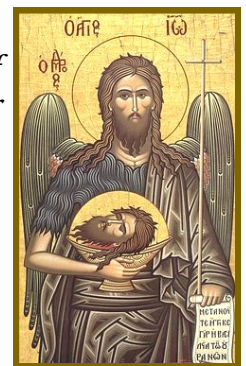
(Strict Fast)

8:00 am *Orthros*

9:00 am *Divine Liturgy*

Epistle: Acts 13:25-33

Gospel: Mark 6:14-30



CHURCH 360

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

**Parish
Council
Report**

Dear Father John, Father Florin, Ministries and Parishioners,

My column this month reflects on activities for July and August. Please mark your calendars regarding the latest upcoming events.

On Sunday, July 30, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos will be making a pastoral visit to our Parish and celebrating the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. On that Sunday, Archbishop Elpidophoros will ordain John Nixon to the Holy Diaconate. We have been blessed as a Parish to have John's participation during Sunday services, as well as with his homilies and as a high school teacher for Church School. His ability to share his vast knowledge of our Orthodox Faith is much appreciated. I am certain everyone will embrace John's Ordination and he will be an even greater asset to the Divine Liturgy as a Deacon. AXIOS! A Parish Luncheon will follow services. *(See the flyer on Page 7.)* This is a wonderful opportunity to worship and share fellowship with our Archbishop, Metropolitan and new Deacon.

On Sunday, August 20, our Parish will host the Panagias Luncheon. *(See the flyer on Page 9.)* We always plan this luncheon on the Sunday following the Feast Day of the *Dormition of the Theotokos on August 15*.

For both luncheons, you are requested to call Karen in advance, to offer your payment and to let her know how many in your party will be attending. These notifications greatly help the cooking staff, specifically Steve Tzelalis and helpers, plan for the ordering of food and eliminate unnecessary expenses. Your advance participation is greatly appreciated.

Before we know it, the 50th Celebration of our Greek Food Festival will be upon us, *on September 15-17*. Please plan on attending as a worker and participating wherever you can to make an impact for this event to be the celebrations of celebrations. No one expects eight-hour days. We greatly need your help and appreciate whatever way you can assist.

Each year our youth step up and offer their talents, and we look forward to more stepping up. Let's join together, not for any other reason than to glorify God, our Orthodox Faith and our culture! Please seek out Gus Flangas or Angelo Stamis to offer your help.

Finally, I want to thank all the participants organizing the Ariston Award Event honoring Gus Flangas *on Saturday, November 4*. We will celebrate Gus' tireless commitment to serving our community for many years and in every capacity. The Ariston Committee is now planning the logistics as to where this event will take place – more to come. Please mark the date and plan on joining us.

With this, my beloved, I pray for a safe summer and furthermore pray that the Theotokos bestows her protective blessing upon every one of you. May God continue to bless St. John the Baptist Church.

With Much Love, John Fotopoulos, Parish Council President



Adult Study with
Father John and Father Florin

*On The Holy Spirit
by St. Basil the Great*



Please Join Us for the Four Week Series

Wednesdays, August 16, 23, 30, and September 6

6:30 - 8:00 pm in Kokkos Hall

This book is available in our Bookstore

**Philoptochos
News**

Dear Father John, Father Florin, and Fabulous Fellow Members of St. John the Baptist,

The Ladies Philoptochos Society Board of Directors 2023-2025 was given the Oath of Office *on Sunday, June 11.*

Congratulations to all the ladies who have agreed to dedicate their times and talents to the LPS. We will be having the first Board meeting *on Wednesday, June 28,* to set the calendar and to discuss upcoming events and ideas.

Next up on the list will be the Feast of the Panagia Fellowship *on Tuesday, August 15,* following services. Since this issue of *The Desert Messenger* is combined for July and August, please look to the *Weekly Word* for more information on any upcoming pop-up events. If you are not receiving the *Weekly Word*, which is our way of sharing up to date information with the members of the LPS, please let us know.

There must be a record number of us going to Greece and Europe this summer! This is really the first year since the pandemic that people seem to be more comfortable traveling. So, we will see you all back in the middle of August. Safe travels to all!

Your Sister in Christ, Bernadette Anthony, Philoptochos President



Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun

Sophia, (Daphne), daughter of Timothy and Alexandra Zekichev, on June 3, 2023. Godparent: Marilyn Constantinou.

Joann (Brooklynn), daughter of Antonio DiGioia and Michelle Hollar on June 10, 2023. Godparent: Alexandra Demoleas.

Nikiphoros (Everett) DeBree (Adult Baptism) on June 24, 2023. Godparent: Vasilios Bruninga.

Phanourios (Jeremiah) Barrett (Adult Baptism), on June 24, 2023. Godparent: Vasilios Bruninga.

Evmenios (Joseph) Decicco (Adult Baptism), on June 24, 2023. Godparent: James Theros.

Chrismation

Jude (Cedric) Motojicho on June 18, 2023. Sponsor: Barlaam Kirchner.

Marriage: Na Zisete

Christopher Sotiropulos and Jessica Gower on June 9, 2023.

Koumbaros: Prokopios Sotiropulos.

“If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)



The Holy Sacrament of Ordination to the Diaconate

Sunday, July 30, 2023

Servant of God

JOHN ACHILLES NIXON

by the Hand of

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

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



Please Join Us for a Parish Visit with
His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and
His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos
and Ordination to the Holy Diaconate
of John Achilles Nixon

Sunday, July 30

8:45 am Orthros

10:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

Parish Luncheon follows in Panos Hall

\$25 per Person

(Advanced Payment Only by July 24)

Menu:

Tyropites

Maroulosalata with Feta

Roasted Quarter Chicken

Greek Lemon Potatoes

Braised Cauliflower

Fresh Bread

Peach Cobbler and Vanilla Ice Cream

Coffee

Cash Bar ~ Beer and Wine

Building and Maintenance Committee

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. Since June we have completed the remaining roof replacement over the Administrative portion of Panos Hall and part of Kokkos Hall, and begun the asphalt repaving of all our parking lots. Both these projects have cost roughly \$84,000.

We also have repaired the in-ground lights on and along the steps of the Church with new transformers (\$800), replaced another three irrigation valves and the water filters for the commercial ice machine (\$1,350).

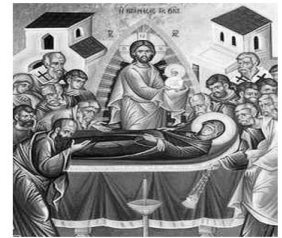
As mentioned in last month's message, there are two additional projects we hope to also undertake. As you may have noticed, the front main fountain has deteriorated, and the pump recently went out. We have the funds for the concrete and sealant work for the fountains. This cost is \$5,000. For the tiling and pump we need an additional \$7,500. Also, the bollard lights, gate post and interior courtyard lighting all needs to be replaced. Many of the bollards are barely secure and thus pose a safety issue. Through the benevolence of two Stewards so far, we have secured \$6,500 of the \$25,000 needed to complete this project. Without your generous contributions we cannot continue the work necessary to keep and maintain our grounds and facilities looking their best.

Finally, we are grateful to Telly Eliades for donating a golf cart for maintenance use on the property.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me anytime. May the rest of your summer be filled with joy and good memories.

In Christ, Eleni Filios, Building and Maintenance Chair

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**
“Most Holy Theotokos, Save Us!”
Paraklesis – For the Health of:



**The Paraklesis will be chanted on August 2, 4, 7, 9 & 11
Please Return Form to Father John by August 1.**

Panagias Luncheon

*Come Celebrate the Great Feast of
the Dormition of the Theotokos*

*Sunday, August 20
following the Divine Liturgy
in Panos Hall*

*\$15 per Person
(Advanced Payment Only by August 14)*

Menu:

*Beef Keftedes and Tzatziki
Horiatiko Potato Salad
Oven Roasted Zucchini
Fresh Bread
Loukoumades and Coffee
Wine and Beer ~ Cash Bar*

Remembering the Church through Planned Giving

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

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

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

CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5300 El Camino Road, Las Vegas, NV 89118

Stewardship and Community Outreach

The Orthodox Christian Steward comes in many forms: Some are women, some men, some children, some rich, some poor, some illustrious and some lowly. But they all have one thing in common: They have given their lives wholly to Christ. *“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)*

Their gifts have been varied, too – through monastic asceticism, charitable works, evangelism, or martyrdom for our Lord and Savior. The following Saints gave all, but before they reposed, they devoted their attentions to a life pleasing to our Lord. They proclaimed His Holy Name, they read His Word, they hoped in His Glory, they spread His Gospel, they performed healings in His Name, and they accomplished charitable works.

On July 17, we celebrate St. Marina, a fifteen year-old girl who endured imprisonment and torture to proclaim Who she belonged to. She was apprehended by the ruler of Olmbrius (3rd Century), and when asked her name, homeland, and faith, she answered: “My name is Marina; I am the offspring of the Pisidia; I call upon the Name of my Lord Jesus Christ.” She was beheaded in 270 AD. She is invoked for deliverance for demonic possession.

On July 26, we remember St. Paraskevi of Rome, born on a Friday, hence her name (in Greek). Her name means “preparedness.” Another young person, she devoted herself to studying the Divine Scriptures, guiding many to the Faith of Christ. She was apprehended during the reign of Emperor Antoninus Pius and urged to worship the idols, but she answered with the words of Prophet Jeremiah: *“Let the gods that have not made heaven and the earth perish from off the earth.” (Jeremiah 10:11)* Because of this she endured exceedingly painful torments and was beheaded in the year 140 AD. The faithful pray to her for the healing of eye ailments.



On August 1, the names of the Holy Maccabees Abim, Anthony, Guria, Eleazar, Eusebona, Achim, and Marcellus are honored. They were young people, Jews by race, and exact keepers of the Laws of the Fathers, and forced by the King of Syria to partake of swine’s flesh, forbidden by Jewish Law. They suffered terrible tortures but endured for the sake of their hope in the Lord. After they were put to death, their mother cast herself into the fire to die with them, in the year 168 before Christ. *(2 Maccabees 7:21)*

On August 21, we remember the Apostle Thaddeus who came to Jerusalem and became a disciple of Christ. He preached in Mesopotamia, ending his life in martyrdom. Some call him one of the Twelve Apostles. *(Matthew 10:3)* He is also called one of the Seventy: After Christ’s Resurrection from the dead, and His Ascent into Heaven, the Apostle Thomas sent Thaddaeus to Edessa as a preacher and evangelist of His teaching.

Where do we find ourselves in our journey as Christian Stewards? We all, according to God, have been given gifts to share. In this summer season, we see the contributions of young people in the quest to serve the Lord. May this be a call for the young people of our Parish to be inspired by these Saints to take up a challenge of Stewardship in its many forms.

“Stewardship does not mean being hit up for an annual pledge to the Church. It is not being enlisted in a financial campaign for the new building. It is not even tithing. Rather, it is a well-rounded view of life and an incarnation of that view based on theology and ecclesiology – the giving of time and talent and treasure. Thus, Stewardship is a state of being. It is based in service. The Steward is in the employ of his Master. Therefore, the most important aspect of being a Steward is serving.” (<http://www.oca.org/the-hub>)

In Christ, Marina Adamy, Stewardship and Outreach Committee

“It depends not upon man’s will or exertion, but upon God’s mercy.” (Romans 9:16)



Dear Father John, Father Florin and Beloved Fellow Parishioners:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you kindly.

Your Sisters in Christ, for Hellenic Historical Society.

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702 595-6888

Cheryl Pandelis
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SPECIFICATIONS FOR SUBMISSIONS

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

SUGGESTED MATERIALS *(including but not limited to)*

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

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

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

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Orthodox Bookstore



Greetings from the Bookstore!

Summer is here and our Bookstore offers quite a few selections of Orthodox themed stories and/or historical fiction for all age ranges. They are perfect for the downtime of the hottest months of the year while poolside, traveling, or keeping cool in the air conditioning. In addition, *Wounded by Love* is back in stock along with *St. Paisios of Mount Athos*.

Come on in to see our many other selections of books, icons, Orthodox supplies, and gift items!

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

*“O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are His judgments and
how inscrutable His ways!”
(Romans II:33)*



Prosphora Baking

Dear Parish Members,

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

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

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

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

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



From Father Florin

About a hundred years had passed in ancient Israel since the time of King David, who had set a high standard of faithfulness and integrity in serving the one true God. Around 870 BC, a king named Ahab did more to provoke God's anger than all the kings of Israel who had come before him. (*1 Kings 16:33*) The apostasy during Ahab's reign was the result of many years of corrupt and evil kings, and most of the people had yielded to Satan and his demons through their worship of the Canaanite gods, Baal and Ashtoreth. Still, God waited patiently for His people to separate themselves from the pagan influences that surrounded them and to return to true worship. (*1 Kings 14:6-16*) To announce the punishment and warn the nation to change its ways, God sent a messenger, St. Elijah (Elias) the Prophet.

St. Elijah's name means "Yahweh is God" or "The Lord is my God". He is first mentioned in Scripture when he declares to King Ahab that a severe drought would begin immediately to test Israel and its leadership. Withholding rain for three and one-half years was the first miracle God did through the Prophet, so the nation would repent of its idolatry.

St. Elijah the Tishbite was an ordinary man, with similar hopes and dreams, weaknesses, and shortcomings, but also a man of deep faith in God. He was a bold, direct-to-the-point prophet of God. By speaking the prophecies of God, he made fierce enemies. The Apostle James would later speak of Elijah's faith saying, "*Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the Heaven gave rain, and the Earth produced its fruit.*" (*James 5:17-18*)

Another miracle attributed to St. Elijah involves a widow's bin of flour and jar of oil which, by the prayers of the Saint, were miraculously multiplied, and again by his prayers, her son resurrected. (*1 Kings 17:10-24*)

When directed by God to appear before King Ahab again, St. Elijah performed one of his greatest public miracles, which involved a contest with the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah on Mount Carmel. Throughout the day, the false prophets called on their god to send down fire and consume an animal sacrifice, but to no avail. At the end of the day, Elijah called on Israel's God to send fire to swallow up the sacrifice prepared for Him. In a moment, thousands witnessed the fire from Heaven consume the carcass, all the water in the trench and all the wet wood, burning up even the stones! St. Elijah exposed the deception of the false prophets of Baal, and at last the hearts of the Israelites were convinced that only Israel's God could do this miracle. Then God's Spirit moved Elijah to pray that it would rain; and the rains came, ending the terrible drought. (*1 Kings 18:42-45; James 5:18*)



God used the Prophet Elijah to train his successor, Elisha. He found Elisha busily engaged in plowing. Approaching him suddenly, the Prophet threw his mantle over Elisha, a symbol of Elisha's call to the prophetic office. Elisha stayed with Elijah faithfully until the time God divided the Jordan and then took Elijah away with a chariot of fire. (*2 Kings 2:8-11*)

The world today still has its Ahabs and Jezebels. The present age also has its idolatry, though it is more subtle than that of Elijah's day. The shrines of pagan worship may not be as visible, and there may be very few carved images that people actually worship, yet millions are following after the gods of this world. Today's idols can be riches, fame, pleasure, and the pleasant-sounding fables that occupy the hearts and minds of many who are unwilling and disinterested in learning about God. At the time of the end, just before the great and dreadful day of God's Final Judgment, the world will again be given the same message of repentance and true faith that was preached by the Holy Prophet Elijah.

Fr. F. J. Ristade.

Ministry News

Church School

Hi Everyone! I hope everyone is enjoying their summer.

Save the date for the first day of Church School: **Sunday, September 10, 2023**. We will be taking enrollment for those who are starting Kindergarten next year (Pre-Kindergarten) until 12th grades.

The Church School Registration Form is in this issue of *The Desert Messenger*. (See Page 18.)

You are encouraged to visit our Bookstore this summer to have your children pick out a few books to keep their faith going.

Have a great summer and safe travels!

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



All Youth Events

Dear Parents, Kids and GOYANs,

This month, we will go bowling at **Suncoast on Saturday, July 15, from 1:00 until 3:00 pm**. Please come for an afternoon of games and fun. Also, please let me know if you intend to be there, as we might need to reserve some lanes.

Next month, we will have a **Potluck in Panos Hall on Saturday, August 19, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm**. We will enjoy a meal together, wonderful fellowship, as well as fun activities. If you would like to contribute by bringing food to the event, please contact April and Maha, our Youth Advisors.

Thank you and see you all soon!

Love in Christ, Father Florin, April Rivera and Maha Habiba, Youth Advisors

Greek Folk Dance

We hope everyone is enjoying their summer break! Registration for our Folk Dance Ministry is now open. Please see the form in this issue of *The Desert Messenger*. (See Pages 19-20.) or ask Karen in the Church Office. Registration fees are \$125 per dancer for our competitive groups and \$75 per dancer for our youngest, non-competitive group.

The first dance practice for all returning dancers is **on Sunday, August 13, following Divine Liturgy!** We will also be having a parent meeting for all parents and interested parents **on Sunday, August 13** in the Library after Liturgy. Please join us to learn about our ministry and our calendar of events and fundraisers for the year. Please mark your calendars!

We look forward to seeing all the smiling faces of our dancers in August and hope to see some new ones too! Questions? Email stjohngreekdance@gmail.com.

Much Gratitude, Folk Dance Board

Mr. & Mrs.

Dear Couples of St. John the Baptist,

We would like to thank again Angela and Richard Acovino for the wonderful fellowship we all enjoyed at their home in May.

Our next meeting will be **on Saturday, August 26, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm** at the home of Thomas and Catalina Magee. Thank you for hosting our event and for generously opening your house to us.

Please contact Karen for their address, and to let us know what you will bring. We are looking forward to seeing you all there as we begin a new season of amazing dinners and lively discussions.

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



Kali Parea - For the 40+ Crowd

We are kindly asking your support and assistance for the Kali Parea sponsored Fellowship *on Sunday, July 9*, following Divine Liturgy. We will be serving Gyros, salad and potato chips for \$12. You cannot beat that!

If you would like to participate in joining us at the Kali Parea table for the Parish Luncheons *on Sunday, July 30 and Sunday, August 20*, please contact Demetri or Karen at the Church Office.

May we have a Blessed Summer!

In Christ, Demetrious Asim

Forerunners - Our Seniors Fellowship

I hope you are enjoying a safe and fun summer so far. A friendly reminder that we will not meet for our luncheons again until October. However, I am asking if you would like to donate bottles of wine for our raffles, please drop them off to Karen in the Church Office. We hope to have more involvement and cannot wait to see you.

Love in Christ, Paula Kelesis for the Forerunners

Ariston Award

Gus Flangas has been selected to receive the *Ariston Award* at a *Grand Event on Saturday, November 4, 2023*.

The Ariston Award was established by St. John the Baptist Parish to recognize persons who maintain a sustaining relationship with the Orthodox Christian Church or demonstrate a profound appreciation for Greek Culture. Furthermore, Award recipients shall have exemplified qualities of noble character, compassion and charity while achieving a high level of distinction and honor, always respecting the ideals, teachings and traditions of the Greek Orthodox Faith.

Ariston means “excellence” in Greek and describes the purpose and intent of this prestigious award.

For over four decades Gus has steadfastly served our community, as a Parish Council member, on the Greek Food Festival Committee, and numerous other leadership positions. Gus Flangas has served ten terms as Parish Council President while serving selflessly, nineteen times as a Greek Food Festival Chairman in addition to his leadership roles in countless other projects.

If you have any questions regarding this celebration, please free to contact Chairman Mark Karris or Karen at the Church Office (702) 221-8245.

A formal invitation will follow in mid- September.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Rev. Father John Hondros
frjohn@vegaskgreekorthodox.com

Rev. Father Florin Ristache
frflorin@vegaskgreekorthodox.com

Karen Rawlinson
Administrative Assistant

Michelle Eugenio
Bookkeeper

Bruce Royal
Maintenance & Grounds

Office Hours

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

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

Parish Council: John Fotopoulos

Philoptochos: Bernadette Anthony

Stewardship & Community Outreach:
John Karas

Building & Maintenance:
Eleni Filios

Choir: Athena Mertes

Chanters & Youth Choir:
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Church School: Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers: Father John

GOYA:
Fr. Florin Ristache & Maha Habiba

Orthodox Family Fellowship:
Fr. Florin Ristache & April Rivera

Young Adults:
Fr. Florin Ristache

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek School: Paula Kelesis

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

Kali Parea: Demetrious Asim

Forerunners: Paula Kelesis

Orthodox Bookstore:
Paraskevi Santamaria

Greek Food Festival: Gus Flangas

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

Photography & Live-Streaming:
Bill & Erin Bruninga



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 2023-2024 CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Please Write Legibly - Use One Form Per Child

Church School Classes begin on Sunday, September 10.
Pre-Kindergarten (4 years by August 1) through High School.

*Let's show our children how to be committed to Christ by bringing them to
the Divine Liturgy and Church School each week!*

Student Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

School Grade (2023-2024 school year): _____

Special Needs, Allergies, Medications: _____
(e.g. "Autism Spectrum," "Peanuts," "Insulin Dependent")

Patron Saint and Date of Commemoration: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN OR OTHER RELATIVE (Relationship: _____)

Name: _____ Name: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ E-mail: _____

Home Address: _____
Street City ZIP

Student Cell Phone: _____ Student E-mail: _____
If you DO NOT want your child to be contacted by phone/text or by e-mail, please leave one or both of these blank.

I give my child permission to take part in all Church School activities and
will support this ministry through my annual Stewardship to St. John the Baptist Church.

Signed, Parent or Legal Guardian: _____

Many hands ease the load! Please let us know in which way you would like to help our children:

_____ Classroom Cleanup _____ Crafts

Please return this registration form to Karen at the Church Office before classes start.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
GREEK FOLK DANCE MINISTRY

2023-2024 REGISTRATION FORM

One Registration Form Required for Each Dancer
Registration Deadline: September 24, 2023

Dancer's Name: _____ Age: _____ Birth Date: _____

Minimum Age: 4 years old by September 24, 2023

Address: _____

City: _____, Nevada Zip Code: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Father's Name: _____

Contact Information (Please fill out completely and legibly):

Phone Numbers: Mother's Cell: _____ Father's Cell: _____

Dancer's Cell: _____ Home: _____

If you DO NOT want your child to be contacted by text message, please check this box:

Email Addresses: Mother: _____

Father: _____

Dancer (if applicable): _____

If you DO NOT want your child to be contacted by e-mail, please leave this blank.

I understand and accept the following requirements for participation in the Greek Folk Dance Ministry:

1. The dancer must be Baptized and Chrismated in the Orthodox Church. Proof of Baptism or Chrismation must be provided for each dancer (or previously verified by Father John).
2. The parent(s) must be Steward(s) of St. John Church for 2023 **before their child(ren) attend any dance practice** and Steward(s) for 2024 by January 13, 2024. **Please check one box:**
 - o I am already a 2023 Steward. (This will be verified with the Church Office.)
 - o I am attaching my Stewardship Commitment Card to this registration form.
3. The dancer must **on a regular basis participate** in Divine Liturgy on Sunday, throughout the year, and in Church School (if he or she is of age), **September through May**. Infrequent participation is a basis for removal from the program.
4. The dancer must arrive to practice **on time** and be **respectful**. The Greek Folk Dance Ministry has a strict **NO BULLYING** policy. This includes both verbal and physical bullying. Any dancer participating in bullying will be subject to removal from the program.

(Continued On Back)

5. The dancer and parent(s) are expected to participate in all fundraising activities of the Greek Folk Dance Ministry.
6. Dancers who have excessive absences may be subject to removal from the program.
7. All practices will be CLOSED. This means no parents, families, or friends may be in the practice room during practice times. This rule does not apply to Liondaria, the non-competitive group.
8. The Folk Dance Festival (FDF) will take place February 15-18, 2024. Both the location and format are unknown at this time. The dancer and parent(s) must determine by November 12, 2023 if they will attend FDF. Dancers who elect not to go to FDF may only participate in dance practices through the end of December.
9. The dancer and parent(s) agree to meet all financial responsibilities assigned to the participants by the St. John Greek Folk Dance Ministry and FDF.
10. Registration fees are:
 - a. Competitive Dance Groups: \$125 per dancer, or \$100 for each additional sibling, due by **September 24**. *(No registrations will be accepted after this date.)*
 - b. Liondaria (non-competitive) Dance Group: \$75. *(Must be at least 4 years old by September 30.)*
11. Registration can only be accepted when all of the following are turned in:
 - a. Registration form
 - b. Non-refundable registration fee
 - c. Proof of Baptism/Chrismation (unless verified by Father John)
 - d. Stewardship Commitment Card (unless verified by Church Office)
12. Dancers from previous years must re-register. **Dancers are prohibited from practice until their registration is complete and until their parent(s) become Steward(s) for 2023.**

*First Folk Dance Practice for ALL Dancers: Sunday, August 13, 2023
Additional practice days/times TBA*

For information on the St. John Greek Folk Dance Ministry, please contact the Folk Dance Board at stjohngreekdance@gmail.com or the Church at (702) 221-8245.

MAKE OUT CHECKS TO "ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH," WITH "FOLK DANCE GROUP" IN THE MEMO LINE.

Signature of Dancer

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Date

FOR DANCE BOARD USE:

Payment Received On: _____ Check #: _____ OR Cash: _____

Stewardship Card Received: _____ Proof of Baptism/Chrismation: _____

With Gratitude to God for Our Pledged Stewards in 2023

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

Acovino, Richard and Angela	Costacos, John	Geiger, Dan and	Kirollos, Michael and
Adamy, Marina	Costuros, George and Marsha	Hart, Dora	Molina, Adriana
Adondakis, George and Kim	Cotsilis, Jenny	Gekakis, George	Kokkinis, Peter and Jennifer
Alcala, Georgia	Crist, Adam and Kanistra	Generales, John and Arlene	Koliambas, Eleni
Alexander, Eleni	Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	George, Pete and Georgia	Kontos, Diana
Alford, Cynthia "Mary"	Dalacas, Eleni	Georgis, Pete and Keshia	Koroni, Tara
Allen, John and Denice	Dalacas, Georgia	Ghebreab, Daniel and	Kostas, James
Alvarez, Kelly	Damascus, Peter	Ghermay, Selam	Kostopoulos, George
Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine	Daskalos, George and Voula	Gialketsis, William and Rachelle	Kostopoulos, Georgia
Andrews, Catherine+	Davis, Matthew and Christine	Giambi, Jason and Kristian	Kountanis, Panagiota
Andrews, Chris and Pamela	De Bree, Everett	Giouzelis, Sasa	Kouretas, Daniel
Andrews, George	Deep, Joseph and Alexi	Goodman, Linda	Kouretas, Spiro
Andrews, Vasiliki	Demas, Spiro and Rita	Gordon, Victor and Demetria	Kouris, Dimitris and Terry
Andricopulos, Margo	Demolas, Maria and	Grabovoi, Daphne	Koutsulis, John and Eileen
Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette	Nour, Reza	Granillo, Abrahan	Koutsulis, Sam and Effie
Antoniou, Elias and Glorielys	Demoleas, Alexandra	Gutierrez, Connie	Krikie, Jonathan and Iryna
Aristides, George and Diana	Demoleas, Eleni and	Gutierrez, Daniel	Kypreos, George
Asim, Demetrios	Thomas, Kristian	Hagos, Yohannes and Mebrat	Kypreos, Lesley
Atkins, Sean and Christina	Demoleas, Spero and Grace	Hamilton, Mary	Kypreos, Peter and Geri
Balaouras, Panos and Helen	Demoleas, Stephanie	Hamilton, Paul and Brandi	Kyriannis, Justin and Linda
Balason, Voula	Demopoulos, Dimitrios and Selina	Haralambakis, Demetre and	Lakkis, Christina
Baldwin, Richard and Vivi	Demopoulos, Vasiliki	Dimitra	Lamancusa, Lisa
Balodimas, James	Dimitri, Janet and Martha	Haramis, John and	Landahl, Richard and Johana
Barbarino, Demetra	Dominguez, Eric and Amalia	Kitsios, Eugenia	Lavine, Frederick
Barrett, Jeremiah	Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia	Hastings, Teri	Lee, David and Alexandra
Bartel, Robert and Ioanna	Doukakis, Panagiotis and Chrisi	Haynes, Maria	Lekar, Caroline
Bartzos, Eugenia	Dramitinos, Mary	Hemmers, Oliver and	Lekar, Michael and Effie
Beeler, Mike and Carolyn	Dudunakis, Michael	Pantelas, Anne	Leong, Marissa and Elaine
Beeman, Benita	Earl, Christine	Himaegiosca Goldie Family	Leonis, Tishe
Belch, George	Eliades, Aristotelis and Caroline	Hollar, Michelle and	Leonis, Nick and Sophia
Belojevic, Marija	Eliades, Eleni and	DiGioia, Antonio	Leventis, Nicholas and Christina
Berendji, Jim and Vivian+	Garza, Everardo	Hondros, Christina	Liaos, James and Tina
Bieker, Georgea	Eliades, Gregory and Maria	Hondros, Christopher and Darlene	Liaos, Steven and Francine
Birtas, Helen and Ann	Eliades, Harry and Agapi	Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria	Likourinou, Angie
Bjorklund, Danielle and	Eliades, Katerina	Hondros, Marissa	Likourinou, Steve and June
Geronsin, Justin	Eliades, Sia	Howard, Eddie and Willie	Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine
Blume, Michael	Eliakis, Peter	Hristopoulou, Spiridoula	Loughton, Dustin and Rena
Bochanis, Aris and Savannah	Eliakis, Varthie	Iteen, Robert and Sophia	Makris, Apostolos
Bochanis, George	Eyler, John and Elizabeth	Jandete, Johanna	Malamatos, Kindina+
Booth, Alina	Eyler, Fr. Paul and Nathan	Jaynes, Christine	Manakides, Alexis and
Britten, Ronald and Carol	Failla, Jennifer	Jensen, Matthew and Michelle	Varonos, Nicholas
Brown, Faye	Fenlason, Nathan and	Kachikis, Ernestine	Mangafas, Kyriakos and Eleftheria
Brown, Mark and Alyssa	Zmina-Fenlason, Jennifer	Kakavulias, George and Helen	Manolagos, Catherine
Bruninga, William and Erin	Feola, Richard	Kakavulias, John and Elizabeth	Manos, Constantine and Michele
Bryant, Timothy and Janet	Filios, George and Nitsa	Kalkas, John and Rena	Mansour, Muna
Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Filios, Spiridon and Eleni	Kambouris, Litsa	Markakis, Sandy Kiriaki
Carahalios, John and Constance	Fischer, Cheryl	Kanis, Constantinos and Katie	Markantonis, Demos and Kate
Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	Fischetti, George and Cassidy	Karas, George	Markantonis, George and Sarah
Carrico, William and Alexandra	Fitzgerald, Norman and	Karas, James	Matsis, John and Rebecca
Carter, Maria	McCullen, Sandra	Karas, John and Marcie	Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki
Chachas, Bessie	Flangas, Gary and Amanda	Karas, Kevin and Elaine	Mavros, Alex and Jen
Chachas, James	Flangas, Gus and Tamara	Karris, Mark and Suzanne	Mavros, Debbie
Chagares, Kiki	Flangas, Marilyn	Kasiotis, Nicholas and Claudia	Mazzorana, Vicki
Chamie, Elie, Emil and Claudine	Fleischer, Robert and Penny	Katopodis, Efstratios	McKinney, Michael and Mersene
Chandrinis, Alexia	Foster, Kyle and	Katre, Dhimitra and	McManus, Jeanette
Chanos, Jennifer	Pierro, Maria Elena	Fry, Jesse	McPherson, Robert and Marie
Chomakos, Dean and Tammy	Fotopoulos, John and Barbara	Katre, Sotir Mark	McSweeney, Farolyn
Chondrakis, Dimosthenis and	Fountas, Constantinos	Katris, Nick and Theana	Mehas, Andrew and Samantha
Kragerud, Kaaren	Fountoulakis, Vasileios	Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon	Melake, Nayel and Euxana
Christou, Toni	Franco, Yolanda	Kelesis, John and Vicki	Menegatos, James
Coll, Patrick and Anita	Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia	Kelesis, Paula	Merritt, Devin and Sonia
Collins, David	Gancheva, Hrist	Kiflegzi, Rahel	Meyers, Evon
Conger, William and Alexia	Gauvin, Chad and Marissa	Kirchner, Gary "Barlaam"	Mikelis, Nikolas and Angela

*With Gratitude to God for Our Pledged Stewards in 2023
If you wish to become a Parish Steward, please call Karen for a Pledge Form*

Minas, Arthur and Ewa
 Monolakis, Anthony
 Monoyudis, Jim and Julie
 Moore, Brenda
 Murray, Christopher and
 George, Veneta
 Newell, Ronald and Maria
 Nicholas, John and Estella
 Nichols, George and Tereza
 Nicolas, Samer and Christine
 Niforos, Helen
 Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra
 Nikoloudakos, Georgia
 Nixon, John and Ellyn
 Olmsted, Travis and Marilyn
 Orlando, Ritsa
 Osborn, Alexandra and
 Spotti, Peter
 Oustian, Juliette and Ararat
 Pahigiannis, Nikon
 Paikos, Tom and Elizabeth
 Palivos, Peter and Vicky
 Pallis, Paul
 Pandelis, Cheryl
 Panos, Jeanne
 Papalois, John and Maria
 Papas, Christian and Nicole
 Papas, Louis and Magaly
 Papas, Peter and Rita
 Papas, Peter Nikko
 Pappas, Panagiotis and Andrea
 Paschalis, Evangelos and Maria
 Payan, Luis and Eleni
 Pendleton, Tricia
 Peratikos, Tony
 Peterson, Todd and Diane

Petro, Aleko and Georgia
 Petrou, Jim and Penelopi
 Philoptochos Society
 Pierro, Joe and Rhonda
 Polimerou, Angeline
 Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra
 Poulis, Chris and Francine
 Poulos, Christine
 Pouridis, Kouli and Para
 Powell, Scott and Angela
 Powers, Russell and Rebecca
 Prestage, Adam and Courtney
 Raptis, Presvytera Evonne
 Rasmussen, Scott and Rebecca
 Reizakis, Yianna Albertson-
 Rigas, Anthony and Mary
 Rigas, Evie
 Rihani, Gary and Linda
 Ristache, Fr. Florin and
 Presv. Alexandra
 Rivera, Elias and April
 Robison, Diane and Patricia
 Rodis, Dimitri and Angeline
 Rodis, Sophia
 Rotas, Beatrice
 Sakkas, Georgios and
 Stavropoulos, Bessie
 Santamaria, Jennifer and Robert
 Savvas, Savva
 Sechrist, Carl and Christine
 Sellen, Jeffrey
 Senior Forerunners
 Setian, Gary
 Simmons, John
 Simos, Eleni
 Simos, Tony and Lorie

Simpson, Bryan and Julie
 Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia
 Skandros, Stephanie
 Snow, Clifford and Christina
 Sorkhabi, Arian and
 Habiba, Maha
 Soteropulos, Gust and Rita
 Sotiropulos, Christopher and
 Jessica
 Soursos, Helene
 Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette
 Sparkuhl, Andreas and Diana
 Spirtos, Nick
 Staubs, Douglas and Anastasia
 Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki
 Stenos, Louis
 Stransky, John and Rachel
 Stransky, Mark
 Szukiewicz, Joseph and Justina
 Tadich, Andrea
 Tadich, Katerina
 Tafoya, Steven and Irene
 Temple, Voula
 Thanos, Nicholas and Victoria
 Theros, James and Kathryn
 Thomas, Anastasia Palivos-
 Thompson, Maggy
 Thompson, Steven and Aliko
 Tijiboy, Ana
 Tijiboy, Christine
 Tohme, Tony and May
 Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katerina
 Tsobanakis, Chris
 Tsobanoglou, Niki and Paris
 Tsolis, Christos and Panagioula
 Tsortanidis, Sophia

Vervilos, James and Anna
 Villatoro, Luis and
 Prifti, Teuta
 Wagner, Sophye
 Wainscott, Betty
 Wallace, Robert and Katerina
 Walter, Vernon and Alice
 Ward, Angeliki
 Waterhouse, David and
 Aleighzja
 Webb, Taylor
 Williams, Anthony and Anna
 Williamson, Daniel and
 Stavroula Halatsis-
 Wilson, Clyde
 Wilson, Kelly and
 Egi, Junichiro
 Wilson, Cleo
 Wirtz, Aphrodite
 Womack, Karl
 Womack, Kimberly
 Xerogianes, Nick and Nikki
 Xikis, Victoria
 Yurkov, Andre, Kalina and
 Daniella
 Zachariou, Sozos and Aspasia
 Zaferatos, Ted
 Zakis, Pope
 Zarkos, Nick and Dina
 Zaronis, Mary
 Zarras, Nick and Chery
 Zervas, Dionisios and Cacilda
 Zimmerman, Paul, Angela,
 Christopher and Vangeli
 Zimmerman, Paul and Julie
 Zmina, Stephen and Cynthia



**2023
Stewardship
Report
(as of 6/19/23)**

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$527,967 (\$492,033 in 2022)
 Stewardship Gifts Received: \$320,727 (\$310,013 in 2022)
 Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$207,240 (\$182,020 in 2022)
 Stewardship Families Pledged: 368 (361 in 2022)
 2023 Goal: \$600,000 . . . Keep the Pledges Coming!

**“WALK
IN
LOVE”
(Ephesians 5:2)**

<u>Average Pledge</u>	<u>No. of Families</u>	<u>Amount Pledged</u>
\$1 - \$500	158	\$ 41,041
\$501 - \$1,000	78	\$ 60,780
\$1,001 - \$2,500	88	\$137,698
\$2,501 - \$5,000	25	\$ 93,264
\$5,001 - \$9999	13	\$ 78,964
\$10,000 & Above	6	\$116,220
Total Families	368	\$527,967

“Love is the fulfilling of the law.” (Romans 13:10)

Church Account Summaries ~ May 2023

Nevada State Bank Accounts	April	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	May	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$98,542.82	\$60,960.71	\$9,951.94	\$30,638.19	\$65,732.29	\$73,084.99	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$136,569.50					\$136,569.50	\$75,000 temporarily transferred from D&R
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$73,966.92	\$3,494.00		\$2,280.89		\$75,180.03	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$391,098.30	\$4,537.46	\$473.61	\$22,083.52	\$4,977.06	\$369,048.79	
Folk Dance Group	\$20,711.82			\$1,435.00		\$19,276.82	
Hellenic Historical Society	\$3,260.47					\$3,260.47	
Designated Funds	April	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	May	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$40,497.83	\$2,156.00			\$1,519.43	\$41,134.40	
Ornaments	\$601.33					\$601.33	
Restricted Funds	April	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	May	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
ICON	\$9,808.66	\$274.58				\$10,083.24	
Library Account	\$1,470.77					\$1,470.77	
Giving Tree	\$8,889.87					\$8,889.87	
Faithtree	\$1,626.39					\$1,626.39	
Building Fund	\$102,246.59	\$2,106.88		\$22,083.52	\$2,382.75	\$79,887.20	Roof repair downpayment, cabinets, & parking lot lights.
(Transferred to C&E)	-\$75,000.00					-\$75,000.00	Temporary transfer to reduce the account below FDIC \$250,000 threshold
Youth Choir	\$2,989.18					\$2,989.18	
Church School	\$152,116.44					\$152,116.44	\$150K donation from Helen Stock Estate
Three Priests	\$51,395.72		\$473.61		\$601.27	\$51,268.06	Hot Water dispenser
Roof Appeal	\$10,283.22					\$10,283.22	
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$530.36					\$530.36	
Panos Flooring Repair	\$23,722.83					\$23,722.83	
Church Flooring Replacement	\$0.00					\$0.00	
Restricted Donation	\$5,654.00					\$5,654.00	From Father Paul
Live Streaming Equipment	\$473.61				\$473.61	\$0.00	Transfer to the Three Priests Fund
HVAC	\$48,351.50					\$48,351.50	Initial downpayment of \$47K made to vendor
Emergency Fund	\$5,000.00					\$5,000.00	
Designated, Restricted, and Other Total	\$391,098.30	\$4,537.46	\$473.61	\$22,083.52	\$4,977.06	\$369,048.79	
Other Funds	April	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	May	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$61,691.65		\$3,394.81			\$65,086.46	as of 03.31.23
Commonwealth Investments (Icon)	\$121,653.17				\$499.64	\$121,153.53	Change in Investment

May 2023 Candles **\$5,391.49**
 May 2023 Trays **\$5,146.20**
Total May 2023 Candles & Trays \$10,537.69



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

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

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

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

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

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



AHEPA FAMILY



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

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



2023

LAS VEGAS' 50th GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL
SOUVENIR MAGAZINE ADVERTISING RESERVATION FORM

Magazine dimensions 8½" x 11"

Ad Sizes and Costs (Please check your choice):

___ \$1650 Back Cover Page: 7½"w x 10"h

___ \$1250 Back and Front Inside Cover

___ \$1000 Gold Page: 7½"w x 10"h
also 8½"w x 11"h plus bleeds

___ \$375 Half Page: 7½"w x 4¾" h

___ \$700 Full Page: 7½"w x 10"h

___ \$200 Quarter Page: 3⅝"w x 4¾" h

___ \$75 Signature: One line of copy

- All interior ads will print in black ink.
- Gold Pages will be printed in metallic gold border and black ink.
- Computer discs, camera ready art and photos are preferable.
- Discs must be set in JPG, PDF, TIF, ADOBE, PSD or ILLUSTRATOR (artwork & pictures should be a min. of 300 DPI).
- You may also send your artwork electronically to karen@vegasgreekorthodox.com
- Your donation is tax-deductible and all proceeds benefit St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church.

DEADLINE: All ad copy and payment must be received by Thursday, August 31, 2023.

The Festival Committee reserves the right to review all ad copy that will appear in the magazine.

We will typeset your ad copy at no extra charge. Please print your copy in the space below.

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Would you like a proof of your ad? NO: YES: If yes, please review and approve or make changes within 24 hours

For more information please contact:

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ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5300 SO. EL CAMINO ROAD – LAS VEGAS, NV 89118 – 702-221-8245 – FAX: 702-221-9167


Web: <http://lvgff.com/>



JULY 2023 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>2 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 Independence Day Church Office Closed </p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>9 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 St. Paisios 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 1:00 pm All Youth Bowling at Suncoast</p>
<p>16 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Prophet Elias 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 St. Paraskevi 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy</p>	<p>27 St. Panteleimon 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Artoclasia</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Ordination of John Nixon to Diaconate Parish Luncheon</p>	<p>31</p>					

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



*You preserved your virginity
in birth-giving;
you did not forsake the world
in your falling asleep,
O Theotokos.
You have passed to life,
being the Mother of Life,
and through your intercessions
deliver our souls from death.
(Apolytikion for the Dormition of
the Theotokos - August 15)*