

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 19, Issue 6 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

June 2021

**From
Father
John**

Beloved in Christ:

Christ is Risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!

Let us give thanks to God for granting us the remission of our sins and the gift of eternal Life through the Death and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Moreover, let us thank God for allowing the doors of our Church to open – and remain open – for one year during this pandemic. It is providential that we were allowed to worship in person in our Church one year ago on the Sunday of Pentecost: By God's love, grace and mercy, we were no longer required to shelter in place out of fear and extreme caution – just like the Holy Apostles before Pentecost – and we were finally able, just like the Apostles on the fiftieth day after our Lord's Resurrection, to gather in one place to receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit both personally and as a community of believers, to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and partake of the Holy Eucharist.



Every Pentecost (the Greek word for *fiftieth*) – as with every Great Feast of the Orthodox Christian Church – becomes an opportunity for our spiritual renewal. Holy Pentecost, which will be celebrated on **Sunday, June 20**, is a day for us to not merely recall what happened some two thousand years ago, but more importantly for us to experience the life-changing significance of this Feast here and now. Historically, the Feast of Pentecost has its roots in the ancient Judaic tradition: For the Jews it commemorated the fiftieth day after Passover, which concluded the Feast of Weeks. As the Feast of Weeks was established within an agricultural society, it involved presenting to the Lord the first harvest of sheaves three days after the Passover and culminated with a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem to bring two loaves of leavened bread to the priest, the first fruits of the harvest, along with unblemished lambs, as an offering pleasing to God. (*Exodus 34:22; Leviticus 23:17-20; Deuteronomy 16:9-10*)

It was on this very feast, when the Apostles were gathered together, that *"suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."* (*Acts 2:2-4*) This amazing descent of the Holy Spirit was foretold both in ancient times by the *Prophet Joel (2:28-32)* and by our Lord Himself to His Disciples during His Holy Passion, when He promised the coming of the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, Who proceeds from the Father. (*John 15:26, 16:13*) There were thousands of pilgrims in Jerusalem on that day of Pentecost, who in obedience to the Mosaic Law had traveled from various places and spoke various languages (the Greek word for tongues and languages is the same): These are the very people who heard the bold and Spirit-filled words of St. Peter, and among them about three thousand souls *"received his word and were Baptized."* (*Acts 2:22-41*) Jesus Christ, as those first believers understood and we Orthodox still proclaim, *is* the New Passover (Pascha) – passing from Death to Life – the leavened (that is, Risen) Bread of Life, and the Blameless Lamb Who takes away the sins of the world by His Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection. *(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>*

Wednesday, June 2

5:30 pm Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Followed by Adult Study in Kokkos Hall at 6:30 pm

Sunday, June 6/6th Sunday of Pascha/The Blind

Man/St. Hilarion of Dalmation Monastery

Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)

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

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34

Gospel: John 9:1-38

Wednesday, June 9/Holy Ascension of Our Lord
(Observed)

5:00 pm Orthros

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 1:1-12

Gospel: Luke 24:36-53

Followed by Adult Study in Kokkos Hall at 7:30 pm

Thursday, June 10/Holy Ascension of Our Lord
*Liturgy on the
Preceding Evening*



Sunday, June 13/Holy Fathers of the First
Ecumenical Council/St. Akylina the Martyr

Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)

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

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

Gospel: John 17:1-13

Wednesday, June 16

*5:30 pm Akathist Hymn for Pentecost:
To the Holy and Life-Giving Spirit*

Followed by Adult Study in Kokkos Hall at 6:30 pm

Saturday, June 19/Saturday of Souls

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

Gospel: John 21:14-25

Sunday, June 20/Holy Pentecost/St. Methodios
Bishop of Olympos/St. Kallistos I, Patriarch of
Constantinople

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

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11

Gospel: John 7:37-52

Kneeling Vespers follows Liturgy

Pentecost Week: Fast-free

Wednesday, June 23

*5:30 pm Great Vespers for the Nativity of St. John
the Baptist*

Followed by Adult Study in Kokkos Hall at 6:30 pm

Thursday, June 24/Nativity of St. John the
Baptist/St. Athanasios of Paros

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

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

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

Sunday, June 27/Sunday of All Saints/St. Sampson
the Innkeeper/St. Joanna the Myrrh-Bearer

Orthros: Tone Eight (Fourth Plagal)

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

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

Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30

Apostles Fast: June 28

Tuesday, June 29/Ss. Peter and Paul the Apostles

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:21-33; 12:1-9

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19

Wednesday, June 30/Synaxis
of the 12 Holy Apostles

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

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



From Father John (Continued from Page 1)

The Christian Pentecost celebrates the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles, allowing for the fulfilment of Christ's Great Commission to *GO*, make disciples of all nations, to Baptize in the Name of the Holy Trinity, and to teach and observe His Commandments. (*Matthew 28:19-20*) On the day of our Baptism and Chrismation into the Church, we experienced our "personal Pentecost" – and as such, each of us were given the Gift of the Holy Spirit, allowing for our own sanctification through the Life-giving Mysteries of the Church as well as the Power from on High to become faithful witnesses to and servants of the Risen Lord. With each Pascha we Orthodox Christians receive and are renewed by the unwaning Light of our everlasting Life in Christ: Now with each Pentecost we are reenergized as we receive yet again the much-needed outpouring of the Holy Spirit, so that we may utilize our God-given gifts to *GO* and do more for His glory and build up His Church in our community and in the world!

With Much Love in the Trinitarian God,

Father John



New Adult Study
with Father John and Father Seraphim

From Pascha to Pentecost

The Spiritual Themes of the Pentecostarion

Wednesday Evenings through June 23

6:30 - 7:30 pm in Kokkos Hall

*We will meet first in the Church for scheduled Divine Services (please see Calendar)
and then transition into Kokkos Hall*

Please bring your own Bible and journal

Parish Council Report

Christos Anesti! We just completed a very beautiful and spiritual Holy Week and Pascha, culminating with our traditional annual Agape Picnic. It was especially great and memorable because we were able to enjoy it all together in person for the first time in two years. It was absolutely gratifying to see so many attending services again and attending the Agape Picnic. Throughout the entire Paschal celebration, you could really sense an enormous joy and contentment in our Parish, and positive outlook for our future. It appears that the “new normal” is hopefully coming to an end, and we can once again resume truly “normal” lives. *“For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians, 1:13-14)*



There are so many people to thank for their efforts in ensuring an absolutely phenomenal experience for everyone during Holy Week and Pascha. We would like to first thank our clergy whose energy and devotion to our faith was truly inspiring; the members of the Parish Council and other volunteers who helped keep the Services running smoothly; our Ladies Philoptochos for their many contributions including flowers for the Epitaphion, helping with the various events, and providing and selling the Pastries for the Agape Picnic; Steve Tzelalis, Telly Eliades, Adam Bieker and Peter Papas for their leadership in organizing and coordinating a very successful Agape Picnic; Steve Likourinou for providing the sound system and music for the Agape Picnic; the Demoleas Family for their efforts in selling Tsourekia to raise money for the Church; Eileen Koutsulis for organizing the Myrrh Bearers and Egg Hunt; all our Altar Servers who were present at each Service; John Matsis for organizing the Epitaphion Bearers; Effie Lekar for spearheading the egg dyeing effort; and the many, many people who helped with their time, talents and treasures in making everything awesome.

We would especially like to thank Steve Likourinou and family, and Bill and Erin Bruninga for their amazing contributions of time, talents, expertise, and equipment for our live-streaming. During the Pandemic, Steve and family provided a high-tech video and audio experience in Panos Hall so people could experience the Liturgy when the Church reached maximum occupancy under the COVID guidelines. As you all know, we are now back to fully worshiping again in the Church, and we have shut down the set-up in Panos Hall. Bill and Erin made it possible to live-stream all our Church Services on YouTube: Their efforts allowed all of us to worship in our Faith during the shutdown of our Church, and many others to participate in Services, who because of the Pandemic were not able to attend in person. We will continue to live-stream Sunday Services; you can access the live-stream on <http://youtube.com/vegasgreekorthodox>. We are eternally grateful to each one of them.

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7) This is something to take to heart as we journey out of the dominion of darkness wrought upon us by the Pandemic and turn our thoughts toward the future of our Church. The Pandemic certainly taught us of the importance of Faith and our ability to worship God together in Church. A major aspect of our future is Stewardship, because a primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen our faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to Whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed. To make Stewardship successful requires each and every one of us to look into our hearts and give back to the Church for the gifts God has bestowed upon us all, and to look to the future of our Church for ourselves and our children. Stewardship begets optimism for our Faith: Optimism is the foundation of courage, and being optimistic just feels better. Please give generously toward our future through Stewardship. Our children and their children will truly thank us.

(Continued on Page 5)

Parish Council Report *(Continued from Page 4)*

It now appears that the Greek Food Festival will definitely be happening this year: The dates are *Friday, September 10 through Sunday, September 12, 2021*. We have been in the planning process for months, and our mission is to provide a very “high energy” and “festive” event, replete with the sights, sounds, tastes and aromas of Greece. Our hallmark is “Kefi.” We are going to up the ante this year with more activity for a bigger and better “Greek Experience.” It will be essentially a Greek rock concert with great food. It is our goal to energize the entire Church Community toward this very important effort by making the Festival a labor of love, and by making it a rewarding and fun experience for everyone who works on it. Please step up with your time, talents and treasures when the time comes and you are called upon.

We are presently addressing several issues pertaining to the Church facilities. As stated last month, we recently re-seeded and reworked the irrigation systems on the big field and other areas to start getting the grounds back in shape. Everything is greening up again. We have also begun to fix the small stucco pony wall surrounding the dome on top of the Church. The stucco cracked open due to weather exposure, and has been allowing water to leak in. We have engaged a contractor to fix the stucco and put a waterproof cap on top of the wall. We are also going to look at resurfacing and fixing the floor in Panos Hall. It is critical that we do so for purposes of renting it out for various events. There are many other issues pertaining to the facilities that we will need to work on in the near future, which we will prioritize in the coming months.

In closing, please keep praying for those afflicted with this dreaded disease of COVID, for a speedy end to this Pandemic that has caused so much suffering and consternation, for a speedy return to normal, and for those working on the front lines. We are almost there, so keep the Faith, because Faith and optimism are key to a better future. God Bless!

In Christ, Gus Flangas, Parish Council President



Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisi!

Alexandra Morris (Adult Baptism), on May 8, 2021.

Godparent: Catherine Koupais.

Eleni (Allanah), daughter of George and Irene Savopoulos, on May 9, 2021.

Godparents: Christos and Nicole Papas.

Lukas Makarios, son of Kyle and Maria-Elena Pierro-Foster, on May 22, 2021.

Godparent: Joseph Pierro, Jr.

Marriage: Na Zisete!

Joshua Justin Britton and Elizabeth Arbuiso on May 22, 2021.

Koumbara: Rahel Kiflezgi.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord

Sofia Lechner on April 19, 2021. Trisagion on May 6.

George Londos on April 18, 2021. Funeral on May 14 in Ely, NV.

Philoptochos News

"Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon." (Isaiah 58:10)



Dear Father John, Father Seraphim, Parish Council, Ladies Philoptochos Society and fellow parishioners of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church,

Christos Anesti! It is with great pleasure I sincerely thank Benita Beeman and the past Board Members of 2019-2021. Never has our Philoptochos Chapter faced a challenge like the great crisis of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Board members and general membership of the Ladies Philoptochos Society, with the generosity of the St. John the Baptist parishioners, managed to fulfill liturgically the duties of Faith, maintain the Social Services programs and even managed to conduct a few fundraising efforts to support the obligations and programs as we always have done.

Most recently, it almost felt like 2019, when we met in the kitchen with the talents of Eleni Kakavulias and Sophia Leonis to make Kourambiethes and Koulourakia for the Agape Picnic. Many thanks to all who helped. Then with Johanna Jandette, Amanda Flangas, Tammy Flangas, Amalia and Ava Dominguez we packed them all up to sell at the Picnic. Thanks to Geri Kypreos, we were able to sell cookies, ice cream and Steve Tzelalis' delicious Tsourekia! Thanks to Christina Snow, Benita Beeman and Christine Poulos for taking over the Wine Wagon and selling tickets: It was another great success. I would like to also say thanks to the many LPS members that helped out at the Picnic in the food line. All of you are amazing to get right back to serving!

Now we are in the same yet changed world. Same will be our service to our Faith, obligations to fill, and commitments to Ministries and our responsibilities to our Community that we are here to serve. Changed will be the way we execute some of these needs, so stay tuned for more information.

It is with great honor that I present the Board Members of the 2021-2023 Ladies Philoptochos Society, Panagia Chapter that are tasked with all these undertakings: 1st Vice President, Fundraising – Vicky Palivos, 2nd Vice President, Membership – Christina Snow, Treasurer – Dora Hart, Recording Secretary – Eileen Koutsulis, Corresponding Secretary – Tina Liaos. Board Members: Past President Advisor – Benita Beeman, Social Services Chair – Geri Kypreos, Paraskevi (Jennifer) Santamaria, Jennifer Chanos, Paula Kelesis, Rahel Kiflezgi, Amanda Flangas, Ellyn Nixon, Maha Habiba, Litza Smith, Stephanie Rosenthal, Sharon Katsaros and our fabulous Presvytera Maria Hondros. Thank you, ladies, for your service and devotion.

It is with great humility that I accept the office of President of the Ladies Philoptochos Society, Panagia Chapter, of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church. We look forward to the next two years and hope to make a difference in someone's abiding faith, life, and love in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ, Bernadette Anthony

Philoptochos Cereal Collection in June



The Ladies of Philoptochos need your help! We are asking for donations of boxed cereal to help feed children and their families from the Nevada Childhood Cancer Foundation. Healthy, low sugar brands are preferred but not necessary.

Collection will begin June 1 and run through June 30. Cereal can be dropped off at the Church Office, and of course cash donations are also accepted and very much appreciated. Please help make this June Cereal Drive a success!

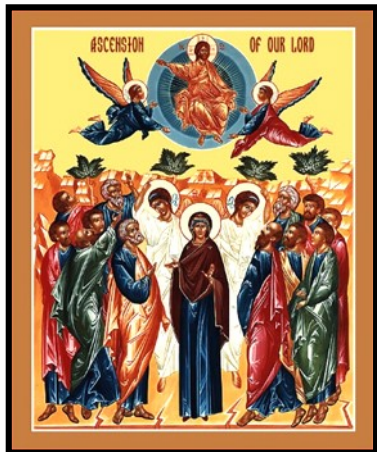
For more information contact Amanda Flangas at (702) 461-7894 or Tina Liaos (702) 335-2876.

Stewardship and Community Outreach

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Christ is Risen! Glory be to God for all things!

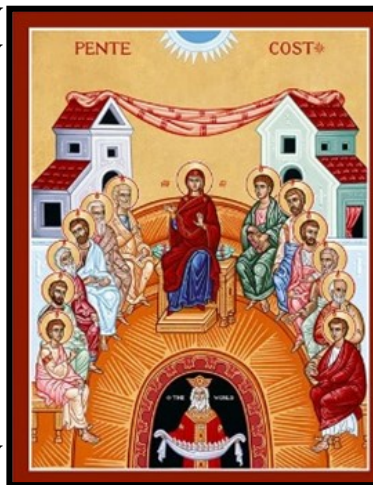
What a difference a year makes. This time last year our Church, which had been closed from mid-March to the end of May was finally able to open. That opening coincided with Pentecost Sunday. By God's Grace, in 2021 we have been able to celebrate the entirety of Holy Lent, and our Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection, in person in our beautiful Church, although many of our beloved Stewards have not yet returned.



During this month of June, we will be able to continue to celebrate, in person, this period of the *Pentecostarion*, with His glorious Ascension (*June 10*) and the bestowing of the Holy Spirit, on those who were *"with one accord in one place"* (*Acts 2:1*) on Pentecost Sunday (*June 20*). May these two events renew in us the fire and love for the fullness of the faith that we have been given as part of our talents, from God, through our Baptism and Chrismation. Having the fullness of the faith, bestowed upon us by our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, let us use this God given

grace to reach out to our lapsed brothers and sisters, our family, relatives, neighbors and friends and share with them the Good News – Christ is Risen!

Remember the words of the *Prophet Jeremiah (20:9)*, *"I say to myself, I will not mention Him, I will speak in His name no more. But then it becomes like a fire burning in my heart, shut up in my bones; I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it."* The Prophet initially decided not to speak of the Lord simply because so few paid attention to his words. How many times have we failed to speak to others of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, out of fear of rejection or being "cancelled" in our current culture? Let us not be afraid of what others may think. Instead let us be like the Apostles, after Pentecost, letting the irresistible power of the Spirit of God to speak through us like a *"fire burning in my heart, shut up in my bones."*



The Apostle Paul reminds us in *Galatians (6:9)* to not *"grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."* What shall we reap, if we do not lose heart? We shall reap a great and glorious reward from God. May we never forget the words of the Apostle Paul: Let us *"fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."* (*1 Timothy 6:12*)

In Christ, Stewardship and Outreach Committee

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council: Gus Flangas

Philoptochos: Bernadette Anthony

Stewardship & Community Outreach:
Justina Szukiewicz

Choir: Athena Mertes

Chanters & Youth Choir:
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Church School: Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers: Father John

GOYA:
Anne Pantelas & Maha Habiba

Orthodox Family Fellowship:
Imtisal Amy Khuri & April Rivera

Young Adults:
Fr. Seraphim

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek School: Paula Kelesis

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

Kali Parea: Demetrios Asim

Adult Basketball:
TBD

Forerunners: Victoria Xikis

Orthodox Bookstore:
Paraskevi Santamaria

Greek Food Festival: Gus Flangas

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

Photography & Live-Streaming:
Bill & Erin Bruninga



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): _____

Ministry News

Church School

Christos Anesti! I hope everyone had a great school year! Congratulations to all our Graduates!

During the summer, please enjoy the *Orthodox Journeys* that Karen emails every week. This is great information that follows the Orthodox calendar. We will continue to send these out and it will be the curriculum we will follow in the fall as well. We plan to start in-person Church School on **Sunday, September 19**. Please be on the lookout in the July/August issue of *The Desert Messenger* for the Church School Registration Form, along with other information you will need to know. We look forward to seeing and teaching all our students again! For those who wish to continue learning from home, you can follow along with the *Orthodox Journeys* that will be emailed.

I would like to give a special thank you to our beloved teacher, Marina Adamy, who has decided to retire after decades of faithful teaching. We will miss her and everything she has brought to our program. Please feel free to reach out if you need anything.

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

Combined Skate Event for Orthodox Family Fellowship and GOYA



Christ is Risen!

Calling all families and youth of St. John the Baptist Church: Join us on **Saturday, June 19** as we beat the heat for Open Skate at the new Lifeguard Arena in Henderson! (222 S. Water Street, Henderson, NV.) We will have open skate **from 1:00 to 3:00 pm**, and the cost is \$10 per person.

If we have enough people we might qualify for a group rate: Please RSVP as soon as possible to Father Seraphim at frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com or (702) 768-7480.

Love in the Risen Lord, Father Seraphim

Young Adults

This month Dean and Tammy Chomakos have graciously offered to host the YA Potluck and Pool Party fellowship gathering at their home on **Sunday, June 6 at 4:00 pm**. Both of their YA-aged sons, George and Kosta, have been longtime members of our Church Community and YA Ministry. We will enjoy a wonderful time of friends, food, and fellowship, along with a spiritual discussion focused on our Orthodox Identity. We invite everyone to come with a side, salad, drinks, or dessert to share!

For questions or directions, and to RSVP, please contact Father Seraphim at frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com or (702) 768-7480.

Christos Anesti! Father Seraphim

Mr. & Mrs.

Dear Married and Engaged Couples of St. John the Baptist Church,

Christ is Risen! What a journey we have had in this past year of no fellowships or in-person gatherings! Now, we are thankful to God we are able to come back together for our in-person Mr. & Mrs. fellowship!

We will be hosted by Richard and Angela Acovino at their home for our monthly potluck dinner on **Saturday, June 5 at 6:00 pm**. Please bring a side, salad, dessert or drinks to share. RSVP with Father Seraphim at frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com or (702) 768-7480. We hope to see you there!



From Father Seraphim

Christ is Risen! June is always the one month I think back on the experience of coming to Las Vegas as a newly ordained Deacon and being sent to St. John the Baptist Church four years ago on June 1, 2017. June always makes me reflect on and remember my Ordination to the Holy Priesthood and the reason we even have priests, parishes, and our Holy Orthodox Faith and way of life within our worldwide Orthodox Church. In my ordination speech before His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and our whole community I remember speaking about St. John Chrysostom's famous reflections, *On the Priesthood*. St. John reminds us all in speaking about Orthodox priests (who are partaking in the unique Great High Priesthood of Christ) that, "without those hands, there is no salvation." Without Jesus Christ working through the priest's hands to Baptize for salvation, to Consecrate the Holy Gifts offered in the Divine Liturgy into the Body and Blood of Christ, to bless penitents and loose the sins of those repenting in Confession: Without the Divine Grace operative through the priest's hands, we cannot be sanctified in any of the Holy Mysteries. The only hope we have in this world so quickly passing away and among all the fleeting things is the unchanging Love of God offered to us personally by the Risen Jesus Christ through His unworthy and sinful priests, who communicate to His people the saving and sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit in the Church. This is really the purpose of each and every one of our lives in this world, which is filled with so much pain, tragedy and death. As St. Nikon of Optina said: "There never was, and never will be a place on earth free from sorrows. The only sorrow-less place possible is the heart, when the Lord is present there."

My parents, Father Joseph and Presvytera Felicity Ramos, were just recently transferred from St. Susanna Mission (OCA) in Sonora, CA to Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church in Tacoma, WA, where my father will serve as the Proistamenos. The previous priest of Holy Resurrection Church retired after over 35 years at the end of May. Holy Resurrection was the parish that received all eight members of the Ramos Family in 2008, when we converted into the Orthodox Church following our long journey through different Non-Denominational Protestant, or Charismatic-Episcopal churches. I was 16 years-old at the time, a sophomore in high school, and had no idea that one day I would come to the Greek Orthodox Church and Community in Las Vegas to be ordained as an Orthodox priest!

Father John recently allowed Presvytera Olenka and I to go and help pack up my parent's house for their big move back up to the Pacific Northwest. While not in the normal routine of office hours here in Vegas, I was able to realize the immense importance and calling that each of us has: Of simply being faithful Orthodox Christians. We may not be people that make it on billboards, make millions of dollars, we may not have talk-radio shows or more contemporarily be Instagram "influencers" or "Social Media Celebrities," but what we all really can do is strive to live a holy life and be faithful to Christ in our daily struggle. I saw this struggle in my parents who will never be wealthy with the riches of this world, are neither famous by any stretch of the imagination nor powerful, but they have a beautiful life – because theirs is a life lived striving to love, serve and obey God. I owe an unimaginably large debt of gratitude for the gift of my own faith as a Christian and for many of the good things in my character to the influence and careful nurturing of my parents – they are not perfect, but they are indeed faithful!

(Continued on Page 11)

Notes from the Choir Loft



Christos Anesti!

Thank you to everyone who was able to sing with us on Holy Friday and Paschal!
It was wonderful to hear your voices again!

You are invited to join us again every Sunday in the front pews to sing together for Divine Liturgy. If you need a book, please let me know, and we will have some available for you. We look forward to hearing the Choir every Sunday!

Much Love, Athena Mertes, Director

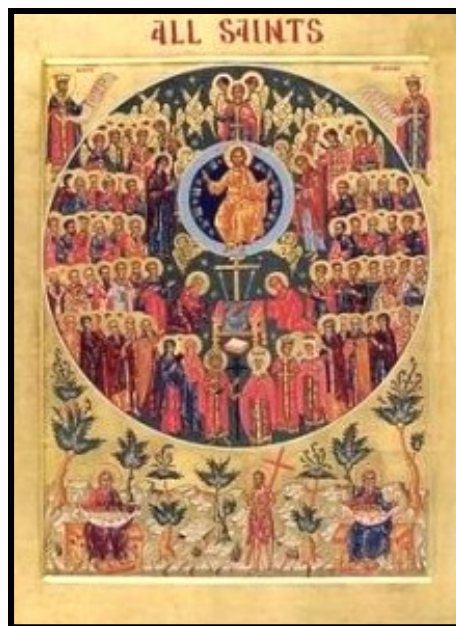
From Father Seraphim (Continued from Page 10)

Last month, as we all stood together here in our magnificently beautiful St. John the Baptist Church before the *Kouvouklion* containing the embroidered *Epitaphios* Icon of our Lord's Body taken down from the Cross, we sang these words: "Every generation offers You its hymn of praise at Your Burial, O my Christ." That hymn is only going to be true if we show up in Church to sing it! We can only fulfill it if we live connected to Christ's Church and stay deeply committed to developing ourselves, our families and especially our children in the Holy Orthodox Faith. That kind of a faithful life will be meaningful, beautiful, fulfilling, and will indeed change the whole course of human history – if not for all of mankind, at least for ourselves and the people we know and love.

As we approach the *Feast of All-Saints on Sunday, June 27*, let us remember all those Saints who are known only to God and do not have an "official" feast day. It is deeply impressed in my heart that we are all called to become Saints. Nothing less was given to us at our Baptism when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon us. We are called "the faithful" as members of the Body of Christ, and what we can do is offer our lives faithfully and truly to our Lord, Who loved us and gave Himself for us.

With Love in Christ,

Father Seraphim



PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND



You are invited and encouraged to join
Metropolitan Ilia of Philomelion and Very Reverend Father John Hondros on
**A Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Jordan River for the Feast of Holy Theophany and
throughout the Holy Land, including Petra in Jordan and
St. Catherine's Monastery at Mt. Sinai in Egypt**
January 13 - 27, 2022.

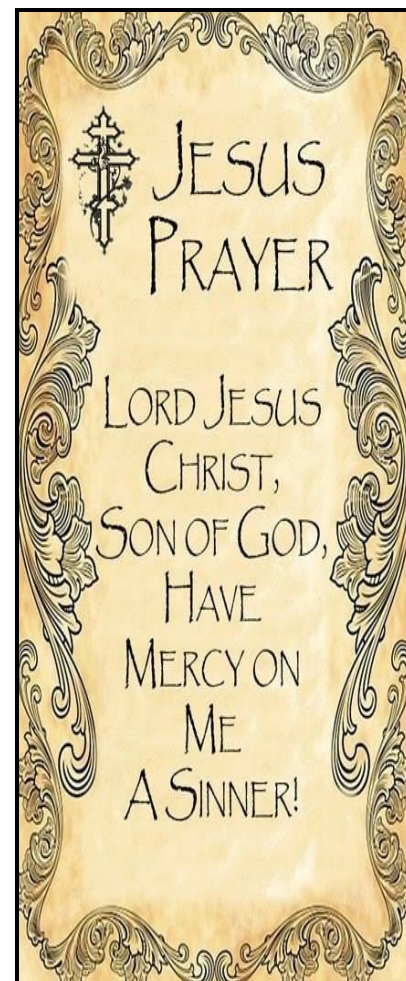
All inclusive price is \$5,265 for double occupancy.

You can get the registration form and full itinerary
at www.mgatours.com, or by contacting

Victoria Xikis at (702) 419-5294

or Paula Kelesis at (702) 249-4740.

Deadline to register and pay is September 15, 2021.



Orthodox Bookstore

Christos Anesti from the Bookstore!

Translated for the first time into English is this month's featured collection of writings by Saint Nektarios of Pentapolis (1846-1920), entitled *Habitation of Holiness*, from NewRome Press. Saint Nektarios is one of the most renowned Greek saints who was officially recognized by the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in 1961, though his life was not free from struggle. In his prime, some were jealous of him and his successes and/or popularity and thus created lies and scandal about him by which even his Patriarch Sophronios would be convinced and take everything from Nektarios. A true icon of Christian love and patience, however, he withstood these difficulties with much forbearance and ultimately came to be recognized for his great wisdom and spiritual fruits when he founded a convent for nuns on the island of Aegina in Greece.

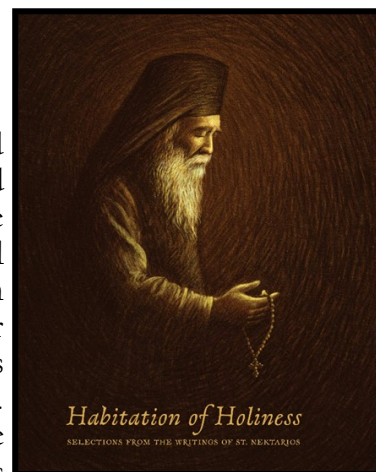
At the Convent of the Holy Trinity, St. Nektarios was said to have made his greatest contributions to the Orthodox Church as people flocked from all over to see him, hear his sermons, and be healed of various illness thus making him known also as the "Wonderworker of Aegina." To this day, his grave site continues to render miracles from time to time and is visited by many. The late abbess of the monastery, "Gerontissa" Theodosia, wrote of her site's founder: "St. Nektarios delighted insatiably in the spiritual honey of the doctrines, the mysteries, the worship, the hymnography, the Christian ethics and in general of the Orthodox spiritual life and tradition. He was most meticulous in studying and very precise in applying the divine word, which he then transmitted through his preaching, his writings and primarily his personal example."

Having appeared to Abbess Theodosia in a dream and telling her it was time for her to share him with the world, she consented for Metropolitan Ephraim of Aegina and Metropolitan Alexios of Atlanta to bring a portion of St. Nektarios' Holy Relic to a newly established St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church in Charlotte, NC. It is in response to this love and support that this new community of St. Nektarios here in the US supported the English translation of this current collection of selected writings.

From *Habitation of Holiness* in the words of Saint Nektarios:

"Again we must say that Christianity does not propose to transform the human person into a philosopher, but into the image and the likeness of God. This does indeed happen when man renders his heart into a holy dwelling place, in which the Lord may dwell and abide, and where indeed the Lord makes his permanent home . . . What benefit does knowledge have when it is not used in the formation and transformation of the heart? Does not the heart really represent our soul?"

For your copy, stop by the Bookstore and perhaps check out our St. Nektarios icons and more!
Serving you with Love in Christ, Paraskevi Santamaria, Bookstore Director



*Blessed is He Who comes in
the Name of the Lord!*

Congratulations, Class of 2021!

High School Graduates

Sophia Dominguez, the granddaughter of Pete and Glenda Eliakis and daughter of Eric and Amalia Dominguez, graduated in the top 3% of her class from West Career and Technical Academy in the BioMedical Program with an Advanced Honors Diploma. Throughout high school Sophia played varsity volleyball for the Durango Trailblazers. During this time, she was recognized for academic excellence and elected to the 2019-2020 Nevada All-State Academic Team, as well as presented the 2019 Durango Coaches Award. In November 2019, Durango and Bishop Gorman advanced to the state title match. This fall Sophia will be attending UCLA in the College of Letters and Science. Go Bruins!



Nicoletta Filios, daughter of Spiros and Eleni Filios, is graduating from Bishop Gorman High School with Honors. She is the granddaughter of George and Nitsa Filios, and +Nick and Georgia Dalacas. Nicoletta will be attending Chapman University Business School.

Athena Jett, daughter of Chip and Karina Jett, is graduating from Bishop Gorman High School with straight A's and will be attending UNLV in the fall.



Natalie Katsaros, daughter of Thomas and Sharon Katsaros, is a proud graduate of Palo Verde High School and will be attending UNR (University of Nevada Reno) in the fall to pursue a degree in Journalism.

God Bless Our High School Class of 2021!

Cassandra Maria Thanos, daughter of Nick and Victoria Thanos, will graduate from The Meadows School. She was part of the Cum Laude Society, National Honor Societies, and Nevada Thespian Society Superior Award. She received AP Awards for Excellence in English Literature, Filmmaking, American Literature, Latin and Algebra and Trigonometry. Cassandra has received a Scholarship from the Nevada Thespian Society Outstanding Senior Film Student and will be attending the Dodge School of Cinematic Arts at Chapman University, majoring in screenwriting and film production.



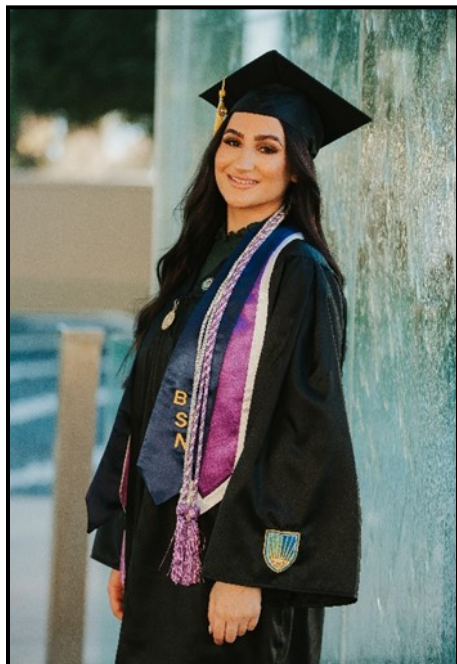
Christopher Tsouras, son of Christopher and Diana Tsouras, will graduate from Advanced Technologies Academy with a High Honors (4.5 GPA) and will be attending University of Wisconsin-Platteville to study Civil Engineering and to play collegiate baseball.

Ioannis Nikolaos Zarkos, son of Nick and Dina Zarkos, graduates with Honors from Bishop Gorman High School and is the recipient of the Scholars Diploma. Yianni will be attending the University of Nevada Reno Honors College. He will be in the Pre-Medicine Program majoring in Molecular Microbiology and Immunology and minoring in Nutrition.



Congratulations, Class of 2021!

College Graduates



Christina Alex, daughter of Jim and Renee Alex, graduated from Chamberlain University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Christina was part of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, she was on the Dean's List, and graduated Magna Cum Laude. She has applied to various hospitals in Las Vegas to work in the ICU. She will begin her Master's Program in the fall to become a Nurse Practitioner (AGNP) specializing in Neurology.



Reagan Eyler, daughter of John and Lisa Eyler, granddaughter of Father Paul and Presvytera Ilean Eyler, graduated May 8, 2021 from Texas Christian University (TCU). She received a BA in Communications with a double minor in Sociology and Journalism. Reagan has enjoyed her time in Fort Worth, Texas, along with her summers as a sailing instructor at Tabor Academy. She is looking forward to returning to Las Vegas to start her career in the communications and public relations fields. Go Frogs!



Andrew Flangas, son of Gus and Tamara Flangas and grandson of +Bill and Marilyn Flangas, recently completed his Thesis, and is graduating from the University of Nevada Reno with a Master of Science Degree in Computer Science and Engineering. Andrew previously received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering with an emphasis in Biomed, and Minors in Computer Science and Engineering, and in Math. Andrew's work while completing his studies was published eight times in various trade publications. He also participated in National Cyber League competitions and was part of teams going to the Nevada Governor's Mansion to hold Cyber Clinics to teach government workers the importance of cyber security. Andrew recently relocated to

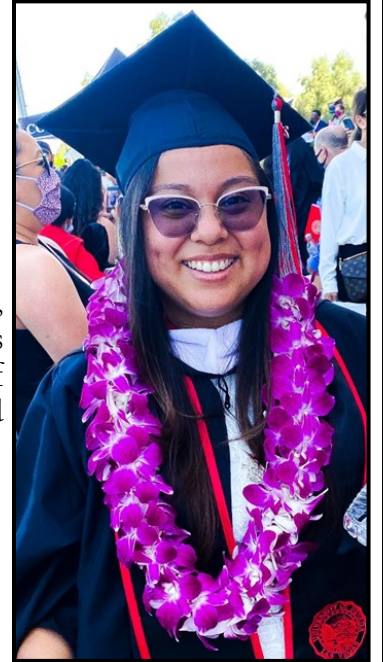
Huntsville, Alabama, after accepting a position with Parry Labs, a solutions provider to the Department of Defense and commercial aerospace companies, designing and deploying advanced systems solutions, ranging from mission computing and power systems to unmanned systems and advanced satellite communications.

Congratulations to Our 2021 College Graduates!



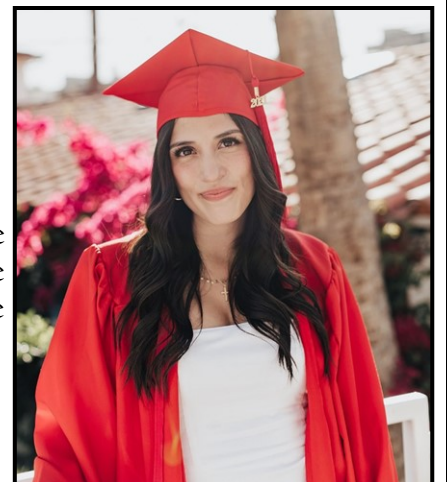
Alexander Michael Flangas, son of Gus and Tamara Flangas and grandson of +Bill and Marilyn Flangas, recently graduated from the University of Nevada Reno with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering.

Melissa Angeliki Fleetwood, graduated from UNLV (Class of 2020, walked 2021) with a Masters of Communications with Honors. She continues to serve as an educator to Orthodox Children in Boston at St. Herman's of Alaska School, and focusing on her Byzantine chant studies while her husband finishes seminary.



Nicholas Kilgore, son of Eleni Kilgore Rowe, graduated on the Dean's list from the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) with an Associate of Arts Degree in Fire Science Technology Management. Nicholas plans on continuing his education and getting his Basic and AEMT and becoming a paramedic. His dream is to be a firefighter.

Morgan Lovato, will graduate with a Bachelor's of Science in Healthcare Administration and Policy from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She plans to attend UNLV again this January to pursue a Master of Healthcare Administration.

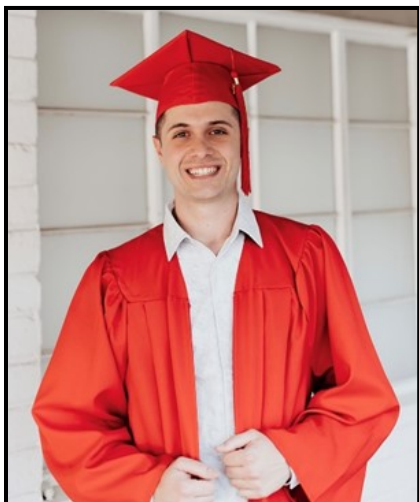


God Bless Our 2021 College Graduates!



Theofania Kunard, daughter of Stacy and Kiki Mavrantonis, graduated from Chamberlain College of Nursing – Tyson's Corner with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). She was Magna Cum Laude and CALM Mentor of the Year. She has accepted a job with Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, Missouri, and will begin her career as a Transplant Nurse. Theofania will further her education by getting her Master's and becoming a Nurse Practitioner, either in family medicine or critical care.

Linda Rihani graduated with a degree in Masters in Arts in Early Childhood Education with ESL and Special Education Endorsements from Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois. Starting in the fall, she will be a Reading Specialist at Guardian Angel Orthodox Day School in Des Plaines, Illinois.

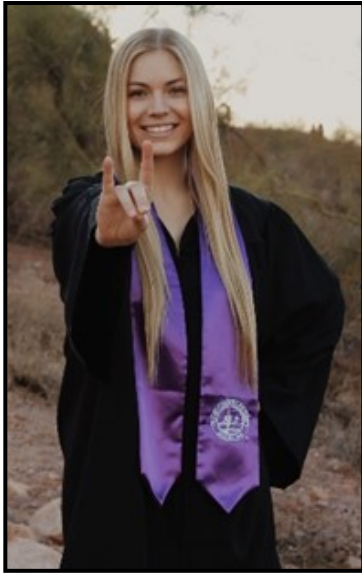


Eric Szukiewicz, son of Joseph and Justina Szukiewicz will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Business Entrepreneurship from the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

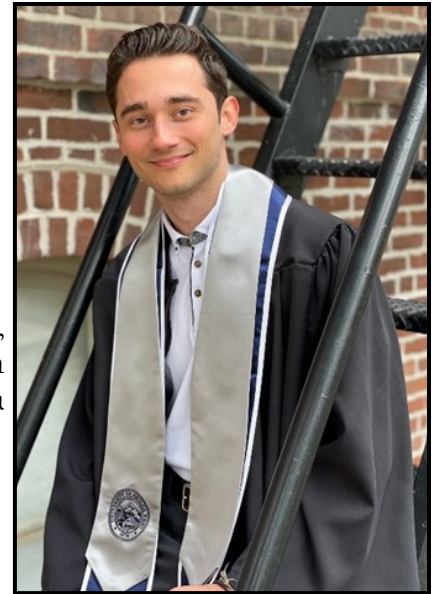
Elena Nicole Sutil, daughter of Cesar and Vicky Sutil and niece of Presvytera Maria and Father John, graduates on May 26 from San Diego State University. Elena will take on the role of Executive Team Leader for Target Corporation.



Congratulations, College Graduates of 2021!



Taylor Webb, graduated with a Master of Public Health from Grand Canyon University.



Christopher Zimmerman, son of Paul and Angela Zimmerman, graduated from the University of Nevada Reno with a Double Major in Finance and Economics. He plans to attend Law School at Santa Clara University in the fall.





Holy Week and Pascha 2021



Photos by Bill Bruninga

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 Julie
 Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine
 Anastasiou, Andrew and Kathleen
 Andrews, Catherine
 Andrews, Chris and Pamela
 Andrews, George
 Andricopoulos, Margo
 Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette
 Arbuio, Elizabeth
 Arges, Dimitri
 Aristides, George and Diana
 Asim, Demetrious
 Atkins, Dakota
 Atkins, Sean and Christina
 Bacon, Ken and Dianne
 Bakalas, John and Deme
 Balanos, Anastasia and Garyfalia
 Balaouras, Panos and Helen
 Balason, Voula
 Balodimas, James
 Barbarino, Dee and Nick
 Bartzos, Eugenia
 Beeler, Mike and Carolyn
 Beeman, Benita
 Berendji, Jim and Vivian
 Bieker, Adam and Cassie
 Birtas, Helen and Ann
 Bjorklund, Danielle
 Bledsoe, Lori
 Bochanis, George and Enid
 Booth, Alina
 Bratta, Georgene
 Brennan, Peter and Maria
 Britten, Ronald and Carol
 Brown, Faye
 Bruninga, Bill and Erin
 Bryant, Timothy and Janet
 Bucy, Brent and Elaine
 Campbell, Theodore and Cheryl
 Carabas, Stephen and Linda
 Carahalas, John and Constance
 Caredis, Jon and Marjorie
 Carrico, William and Alexandra
 Carter, Maria
 Chachas, Bessie
 Chachas, James
 Chagares, Kiki
 Chamie, Elie, Emil and Claudine
 Chandrinis, Alexia
 Chanos, Jennifer
 Chomakos, Dean and Tammy
 Chomakos, Jeremy and Romina
 Chondrakis, Dimosthenis and Kragerud, Kaaren
 Christou, Toni
 Collins, David
 Conger, William and Alexia
 Costacos, John
 Costuros, George and Marsha

Cosulas, Fr. Basil and Presv. Samantha
 Cotsilis, Jenny
 Coyle, Helen
 Crist, Adam and Kanistra
 Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia
 Dalacas, Eleni
 Dalacas, Georgia
 Daskalos, George and Voula
 Deep, Joe and Schumacher, Alexi
 Demas, Spiro and Rita
 Demolas, Maria and Nour, Reza
 Demoleas, Alexandra
 Demoleas, Eleni and Thomas, Kristian
 Demoleas, Spero and Grace
 Demoleas, Stephanie
 Demopoulos, Vasiliki
 Dimitri, Patricia, Martha and Janet
 Dominguez, Eric and Amalia
 Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia
 Dounis, Dina
 Dounis, Georgia
 Dounis, Kiki
 Earl, Christine Michaelides
 Eliades, Aristotelis and Caroline
 Eliades, Gregory and Maria
 Eliades, Sia
 Eliades, Harry and Agapi
 Eliades, Katerina
 Eliakis, Peter and Glenda
 Eliakis, Varthie and LeeAnn
 Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean
 Eyler, John and Elizabeth
 Farren, Anthony and Maritsa
 Fenlason, Nathan and Jennifer
 Filios, Spiridon and Eleni
 Fischer, Cheryl
 Fitzgerald, Norman and McCullen, Sandra
 Flangas, Gary and Amanda
 Flangas, Gus and Tamara
 Flangas, Marilyn
 Fleetwood, Brandon
 Fletes, Richard and Stephanie
 Foster, Kyle and Pierro, Maria Elena
 Fountas, Constantinos
 Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia
 Garza, Everardo and Eliades, Eleni
 Gauvin, Chad and Marissa
 Geiger, Dan and Dora Hart
 Gekakis, George
 Generales, John and Arlene
 George, Elias and Saladino, Maria Veronica
 George, Louis
 George, Pete and Georgia
 Ghebreab, Daniel and Ghermay, Selam

Gialketsis, Bill and Shelli
 Gialketsis, Julie
 Gialketsis, Steve
 Gialketsis, William
 Giouzelis, Anastasia
 Goodman, Robert and Linda
 Gordon, Victor and Demetria
 Gorgan, Patrick
 Gutierrez, Connie
 Gutierrez, Daniel
 Hadzoglon, Christos
 Hall, Elizabeth
 Hamilton, Mary
 Hamilton, Paul and Brandi
 Hastings, Teri
 Hemmers, Oliver and Pantelas, Anne
 Hoadrea, Jimmy and Monci
 Hondros, Catherine
 Hondros, Christina
 Hondros, Christopher and Darlene
 Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria
 Hondros, Marissa
 Houlis, Ila and Debbie
 Howard, William and Willie
 Iteen, Robert and Sophia
 Jandete, Johanna
 Jensen, Matthew and Michelle
 Johnson, Robert and Helen
 Kachikis, Ernestine
 Kakavulias, George and Helen
 Kakavulias, John and Elizabeth
 Kambouris, Litsa
 Kanis, Constantinos and Katie
 Karas, James
 Karas, John and Marcie
 Karris, Mark and Suzanne
 Katopodis, Efstratios
 Katris, Nick and Theana
 Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon
 Kelesis, Paula
 Kiflezgi, Rahel
 Kilgore, Alexandra and Rickerson, Connor
 Kinard, Panorea
 Kirchner, Gary "Barlaam"
 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
 Koupais, Mario and Cheri
 Koutsulis, John and Eileen
 Koutsulis, Sam and Effie
 Kypreos, George and Lesley
 Kypreos, Peter and Geri
 Kyriannis, Justin and Linda

Kyriazopoulos, Constantine, Jr.
 Lakkis, Christina
 Lambros, Kyriakos and Mary
 Latelle, Penny
 Lavine, Frederic
 Lee, David and Alexandra
 Lekar, Michael and Effie
 Leone, Stephen
 Leong, Marissa
 Leonis, Nick and Sophia
 Leonis, Tishe
 Leventis, Naomi
 Leventis, Nicholas and Christina
 Liaos, James and Tina
 Liaos, Steven and Francine
 Likourinou, Angie
 Likourinou, Steve and June
 Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine
 Loney, Thomas and Chrysi
 Luke, Parker and Maria
 Malamatos, Kindina
 Maland, Donna
 Malpee, Kalliope
 Manolakis, Catherine
 Manos, Constantine and Michele
 Margaretis, John and Lucila
 Markakis, Sandy Kiriaki
 Markantonis, George and Sarah
 Matsis, John and Rebecca
 Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki
 Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debra
 Mavroudis, Frank
 Mavros, Alex and Jen
 Mavros, Debbie
 McManus, Jeanette
 McKinney, Michael and Mersene
 McPherson, Robert and Marie
 McSweeney, Farolyn
 Menegatos, James
 Merritt, Devin and Sonia
 Minas, Arthur and Ewa
 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
 Nichols, George and Tereza
 Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra
 Nixon, John and Ellyn
 Pahigiannis, Nikon
 Paikos, Tom and Elizabeth
 Pajak, Scott and Angela
 Palivos, Peter and Vicky
 Pandelis, Cheryl
 Panos, Jeanne

(Continued on Page 11)

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

Papalois, John and Maria
 Papas, Christian and Nicole
 Papas, Peter and Rita
 Pappas, Panagiotis and Andrea
 Pappas, Rita
 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
 Rodis, Sophia
 Rosenthal, Joseph and Stephanie
 Rotas, Beatrice
 Rowe, Jim and Eleni
 Ruffner, Skip and Kathy
 Sakkas, Georgios and Stavropoulos, Bessie
 Salon, Janelle
 Salonikis, Valentinos and Sophia
 Santamaria, Jennifer and Robert
 Savvas, Savva
 Sechrist, Carl and Christine
 Schremelis, Andy and Leslie
 Setian, Gary and Marie
 Simos, Eleni
 Simos, Tony and Lorie
 Simpson, Bryan and Julie
 Sirhan, Michael and Khuri, Imtisal
 Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia
 Skandros, Stephanie

Smith, Kathleen
 Snow, Clifford and Christina
 Snowden, Robert+ and Niki
 Sorkhabi, Arian and Habiba, Maha
 Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette
 Staubs, Douglas and Anastasia
 Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki
 Stenos, Louis
 Stransky, Jack and Rachel
 Stransky, Mark
 Szukiewicz, Alex
 Szukiewicz, Joseph and Justina
 Tafoya, Steven and Irene
 Takas, Andrea
 Tasios, Ramona and Pete+
 Theros, James and Kathryn
 Thompson, Maggy
 Tijiboy, Christine
 Tohme, Tony and May
 Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katerina
 Tsolis, Christos and Panagioula
 Tsortanidis, Sophia
 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
 Williamson, Rula Halatsis-
 Wilson, Clyde
 Wilson, Kelly and Egi, Junichiro
 Wilson, Lori
 Wilson, Steven and Cleo
 Womack, Karl
 Womack, Kimberly
 Wronski, Chuck
 Xerogianes, Nick and Nikki
 Yurkov, Andrea, Nikolina and Daniela
 Zaferatos, Ted
 Zarras, Nick and Chery
 Zekichev, Timothy and Morris, Alexandra
 Zervas, Dionisios
 Zimmerman, Paul and Angela
 Zmina, Stephen and Cynthia



AHEPA Las Vegas Chapter 314 News

El Camino Real District 20 Convention is planned for *June 19, 2021*.
 AHEPA Supreme Convention *July 25-31, 2021* in Athens, Greece.

More information is available at <https://ahepa.org/supreme-convention/>.
 2021 Dues are NOW DUE. Pay by credit card at: <https://ahepa-314-las-vegas.square.site/>.
 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.

Thank you,

Steve Liaos, Acting President
ahepa314@gmail.com or (702) 518-8018



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



2021 Stewardship Report (as of 5/17/21)

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$393,667 (\$445,350 in 2020)
Stewardship Gifts Received: \$241,214 (\$255,801 in 2020)
Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$152,452 (\$189,549 in 2020)
Stewardship Families Pledged: 335 (346 in 2020)
Average Pledge to Date: \$1,175 (\$1,287 in 2020)
2021 Budgeted Goal: \$500,000 . . . Keep the Pledges Coming!

Church Account Summaries - April 2021

Nevada State Bank Accounts	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$208,302.51	\$85,401.55	\$11,949.40	\$18,046.33	\$65,028.00	\$222,579.13	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$2,789.01	\$1,500.00		\$8.00		\$4,281.01	
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$1,242.84	\$690.00		\$23.00		\$1,909.84	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$248,259.10	\$23,984.00		\$1,190.35	\$15,039.61	\$256,013.14	All checks were for Bookstore merchandise and Transfers out were for Bookstore/PPP W-2.
Folk Dance Group	\$17,966.00			\$8.00		\$17,958.00	
Hellenic Historical Society	\$3,292.94			\$8.00		\$3,284.94	
Designated Funds	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$9,854.32	\$2,134.00		\$1,190.35	\$1,686.70	\$9,111.27	
Ornaments	\$1,169.41					\$1,169.41	
Restricted Funds	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
PPP W-2	\$13,352.91				\$13,352.91	\$0.00	Transferred funds to GOA for payroll
ICON	\$140,626.44	\$100.00				\$140,726.44	
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	\$26,269.26	\$1,750.00				\$28,019.26	
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	\$8,041.22	\$20,000.00				\$28,041.22	
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$142.36					\$142.36	
Designated, Restricted, and Other Total	\$248,259.10	\$23,984.00	\$0.00	\$1,190.35	\$15,039.61	\$256,013.14	
Other Funds	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$78,372.33					\$78,372.33	

April 2021 Candles \$3,639.00
 April 2021 Candles - Holy Week \$4,675.00
 April 2021 Trays \$2,687.48
 April 2021 Trays - Holy Week \$2,962.52
Total April 2021 Candles & Trays \$13,964.00



JUNE 2021 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		1	2 5:30 pm Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:30 pm Adult Study in Kokkos Hall	3	4	5 6:00 pm Mr. and Mrs. at Acovino's Home.
6 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 4:00 pm Young Adults Pool Party at Chomakos' Home	7	8	9 5:00 pm Orthros 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy Holy Ascension of Our Lord Observed 7:30 pm Adult Study	10 Holy Ascension of Our Lord (Observed 6/9)	11	12 <div>Fr. Seraphim on Vacation 6/12-17</div>
13 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	14	15 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting in Kokkos Hall	16 5:30 pm Akathist Hymn for Pentecost: To the Holy & Life Giving Spirit 6:30 pm Adult Study in Kokkos Hall	17	18	19 Saturday of Souls 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Memorial 1:00 pm GOYA/OFF Ice Skating-Lifeguard Arena
20 Holy Pentecost Happy Fathers Day 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy and Kneeling Vespers	21 <div>No Fasting This Week</div>	22	23 5:45 pm Great Vespers for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist 6:30 pm Adult Study in Kokkos Hall	24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	25	26
27 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	28	29 Ss. Peter and Paul 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	30 Synaxis of the 12 Holy Apostles 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:30 pm Adult Study			

The Desert Messenger

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Come Holy Spirit!



THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord



*“Now they know
that everything
that You have
given Me is from
You; for I have
given them the
words which You
gave Me, and they
have received
them and know
in truth that I
came from You;
and they have
believed that You
did send Me.”
(John 17:7-8)*