

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 23, Issue 4 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

April 2025

From
Father
John

“Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.” (Luke 22:42)

Beloved in Christ:

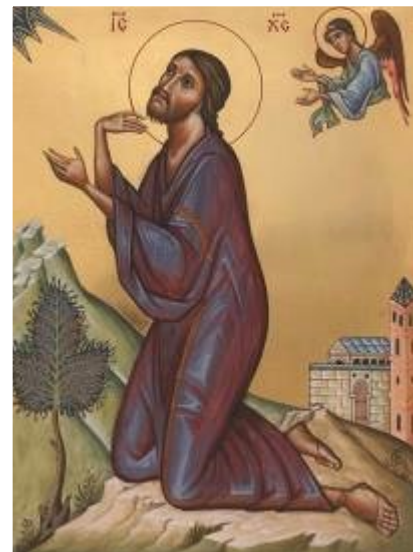
As our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, prayed these words earnestly to God the Father on the Mount of Olives before His arrest, the Evangelist Luke records that *“an Angel appeared to Him from Heaven, strengthening Him.”* Yet still He was in great agony – to the point where *“His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground.” (Luke 22:43-44)*

This pericope is one of the most perplexing – and similarly, one of the most revelatory – in the New Testament, as we are offered a full glimpse into Christ, the *Theanthropos* (God-Man). From one perspective, we see the deep anguish of Jesus in His prayer, as a reflection of His humanity, asking His Father to remove the stress of His impending suffering and Crucifixion from Him – and moreover, His agony produces a heavy sweat resembling great drops of blood. The distress of our Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane is discussed at length by Eugenia Constantinou in her book, *The Crucifixion of the King of Glory*: “Chrysostom agrees that it was important for the evangelists to depict the human fear and anxiety of Jesus as He awaited His arrest . . . Under this severe strain, He may have literally sweated blood in a rare but documented medical condition known as *hematohidrosis*.” From another angle, we witness the full communion of the Divine Son with His Father, submitting His will to the Godhead, voluntarily accepting what lies ahead – and the response of His Father, Who immediately sends an Angel to strengthen Him.

Probing further into the cause of Christ’s agony in the garden, St. Cyril of Alexandria invites us as we read this passage to enter the Lord’s Mind: *“Tell Me, what husbandman, when his vineyard is desert and waste, will feel no anguish for it? What shepherd, when his flock is perishing, suffers nothing on its account? These are the causes of My grief.”* According to St. Cyril, our Lord’s anguish is over our sinfulness, our rebelliousness, our heedlessness and our lack of love toward the One Who created us – and, at this crucial juncture, the rejection and hatred toward to the One Who has come to suffer for us in order to save us.

God’s immeasurable love for us, Whom He created in His image and likeness, prompted Him to send His Son into the world: After three years of walking, fasting, teaching, healing, casting out demons, performing miracles, thirsting, hungering and weeping, our Lord knelt on the Mount of Olives and His relentless human labors for our sake produced an immense sweat as He prayed. Blessed Theophylact writes: *“Those who toil exceedingly ‘sweat blood,’ and those who lament bitterly ‘weep blood.’ . . . The Lord was not merely damp, but perspired all around.”* Even in His hour of agony, our Lord’s toil, prayer, sweat and tears were for those whom He loved – those who received Him and followed Him and, yes, at this hour for those who were on their way to arrest Him. Christ’s work was and continues to be – now through His Church – for our repentance and our entrance into His Kingdom.

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(Continued on Page 3)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*Sundays: 8:45 am Orthros - 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Church School follows Holy Communion (except Palm Sunday and Pascha)*

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

Wednesday, April 2

6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, April 4

6:30 pm The Akathist Hymn

Sunday, April 6/*Fifth Sunday of Lent/
Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt/St. Eutychios,
Patriarch of Constantinople/Holy 120 Martyrs of
Persia/St. Gregory of Sinai/Holy Platonis the Nun
of Nisibis*

Orthros: Fourth Plagal Tone

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

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

Memorials: Metropolitan Ilia Katre of Philomelion
(2.5 years); Dora Jorgovan (2.5 years); Nikolaos
Skarlatos (1 year); Rebecca Berdos; Costantinos
Pouridis; Paul Kachikis, Peter Kachikis
Fellowship: Philoptochos - IOCC

*5:00 pm Lenten Pan-Orthodox Vespers at
St. John the Baptist*

Presentation by Nick Kasemeotes - IOCC

Monday, April 7

5:30 pm Great Compline

Wednesday, April 9

6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, April 12/*Saturday of Lazaros*

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

Epistle: Hebrews 12:28-29; 13:1-8

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Palm Tying and Lenten Breakfast

Sunday, April 13/*Palm Sunday/St. Martin the
Confessor, Pope of Rome/Holy Theodosios the
Martyr/Holy Zoilos the Martyr*

Festal Gospel: Matthew 11:1-11, 15-17

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel: John 12:1-18

Blessing and Distribution of Palms

Palm Sunday Fellowship: Kitchen Crew

GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday Evening, April 13

7:00 pm First Bridegroom Service

Holy Monday, April 14

7:00 pm Second Bridegroom Service

Holy Tuesday, April 15

7:00 pm Third Bridegroom Service/Hymn of Kassiani

Holy Wednesday, April 16

9:00 am Presanctified Liturgy

*7:00 pm Sacrament of Holy Unction/
Anointing with Holy Oil*

Holy Thursday, April 17

9:00 am Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil

7:00 pm Holy Passion of our Lord/12 Gospel Readings

Holy Friday, April 18

10:00 am Royal Hours

3:00 pm Descent from the Cross/Children's Procession

7:00 pm Lamentations/Procession of the Epitaphion

Holy Saturday, April 19

9:00 am Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil

11:00 pm Resurrection Vigil

Sunday, April 20/**GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA**

12:00 am Resurrectional Orthros & Divine Liturgy

Resurrection Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

Gospel: John 1:1-17

Blessing and Distribution of Red Eggs

12:00 pm Agape Vespers and Picnic

Gospel (in various languages): John 20:19-25

Bright Week: No Fasting All Week

***Christ is Risen from the dead,
by Death trampling down upon death,
and to those in the tombs
He has granted Life!***

WORSHIP SCHEDULE (Continued from Page 2)

Wednesday, April 23/ *Great Martyr George*
 8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
 Epistle: Acts 12:1-11
 Gospel: John 1:35-51

Friday, April 25/ *Theotokos, the Life Giving Spring/Apostle and Evangelist Mark*
 8:00 am Orthros
 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
 Epistle: Acts 3:1-8
 Gospel: Luke 10:16-21
 Church Clean-up follows

Sunday, April 27/ *First Sunday of Pascha/ The Sunday of the Holy Apostle Thomas/ Holy Martyrs Emmanuel, Theodore, George, Michael and the other George of Samothrace/ Holy Hieromartyr Symeon, Kinsman of the Lord/ St. Eulogios the Innkeeper of Constantinople*
 Orthros: Festal
 Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Matthew 28:16-20
 Epistle: Acts 5:12-20
 Gospel: John 20:19-31
 Fellowship: Homeless Outreach

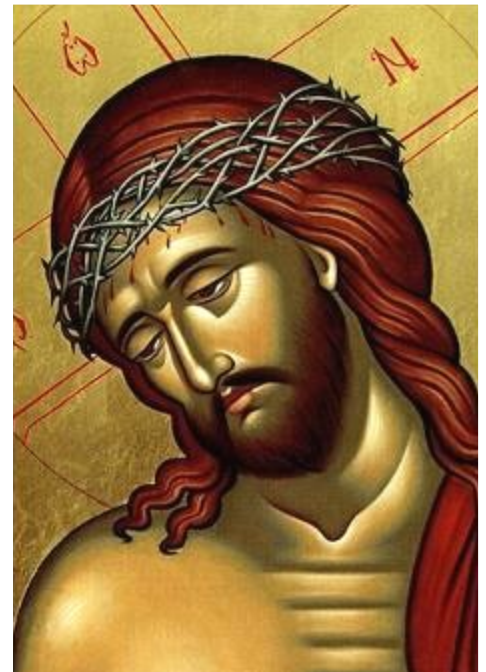
From Father John (Continued from Page 1)

During *Great and Holy Week, April 13-20*, the life-changing events that preceded and shortly followed Jesus' agony will be commemorated and, in a spiritually powerful way, re-lived: As we join together prayerfully at the services of Holy Week, partake of the liturgical actions, and listen intently to the multitude of Scriptural readings, as well as the beautiful and rich hymnography, we will become eyewitnesses to all that our Lord endured voluntarily for our salvation. May our prayers and participation have the depth and impact that produce the fruits of repentance and love, so that we may become – by the will of God and the grace of the All-Holy Spirit – genuine partakers of His Resurrection.

Καλό Πάσχα και Καλή Ανάσταση! Blessed Pascha and Resurrection!

With Love in the Crucified and Resurrected Lord,

Father John



**Parish
Council
Report**

Kali Anastasi!

We all know if you own a home, it will require maintenance and upkeep. There are always plumbing, electrical, landscaping, mechanical and other issues that come up with the ownership of a home.

Now imagine your home is over 30 years old, and it is used by a few hundred people over the course of any one week, and some weeks over one thousand people are using your home. Imagine there is another building that is part of your home that is over 20 years old, and that building has a full commercial kitchen with numerous ovens that are used on a regular basis and are used once a year to host an event that has over 10,000 people attending it.

Let's also imagine that this home with its two buildings is located on a 10 acre lot with multiple trees, landscaping, a large grass area and multiple paved parking lots. This 10 acre property is also used to host events that will have thousands of people use it during the year.

As you can figure out by now, this imaginary "home" is our Church property, and the amount of use it gets over the course of a year is constant and of a very high volume.

Our Church home, just like the homes we live in require maintenance and upkeep, but unlike our personal homes, such maintenance and upkeep are on a far larger and more expensive scale.

This is the current situation we are facing with our Church. We have 4 (four) HVAC (heating and air conditioning) units located in our Hall that are about 25 years old that need to be replaced. We have received a very reasonable replacement estimate to replace these 4 HVAC units for \$117,000. These replacements must occur before our hot summer months arrive. Our irrigation system for our landscaping is in need of major repairs. We have received bids for that work and we are attempting to receive bids that are lower in price.

Our Church property has also required repairs to our inside ovens and we have had to install security bars on our outdoor ovens to prevent further damages that were being done by people who were not authorized to be on our Church property (ie, homeless).

As you can see, our Church "home" just like our personal homes, require this maintenance and upkeep and will require it very soon. As with all buildings and property that age over time, especially with the use our Church property receives, when repairs are needed, they are extensive and costly.

Father John will be making appeals to assist with the payment of these necessary and required repairs. If you are able to help with this much needed maintenance of our beautiful Church property, please call the Church office. All assistance with this is greatly appreciated.

We are also beginning our next phase of Church Iconography. This next phase will include 6 icons on the ceiling areas of the Church. These 6 icons will depict the Nativity of Christ, the Crucifixion of Christ, the Resurrection, the Ascension, Pentecost and the Last Judgment. This last phase of Church Iconography will also include 8 panels of different Saints which will be located on the sides of the Altar (the Annuciation) and in the Exedra areas. If you are interested in sponsoring any of these Icons, please speak with Father John or Father Florin as our Priests are spearheading the fundraising for our Iconography project. They will be happy to speak with you about further details and again appreciate all support for this project that will enhance the beauty of our Church.

Sincerely, George T. Bochanis, Parish Council President





Please Join Us for Our
AGAPE PICNIC

Holy Pascha Sunday, April 20, 2025

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

12:00 noon to 4:00 pm

(Agape Vespers at noon, followed by the Picnic)

*Tickets are \$30
for either Traditional Lamb or Chicken Meal,
with Rice Pilaf, Greek Fries,
Fasolakia and Fresh Bread . . .
or four (4) Specialty items
(Pastitsio, Lokaniko, Tyropita, Spanakopita) . . .
or Lamb Sandwich and two (2) Specialties*

- *Delicious Greek Pastries*
- *Cash Bar*
- *Greek Music*
- *Children's Egg Hunt at 2:00 pm*
- *Table Reservations are Available and Encouraged*

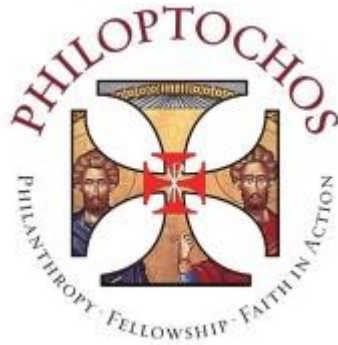


Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

*For tickets and table reservations, please call
Karen at the Church Office (702) 221-8245*



Philoptochos
News



*“When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: Death is overthrown! Christ God is Risen, granting the world great mercy!”
(Resurrection Apolytikion, Fourth Tone)*

Dear Father John, Father Florin, Deacon John and Wonderful Parishioners of St. John the Baptist,

We are beginning the month of April and in a few short weeks will be witnessing the most wonderful miracle of our Faith – the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. But we still have much to prepare before this happens. There are prayers to be said and services to attend. There are Church activities to organize and food to make. Are you ready? Please look over the list below and make your plans to share your time and talents with us.

Sunday, April 6: IOCC presentation, Fellowship and Vesper Service. Look for SignUpGenius to sign up to help.

Friday, April 11: Baking of sweets for the Agape Picnic 8:00 am to 1:00 pm in the kitchen.

Sunday, April 20: Christ is Risen! We will need help selling Wine Wagon tickets and manning the sweets table at the Agape Picnic. Look for SignUpGenius to sign up.

Sunday, April 27: Metropolis Kids ‘n’ Cancer event in Newport Beach. Please see me for more information.

As always, we look to the generosity of our members and parishioners to support the philanthropic projects that help to make our world a better place. It is not too late to support Kids ‘n’ Cancer. The KNC Camp Agape’s are the biggest part of the project, but did you know that the caring for the kids goes on all year long to assist the families with unexpected expenses? The most heart rendering is when a little has lost their battle and the family needs help with their final resting place. It is so tragic, but the Philoptochos is there to assist. Please call Karen with your donation today.

Closer to home, we are still collecting toiletries for the Project 150 teens. We will be packing the items in gallon size bags. Suggested items are shampoo, conditioner, bath wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs and/or brushes. Even emery boards and nail clippers are welcome.



If you have any questions about any projects that we do, please let me know.

As we look forward to Pascha, I give thanks for all of your support for all the many projects of the Ladies Philoptochos Society.

Your Sister in Christ,
Bernadette Anthony, Philoptochos President

*Most Holy Theotokos,
Save Us!*



YOUR FAITH IN ACTION

A Special Presentation

Sunday, April 6, 2025

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
5300 S El Camino Rd • Las Vegas, NV

.....

NICK KASEMEOTES, IOCC GIFT OFFICER,
will give a brief update on the work of IOCC in The Holy Land, Syria,
Ukraine, Lebanon, Jordan, Greece, U.S, and other countries, highlighting
how your support is making a real difference for families in need.

.....

Since 1992, IOCC has delivered more than \$830 million in emergency assistance
and development programs families and communities in 60 countries.



On average over time, IOCC has used 92¢ of every dollar for direct program services, like:

- Responding to the needs of disaster victims
- Assisting refugees
- Helping subsistence farmers grow more food

Every dollar given helps us secure \$7 in support from various sources.



PO Box 17398 • Baltimore, MD 21297-0429
877.803.IOCC • relief@iocc.org

Visit us online at iocc.org

IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond.



*The Ladies
Philoptochos*

Wine Wagon Raffle

Win a collection of wines donated by local businesses, collectors, and those who like to drink wine! The Ladies Philoptochos Society will use proceeds to aide the Church ministries and many other causes in Southern Nevada and international efforts.

*\$5 per
Ticket*



THE DRAWING WILL BE
ON PASCHA SUNDAY AT
THE AGAPE PICNIC.
WINNER DOES NOT NEED
TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.

BELIEVE. BELONG. BE LOVED. STEWARDSHIP 2025!

Kali Anastasi!

Our Lenten journey is a reminder of the beautiful and meaningful season of spiritual reflection, prayer, fasting and service to our faith. Stewardship reminds us that support of our magnificent church is not only necessary, but also a call to align our life and our gifts toward our ultimate salvation. Worship, fellowship, and service are key elements of our Orthodox faith. We are asked, therefore, to be good Stewards of all that has been given to us.

We acknowledge that *“every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” (James 1:17)* As Orthodox Christians, we are called upon to return those beautiful gifts by orienting our lives toward a path of salvation by prioritizing God’s need; by giving the best, the first of our fruits, or what we have, not what is left over.

We have set an attainable goal to increase our Steward families, along with the pledge amounts, so that we can do more than just “keep our lights on.” We have many maintenance issues that need to be addressed, and we must be in a healthy financial position to continue necessary repairs, maintenance and upkeep. We ask for your continued love and support so that we can continue to meet the growing needs of our Parish. We are so thankful for the many gifts we have been given and truly appreciate the time and energy you have given to our Parish. We will proceed with new opportunities to address our needs and any input you have is welcomed and appreciated.

We are thankful for the ongoing support of our parishioners, stewards and volunteers. One of the pillars of Stewardship is the giving of our time and talents. Diakonia, serving others, both within the Church and in our community, is a way in which we can live our faith. In that regard, we are so grateful for those who serve our Parish with their time and talents.

During our Lenten and Holy Week services we are again blessed to have the time and talents of so many who give freely to our Church. We are thankful for those who sing, those who read, and those who assist in the Altar. We are thankful for the Myrrh Bearers, with those who assist with ushering at the many services, and with those who decorate, and those who dye the eggs. We are mindful of, and thankful to those who cook, serve and clean up! None of our services would be possible without the willingness of so many who are called upon to serve.

Again, we thank all of you for the many gifts you have given our Parish. We pray for your continued good health and spiritual well-being during our beautiful and sacred Lenten Season and Holy Week.

Yours in Christ Alexia Conger, Stewardship Committee and Parish Council Vice President

Kokkos Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee for the Kokkos Scholarship Fund is pleased to announce that applications are now available at the Church Office. If you wish to receive your application via email, please contact Karen at karen@vegasgreekorthodox.com. The applications must be returned *on or before Friday, April 11*. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered.

The eligibility requirements were established by Foko Kokkos in her Last Will and Testament. The Scholarship Committee for the Kokkos Scholarship Fund administers this program under the guidance of Father John Hondros; the committee members are Diakonissa Ellyn Nixon, John Generales and Marina Adamy.

The Kokkos Will stipulates that two high school graduates, preferably of Greek descent, within the St. John Community be selected, who are enrolled for higher education to a college or university. The scholarship amounts this year are \$1,500. The students must have an outstanding scholastic record and be in financial need. Also, Parish involvement by the students at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church was important to Foko Kokkos; therefore, this is also a factor in evaluating the applicants.

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

STEWARDSHIP 2025

Make your Pledge online at the QR code below
or return your Stewardship Form and offering to the Church Office.

“BELIEVE, BELONG, BE LOVED!”



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

+++++

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

“BELIEVE, BELONG, BE LOVED!”

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
5300 El Camino Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89118
(702) 221-8245

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 2025 of \$ _____.

Signed: _____

Orthodox Christian: Yes No

Signed: _____

Orthodox Christian: Yes No

Others sharing in the gift (children): _____



Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun

Paisios (Jason) Haniuk (Adult Baptism)
on March 15, 2025.

Godparent: Dimitrios Kladouchos.

Anthony (Kameron) Jackson (Adult Baptism) on March 15, 2025.

Godparent: Dimitrios Kladouchos.

Peter (Stone) Creasman (Adult Baptism) on March 15, 2025.

Godparent: James Karas.

Dionysios (Dennis) Neville (Adult Baptism) on March 15, 2025.

Godparent: Efstathios Tzelalis.

Elizabeth Schmid (Adult Baptism) on March 15, 2025.

Godparent: Alexia Chandrinos.

Aidan Jaehn (Adult Baptism) on March 15, 2025.

Godparent: Demetrious Asim.

Nectarios (Predrag) Ilic (Adult Baptism) on March 15, 2025.

Godparent: Jeffrey Patrick Sellen.

Chrismation

Cyprian (Hans) Schmid on March 15, 2025.

Sponsor: Adam Porphyrios Prestage.



From Father Florin

St. Mark the Apostle and Evangelist

The man who is kindly, modest, merciful and just will not keep his good works to himself but will see to it that these admirable fountains send out their streams for the good of others. (St. John Chrysostom)



The Acts of the Apostles and the Holy Tradition tell us about St. Mark, who is often identified with John Mark, the companion of St. Paul and St. Barnabas. Originally a disciple of St. Peter (*Acts 12:12*), St. Mark became a collaborator of St. Paul in his mission to the Gentiles, and he seems to have been with Paul during his imprisonment in Rome (*Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11*). Eusebius of Caesarea, the Church historian, tells us that Mark spent the final years of his life serving as the Bishop of Alexandria in Egypt.

St. Mark is most especially celebrated as the author of *the Gospel* that bears his name. While he himself was not an eyewitness to the works of Jesus, he is traditionally regarded to have been the “interpreter and mouthpiece” of St. Peter. We can be sure that Mark did not write his Gospel simply to serve as a historical summary of Jesus’ life and ministry for a Gentile community. Instead, it was given as testimony of the One Who is Truth. St. Mark urged all his fellow Christians to be faithful and united to one another in their commitment to follow our Lord, Jesus Christ. As St. Irenaeus of Lyons has written, “The Church,

which has spread everywhere, even to the ends of the Earth, received the faith from the Apostles and their disciples . . . Having one soul and one heart, the Church holds this faith, preaches and teaches it consistently as though by a single voice.” (*Treatise Against Heresies I. 10*)

St. Mark the Evangelist is among those saints who embody the missionary mandate given by Jesus Christ to Apostles: “*Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.*” (*Mark 16:15*) The Evangelist offered his life in handing over to others the Good News that he had received from St. Peter and the Apostles. As a coworker of St. Paul and St. Barnabas, he urged new communities of Christians to be so committed to their faith that they would be willing to lay down their lives for the sake of the Gospel. (*Mark 8:35-38*) The hymns composed for *St. Mark’s Feast on April 25* celebrate his faith and witness: “Receiving the grace of the Holy Spirit from on High, O Apostle, you cut through the philosophers’ web of words, and you drew the nations all in your net, and brought them to the Master, O famous Evangelist Mark, as you preached the divine Gospel”; and “You became the disciple of Peter, the Paramount Apostle, and along with him you preached Christ the Son of God, and you established on the rock of the truth those who were shaken by error. Establish me also on that rock, and guide the steps of my soul, so that delivered from the snares of the enemy and with nothing to impede me, I may glorify you. For you illumined everyone, O wise Evangelist Mark, as you preached the Divine Gospel.”

Like St. Mark, each of us has been entrusted with the ability and responsibility of proclaiming the Good News in faith and to proclaim it in word and deed, without hesitating to courageously identify and denounce evil and to allow the newness of the Gospel to shine out every day in family and social life, expressing with patience and courage a hope of the future glory in today’s age. Amen.

Fr. F. J. Ristade.

Orthodox Bookstore

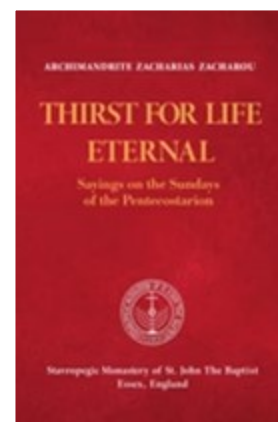
Greetings from the Bookstore and Kalo Pascha!

The end of the Lenten journey is the encounter with the Risen Lord, our eternal Passover, and the foretaste of the Kingdom of God. However, an often overlooked time period in our Church is the fifty day period of grace leading up to the Feast of Pentecost that ultimately bestows the flame of the Holy Spirit upon the hearts of the faithful. Recently published in 2022 by Archimandrite Zacharias Zacharou, this month's featured selection is *Thirst for Life Eternal: Sayings on the Sundays of the Pentecostarion*.

Beginning with Thomas Sunday and on through to the Sunday of Pentecost and then All Saints, we are encouraged to shift gears from the Lenten form of strict asceticism to a more positive form manifested in fervent faith or spiritual thirst. According to Zacharou, such a thirst remains 'hidden in the heart' unto its fruition in the warmth of the Comforter that comes with 'true knowledge of God' and 'illumines the mind to understand words of the Lord Jesus and guide the faithful into all the fullness of His incorruptible love.'

From *Thirst for Life Eternal*: "For in His nobility, God sows His Word and the saving energy of His Presence when we seek Him, and when there is even the slightest correspondence between our state and the state of God. When our thoughts and feelings are turned to Him, the incorruptible seed comes down from Heaven and fills the heart with the comfort and consolation of His presence."

Please stop by for your copy or other Orthodox devotional needs. Anna and I always look forward to seeing you! **Serving You with Love in Christ, Paraskevi Santamaria, Bookstore Director**



Lord and Master of my life, cast away from me the spirit of laziness, idle curiosity, love of power and vain talk. But grant me, Your servant, the spirit of moderation, humility, patience and love. Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own faults and not to judge my brothers and sisters. For You are blessed forever. Amen.

Ministry News

Church School

Kali Sarakosti! I would like to first say thank you to all our teachers for such a great job and all they have done. Where has the year gone? The kids are enjoying their classes. We are winding down the year if you can believe it. Don't forget to take a look in the Bookstore to find some resources to go over in the summer with your kids to keep Orthodoxy alive in your home.



Family Worship Dates: Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday and Sunday, April 20 – Holy Pascha. Church School Commencement is on Sunday, May 18.

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

Egg Hunt

We are looking for donations for the Egg Hunt at the Agape Picnic *on Sunday, April 20*. I will take empty plastic eggs, candy stuffed eggs, or cash donation. Please drop them off on Sundays at Classroom 5 *by Holy Thursday, April 17*. You can also drop them off at the Church Office during the week, or in the Parish Council Office during evening services. Please reach out to me for details.

Eileen Koutsulis (702) 521-6516 or vivaleenie@cox.net

Myrrh Bearers

Calling Orthodox Middle School and High School girls to participate as a Myrrh Bearer this year! We will have a brief meeting *on Sunday, April 6* in Classroom 5 to go over the details. If you are not able to make the meeting, that is okay; please reach out to me. The Myrrh Bearers will participate in the *Processions on Palm Sunday evening, April 13, at 7:00 pm for the First Bridegroom Service; Holy Thursday evening, April 17, at 7:00 pm for the Holy Passion Service; Holy Friday evening, April 18, at 7:00 pm for the Lamentations Service; and Holy Saturday night, April 19, at 11:00 pm for the Resurrection Service.* Please see the Worship Schedule for all service times, and reach out to me for more information, including clothing requirements.

Eileen Koutsulis (702) 521-6516 or vivaleenie@cox.net

Altar Servers

As we continue the spiritually inspiring Lenten season and prepare for Holy Week, we encourage new Acolytes, **8 years through adult**, to join us in serving in the Altar! There are many Holy Services and your willingness to assist would be greatly appreciated and pleasing to God.

During Holy Week, we also encourage those who have served in the Altar in past years to join us for these wonderful services, especially on Holy Thursday, Holy Friday and Anastasi. Please contact me in person or at frjohn@vegasgreekorthodox.com if you are interested, and I will give you the blessing to serve.

Yours in Christ's Service, Father John

Mr. & Mrs.

We would like to thank Deacon John and Diakonissa Ellyn Nixon for generously opening their house to us last month. This month, we will not have a fellowship, as our goal is to be present and actively participate at our Lenten Services and especially at those during the Holy Week. We hope to meet with you all at the *Agape Picnic on Holy Pascha, April 20*.

We will organize another meeting after Pascha, *on Saturday, May 17, starting at 5:00 pm*, at the house of Richard and Angela Acovino, whom we thank for generously opening their house for us.

Thank you and Kalo Pascha!

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

All Youth Events

Thank you all for being present at our GOYA and OFF Retreats last month! We also want to thank our Church School Director, Eileen Koutsulis, all our Church School Teachers and, of course, all the parents who helped us during our Retreats, by organizing the activities and by bringing delicious food. We could not have done it without all your help!



This month, as we are getting closer to the Great Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, please try to attend as many services as you can, especially during the Great and Holy Week! As every year, *on Lazaros Saturday, April 12*, after the *9:00 am Divine Liturgy*, we will participate in the enjoyable labor and fellowship of *Palm Tying and decorating the Church!* Please come help us, as many hands are needed and make the work go quickly.

On *Great and Holy Friday, April 18, at 3:00 pm* – the day on which our Lord Jesus Christ was Crucified for our salvation – we will have the *Children's Procession*, following the Removal of the Lord's Body from the Cross.

We especially invite *all the GOYAnS* to come and help with our *readings* during the Holy Week Services (please read Presvytera Maria's column for details). We also need your assistance *on Holy Saturday, April 19, after Liturgy*, to *wrap red eggs* and *set up for the Agape Picnic*.

Finally, *on Holy Pascha Sunday, April 20*, after the Agape Vespers (at noon), and *during the Agape Picnic*, there will be a celebratory Egg Hunt for the kids.

Thank you so much and Kalo Pascha!

Father Florin – and Maha Habiba, GOYA Advisor, and April Rivera, OFF Advisor

Greek Folk Dance

Greek Folk Dance is gearing up to revive a wonderful event from our past. *The Wine Experience will be held on May 10, 2025 from 6:30 to 10:30 pm in Panos Hall.* Please join us for a beautiful evening of wine tasting, good friends and fellowship, all to benefit our Folk Dance Ministry! Tickets are \$60 per person in advance, and \$75 at the door. Even if you are not a wine lover, please still consider joining us as we will have Mocktails! Tickets will be on sale at Fellowship and through Karen at the Church Office, beginning March 30. This is a 21 and over event, please.

Also, it is Spring Cleaning time! If any former dancer or former dance family has any costumes belonging to the folk dance ministry, we will accept them at this time! This means any costume, costume pieces, shoes, or anything dance related that has been checked out to you at some point. Please bring it to Panos Hall during Fellowship and we will gladly accept it, no questions asked. It does not matter how long you've had it in your closet! We just want it back!

Much Gratitude, Folk Dance Board

Youth Greek Language Classes

The students performed beautifully their Greek Independence Day poems on Sunday, March 23. Paula Kelesis, our incredible director, and I could not be prouder of them.

We are continuing with our lessons and are currently seeking a new Greek School teacher to work with our Kindergarten-aged children. This will ensure our current students can continue their studies and provide an opportunity for new students to register in the Fall. If you are interested, please feel free to reach out to either me or our director, Paula Kelesis.

Katerina Katelouzos, Greek School Instructor



Young Adults - 18 Years through Early 30s

This month, please try to be present and to actively participate as much as you can at our liturgical services, especially during Holy Week. *On Holy Pascha, April 20*, we need volunteers to help at the Agape Picnic and our support will be greatly appreciated. Please see Demetri Asim and offer your services. We will gather again for an outing after Pascha. Thank you all for your dedication!

Kali Anastasi! Father Florin

Kali Parea - For the 40+ Crowd

This month, we will not be having a gathering, but rather we will participate as much as we can at our liturgical services in Church, especially during the Holy Week. Additionally, we will help, support, and serve *on Holy Pascha, April 20, at the Agape Picnic*. Thank you all for your support in our community as the Body of Christ!

Kalo Pascha! Demetrious Asim

Forerunners - Our Seniors Fellowship

Kali Sarakosti . . . Kalo Pascha!

We had a small but mighty bunch turn out for our March Lenten luncheon, which in addition to the delicious meal and enjoyable fellowship, there were door prizes, a raffle and Bingo prizes. A big thanks to our Kitchen Helpers!

There will be no luncheon in April. However, we will come back together *on Monday, May 5, 2025 at 11:30 am* for our final luncheon before Summer. You will not want to miss it! Have a Blessed Lenten Season and Holy Week.

Love in Christ, Paula Kelesis for the Forerunners

Byzantine Chanters and Choir

Thank You to all who have stepped up to participate in singing, chanting, reading Psalms and just the overall support especially during this Lenten season. Many of our congregation have enjoyed the worship, especially the visitors at the Pan-Orthodox Vespers of Orthodoxy.

We will be continuing our Wednesday and Friday practices thirty minutes before each service. Much still needs to be reviewed, so please be prompt. On occasion, I will be sending the group a video practice clip of some of the major hymns so you can practice on your own individually. If anyone else is interested, please let me know. Youth Choir: We need your voices on Holy Saturday morning!

May we continue to have a spiritual and fruitful rest of this Lenten Season, Holy Week and Pascha, participating through the uplifting chant our Church offers us.

Much gratitude and blessings! Love, Presvytera Maria



*Καλό
Πάσχα!*



All Proceeds Benefit the Greek Folk Dance Ministry

Wine Experience

Hosted By the dance ministry of
St. John the Baptist Greek
Orthodox Church

Ticket Prices:
\$60 - Pre Purchase
Available at fellowship or
Call Karen at (702) 221-8245
or
\$75 - At The Door

MAY 10, 2025
Saturday
Panos Hall
6:30pm - 10:30pm

21 & Over
Event
5300 El Camino Road
Las Vegas, Nevada



Month of April Blast from the Past!



GREEK EASTER — The annual Greek Easter dinner dance will be held April 20 in the Riviera Hotel, a week later than Orthodox Easter Sunday, according to Mrs. William Flanges, right, president of the Philoptochos Society. Others pictured with her planning

the event are from left, Patty Robison, chairman; Len Pavas, Riviera's catering manager; and Jan Trevas, co-chairman. Phone 737-2036, 870-1464 or 642-5579, for reservations.



GREEK EASTER DINNER - DANCE PLANNED — The Ladies Philoptochos Society of St. John's Greek Orthodox Church will hold their annual Greek Easter Dinner-Dance at the Riviera Hotel on April 20 at 7 p.m. For reservations and information call 737-2036; 357-5281 or 642-5579. Shows

are Mrs. Robert Robinson, left, dinner chairman; Greta Riviera star, Carrie Channing who presented one of the first exhibits; and Mrs. Ruth Pollock, (back) chairman, and the Rev. James Adams of the church.



GREEK EASTER DINNER DANCE
LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY PANAGIA CHAPTER

Sunday, April 13

1969



59



Adorning the Epitaphion - Good Friday, April 17, 1998
L. to R. Bess Suki, Janelle Salon, Dora Hart (front)
Cheryl Pandelis, Presvytera Helen Katre



Dying Red Easter Eggs in Jerry's Nugget Kitchen - Holy Thursday, April 16, 1998
Janelle Salon

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY
Preparations for Easter

In Orthodoxy, the actual Easter festival begins several days before Easter. Preparations begin on Holy Thursday, when hard-boiled eggs are dyed red, symbolizing the blood of Christ.

On Good Friday, the priest takes down the icon of Christ from the cross and wraps it in linen, reenacting the ancient burial rituals. The icon is then placed in a symbolic casket (epitaphion) adorned with fresh flowers

1998

237

From the Building Committee

Happy Lent!

With a joyful heart, I am thrilled to share that, thanks to an extremely generous \$50,000 donation from the Rasmussen Family, we will be able to begin the re-stuccoing and painting of the exterior of the Hall building. This exciting project is set to begin after Pascha.

As I reflect on my three years as Chairman of the Building Committee, I am truly amazed by how much we have accomplished through your continued generosity and support. It is incredible to see the transformation of our Church and facilities, including:

- Reupholstered pews and new carpets
- Parking lot restriping and resealing
- Roof replacement
- New AC units, gates, and fountains
- Bollard lighting for enhanced safety
- New floors in Panos and Kokkos Hall

And so much more! The Church looks remarkably different from just a few years ago, and it is all thanks to your dedication and kindness and the hard work of the Building Committee.

I am also overjoyed to share more amazing news – we have officially engaged our Iconographers and made our first installment payment toward the final phase of our Iconography! We anticipate installation to be completed by the summer of 2026. In the coming weeks, we will be sharing renderings and more details about this exciting milestone.

Thank you all for your unwavering support – our Parish continues to flourish because of your generosity! I'd like to wish all of you a very blessed and Kalo Pascha.

With gratitude, Eleni Filios, Building Committee Chair

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5300 El Camino Road
Las Vegas, NV 89118

Rev. Father John Hondros
frjohn@vegasgreekorthodox.com

Rev. Father Florin Ristache
frflorin@vegasgreekorthodox.com

Rev. Deacon John Nixon
deaconjohn@vegasgreekorthodox.com

Karen Rawlinson
Administrative Assistant
karen@vegasgreekorthodox.com

Charity Mills
Facilities Event Planner
stjohnthebaptistplanner@gmail.com

Bookkeeper: Michelle Eugenio
accounting@vegasgreekorthodox.com

Housekeeping: Claudia Kasiotis

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

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

Parish Council: George Bochanis

Philoptochos: Bernadette Anthony

Stewardship Committee: George Bochanis

Homeless Outreach: Dimitrios Kladouchos

Maintenance: Steve Tzelalis

Building Committee: Eleni Filios

Byzantine Chanters and Choir:
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Church School: Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers: Father John & Mark Stransky

GOYA: Father Florin & Maha Habiba

Orthodox Family Fellowship:
Father Florin & April Rivera

Young Adults: Father Florin

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek Language: Paula Kelesis

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

Kali Parea: Demetrious Asim

Forerunners: Paula Kelesis

Orthodox Bookstore: Paraskevi Santamaria

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

Greek Food Festival: Steve Tzelalis

Photography and Live-Streaming:
Bill & Erin Bruninga



BELIEVE. BELONG. BE LOVED. STEWARDSHIP 2025!

Acovino, Richard and Angela	Coll, Patrick and Anita	Giouzelis, Anastasia	Lakkis, Christina
Adamy, Marina	Collins, David	Goodman, Linda	Lakkis, Sahar
Agouridis, Lambros and Erika	Conger, William and Alexia	Gordon, Victor and Demetria	Lamancusa, Lisa
Alford, Cynthia "Mary"	Conger, William	Gorgan, Patrick	Landahl, Richard and Johana
Alhayek, Areen and Majd	Corey, Amanda	Grabovoi, Daphne	Lauchlan, Michael and Antonina
Allen, John and Nana	Costacos, John	Granillo, Abrahan	Lavine, Frederick
Allen, Darin and Vasiliki	Costas, Charles and Louise	Gutierrez, Connie	Lee, David and Alexandra
Alsup, Trever and Kelly	Costas, Philip	Gutierrez, Daniel	Lekar, Caroline
Anastasakis, Elaine	Costuros, George and Marsha	Hagos, Yohannes and Mebrat	Lekar, Michael and Effie
Andary, Oscar	Crist, Adam and Kanistra	Hailemichael, Harenet	Leong, Marissa and Elaine
Andrews, George	Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	Hamilton, Mary	Leonis, Nick and Sophia
Anghel, Vincentiu and Julia	Dalacas, Georgia	Hamilton, Paul and Brandi	Leonis, Tishe
Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette	Daskalos, Voula	Haralambakis, Demetre and	Leventis, Nicholas and Christina
Antoniadis, Panagiotis and	Davis, Matthew and Christine	Dimitra	Liaos, James and Tina
Katherine	Demas, Spiro and Rita	Hastings, Teri	Likourinou, Angie
Antoniou, Dimitri	Demetriou, Andrew	Hollar, Michelle and	Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine
Antoniou, George and Candace	Demolas, Maria and	DiGioia, Antonio	Loughton, Dustin and Rena
Arger, Louis	Nour, Reza	Hondros, Christina	Lucas, Nicholas and Catalina
Aristides, George and Diana	Demoleas, Spero and Grace	Hondros, Christopher and Darlene	Magee, Thomas and Catalina
Asim, Demetrios	Demoleas, Stephanie	Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria	Manolakos, Catherine
Atkins, Sean and Christina	Diktakis, Gregory	Howard, Eddie and Willie	Manos, Constantine and Michele
Atsidakos, Andrew and Libby	Dominguez, Eric and Amalia	Howe, David and Ana	Markantonis, Demos and
Avdoulos, Pagona and Chryssa	Doran, Neil and Eugenia	Hristopoulou, Spiridoula	Catherine
Ayalewu, Membe	Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia	Hurey, Heather	Markantonis, George and Sarah
Balason, Voula	Dramitinos, Mary	Iteen, Robert and Sophia	Mavros, Alex and Jen
Barbarino, Demetra and Nick	Dudunakis, Michael	Ilic, Predrag	Mavros, Debbie
Bartel, Ioanna and Robert	Earl, Christine Michaelides	Jandete, Johanna	McKinney, Michael and Mersene
Beeler, Mike and Carolyn	Eliades, Artemis	Jaynes, Christine	McManus, Jeanette
Belojevic, Marija	Eliades, Eleni and	Jensen, Matthew and Michelle	McPherson, Robert and Marie
Berendji, Jim	Garza, Everardo	Kachikis, Ernestine	McSweeney, Farolyn
Bieker, Adam and Cassie	Eliades, Gregory and Maria	Kakavulias, George and Helen	Mehas, Andrew and Samantha
Bjorklund, Danielle and	Eliades, Harry and Agapi	Kalianiotis, Labros and Rena	Melnichuk, Andrew
Geronsin, Justin	Eliades, Katerina	Kanis, Constantinos and Katie	Menegatos, James
Bland, James and Sherry	Eliades-Prusha, Virginia	Kaptain, Nicolas	Merritt, Devin and Sonia
Blume, Michael	Eliakis, Peter	Karas, James	Mikelis, Nikolas and Angela
Bochanis, George	Eliakis, Varthie	Karas, John + and Marcie	Monk, Theodore and Marissa
Boehm, Alexy and	Eyler, John and Elizabeth	Karris, Mark and Suzanne	Monolakis, Anthony
Cone, Jayme	Eyler, Reagan	Kasiotis, Claudia	Monoyudis, Jim and Julie
Booth, Paul and Alina	Failla, Jennifer	Katopodis, Efstratios	Morris, Steve and Patricia
Bowman, Jennifer	Fenlason, Nathan and	Katre, Sotir Mark	Mulopulos, George and Jenny
Britten, Ronald and Carol	Zmina-Fenlason, Jennifer	Katris, Nick and Theana	Murray, Christopher and
Brown, Faye	Feola, Richard	Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon	George, Veneta
Bruninga, William and Erin	Filios, Spiridon and Eleni	Katsikakis, Evangelos	Newell, Ronald and Maria
Bryant, Timothy and Janet	Filios, George Jr.	Kelesis, Paula	Nicholas, Christina
Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Filios, Nicoletta	Kiflezgi, Rahel	Nicholas, John and Estella
Carabas, Sotiroulla	Fischer, Cheryl	Kirchner, Barlaam	Nichols, George and Tereza
Carahalas, John and Constance	Fitzgerald, Norman and	Kirollos, Michael and	Nicolas, Samer and Christine
Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	McCullen, Sandra	Molina, Adriana	Niforos, Helen and
Carrico, William and Alexandra	Flangas, Marilyn	Kokkinis, Peter and Jennifer	Pray, Daniel
Carstensen, Kathleen	Fleischer, Bob and Penny	Kokkinopoulou, Anastasia	Nikou, Volha
Carter, Maria	Foskaris, Nicholas	Kokkinos, Christina	Nixon, Deacon John and
Castoro, Mariae	Foster, Kyle and Mia	Konstantarakis, Voula	Diakonissa Ellyn
Chachas, Bessie	Fotopoulos, John and Barbara	Kontos, Diana	Olmsted, Travis and Marilyn
Chachas, James	Fountas, Constantinos	Kostopoulos, Georgia	Osborn, Alexandra and
Chaivarlis, James and Christina	Fountoulakis, Vasileios	Kountanis, Panagiota	Spotti, Peter
Chamie, Elie, Emil and Claudine	Franco, Emilia	Koupais, Mario and Cheri	Paikos, Tom and Elizabeth
Chandrinis, Alexia	Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia	Kouris, Demitris and Terry	Palivos, Peter and Vicky
Chanos, Jennifer	Fukushima, Gabriel and Katina	Koutsulis, John and Eileen	Pallis, Paul
Chomakos, Dean and Tammy	Gebrehiwot, Kiros	Koutsulis, Sam and Effie	Pandelis, Cheryl
Chomakos, George	Gekakis, George	Krikie, Jonathan and Iryna	Panos, Jeanne
Chomakos, Kosta	Generales, John and Arlene	Kypreos, Lesley	Papas, Christian and Nicole
Chondrakis, Dimosthenis and	George, Pete and Georgia	Kypreos, Peter and Geri	Papas, Peter and Rita
Kragerud, Kaaren	Ghebream, Daniel and	Kyriannis, Justin and Linda	Pappas, Panagiotis and Andrea
Christou, Toni	Ghermay, Selam	Kyriazopoulos, Constantine Jr.	Paschalis, Evangelos and Maria
Cocores-Ely, Caron	Gialketsis, Julie	Lagomarsino, Victor and Sophia	Payan, Luis and Eleni

BELIEVE. BELONG. BE LOVED. STEWARDSHIP 2025!

Pendleton, Kali
 Pendleton, Tricia
 Penev, Kamen and Miglena
 Petersen, Todd and Diane
 Petriuc, Constantin
 Petrou, Jim and Penelopi
 Philoptochos Society
 Pierro, Joe and Rhonda
 Pilatos, Emmanuel and Erica
 Polimerou, Angeline
 Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra
 Poulis, Chris and Francine
 Pouridis, Kouli and Para
 Powell, Scott and Angela
 Powers, Russell and Rebecca
 Prestage, Adam and Courtney
 Pytikakis, Manos and Elaine
 Randis, Anastasia
 Rasmussen, Scott and Rebecca
 Rey, Robert and Patricia
 Rigas, Anthony and Mary
 Rihani, Gary and Linda
 Ristache, Fr. Florin and
 Presv. Alexandra
 Rivera, Elias and April

Robison, Diane
 Rodis, Dimitri and Angeline
 Roselli, Augustine
 Rotas, Beatrice
 Sakkas, Georgios and
 Stavropoulos, Bessie
 Santamaria, Jennifer and Robert
 Schmid, Hans and Elizabeth
 Setian, Gary
 Shipman, Chad and Anastasia
 Simos, Tony and Lorie
 Simpson, Bryan and Julie
 Sinclair, Bill
 Sirhan, Michael and Imtisal
 Soteropoulos, Gust and Rita
 Sotiropulos, Chris and Jessica
 Soursos, Helene
 Spanos, Paraskevas
 Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette
 Stamis, Angelo and Susan
 Stathopoulos, Hristos and
 Anastasia
 Staubs, Douglas and Anastasia
 Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki
 Stransky, Mark

Stransky, John and Rachel
 Swartz, Noah
 Szukiewicz, Joseph and Justina
 Tadich, Andrea
 Tadich, Katarina
 Tafoya, Steven and Irene
 Thanos, Nicholas and Victoria
 Theros, James and Kathryn
 Thompson, Maggy
 Tijiboy, Ana
 Tijiboy, Christine
 Tim, Anna
 Torolopoulos, Eleni
 Tsarouhas, Maria
 Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katerina
 Tsolis, Christos and Panagioula
 Tsortanidis, Sophia
 Tsouras, Christopher and Diana
 Tzelalis, Antonia
 Tzelalis, Steve
 Tzelalis, Vaso
 Varellas, Billy
 Varonos, Nicholas and Alexis
 Vervilos, James and Anna
 Vigil, Michael

Wadlow, Nicholas and Pamela
 Wagner, Sophye
 Weishar, Dale
 Williams, Anthony and Anna
 Williamson, Daniel and
 Stavroula Halatsis-
 Wilson, Cleo
 Wilson, Clyde
 Wilson, Kelly and
 Egi, Junichiro
 Womack, Kimberly
 Xerogianes, Nikki
 Xikis, Victoria
 Yurkov, Andre and Kalina
 Zaferatos, Ted
 Zamir, Michelle and Talor
 Zarkos, Nick and Dina
 Zarras, Nick and Chery
 Zekichev, Timothy and
 Morris, Alexandra
 Zervas, Dionisios and Cacilda
 Zimmerman, Paul, Angela,
 Christopher and Vangeli
 Zimmerman, Paul and Julie
 Zmina, Stephen and Cynthia



**Kids 'n' Cancer
 Camp Agape**

Once again, we are asking for your generous support for Ladies Philoptochos Society, Kids "n" Cancer: Camp Agape. Camp Agape affords children afflicted with Cancer and their families to spend a week together at a summer camp – participating in swimming, archery, games, dancing, singing, eating, taking pictures, planting trees etc. In addition, we are giving the parents of these kids a degree of security, there are medical staff on site to meet any necessary immediate medical needs. All this in a caring and compassionate environment with unconditional love, along with an opportunity to shape meaningful friendships and create precious memories with other children like themselves. Please join us in giving a child a summer to create memories for a lifetime.

I/We pledge our support to the Kids 'n' Cancer Ministry in the amount of \$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

I wish to pay by check: (payable to Ladies Philoptochos Society Memo: KIDS N CANCER MINISTRY and mailed to Philoptochos Society c/o St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church 5200 South El Camino Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89118)

I wish to pay by Credit Card: AmEx, Visa, MasterCard or Discover

Credit Card # _____ EXP Date: _____

Signature of Cardholder: _____

Zelle payment available to lvphiloptochos.stjohn.treasury@gmail.com, please note Kids N Cancer

**2025
Stewardship
Report
(as of 3/26/25)**

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$491,851 (\$502,379 in 2024)
 Stewardship Gifts Received: \$232,558 (\$190,782 in 2024)
 Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$259,293 (\$311,597 in 2024)
 Stewardship Families Pledged: 338 (315 in 2024)
 2025 Goal: \$700,000

*“BELIEVE,
BELONG,
BE LOVED!”*

<u>Average Pledge</u>	<u>No. of Families</u>	<u>Amount Pledged</u>
\$1 - \$500	153	\$ 41,458
\$501 - \$1,000	53	\$ 39,751
\$1,001 - \$2,500	85	\$127,379
\$2,501 - \$5,000	23	\$ 80,296
\$5,001 - \$9999	18	\$113,367
\$10,000 & Above	6	\$ 89,600
Total Families	338	\$491,851

Church Account Summaries - February 2025

Nevada State Bank Accounts	January	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdrawals/ Checks	Transfers Out	February	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$129,472.00	\$105,048.60		18,850.78	\$53,572.95	\$162,096.87	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$22,925.49					\$22,925.49	
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$56,644.51	37.00		\$78.28		\$56,603.23	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$293,359.19	\$5,551.69		\$702.39	\$387.90	\$297,820.59	
Building & Maintenance (B&M)	\$44,111.27	\$125.00		\$311.97	\$40.00	\$43,884.30	
Folk Dance Group	\$20,435.46	\$6,406.91		\$9,095.77	\$101.13	\$17,645.47	
Hellenic Historical Society	\$790.96					\$790.96	
Designated Funds	January	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdrawals/ Checks	Transfers Out	February	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$42,506.77	\$3,528.00		\$702.69	\$387.90	\$44,944.18	
Restricted Funds	January	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdrawals/ Checks	Transfers Out	February	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
ICON	\$35,159.24	\$2,023.69				\$37,182.93	
Faithtree	\$1,626.39					\$1,626.39	
Youth Choir	\$2,989.18					\$2,989.18	
Church School	\$125,394.47					\$125,394.47	
GOYA	\$530.36					\$530.36	
Eyler Memorial Fund	\$10,390.15					\$10,390.15	
Emergency Fund	\$5,000.00					\$5,000.00	
Three Priests	\$64,322.63					\$64,322.63	
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
Kitchen Servicing & Cleaning	\$5,000.00					\$5,000.00	
Designated, Restricted and Other Total	\$293,359.19	\$5,551.69	\$0.00	\$702.69	\$387.90	\$297,820.29	
Building and Maintenance Funds	January	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdrawals/ Checks	Transfers Out	February	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Building Fund	\$9,608.35	\$125.00		\$40.00		\$9,693.35	
Hall Project	\$24,785.05			\$311.97		\$24,473.08	
Giving Tree	\$9,717.87					\$9,717.87	
Building & Maintenance Funds Total	\$44,111.27	\$125.00	\$0.00	\$351.97	\$0.00	\$43,884.30	
Other Funds	January	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdrawals/ Checks	Transfers Out	February	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$75,388.23					\$75,388.23	Balance as of 12/31/24
Commonwealth Investments (Icon)	\$157,549.60				2,808.26	\$154,741.34	

February 2025 Candles	\$6,416.25
February 2025 Trays	\$5,275.15
February 2025 Candles & Trays	\$11,691.40



APRIL 2025 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 5:30 pm Chanter/Choir Practice 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy	3 9:00 am Homeless Outreach	4 6:00 pm Chanter/Choir Practice 6:30 pm Akathist Hymn	5
6 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:15 pm Myrrh-Bearer Meeting in Classroom 5 5:00 pm Lenten Vespers at St. John the Baptist IOCC Presentation	7 5:30 pm Great Compline 4:30 pm Youth and Adult Greek School Classes	8 6:00 pm Parish Council	9 5:30 pm Chanter/Choir Practice 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy	10 9:00 am Homeless Outreach	11 8:00 am Philoptochos Pastry Baking Day	12 Saturday of Lazaros 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy <i>Palm Tying Follows</i>
13 Palm Sunday 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy <i>Blessing and Distribution of Palms</i> 7:00 pm First Bridegroom Service	14 Holy Monday 7:00 pm Second Bridegroom Service	15 Holy Tuesday 7:00 pm Third Bridegroom Service <i>Hymn of Kassiani</i>	16 Holy Wednesday 9:00 am Presanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Sacrament of Holy Unction	17 Holy Thursday 9:00 am Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil 7:00 pm Holy Passion of Our Lord Reading of 12 Gospels	18 Holy Friday 10:00 am Royal Hours 3:00 pm Removal of Christ from the Cross <i>Children's Procession</i> 7:00 pm Lamentations	19 Holy Saturday 9:00 am Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil 11:00 pm Resurrection Vigil Midnight Resurrection Service and Divine Liturgy
20 Holy Pascha 12:00 am Resurrection Orthros and Divine Liturgy <i>Blessing of Red Eggs</i> 12:00 pm Agape Vespers and Agape Picnic	21 4:30 pm Youth and Adult Greek School Classes	22	23 St. George 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	24 9:00 am Homeless Outreach	25 Thetokos, The Life Giving Spring/St. Mark 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy <i>Church Cleaning follows</i>	26
27 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	28 4:30 pm Youth and Adult Greek School	29	Bright Week: Fast-Free			
	30	30				

The Desert Messenger

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
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Blessed Resurrection!



THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord



Today, Hades groans and cries out, "It would have been better for me if I had not received the One born of Mary; for when He came here, He destroyed my power. He shattered the gates of brass; and, as God, He resurrected the souls, which I held captive for ages." Glory to Your Cross and Your Resurrection, O Lord! (Idiomelon, Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy)