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

Volume 20, Issue 8 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

September 2022

From Father John

Beloved in Christ:

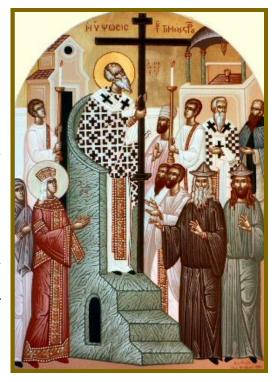
By the grace of God, we are entering a *New Ecclesiastical Year on September 1.* On this date, as well, Presvytera Maria and I celebrate twenty years of service to our beloved St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church! Looking back, I am humbled by the many blessings and

milestones we have shared together – too many to mention in this column. Looking forward, I continue to serve with the underlying vision of our spiritual renewal and growth through prayer, worship, the Holy Sacraments, the reading of Holy Scriptures and the lives of the Saints, teaching, preaching, and our various ministries.

With this Year of the Lord, we also welcome our newly arrived pastoral assistant, Florin Ristache,

together with his lovely wife, Alexandra, and adorable baby, Daria. You will see this month that Florin has hit the ground running with organizing our parish ministries, inspiring us with his homilies and written messages, and serving wherever he is called. In God's time, once his ordination documents are approved by the Archdiocese, we look forward to the day he will become "Father Florin" – first as a Deacon, and then as a second Priest in our community.

As we welcome the New Ecclesiastical Year – and most especially on the Great Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Holy Cross on September 14 when we gaze upon the Life-giving Cross in our midst – may we be inspired to renew our commitment to our Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus Christ, personally and as a community of faith. The presence of the Holy Cross in our Church is a reminder that our salvation is made possible because of God's enduring love for us: "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up . . . For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal Life." (John 3:15-16) Apart from Christ and His Church, we do not have True Life – instead, we just have a life which is fleeting, perishing, and subject to decay.



On the Feast of the Holy Cross, we Orthodox Christians call to mind the spiritual zeal and abiding faith of St. Helen, which led her to the Holy Land to look for the Precious Cross of our Lord. In the process she had to destroy a pagan temple that had been built over Golgotha, the place where He was Crucified. Upon removing the temple, she was blessed to unearth the Life-giving Cross, which was then raised high for all to see – and all who gazed upon it fell on their knees, crying out, "Lord, have mercy!" In like manner, through our genuine faith, love for God, and repentance – "change of mind" – we must unearth the passions and sins which bury the Presence of God Who lives within each of us, that we might become, like the Holy Cross, a light to the world, giving glory to God through our faith and good works.

(Continued on Page 3)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays: 8:45 am Orthros ~ 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Church School follows Holy Communion (Starting Sunday, September II)

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

Sunday, September 4/12th Sunday of Matthew/ Holy Hiermartyr Babylas/Holy Prophet and Godseer Moses/St. Anthimos Kouroukle of Kefalonia/ St. Anthimos the New Ascetic

Orthros: Third Tone

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

Memorials: Antonia Pappas (3 years), Christina Rich (3 years); Dhimitra Sotira; and Stratos Hondros Fellowship: His Excellency Metropolitan Ilia

Wednesday, September 7/*Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos (Observed)* 5:00 pm Orthros

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Please fast from 1:00 pm)

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11 Gospel: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Thursday, September 8/Nativity of the Theotokos (Celebrated on the preceding evening)

Sunday, September 11/Sunday Before the Holy Cross/St. Theodora of Alexandria/St. Euphrosynos the Cook/Holy Martyrs Demetrios and Evanthia and their son Demetrianos/Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

Orthros: Fourth Tone

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Mark 16:1-8

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 Gospel: John 3:13-17

Blessing of New Church School Year

Memorials: Christula Kalliope O'Brien (40 days); Milisav Mike Tadich (40 days); Anthony, Eugenia and Demetrios Dalacas

Fellowship: Ladies Philoptochos Society

Wednesday, September 14/Universal Elevation of the Holy and Life-giving Cross (Strict Fast) 8:00 am Orthros - Procession of Holy Cross at Doxology - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

Gospel: John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30

Sunday, September 18/Sunday After the Holy Cross/St. Eumenios the Wonderworker, Bishop of Gortynia/Holy Martyr Ariadne

Orthros: First Plagal Tone

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Mark 16:9-20

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20 Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

Memorial: Alexander Dallas (4 years), Gayle Dallas Fellowship: Marcie Karas, Rachel Stransky, Marina

Adamy and Alexia Chandrinos

Wednesday, September 21/*Leave-taking* (Apodosis) of the Elevation of the Holy Cross 5:00 pm Sacrament of Holy Unction

Sunday, September 25/Ist Sunday of Luke/ St. Euphrosyne of Alexandria/Holy Martyr Paphnoutios and his 546 Companions in Egypt/ Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos of

Evangelistria, Mochos Festival Worship Hours: 8:30 am Orthros

9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Orthros: Second Plagal Tone

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

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11



O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Grant victory to the faithful over the enemies and protect Your nation with Your Cross.

From Father John (Continued from Page 1)

We also commemorate on this date the return of the Lord's Cross to Jerusalem in 628: Fourteen years earlier King Chosroes conquered the holy city, enslaved its people and carried the Cross to Persia. On September 14, the Greek Emperor Heraclius was victorious over Chosroes and ceremoniously brought the Cross back to Jerusalem. Providentially, when the emperor, who was elderly, was unable to carry the Cross to its original site, Patriarch Zacharias witnessed an angel directing the ruler to avoid the inappropriate pomp; rather, he was to carry the Cross



as the Lord had, stripped of his raiment, in poor clothing and barefoot. With obedience and humility, Heraclius carried the Holy Cross to Golgotha and placed it in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre – where it remains still today as a source of spiritual renewal and strength for countless pilgrims who come to venerate it. May our Lord, through His great cloud of witnesses in the Holy Church, grant us as well the courage and humility to restore our souls through the Sacrament of Holy Confession – and may we willingly and obediently follow His saving path throughout the New Ecclesiastical Year, and indeed, all the days of our life.

With Love in Christ,





Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun

Nikoletta (Remi), daughter of Rayshaan Broomfield and Carlie Robinson, on August 13, 2022. Godparent: Cardell Robinson.

Konstandinos, son of Kosta Economopoulos and Nicole Karakostas, on August 20, 2022. Godparent: Irini Marcus.

George, son of Polyvios Mantas and Alexandra Spirtos, on August 27, 2022. Godparents: Bryan Taxopoulos and Irene Skarlatos.

Chrismations

Maria (Vicki) Mazzorana on July 24, 2022. Sponsor: Presvytera Maria Hondros.

Timothy Bryant on July 31, 2022. Sponsor: John G. Karas.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord

Plato Neocleous on June 30, 2022. Funeral on July 8.

Milisav Mike Tadich on July 19, 2022. Funeral on July 25.

Patricia Dimitri on July 19, 2022. Funeral on July 27.

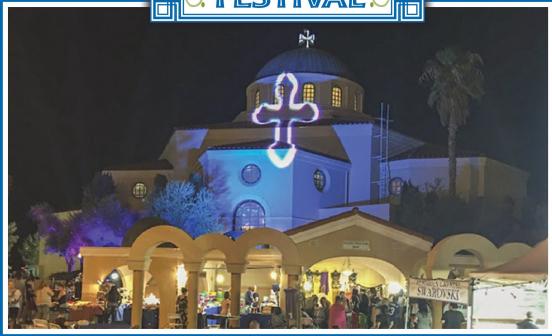
Ismene Argyris-Rhodes on July 11, 2022. Funeral on July 29.

Michael Lee Finney on July 29, 2022. Funeral on August 5.

Christula Kalliope O'Brien on August 6, 2022. Funeral on August 29.













A FAMILY ORIENTED FUN EVENT!

3 EXCITING DAYS

Fri, Sept. 23rd, 3PM-11PM • Sat, Sept. 24th, Noon-11PM • Sun, Sept. 25th, Noon-10PM

Live Music & Dancing • Greek Cuisine • Greek Pastries • Kids Fun Zone Tour Our Magnificent Byzantine Church • Greek Folk Dance Performances

GRAND RAFFLE PRIZE • \$25,000 CASH

2d PRIZE - \$2,500 ~ 3d PRIZE - (5) - \$1,000 PRIZES 4th PRIZE - (5) - FLAT SCREEN TVS and MANY OTHER PRIZES!

TICKETS \$100 EACH · ONLY 1000 TICKETS AVAILABLE

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
5300 S. El Camino Rd.
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89118



Plenty of Free Parking.
Convenient Uber/Lyft Drop-Off.

See LVGFF.com for Further Information on Parking.

Parish Council Report

Dear Metropolitan Ilia, Father John, Ministries and Parishioners,

I hope everyone is enjoying the final days of summer in beautiful Las Vegas. I must tell you that through my travels to different parish events, everyone has the kindest words for our Church and community. Of course, with the beauty of our Church, both inside and out, the accolades concerning our Greek Food Festival are huge. This makes me circle back around in

asking for everyone's help and support. We can do even better if we all sign up to volunteer and offer our help for a booth or other area of the Festival. This plea has been going on year after year. We all want to have fun during this event, and we should, but there should be at least a few hours where we can offer our services. This is all part of devoting our lives and giving back to the Lord, Who never abandons us as Christians in supporting the many needs of our Church.

The Souvenir Magazine is still accepting all ad donations. Please contact Marilyn Flangas for more information. This book is vital in collecting up-front money to allow for advance purchases of food and other necessities. Raffle tickets also allow for pre-purchases. The message is HELP, HELP and HELP! Gus Flangas, our Festival Chairman, will welcome all who wish to participate.

Welcome, Florin Ristache! Florin, as many of you are aware, is currently serving as our pastoral assistant and, most importantly, is our new candidate for the priesthood. As we all are aware, Florin has a calling, which is a blessing not attainable by all. I know that the love and guidance of our parish has always been accepting toward candidates of the priesthood. Let us join together and show our support for Florin, his wife Alexandra, and his beautiful baby girl Daria. God bless you, Florin, as you begin your ministry and once again, welcome to our parish. There have been some who have already supported Florin and his family as they settle in. A big thank you to Alex Mavros who sought out properties giving Florin options for real estate availability: Alex devoted his time, energy and behind the scenes offerings which are much appreciated. Bravo Aleko!

On September 1 we start our New Ecclesiastical Year. I encourage you to participate in the many liturgical services, ministries and classes for both youth and adults. Friendly reminder: Church School starts Sunday, September 11 and our popular Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith begins on Wednesday, September 28.

We are currently planning a Glendi honoring our beloved Metropolitan Ilia's 60 years of Ordained Service in the Church: Please save the date of *Saturday, November 5* for this joyful celebration.

Finally, we are done with having outside catered events on our property. These types of events have taken a major toll on our facilities, and I can finally say, we are done! This action opens up our facilities for our parishioners to enjoy more fully.

With Gratitude to All for Your Continued Support and Service to God, John Fotopoulos, Parish Council President



"Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith"

Please join us for this popular six-week course!

Starting Wednesday, September 28
6:30 ~ 8:00 pm, in Kokkos Hall.

We welcome Orthodox Christians, Catechumens, Seekers, and those curious to learn more about the ancient Apostolic Faith. For more information, please contact Father John or Florin.

Philoptochos News

Our Mission: To promote charitable, benevolent and philanthropic outreach; to preserve the sanctity of life and family; and to perpetuate and promote our Orthodox faith and traditions.

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

We welcome you to the start of our New Ecclesiastical Year with the words of the Ladies Philoptochos Society Mission Statement. Although we did not stop any of our good works during the last couple of months, they were conducted in a quieter and simpler manner.

Many thanks to the dedicated ladies of Philoptochos who still hosted Fellowships and assisted with the cooking and baking in preparation for the Greek Food Festival. Community and philanthropic outreach projects – teen supplies for Project 150 and activity bags for the children at UMC – were completed by the Social Services members. Just recently, the flowers adorning the Icons of the Dormition of the Theotokos were designed and offered, in honor of the Panagia, who is the Patron of our Chapter, as well as those who celebrated their Name Day. Chronia Polla to all!

Now the fun begins! The Board will be finalizing the 2022-23 calendar of events to share with all our members. The first event will be the *Fellowship on Sunday*, *September II* – the Sunday before the Elevation of the Life-Giving Cross. Please let me know if you would like to assist with the Fellowship – we do have a hostess. Calendars will be emailed to all members.

In closing, I kindly ask each one of you to consider joining the Ladies Philoptochos Society as a member. Gentlemen are welcome too! Through joining, you will belong to an institution of our Church that is still going strong after 90 years! You will help children, seniors, the homeless in our Southern Nevada community, the nation and around the world. The smiles, the tears, the emotions that you will experience will feed your soul. If you are new to the Greek Orthodox Faith, WELCOME! Being a part of the Ladies Philoptochos Society will be a great introduction to the traditions that are part of our Faith and Church life.

Your Sister in Christ, Bernadette Anthony, Philoptochos President



Most Holy Theotokos, Save Us!



"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me." (Galatians 2:20)

Building and Maintenance Report

As Summer nears to a close, I hope it was enjoyable and pray this finds you all in good health. As Chairwoman of the Building and Maintenance Committee, I am happy to report that we have been busy working over the past few months on restoring our Church and property. We finally secured a new Conex container and were able to organize Food Festival equipment that was previously being stored outside and clean out the outdoor kitchen. We will now be able to utilize this area for salad and loukoumades preparations.

New carpeting was installed inside the Church and Community Center, and the marble was polished through the generous donations from George Kypreos. Many of the other projects that have been completed include water heater copper replacement, removal of dead trees and landscaping, roof, dome, and irrigation leak repairs, gate welding, and perimeter stucco wall painting. A deep clean of our hall and kitchen areas will also be taking place soon after the Festival.

Moving forward, there are many more projects that we hope to accomplish but can only be done with the generosity of our parishioners. Some of which include repainting and repairing the stucco of our Community Center and Church and repaving our parking lots. These projects will be expensive to finish, and we encourage those who wish to donate to our Church to think of these much needed improvements. We have currently raised \$23,000 toward our next endeavor, which is the cork floor replacement in Panos Hall. This project is estimated to cost \$125,000. It is unfortunate that much of this maintenance was deferred over the last decade, but we hope that, through the grace of God and all your continued support, we can see our Church facilities restored to its previous beauty. I strongly encourage communication between all of you and members of the Parish Council; please let us know of your concerns and any questions you may have about these projects.

With Love, Eleni Filios

Orthodox Bookstore

Greetings from the Bookstore!

New this month from Newrome Press is our latest featured selection, *Saint Paisios of the Holy Mountain: The Heavenly Signalman.* This is a delighful narrative biography for children.

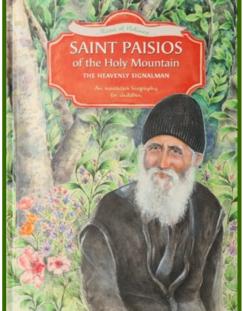
From the publisher:

"Inside this book you will discover the wondrous life of a pure childlike heart – Saint Paisios of the Holy Mountain – a dearly beloved contemporary saint of the holy Orthodox Church. The life of Saint Paisios was marked by ascetic struggles, fervent love for God, and ceaseless prayers. As a receptacle of the Holy Spirit, he became a river of holiness nourishing countless people on the love of Christ.

"Today, an endless stream of pilgrims make the trip to his resting place in Northern Greece in order to venerate his grave and ask for his holy prayers. May he intercede for all of us before the Savior!"

Looking forward to seeing you in the Bookstore for your copy of this beautifully illustrated book and for your other devotional needs.

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



"But far be it from me to glory except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." (Galatians 6:14)

Ministry News

Church School

Hi everyone! Where has the Summer gone? We are so excited that a new Church School year will start soon. The first day of class will be *on Sunday, September II.* The students will receive Holy Communion with their parents. After Communion, we will then gather in front of the steps of the Soleas for the Blessing of the New Church School Year. Then we will head over to the Community Center for the first day of class. Please try to register before the first day of class using the form *on Page 12*.

We will be using two curricula this year: We will continue to use *Orthodox Journeys* as well as the brand new *Living a Sacramental Life*. The beauty of this program is that the lessons are theologically rich in content, yet very relevant – and geared toward each grade level. I receive them regularly via email, and along with the teachers I can easily email them to parents: Please let me know if you would like me to email them to you.

Every Sunday I will unlock the Community Center door, let all the students in, and then I will lock the door behind me for the safety of our students and teachers. Classes finish at 12:15 pm, and you can pick up your younger children at their classroom. The grades and teachers are listed next to the classroom doors.

On Sunday, September 25, we will have Family Worship due to the Greek Food Festival.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

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

Orthodox Family Fellowship (OFF) - For Elementary School Children

After our first well-attended meeting in August, we are planning on seeing you again *on Saturday, September 10*. By the generosity of April Rivera and her family, we will meet at their house *from 4:00 until 6:00 pm.* The Riveras live five minutes away from our Church: When you RSVP, I will give you the address.

Weather permitting, we will enjoy the inflatable water slide for young children in their backyard. They also have a large cement area that is good for bikes, scooters, and skates.

Of course, we will have time for a short prayer, spiritual discussion and a potluck dinner.

Please confirm your participation at <u>florin@vegasgreekorthodox.com</u>. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

With Love in Christ, Florin and April

GOYA - Our Teen Ministry

The beginning of the New Church Year marks also the beginning of our autumn activities, including Church School, GOYA and our Greek Food Festival!

After our enjoyable fellowship on August 20, we look forward to meeting again *on Sunday, September II:* Please mark

your schedules for our first *GOYA Night* of the New Ecclesiastical Year, *from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.* We will meet in Panos Hall, where we plan on having dinner, painting on canvas and enjoying other activities – we will also gather in the Church for prayer and spiritual discussion. Be prepared for a wonderful evening of food and fellowship!

Equally important, we need *ALL GOYANs* to take a shift at our Soda Booth at the Greek Food Festival *on September 23, 24 and 25.* This booth will be completely run by our teenagers, so please, let's come together as a Parish GOYA and serve our beloved Church! It will also be a great way to get to know each other better. Sign up and volunteer willingly and with a smile, as people come to purchase water and soda. Maha Habiba will be heading up our volunteer sheet!

Please RSVP for both events at florin@vegasgreekorthodox.com.

Love in Christ, Florin and Maha

Greek Folk Dance

Welcome to our 2022-2023 Greek Dance season! Our returning dancers have started practicing for our performance at the Greek Food Festival! They are excited to perform for our community and to show off their skills.

We are looking to grow our ministry and welcome all dancers ages 4 (by September 30, 2022) and up to come and check out our vibrant ministry, participate in some wonderful fellowship and learn to dance traditional Greek Folk dances.

Our dance groups practice weekly, through February, with the culmination of our season participating in the Metropolis Folk Dance Festival over President's Day weekend. It is truly a magical experience for the dancers and their families. Registration forms *are on Pages 13-14*, and with Karen in the Church Office. Please fill out one form per child. Registration fees are \$125 for each dancer (\$100 for siblings) in our competitive groups and \$75 for each dancer in our youngest, non-competitive group. All *new* dancers will start *on* Sunday, *October 2.* Look for further details in the Sunday *Weekly Bulletin* as it approaches.

Questions? Please feel free to email stjohngreekdance@gmail.com.

Much Gratitude, Folk Dance Board

Mr. & Mrs.

Dear M&M's,

We want to thank Richard and Angela Acovino for graciously hosting an amazing dinner at their beautiful home in August. We enjoyed great fellowship and a lively discussion. We will not be having a gathering in September due to the need for all hands on deck at the Greek Food Festival *on September 23, 24 and 25.* We will reconvene next month, and more information will follow in the October issue of *The Desert Messenger.* See you at the Festival!

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

Kali Parea - For the 40+ Crowd

Please come out and join in as we hold the Greek Food Festival *on September 23, 24 and 25* this year! We need all hands on deck: We have faith that our group will step up and meet the challenge.

Look for a St. Demetrios Name Day gathering and party *on Saturday, October 22 at 4:00 pm* for our Ministry Leader, Demetri Asim! God Bless!



We are looking forward to another successful Las Vegas Greek Food Festival! Please visit https://ahepa-314-las-vegas.square.site/ to pay your dues by credit card (if you would like to pay your dues by check, please email me).

If you are not currently a member and are interested in joining the AHEPA, please contact me at the email or phone number below.

AHEPA Chapter 314 continues to look for individuals who are interested in assisting with the redevelopment of the Chapter.

Thank You,

Steve Liaos, Acting President (702) 518-8018



From Florin

Your Nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!
The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from You, O Theotokos!
By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal Life.
(Troparion for the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos)

In our Orthodox Tradition, the Nativity of the Virgin Mary – celebrated *on September 8* – inaugurates the beginning of the Great Feasts of the Ecclesiastical Year. For my family and me, it also coincides with the beginning of my pastoral activity here at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Las Vegas. I take this opportunity to thank every member of the community for the warm welcome and love shared with us. I am meeting wonderful and respectful people, who put God before their personal interests and understand our heritage as Orthodox Christians.

The Gospel reading for the Divine Liturgy on this Great Feast ends with the following words: "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts that you sucked!" But Jesus said, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"" (Luke II:27-28) It is interesting to see that the woman speaking to our Lord makes reference to a thing of the past. Jesus instead says – No! The event of the Lord's Incarnation is not just in the past, but always present in the Gospel and especially in Church. Through listening to God's Word and following it, we become like the Theotokos. The holiness of the Virgin Mary becomes the model for the sanctification of every person, by the grace of God. We become what we listen to! If we listen to the noise of this world, that is what we become. If we listen to evil, that is the path we choose. That is why St. Luke – and all the Evangelists – wrote the Gospel: That we might be able, like the Virgin Mary, to have Christ always in us – until He will be all in all. (Continued on Page II)

Kokkos Scholarships

Congratulations to the 2022 Kokkos Scholarship Recipients!

On behalf of my fellow committee members Ellyn Nixon and Marina Adamy, we are proud to name the award winners of the 2022 Kokkos Scholarships: The two recipients of the \$1,500 scholarships for 2022 are Maya Sorkhabi and Jonathan Pantelas-Hemmers.

The Kokkos Scholarship was established by Fofo Kokkos of Blessed Memory as an award for deserving students of Greek Orthodox descent at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church.

These scholarships are awarded annually, and they are based upon criteria that includes academic performance, community involvement, and Church life and activity among others. This year there were six highly qualified candidates, and the committee was tasked with evaluating these applications against the criteria as well as considering the performance on their personal interviews. The committee commends all the applicants and wishes them well on their educational endeavors.

Maya Sorkhabi, the daughter of Arian Sorkhabi and Maha Habiba, is a 2022 graduate of Amplus Academy, where she was a member of the championship basketball team and was very active in student leadership. She has been active in GOYA and FDF in both Las Vegas and Sacramento, and she will be attending University of Nevada Las Vegas where she will study Business Administration with areas of emphasis in Hospitality and Real Estate.

Jonathan Pantelas-Hemmers, the son of Oliver Hemmers and Anne Pantelas, is a 2022 advanced honors graduate of Coronado High School. Jonathan has been active in our community as an Altar Server and has worked the Food Festival since 2014. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout and served as Senior Patrol Leader of his troop. Jonathan has been quite active in community service throughout his high school career. Jonathan will be attending Baylor University where he will study Business and Finance with an emphasis on Medical Asset Management.

Yours in Christ, John Matsis

From Florin (Continued from Page 10)

The Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos has its origins most likely in Jerusalem, where the Church of St. Anna (the mother of Mary) was built in the 4th Century: The date of its dedication eventually became the Feast of the Virgin's Nativity. In Constantinople, the feast was officially introduced under the Emperor Justinian I (527-565), while in Rome it arrived with the Byzantine refugee monks under the pontificate of Theodore I (642-649).

The narrative of this feast is known through apocryphal sources, primarily from the Protevangelion of James (2nd Century), the Gospel of Pseudo Matthew (4th Century) and on the Book of the Nativity of Mary (9th Century). The Protevangelion of James says that Mary was born in Jerusalem in the house of her parents, Joachim and Anna, who, having no offspring after twenty years of marriage, begged the Lord to receive this great gift. To implore God's grace, St. Joachim took refuge in the desert, where the angel made the announcement to him. On the same day, the angel appeared to St. Anna who was praying and crying: "The Lord will fulfill your prayer. You will conceive and give birth, and throughout the earth, everyone will talk about her descent . . ."

The Byzantine Iconography of the feast depicts the scene inside the house where, in the center of the composition, St. Anna rests on the bed after giving birth, and the women bring gifts to her. Little Mary with a halo is depicted with the midwives. Starting with the first half of the 14th Century, the figure of St. Joachim appears along with St. Anna and the infant Mary; the architectural scenes become more complex and the image of a table is introduced, which – in the same manner as the figures of the women who bring gifts – is inspired by the court rite in honor of the Empress, emphasizing the dignity of the event.

The Theotokos is a true model for every one of us. She gives a body to the Son, so that we too can become identified with Him. He is totally given to us in the same way He was completely entrusted to Mary. That is why she is the Mother of the Church and the Mother of every one of us: And every one of us is called to be the same as the In the words of St. John of Mother. Damascus regarding the Nativity of the Virgin Mary: "Today is the beginning of salvation for the world. 'Cry aloud to the Lord, all the earth, praise and exult and sing psalms!' (Psalm 98:4) Lift up your voice, 'Lift it up, fear not!' (Isaiah 40:9) For the Mother of God, from whom the



Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world has been pleased to be born, has been born for us in a holy sheepfold." The Nativity of the Theotokos is the prologue of the history of our salvation, and this truth should echo in our minds when we gather to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in our beloved Church.

With Love in Christ, Florin Ristache



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH 2022-2023 CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Please Write Legibly - Use One Form Per Child

Church School Classes begin on Sunday, September 11. Pre-Kindergarten (4 years by September 30) through High School.

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

Student Name:	Birth Date:		
School Grade (2022-2023 school year):			
Special Needs, Allergies, Medications: (e.g. "Autism Spectrum," "Peanuts," "Insulin Dependent")			
Patron Saint and Date of Commemoration:			
PARENT/GUARDIAN OR (OTHER RELATIVE (Relationship:)		
Name:	Name:		
Phone:	Phone:		
E-mail:	E-mail:		
Home Address: Street			
Street	City ZIP		
Student Cell Phone: If you DO NOT want your child to be	Student E-mail:contacted by phone/text or by e-mail, please leave one or both of these blank.		
I give my child permission to take part in all Church School activities and will support this ministry through my annual Stewardship.			
Signed, Parent or Legal Guardian:			
Many hands ease the load! Please let us know in which way you would like to help our children:			
Classroom Clean	upCrafts		

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



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

2022-2023 REGISTRATION FORM

One Registration Form Required for Each Dancer Registration Deadline: October 2, 2022

Dancer's Name: _	Age: Birth Date:	_
Minimum Age: 4 yea	ars old by September 30, 2022	
Address:		_
City:	, Nevada Zip Code:	_
Mother's Name: _	Father's Name:	_
Contact Informat	tion (Please fill out <i>completely and <u>legibly</u></i>):	
Phone Numbers:	Mother's Cell: Father's Cell: Home: If you DO NOT want your child to be contacted by text message, please check this box:	
	Mother: Father: Dancer (if applicable): If you DO NOT want your child to be contacted by e-mail, please leave this blank.	
I understand and a	accept the following requirements for participation in the Greek Folk Dance Ministr	y:
Chrismatic 2. The parent any dance I am I am 3. The dancer year, and	er must be Baptized or Chrismated in the Orthodox Church. Proof of Baptism on must be provided for each dancer (or previously verified by Fr. John). t(s) must be Steward(s) of St. John Church for 2022 before their child(ren) attered practice and Steward(s) for 2023 by January 13, 2023. Please check one box: an already a 2022 Steward. (This will be verified with the Church Office.) an attaching my Stewardship Commitment Card to this registration form. For must on a regular basis participate in Divine Liturgy on Sunday, throughout the church School (if he or she is of age), September through May. Infrequence in a basis for removal from the program. (Continued on back)	nd he

- 4. The dancer must arrive to practice on time and be respectful.
- 5. The dancer and parent(s) are expected to participate in <u>all fundraising activities</u> of the Greek Folk Dance Ministry.
- 6. Dancers who have excessive absences may be subject to removal from the program.
- 7. The Folk Dance Festival (FDF) will take place Feb 16-19, 2023. Both the location and format are <u>unknown</u> at this time. The dancer and parent(s) must determine by November 6, 2022 if they will attend FDF. Dancers who elect not to go to FDF may only participate in dance practices through the end of December.
- 8. The dancer and parent(s) agree to meet all financial responsibilities assigned to the participants by the St. John Greek Folk Dance Ministry and FDF.
- 9. Registration fees are:
 - a. Competitive Dance Groups: \$125 per dancer, or \$100 for each additional sibling, due by <u>October 2</u>. (No registrations will be accepted after this date.)
 - b. Liondaria (non-competitive) Dance Group: \$75. (Must be at least 4 years old by September 30.)
- 10. Registration can **only** be accepted when all of the following are turned in:
 - a. Registration form
 - b. Non-refundable registration fee
 - c. Proof of Baptism/Chrismation (unless verified by Fr. John)
 - d. Stewardship Commitment Card (unless verified by Church Office)
- 11. Dancers from previous years must re-register. <u>Dancers are prohibited from practice</u> until their registration is complete and until their parent(s) become Steward(s) for 2022.

First Folk Dance Practice for RETURNING Dancers: Sunday, August 21, 2022

First Folk Dance Practice for NEW Dancers: Sunday, October 2, 2022

Additional practice days/times TBA

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

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

Signature of Dancer	Signature of Parent	or Guardian
Date	Date	
FOR DANCE BOARD USE:		
Payment Received On:	Check #:	<u>OR</u> Cash:
Stewardship Card Received:	Proof of Baptism/Ch	nrismation:

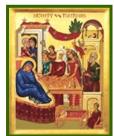
Stewardship and Community Outreach

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Glory be to God for all things.

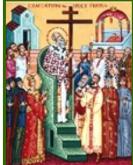
Happy New Ecclesiastical Year! It is a time for us to make our spiritual new year's resolutions. It is a time for us to renew ourselves in our Orthodox Faith.

Aside from being the new Ecclesiastical Year we are blessed, during the month of September, with two high Feasts that further enhance our opportunity for spiritual renewal: The Nativity of the Theotokos (September 8) and the Elevation of the Holy Cross (September 14).



The Nativity of the Theotokos: "When we start to say 'All-holy Theotokos, help me' and at once, like lightening, she shines through the nous and fills the heart with illumination. She draws the nous to prayer and the heart to love." (St. Joseph the Hesychast) Her birth began the renewal for all of mankind leading to the Nativity of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ in the Flesh, and the opening of the way back to the Father.

The Elevation of the Cross: This Feast commemorates two important events – the finding of the True Cross by the Empress Helen (the mother of St. Constantine the Great) on Golgotha in 326 AD, and the recovery of the Cross from the Persians in 627 by Emperor Heraclius. The Elevation took place on March 21, 630 AD, when Emperor Heraclius entered Jerusalem amidst great rejoicing, and together with Patriarch Zacharias (609-632), transferred the Cross of Christ



with great solemnity into the temple of the Resurrection, joyously held up for veneration by the Christian faithful. A wonderful renewal for the faithful Orthodox Christians.

Let us all renew ourselves with unconditional love for our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose love is unconditional, and toward one another. "But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ and raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:4-5)

Let us also renew ourselves with our unconditional commitment to the Lord and His Church – and renew ourselves with our commitment to our Parish through the Stewardship of our time, talents and treasures. There are so many opportunities for us to give back to the Lord: A major opportunity during the month of September is our Annual Las Vegas Greek Food Festival. There is always a need for members of our beautiful St. John Community to offer our time and talents to the Glory of God.

"I also heard the voice of the Lord, say, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go to this people?' Then I said, 'Behold, here am I, send me!" (Isaiah 6:8) The next time we hear the clarion call from the Lord, our fellow man, or our Church leaders . . . let us be the ones who will stand up and say, "Here am I, send me!"

In Christ, Stewardship and Outreach Committee

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Rev. Father John Hondros frjohn@vegasgreekorthodox.com

Florin Ristache, Pastoral Assistant florin@vegasgreekorthodox.com

Karen Rawlinson Administrative Assistant

> Michelle Eugenio Bookkeeper

Marc Harvel
Maintenance & Grounds

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

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

Parish Council: John Fotopoulos

Philoptochos: Bernadette Anthony

Stewardship & Community Outreach: John Karas

Choir: Athena Mertes

Chanters & Youth Choir: Presvytera Maria Hondros

Church School: Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers: Father John

GOYA:

Florin Ristache & Maha Habiba

Orthodox Family Fellowship: Florin Ristache & April Rivera

Young Adults: Florin Ristache

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek School: Paula Kelesis

Mr. & Mrs.:

Father John & Presvytera Maria

Kali Parea: Demetrious Asim

Adult Basketball: Nick Kelesis

Forerunners: Paula Kelesis

Orthodox Bookstore: Paraskevi Santamaria

Greek Food Festival: Gus Flangas

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

Photography & Live-Streaming: Bill & Erin Bruninga

With Gratitude to God for Our Pledged Stewards in 2022 If you wish to become a Parish Steward, please fill out Pledge Form and return to Karen

Acovino, Richard and Angela Adamy, Marina Adondakis, George and Kim Agnos, George and Maggie Albertson-Reizakis, Yianna Alexander, Eleni Alford, Cynthia "Mary" Allen, John and Denice Alvarez, Kelly Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine Andrews, Catherine Andrews, George Andricopulos, Margo Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette Aristides, George and Diana Asim, Demetrious Atkins, Sean and Christina Avdoulos, Pagona and Chrysa Bacon, Ken and Dianne Balalas, Katerina Balaouras, Panos and Helen Balason, Voula Baldwin, Richard and Vivi Balodimas, James Barbarino, Dee and Nick Bartel, Robert and Ioanna Bartzos, Eugenia Beeler, Mike and Carolyn Beeman, Benita Beeman, Karl Jr. and Ivana Belch, George Berendii, Iim and Vivian Bieker, Adam and Cassie Bieker, Georgeea Birtas, Helen and Ann Bjorklund, Danielle Bledsoe, Lori Bochanis, Aris and Savannah Bochanis, George Booth, Alina Brennan, Peter and Maria Britten, Ronald and Carol Brown, Faye Brown, Mark and Alyssa Bruninga, William and Erin Bryant, Timothy and Janet Bucy, Brent and Elaine Carahalis, John and Constance Caredis, Jon and Marjorie Carrico, William and Alexandra Carter, Maria Chachas, Bessie Chachas, James Chagares, Kiki Chamie, Elie, Emil and Claudine Chandrinos, Alexia Chanos, Jennifer Chio, Napoleon Chomakos, Dean and Tammy Chomakos, Jeremy and Romina Chondrakis, Dimosthenis and

Kragerud, Kaaren

Christou, Toni Ciulla, Anthony and Kleri Collins, David Conger, William and Alexia Costuros, George and Marsha Cosulas, Fr. Basil and Presv. Samantha Cotsilis, Jenny Crist, Adam and Kanistra Daginis, Teddy Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia Dalacas, Eleni Dalacas, Georgia Damascus, Peter Daskalos, George and Voula Davis, Matthew and Christine Demas, Spiro and Rita Demolas, Maria and Nour, Reza Demoleas, Alexandra Demoleas, Spero and Grace Demoleas, Stephanie Demopoulos, Dimitrios and Selina Demopoulos, Vasiliki Dimitri, Patricia+, Martha and Janet Dominguez, Eric and Amalia Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia Dramitinos, Mary Earl, Christine Michaelides Eliades, Aristotelis and Caroline Eliades, Gregory and Maria Eliades, Harry and Agapi Eliades, Katerina Eliades, Sia Eliakis, Peter and Glenda+ Eliakis, Varthie and LeeAnn+ Eyler, John and Elizabeth Eyler, Fr. Paul Failla, Jennifer Farren, Anthony and Maritsa Feola, Richard Filios, George and Nitsa Filios, Spiridon and Eleni Fischer, Cheryl Fischetti, George and Cassidy Fitzgerald, Norman and McCullen, Sandra Flangas, Gary and Amanda Flangas, Gus and Tamara Flangas, Marilyn Flangas, Wanda Foster, Kyle and Pierro, Maria Elena Fotopoulos, John and Barbara Fountas, Constantinos Fountoulakis, Vasileios Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia Frudakis, George and Darlene Gantcheva, Galia Garanyants, Sergey and Markella Gauvin, Chad and Marissa

Gekakis, George

Generales, John and Arlene

George, Pete and Georgia Georgis, Pete and Keshia Geranios, John Ghebreab, Daniel and Ghermay, Selam Gialketsis, Julie Gialketsis, William and Rachelle Gianakoulias, Nick and Magda Giouzelis, Sasa Goodman, Linda Gordon, Victor and Demetria Granillo, Abrahan Gutierrez, Connie Gutierrez, Daniel Hamilton, Marv Hamilton, Paul and Brandi Hastings, Teri Hemmers, Oliver and Pantelas, Anne Herman, Martin and Diane Hertberg, Jennifer Hollar, Michelle Hondros, Christina Hondros, Christopher and Darlene Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria Hondros, Marissa Howard, Eddie and Willie Hristopoulou, Spiridoula Iteen, Robert and Sophia Iandete, Iohanna Kachikis, Ernestine Kakavulias, George and Helen Kanis, Constantinos and Katie Kapetanios - Fountoulakis, Maria Karas, James Karas, John and Marcie Karris, Mark and Suzanne Karvounidis, George Kasiotis, Nicholas and Claudia Katopodis, Efstratios Katre, Sotir Mark Katris, Nick and Theana Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon Katsikakis, Evangelos Kelesis, Paula Kess, Emanuel Kiflezgi, Rahel Kinard, Panorea Kirchner, Gary "Barlaam" Kirollos, Michael and Molina, Adriana Kleanthis, George and Zanetta Kokinelis, Irene Kokkines, Peter and Jennifer Koliambas, Eleni Konsolakis-Garcia, Eleni Kontos, Diana Koroni, Tara Kostas, James Kostopoulos, Georgia Kountanis, Panagiota Kouris, Demitris and Terry

Koutsulis, John and Eileen Koutsulis, Sam and Effie Koutsulis, Sam Jr. Kypreos, Peter and Geri Kyriannis, Justin and Linda Kyriazopoulos, Constantine Jr. Lakkis, Christina Lamancusa, Lisa Lambros, Kyriakos and Mary Latelle, Penny Lavine, Frederic Lee, David and Alexandra Lekar, Caroline Lekar, Michael and Effie Leone, Stephen Leong, Marissa and Elaine Leonis, Nick and Sophia Leonis, Tishe Leventis, Naomi Leventis, Nicholas and Christina Lewis, Elaine Lexis, Annette Liaos, James and Tina Liaos, Steven and Francine Likourinou, Angie Likourinou, Steve and June Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine Loney, Thomas and Chrysi Loughton, Dustin and Rena Makris, Apostolos Malamatos, Kindina Maland, Donna Mangafas, Kyriakos and Elefteria Manolakos, Catherine Manos, Constantine and Michele Manteris, Arthur and Sue Margaretis, John and Lucila Markakis, Catherine and Joseph Markakis, Sandy Kiriaki Markantonis, Demos and Kate Markantonis, George and Sarah Martinaitis, Louis Matsis, John and Rebecca Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki Mayros, Alex and Ien Mavros, Debbie Mavroudis, Frank McManus, Jeanette McKinney, Michael and Mersene McPherson, Robert and Marie McSweeney, Farolyn Mehas, Andrew and Samantha Menegatos, James Merritt, Devin and Sonia Meyers, Evon Mikelis, Nikolas and Angela Minas, Arthur and Ewa Moffett, Todd and Eliopulos, Tina Mohammednur, Alganes Monolakis, Anthony Monoyudis, Jim and Julie Moore, Brenda

Pledged Stewards in 2022

Murray, Christopher and George, Veneta Mvers. Stella Neocleous, Plato+ Newell, Ronald and Maria Nicholas, John and Estella Nichols, George and Tereza Nicolas, Samer and Christine Nikitas, Milissa Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra Nixon, John and Ellyn Pahigiannis, Nikon Paikos, Tom and Elizabeth Palivos, Peter and Vicky Pallis, Paul Pandelis, Cheryl Panos, Jeanne Papalois, John and Maria Papas, Christian and Nicole Papas, Peter and Rita Pappas, Panagiotis and Andrea Pappas, Rita Paschalis, Evangelos and Maria Pavlicas, Connie Payan, Luis and Eleni Pendleton, Tricia Peratikos, Tony Pertsinides, Irene Peterson, Todd and Diane Petriuc, Constantin Petro, Aleko and Georgia Petrou, Jim and Penelopi Philippou, Demetrios and Luanne Pierro, Joe and Rhonda Pitts, Anton and Athena Platis, Anna

Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra Poulis, Chris and Francine Poulos, Christine Pouridis, Kouli and Para Powell, Scott and Angela Powers, Russell and Rebecca Ramos, Fr. Seraphim and Presv. Olenka Raptis, Presv. Evonne Rasmussen, Scott and Rebecca Rigas, Anthony and Mary Rigas, Evie Rihani, Gary and Linda Rivera, Elias and April Robinson, Cardell Robinson, Carlie Robison, Diane and Patricia Rodis, Dimitri Rodis, Sophia Rosenthal, JD and Stephanie Rotas, Beatrice Ruffner, Skip and Kathy Salerno, Charles Salon, Janelle Samoszuk, Michael and Jeanne Santamaria, Jennifer and Robert Savvas, Savva Schumann, Silvia and Grema, Adelin Searles, Chrysoula Sourla Sechrist, Carl and Christine Sehremelis, Andy and Leslie Setian, Gary Simpson, Bryan and Julie

Sirhan, Michael and Imtisal

Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia

Smith, Kathleen Snow, Clifford and Christina Sorkhabi, Arian and Habiba, Maha Sotiropulos, Christopher and **J**essica Soursos, Helene Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette Spirtos, Nick and Mazzorana, Vicki Spotti, Peter and Alexandra Stathopoulos, Hristos and Anastasia Staubs, Douglas and Anastasia Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki Stenos, Louis Stransky, Jack and Rachel Stransky, Mark Szukiewicz, Joseph and Justina Tadich, Andrea and Milisav+ Tafoya, Steven and Irene Tanguay, Steven and Elizabeth Tasios, Ramona Taxopoulos, Bryan and Irene Teferra, Meskerem Thanos, Nicholas and Victoria Theros, James and Kathryn Thomas, Kristian and Demoleas, Eleni Thompson, Maggy Tijiboy, Christine Tohme, Tony and May Trebicka, Adrian and Paola Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katerina Tsobanoglou, Paris and Niki Tsolis, Christos and Panagioula Tsolis, Panagiote

Tsortanidis, Sophia Tzelalis, Steve, Vaso and Antonia Varinos, Nick and Kiki Vervilos, James and Anna Wadlow, Nicholas and Pamela Wagner, Sophye Wainscott, Betty Walter, Vernon and Alice Ward, Angeliki Waterhouse, David and Aleighzja Wayne, Elias and Petra Webb, Taylor Welles, Brigitte Wells, Adrienne Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina Williams, Anthony and Anna Wilson, Clyde Wilson, Kelly and Egi, Junichiro Wilson, Steven+ and Cleo Womack, Karl Womack, Kimberly Xerogianes, Nick and Nikki Xikis, Victoria Yurkov, Andre, Kalina and Daniella Zaferatos, Ted Zarkos, Nick and Dina Zarras. Nick and Cherv Zervas, Dionisios Zimmerman, Paul, Angela, Christopher and Vangeli Zimmerman, Paul Zmina, Stephen and Cynthia

Please detach and return to St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church.					
+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++					
Please Print Name(s), Address, Phone and Email CHURCH 365					
	St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church Las Vegas, Nevada				
· ·	As a blessed member of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, I/we commit to \$ per week/month, with the total amount for the year 2022 of \$				
	gned:				
Orthodox Christian: Yes No	Orthodox Christian: Yes No				
Others sharing in the gift (children):					

2022 Stewardship Report

(as of 8/29/22)

"Let Us Exalt His Name Together!" (Psalm 34:3) Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$493,732 (\$467,542 in 2021) Stewardship Gifts Received: \$386,922 (\$341,904 in 2021) Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$106,810 (\$125,638 in 2021) Stewardship Families Pledged: 385 (369 in 2021) 2022 Budgeted Goal: \$500,000 . . . Keep the Pledges Coming!

<u>Average Pledge</u>	No. of Families	Amount Pledged
\$1 ~ \$500	164	\$ 46,202
\$501 ~ \$1,000	88	\$ 69,899
\$1,001 ~ \$2,500	93	\$ 143,473
\$2,501 ~ \$5,000	24	\$ 86,408
\$5,001 & Above	<u>16</u>	<u>\$147,750</u>
Total Families	385	\$493,732

Church Account Summaries - July 2022

Nevada State Bank Accounts	June Deposits		Transfers in I	Withdraws/ .	Transfers Out	July	Notes
Tretada state Bank/1888ants	Ending Balance	Беролю	Transfers in	Checks	Transfero Gat	Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$76,948.13	\$43,239.70	\$4,127.98	\$11,473.76	\$56,520.43	\$56,321.62	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$61,719.50	\$4,200.00				\$65,919.50	
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$103,504.02	\$13,745.00			\$30.88	\$117,218.14	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$249,903.77	\$14,638.64		\$1,898.35	\$4,228.67	\$258,415.39	
Folk Dance Group	\$20,567.30					\$20,567.30	
Hellenic Historical Society	\$395.47			\$15.00		\$380.47	
Designated Funds	June	Donosito	Transfers In	Withdraws/	Transfers Out	July	Notes
Designated Funds	Ending Balance	Deposits	Hansiers III	Checks	Transfers Out	Ending Balance	Notes
Bookstore	\$29,307.12	\$1,584.00		\$998.35	\$597.28	\$29,295.49	
Ornaments	\$1,169.41					\$1,169.41	
Restricted Funds	June	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/	Transfers Out	July	Notes
nestricted Farius	Ending Balance	Берозна	Transiers in	Checks	Transiers out	Ending Balance	Hotes
ICON	\$4,767.81					\$4,767.81	
Library Account	\$1,470.77					\$1,470.77	
Giving Tree	\$7,889.87					\$7,889.87	
Faithtree	\$1,626.39					\$1,626.39	
Building Fund	\$99,636.92	\$13,054.64			\$3,600.00	\$109,091.56	Transfer to GOA for Church floor polishing
Youth Choir	\$2,989.18					\$2,989.18	
Church School	\$5,510.38					\$5,510.38	
Three Priests	\$52,535.51					\$52,535.51	
Roof Appeal	\$11,183.22			\$900.00		\$10,283.22	Dome roof repair
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$530.36					\$530.36	
Panos Flooring Repair	\$23,722.83					\$23,722.83	
Church Flooring Replacement	\$965.00					\$965.00	
Restricted Donation	\$5,654.00					\$5,654.00	
Live Streaming Equipment	\$505.00				\$31.39	\$473.61	
Designated, Restricted, and Other Total	\$249,903.77	\$14,638.64	\$0.00	\$1,898.35	\$4,228.67	\$258,415.39	
Other Funds	June	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/	Transfers Out	July	Notes
Oulei i ulius	Ending Balance	pehosits	i i alibici bill	Checks	i alisicis Out	Ending Balance	Notes
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$68,111.76			\$3,644.39		\$64,467.37	as of 06.30.22
Commonwealth Investments (Icon)	\$113,189.57	\$7,241.00				\$120,430.57	Change in Investment

 July 2022 Candles
 \$3,188.36

 July 2022 Trays
 \$3,067.00

 Total July 2022 Candles & Trays
 \$6,255.36



IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD SEPTEMBER 2002



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				1 Ecclesiastical New Year	2	3 10:00 am Festival TAM Class in Library
4 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	S.	6 6:00 pm Greek Food Festival Meeting in Kokkos Hall	7 5:00 pm Orthros 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Nativity of the Theotokos Observed)	8 Nativity of the Theotokos (Services on 9/7)	o	10 4:00 pm Orthodox Family Fellowship at Rivera's
8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Blessing of New Church School Year ~ 1st Day of Classes 5:00 pm GOYA Night	12	13 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting in Library	14 Elevation of the Holy Cross (Strict Fast) 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Procession of the Holy Cross and Divine Liturgy	15	16	17
18 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	19	20	21 5:00 pm Holy Unction 6:00 pm Greek Food Festival Meeting on Field	22	23 Greek Food Festival ~	\$ 24 Greek Food Festival ~ September 23, 24 & 25
25 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Greek Food Festival	26	27	28 6:30 pm Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith Class #1	29	30	

The Desert Messenger

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

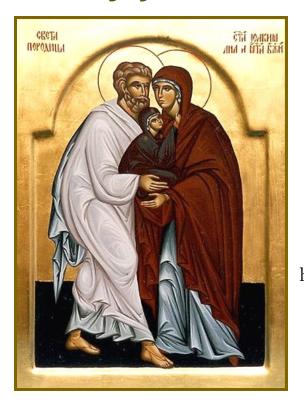
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POSTMASTER: DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE EXPEDITE

THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord



Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, your distress and reproach were overcome by the Almighty God, and thereby the Savior of the world came into the world through your holy daughter, Mary. Your prayers were abundantly answered by our merciful God Who rewards patience, humility and compunction. We praise you for your faith and for your commitment to prayers, and we implore your compassion upon our lack of fruitfulness in the Christian virtues. Holy and righteous Joachim and Anna, teach us to be living temples of the grace of God, so that we also may devote ourselves to holiness and bring forth treasures which are pleasing to Him. Growing older with each passing day, we ask your guidance that we might reach a peaceful end on this earth and thereby be united with you forever in the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.

(Prayer from the Akathist to Saints Joachim and Anna)