

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 22, Issue 7 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV July/August 2024

**From
Father
John**

Beloved in Christ:

With Summer upon us, many of us will be traveling to favorite or new destinations. Our Church calendar reminds us that – if we are mindful through our active prayer, worship and sacramental life during these months – our Lord Jesus Christ, His Holy Mother the Theotokos, and His Saints and Angels will journey with us, guiding us toward the Kingdom of God!

The Ecclesiastical Year will conclude in August, with the Great Feasts of *the Transfiguration of our Savior on August 6* and finally, *the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos on August 15*. Although the actual events on which these two feasts are based occurred many years apart, with the former recorded in the Holy Gospels and the latter according to the Holy Tradition of the Orthodox Church, both feasts share the common focus on the glory of God and His Kingdom – especially as it relates to our sanctification and union with Him (theosis).

The Synoptic Gospels record similarly the powerful narrative of our Lord's Transfiguration on Mount Tabor (*Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-9, Luke 9:28-36*): Shortly before His Passion, *"Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And He was transfigured before them, and His Face shone like the sun, and His garments became white as light."* Jesus appeared together with the Holy Prophets Moses and Elijah (Elias), showing that He was both the Giver and fulfillment of the Law received by Moses and, as Elijah was taken from the Earth to

Heaven in a chariot, He would soon overcome death by His Death, Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven. Jesus' Transfiguration revealed to His Disciples the fulness of His Divine glory, as the Voice of God the Father affirmed at this sublime event. *"It was not the time of the consummation of the world, nor for the Saints to take possession of the hope promised to them; for as Paul says, He will change our humble body into the likeness of His – that is Christ's – glorious Body (Philippians 3:21)."* (St. Cyril of Alexandria, *Commentary on the Gospel of St. Luke, Homily 51*) The Son of God came in the flesh to restore the glory of all humans – as we were created in God's image, with the potential to become like Him in glory. Further, we read in the Holy Scriptures and confess in our Creed our belief that the General Resurrection will occur at the time of our Lord's Second Coming.

There is one exception among us humans: From infancy, the Virgin Mary lived with complete love for, and wholehearted obedience and service to God; throughout her life, she lived according to the will of God, to please Him and in preparation for His Kingdom. After our Lord's Ascension into Heaven, the Panagia, beginning on Pentecost Sunday, also participated in the Apostolic mission of bringing the Good News of the Risen Christ to the world. She remained with St. John in Ephesus, then journeyed to Antioch to encourage St. Ignatios, and later to St. Lazaros in Cyprus: On her way there she arrived at the shores of Mount Athos, where she converted pagan virgins and foretold this would become a Holy Mountain for monks.



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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

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

JULY

Sunday, July 7/ *2nd Sunday of Matthew/
St. Thomas the Righteous of Malea/ Great Martyr
Kyriaki/ St. Akakios of Sinai/ St. Willibald, Bishop
of Eichstatt*

Orthros: First Tone

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

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

Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

Memorial: Kaliopi Georgis (5 years)

Fellowship: Stewardship Committee

Friday, July 12/ *St. Paisios the Athonite/
Holy Martyrs Proklos and Hilarios of Ancyra/
Holy Father Michael of Maleinos/ Ss. Gerasimos of
Byzantium and Akakios the Young Ascetic*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

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

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-36

Sunday, July 14/ *Holy Fathers of the Fourth Synod/
St. Aquila the Apostle among the 70/ Holy Father
Joseph the Confessor, Archbishop of Thessalonica/
St. Nicodemus the Righteous of Mount Athos/
Holy Hieromartyr Peter the New and the four
New Martyrs of Melissourgeio Kissamos/
Holy Martyr Justus*

Orthros: Second Tone

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

Epistle: Titus 3:8-15

Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19

Fellowship: Folk Dance Groups

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

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

Epistle: James 5:10-20

Gospel: Luke 4:22-30

Sunday, July 21/ *4th Sunday of Matthew/ Ss. John
and Symeon the Fool for Christ/ St. Parthenios,
Bishop of Arta*

Orthros: Third Tone

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

Epistle: Romans 6:18-23

Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13

Fellowship: Elias and April Rivera

Saturday, July 27/ *Great Martyr and Healer
Panteleimon/ St. Nicholas of Novgorod the Fool for
Christ/ Holy Anthousa the Righteous Confessor/
Holy 853 Martyrs of Thrace who were drowned/
Holy Manuel the Righteous*

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

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10

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

Sunday, July 28/ *5th Sunday of Matthew/
Holy Apostles of the 70: Prochoros, Nicanor,
Timon, and Parmenas/ Holy Irene the Righteous of
Chrysovalantou/ Righteous Father Paul of
Xeropotamou*

Orthros: Fourth Tone

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:12-35

Epistle: Romans 10:1-10

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

Blessing of the Artoclasia

Fellowship: The Tsouras Family

AUGUST (Dormition Fast: August 1-14)

Friday, August 2

6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Sunday, August 4/ *6th Sunday Matthew/
Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus*

Orthros: First Plagal Tone

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

Epistle: Romans 12:6-14

Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

Memorial: Charlotte Procalamos (40 days)

Fellowship: Philoptochos and Young Adults

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

(Continued from Page 2)

AUGUST (Continued)

Monday, August 5/ *Forefeast of the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*

6:00 pm *Great Vespers of the Transfiguration*

Tuesday, August 6/ *Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*

8:00 am *Orthros*

9:00 am *Divine Liturgy*

Epistle: 2 Peter 1:10-19

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Blessing of Grapes follows Liturgy

Wednesday, August 7

6:00 pm *Paraklesis to the Theotokos*

Friday, August 9

6:00 pm *Paraklesis to the Theotokos*

Sunday, August 11/ *7th Sunday of Matthew/ Afterfeast of the Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ/ Holy Martyr Euplos, Archdeacon of Catania/ Holy Father Niphonos, Patriarch of Constantinople/ Commemoration of St. Spyridon's Miracle in Corfu against the Turkish invasion of 1716/ St. Blane, Bishop of Bute*

Orthros: Second Plagal Tone

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

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

Fellowship: The Mavros Family

Monday, August 12

6:00 pm *Paraklesis to the Theotokos*

Wednesday, August 14/ *Forefeast of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary*

6:00 pm *Great Vespers of the Dormition*

Thursday, August 15/ *Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary*

8:00 am *Orthros*

9:00 am *Divine Liturgy and*

Blessing of the Artoclasia

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

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

Fellowship: Philoptochos

Sunday, August 18/ *8th Sunday of Matthew/ Afterfeast of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary/ Holy Monk-Martyrs of Illyria: Floros and Lauros/ Holy Martyr Leontos/ Holy Martyr Hermos/ Ss. John and George, Patriarchs of Constantinople/ Holy Relics of Arsenios the Righteous of Paros/ Holy Constantine the New Martyr of Capua/ Holy Matthew the New Martyr of Gerakari*

Orthros: Grave Tone

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

Memorial: Rev. Father Paul Eyler (1 year)

Fellowship: Panagias Luncheon

Sunday, August 25/ *9th Sunday of Matthew/ Return of the Body of Bartholomew the Glorious Apostle/ St. Titus the Apostle of the 70/ Ss. John the Cappadocian, Epiphanius and Menas, Patriarchs of Constantinople/ Holy Father John of Karpathos/ St. Ebba, First Abbess of Coldingham*

Orthros: Fourth Plagal Tone

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

Fellowship: Folk Dance Groups

Blessing of the St. Phanourios Cakes (Phanouropita) follows Liturgy

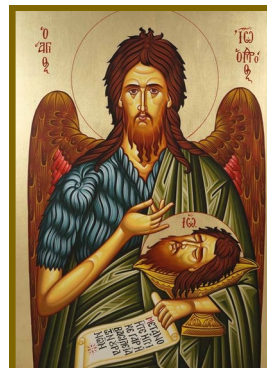
Thursday, August 29/ *Beheading of the Holy Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist (Strict Fast)*

8:00 am *Orthros*

9:00 am *Divine Liturgy*

Epistle: Acts 13:25-33

Gospel: Mark 6:14-30



From Father John (Continued from Page 1)

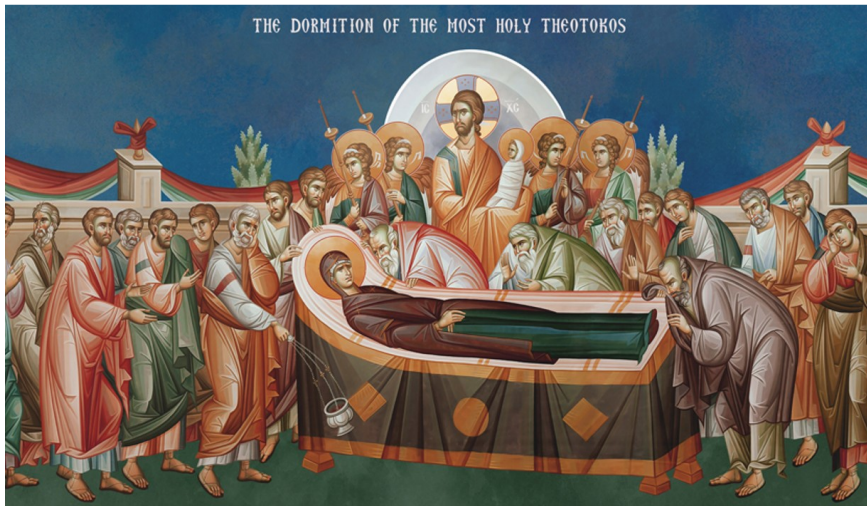
Finally, upon returning to Gethsemane after her travels, she received the consoling news from an Angel that her departure from this life into Heaven was imminent. The Holy Apostles were wondrously carried upon clouds from the ends of the Earth and gathered in Gethsemane for her repose – all but St. Thomas. On the third day after the Virgin's burial, the Apostle Thomas was carried upon a cloud from India to a place above her tomb: From there he witnessed the translation of the Holy Mother's glorified Resurrected body into Paradise. *"She alone in her body, glorified by God, now enjoys the celestial realm together with her Son . . . (and) she only is the frontier between created and uncreated nature, and there is no man that shall come to God except he be truly illuminated through her."* (St. Gregory Palamas,

Homily on the Dormition)

Beloved, in every Divine Liturgy, and especially as we partake of Holy Communion, we are transformed by grace from sinful humans into the children of God, and united with Christ and His Saints in His Kingdom! May we continue on this path to glory this Summer and, moreover, throughout our lives!

With Much Love in Christ,

Father John



Adult Study with
Father John

The Twelve Great Feasts

Please Join Us for the Four-Week Series

Wednesdays, August 21, 28, September 4, and 11

6:30 - 8:00 pm in Kokkos Hall

Byzantine Chanters and Choir

We will continue our practices in July and August! All are welcome to join us in the front right pews to sing praises for the Glory of God! We will have a short practice *after Divine Liturgy on Sundays, July 7 and 21, and on Sundays, August 4, 11 and 25.*

Your presence and participation are much appreciated by all who worship in our Parish! Thank you for your continued support.

Love in Christ, Presvytera Maria

Stewardship and Community Outreach

This Summer we will mark three important occasions. *On July 4*, Americans celebrate the 248th Anniversary of our Country's Independence, representing a transformation from old laws to new freedoms, including religious choice.

In August, we celebrate two of the Major Feasts of our Orthodox Church: *The Transfiguration of Jesus Christ (August 6) and the Dormition of the Theotokos (August 15)*.

The Transfiguration recounts the transformation of our Lord, Who revealed Himself in all His radiant glory to Peter, John and James, and thereby to all of us.

The Dormition recalls the Falling Asleep in the Lord of our Holy Mother and the taking up of her glorified physical body into the Heavens, a transformation from life on Earth to life in Eternity.

The dictionary defines Transformation as a thorough or dramatic change in form or appearance. Our outlook on Stewardship can and should be a transformation as we contemplate its meaning in our lives. In Christ, we are a new creation, transformed by the Holy Spirit. Our generosity is an opportunity to express how we have been transformed by our life in Christ.

Archbishop Anastasios of Albania has noted: "We find ourselves by offering ourselves. Have we learned the blessedness of generously giving to others of all we have?" He continues: "One day, a person complained to his priest that the Church and Christianity is one continual 'give, give, give.'" To which the priest replied, "Thank you very much for the finest definition of Christianity I have ever heard. You're right, Christianity is all about a constant 'give, give, give.' God giving His only Son to the world to show His unconditional love. His Son Jesus giving His life on the Cross to forgive our sins and destroy death. Then our Lord's Disciples giving all they had to make sure God's Good News of love was preached to all people everywhere. They not only gave away their homes and businesses, but even gave up their lives as Martyrs in gratitude to God! It is by offering our blessings back to God that He will be able to continue His forgiving, healing, liberating, empowering, transfiguring, loving ministry through the Church. For God, Infinite though He is, has chosen to work through us, through our gifts, to continue His saving work in the world today."

In Christ, Marina Adamy,
Stewardship and Outreach Committee

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Stewardship & Community Outreach:
George Bochanis

Maintenance: Steve Tzelalis

Building Committee:
Eleni Filios & Steve Tzelalis

Byzantine Chanters:
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Choir: TBD

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 & George Kouris

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:
Angelo Stamis

Photography & Live-Streaming:
Bill & Erin Bruninga



Orthodox Christian
PRISON MINISTRY

Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday is July 28, 2024

Learn More: WWW.THEOCPM.ORG

**Parish
Council
Report**

Dear Father John, Father Florin, Deacon John, Ministries and Parishioners:

As we prepare for Summer events, please be ready to support your Church by offering yourselves to work the *Panagias Luncheon (August 18)* and our *Greek Food Festival (September 27, 28 and 29)*. Before we know it, these activities will be upon us, and every person's participation is strongly encouraged.

Along with your talents offered, I encourage all of our parishioners to complete your Stewardship obligations. Our expenses to maintain our facilities, and pay our priests and employees, are on-going and need your commitment. There are many expenses that the Church could not sustain without your financial support. The Stewardship Committee, headed by George Bochanis, meets regularly to monitor our income and participation through Stewardship. A reminder notice has been mailed. This is a humble request to complete or initiate your pledge.

Summer should not be a vacation from the Divine Liturgy. Please make every effort to be present in Church and please encourage your children to attend. I am not one who is not guilty of attendance. Please know that when I am not present here, I still attend the local Parish where I am visiting. I appreciate your understanding.

I will be attending the Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress in San Diego. I will be certain to report back in the next issue of *The Desert Messenger* as to spiritual information that is communicated and presented.

Thank you for always supporting our Parish Council and the wonderful Ministries available for your participation.

With Much Love, I Remain Yours in Christ,
John Fotopoulos, Parish Council President

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



**The Paraklesis will be chanted on August 2, 7, 9 & 12.
Please Return Form to Father John ~ First Names Only.**

Philoptochos News

Dear Father John, Father Florin, Deacon John, Parish Council, Lovely Sisters in Christ and Wonderful Parishioners of St. John the Baptist,



I realize that we are in the middle of the Summer, but we do have some announcements and dates for you to mark on your calendar.

July, for the Ladies Philoptochos Society, is a planning and scheduling month. We will have a fun potluck meeting (TBA) to get a head start on the plans for 2024-2025. Now is the time to let me know if you have heard of a wonderful nonprofit that may need our assistance, or if you would like to host a fellowship, or chair an event. We are always open to new ideas. And of course, the Greek Food Festival Committee will be asking for help in July and August preparing for the Festival.

In August, we have a fellowship and an event. ***On Thursday, August 15 – the Dormition of the Theotokos*** – the LPS will host the fellowship following the service in the morning, honoring our Patron Saint, the Panagia. If you have someone in your family that celebrates August 15 as their Name Day, and would like to participate, please let me know. We are looking for a Fellowship hostess and a few folks to help set up, serve, and bring items, such as fruit, sweets and pastries.

And most exciting, we will be participating in a brand-new project for JUST ONE PROJECT, called “POP UP AND GIVE”, ***on Saturday, August 17***. Here is a letter from the organizer with a little information about the organization and the event:

“We are excited to have your church group join us in August for our Pop Up and Give event starting at 7:30 am. During this event we serve at 10 different CCSD locations across the valley where volunteers unload pallets of food and hand those items out to our drive through and walk-up clients. We do not have any age restrictions for this volunteer event, so everyone is welcome to join, we just ask that anyone under the age of 16 is accompanied by an adult.

“Overall, each month, we distribute over 400,000 lbs. of groceries to about 20,000 people across all our programs. Our volunteers are our greatest asset, and we cannot make the impact that we do without them, so thank you again for reaching out to set something up with us.”

Our community will be working the POP UP AND GIVE at Spring Valley High School. We will be sending a Sign-up genius for our Philoptochos members to sign up for the event. However, we will need the help of ALL our St. John Church Community for this effort – GOYA, OFF, Church School, Greek Folk Dance, Young Adults, Kali Pareia, Mr. and Mrs., Forerunners, Parish Council Members (Did I get everyone?). School will be back in, so teens, if you are going to need service hours, get a jump start and help out with this fabulous project.

Thank you in advance for always being willing to help others that are in need whatever the cause.

Have a safe and cool rest of your Summer and see you in August.

Bernadette Anthony, Philoptochos President



Chrismation

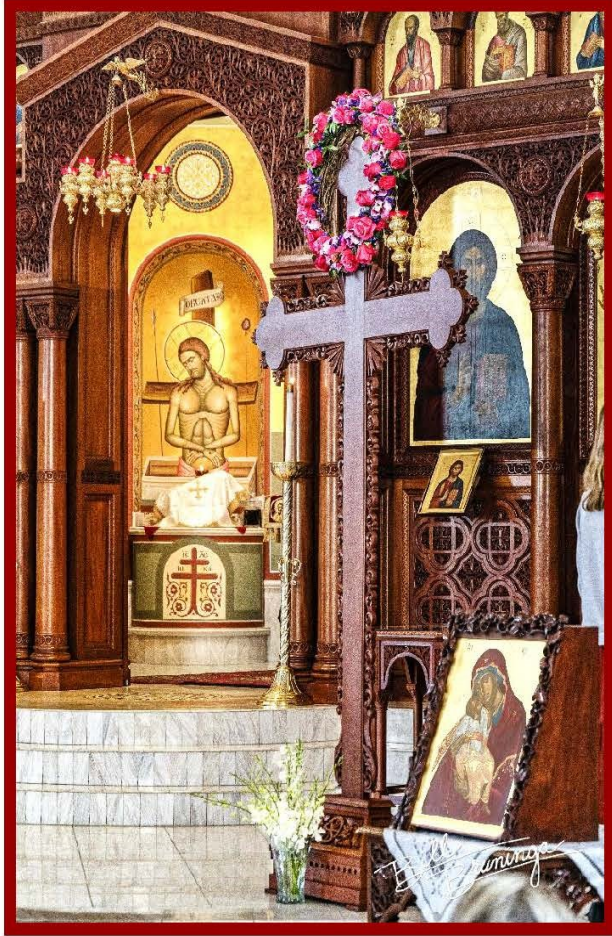
Anastasia (Nairobi) Burgos on May 25, 2024. Sponsor: Panagiot Tsolis.

Sarah (Ximena) Ciprian on May 25, 2024. Sponsor: Panagiot Tsolis.

Zenaida (Jayde) Powell on May 26, 2024. Sponsor: Farolyn Anna McSweeney.

Marriage: Na Zisete

Theodore Monk and Marissa Hondros on June 15, 2024. Koumbara: Anastasia Chilimidos.



Stewardship 2024

LET GOD'S LOVE GUIDE US

Let Us Love One
Another, That With One
Mind We May Confess.

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

+++++

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

“Let God’s Love Guide Us”

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 2024 of \$ _____.

Signed: _____

Orthodox Christian: Yes No

Signed: _____

Orthodox Christian: Yes No

Others sharing in the gift (children): _____

From Father Florin

In the Orthodox Tradition, an elder is not simply a person of advanced age. An elder is someone who has attained the highest rank of spiritual struggle. When a person ascends to that height, the fruits of his many years of fasting and prayer vigils become readily apparent. St. Paisios of Mount Athos, whom we commemorate *on July 12*, was such a person. “He had wisdom from above. Although uneducated, took his place among the chorus of ecumenical teachers. His words were wise, his advice was sweeter than honey, his love with which he embraced every person was divine, his mind and heart emitted the illuminating grace of the Holy Spirit. In his person we came to know holiness in all of its depth and width. His words were words of eternal life. His graceful jokes were full of wisdom and delight.” (Metropolitan Nicholas of Fthiotidos)

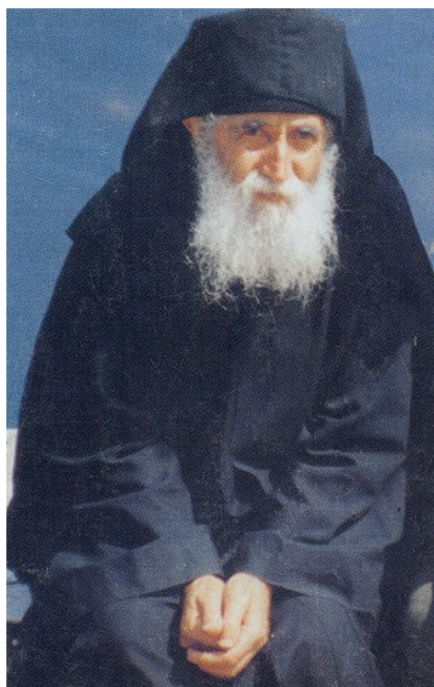
St. Paisios was born in 1924 in the humble village of Farasa in Cappadocia, Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). He was Baptized by St. Arsenios the Cappadocian, who foretold his life as a monk. A week following St. Paisios’ Baptism, the Greeks were forced to leave Asia Minor, so his family settled in Epiros. It is interesting to note that it was Elder Paisios who later wrote about the life of St. Arsenios. Early in his life, St. Paisios gravitated toward the spiritual life, spending hours daily in prayer. During World War II, he served in the military as a radio operator. In 1950 he went to Mount Athos, where he remained for most of the rest of his life, growing in spiritual stature through prayer, fasting, and many ascetical practices. In 1979 he moved to his final home, the Panagouda Hermitage. Here, he received tens of thousands of pilgrims, granting them, by God’s grace, healing, advice, wisdom, and solace. He reposed in the Lord on July 12, 1994, and was canonized a Saint in 2015.

St. Paisios was an example of a person dedicated to God, by removing his personal aspirations and personal wills. Obedience, exercise, humility, piety, decency and, above all, love and long-suffering, were a way of life for him, but also lessons for those who sought a reason for consolation or a solution for their personal problems. The Elder attached great importance to thoughts. He always said that everything starts out with good thoughts, which are suppressing the bad ones. Let us think positively about our fellow man rather than negatively, because otherwise cunning and obstinacy bear down on man. In fact, he said not to trust our own thoughts and to give space to God’s will, because anyone who does this comes out ahead. He used to say: “Humility is acquired after struggles. When you know yourself, you acquire humility, which becomes a (permanent) condition. Otherwise, one can become humble for a moment, but your thought will say to you that you are something, although in reality you are nothing. And you will be deluded like that to the moment of death. If death finds you with the thought that you are nothing, then God will speak. If, however, your thought says at the hour of death that you are something and you do not understand it, all your effort goes to waste.”

Of course, prayer was at the center of St. Paisios’ life. He was teaching that we should ask for repentance in our prayer and “nothing else, neither for divine lights, nor miracles, nor prophecies, nor spiritual gifts – nothing but repentance. Repentance will bring you humility, humility will bring you the Grace of God, and God will have in His Grace everything you need for your salvation, or anything you might need to help another soul.”

(Continued on Page 10)



From Father Florin (Continued from Page 9)

Prayer must be simple, because “things are very simple, and there is no reason why we should complicate them. If we regard matters in this way, we will feel the Jesus Prayer as a necessity and will not grow weary. We will be able to repeat it many times and our heart will feel a sweet pain, and then Christ Himself will shed His sweet consolation inside our heart.” If done the right way, “prayer does not tire but invigorates. It is tiresome only when we do not enter its meaning and do not understand the sense given it by our Holy Fathers. Once we comprehend the need of God’s mercy, the desire of this hunger will compel us, without pressuring ourselves in prayer, to open our mouth like a nursing infant, and we will feel, simultaneously, all the security and joy of a baby in its mother’s embrace.”

Let us sum up with a “contemporary” advice from a contemporary Saint: “Now that conveniences have exceeded all bounds, they have become inconveniences. Machines have multiplied; distractions have also multiplied, and man has been made into a machine. Machines and iron order men around, which is why their hearts have become as hard as steel.” Through the prayers of St. Paisios, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

Fr. F. J. Ristache

Hymn of St. Paisios the Athonite

Once the fire of love for the Lord was lit in you, through ascetical rigor you gave yourself to God. O God-bearing St. Paisios, for many you became consolation, giving counsel with God-inspired words, and by your prayers working wonders. And now, devout one, you intercede for the whole world unceasingly.

Orthodox Bookstore

Greetings from the Bookstore!

We just received some new releases from NewRome Press in time for summer reading with the kids. Included is the latest from the series “A Boy’s Journey to Sainthood” about Saint Nektarios the Wonderworker and two small teen or “tween” novels to enjoy.

Other new selections not depicted here are “Delightful Grace” and the July and August “Friends of Christ” books to continually water the garden of youthful hearts throughout the dry, desert Summer here in Las Vegas. Come and see!

Serving You With Love in Christ,

Paraskevi Santamaria, Bookstore Director



Our Parish Bookstore is open every Sunday following the Divine Liturgy - and during the week, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, by contacting Karen at the Church Office.

Ministry News

Church School

Hi everyone! I hope everyone is having a wonderful and safe Summer. Hopefully you are able to escape the heat and make some family memories.

The first day of Church School will be *on Sunday, September 8 (The Nativity of the Theotokos)*, following the Blessing of the Water in the Church. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. *The Church School Registration Form is on Page 18* in this issue of *The Desert Messenger*. Please fill one out for each child and return to either Karen or me.

Please do not forget to visit the Bookstore this Summer to keep our wonderful Faith alive.

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

Sunday Youth Chat with the Priest

Dear Parents, Kids and Teens,

The long-awaited Summer is here. We all know how much every one of us likes to travel and enjoy time together with our families during this time.

On Sundays, July 7 and 21, Father Florin will meet with *ALL YOUTH, immediately after the Divine Liturgy in Kokkos Hall for a YOUTH CHAT WITH THE PRIEST*. This will be a 20-30 minute informal Q & A session to keep our youth connected with Christ and our Orthodox Christian Church. If there is a good response, the YOUTH CHAT will continue in August. Look to the *Weekly Bulletin* for updates!

Thank you and see you in Church. With Love in Christ, Father Florin

Greek Folk Dance

Hello all! We hope everyone is having a wonderful Summer full of rest and relaxation! We are gearing up for the new dance season with our beloved Greek Folk Dance Ministry! We welcome all dancers ages 4 (*by September 29*) and up to come and check out our vibrant ministry, participate in some wonderful fellowship and learn to dance traditional Greek folk dances.

Registration Forms, which outline all our specific requirements, are *on Pages 19-20* in this issue of *The Desert Messenger* and also with Karen in the Church Office. Please fill out one form per dancer. We are also pleased to announce a Young Adult group this year (18 years and older) that will be competing in the Advanced Senior category at FDF! If you are interested in joining our Young Adult group, send an email to the address below, as we will be meeting *prior to August 18*. Registration fees are \$125 for each dancer in our competitive groups and \$75 for each dancer in our youngest, non-competitive group.

Our first practice for ALL dancers is *on Sunday, August 18*. We will also be having a Parent Meeting for all parents and interested parents *on August 25 in the Library after Liturgy*. Please join us to learn about our ministry and our calendar of events and fundraisers for the year. Look for further details in the *Weekly Bulletin* as it approaches.

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

Enjoy the rest of your Summer!

Much gratitude, Folk Dance Board

Young Adults - 18 Years through Early 30s

Blessed Summer Season! I pray you are well as we navigate the heat and stay connected to the Lord and our wonderful Church. We will need your help for Fellowship *on Sunday, August 4*; Philoptochos will supply the refreshments. We will come back together again in September.

With Love in Christ, Father Florin



Orthodox Family Fellowship (OFF) - For Elementary School Children

Church School starts on Sunday, September 8! On that day, April Rivera, our OFF Advisor, will hand out flyers during classes regarding our plans for future OFF activities.

In the meantime, please let us know if you are interested and how you can support these events for our young children. We want to know your children's interests as well as how we can minister more effectively to them.

Your feedback is important! Please email frflorin@vegasgreekorthodox.com with questions or ideas.

In Christ, Father Florin and April Rivera, OFF Advisors

GOYA - Our Teen Ministry

August is just around the corner! We will gather *on Saturday, August 17*, when we will help our beloved Philoptochos Society on a special project, Pop Up and Give, at Spring Valley High School. (Keep your eye on the *Weekly Bulletin* for more details.) We will set up tents and we will help distribute goods. Your help and dedication are needed!

We will also have our traditional potluck gathering *on Saturday, August 24, from 3:00 until 5:00 pm, in Panos Hall!* Please, come for an afternoon of fun, games, food, and discussions. We will also have time to brainstorm our projects for GOYA for the next Ecclesiastical Year.

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

Thank you so much and hope to see you there!

Love in Christ, Father Florin and Maha Habiba, GOYA Advisors

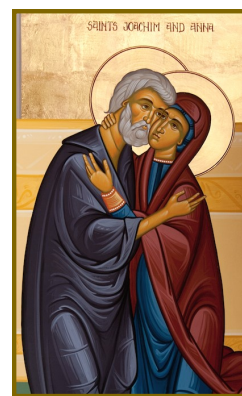
Mr. & Mrs.

Dear Couples of St. John the Baptist,

Please join us at the home of Richard and Angela Acovino *on Saturday, August 24 at 5:00 pm*. As always, we will contribute to the fabulous potluck by bringing our favorite dish, side dish, beverage or dessert. Moreover, we will enjoy amazing fellowship and captivating conversation, learning something more about our Orthodox Faith along the way.

Please call or email Karen to RSVP, so the Acovino's can get a head count and know what you will bring. Looking ahead, we encourage you to host a Mr. and Mrs. potluck event, so we can plan out the new Ecclesiastical Year.

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



Kali Parea - For the 40+ Crowd

Are you an energetic, enthusiastic, adventurous, fun-loving person? Do you like to go to plays, concerts, local events, play billiards, eating at different restaurants and gathering at people's homes, etc.? Are you a person with ideas? Kali Parea is a group of individuals 40+ years-old, single or married like you, who enjoys "good company" and desires to be active in the community.

The Kali Parea Group is currently on vacation. Our Fall meeting will be *on Sunday, September 8, in Panos Hall*, after the Church Services. See you then.

If you have any questions, contact Demetri Asim at (702) 210-4056. Thank you!

With Love in Christ, Demetrious Asim

Forerunners - Our Seniors Fellowship

I hope you are enjoying a safe and fun Summer so far. A friendly reminder that we will not meet for our luncheons again until October. We hope to have more involvement and cannot wait to see you.

Love in Christ, Paula Kelesis for the Forerunners

Greek Food Festival Report

Summer is here, and that means our Festival is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for *September 27, 28, and 29*. The success of the Festival relies heavily on the dedication and hard work of our amazing volunteers. This event not only celebrates our rich heritage but also serves as a crucial fundraiser, supporting the maintenance and operations of our beloved community. By volunteering your time and energy, you become a steward of our traditions, ensuring that the Festival remains a cherished annual event for generations to come.

In the spirit of community, we invite you to join us in the upcoming food preparation sessions. In August, we will be rolling dolmades and preparing the pastichio. These food items are a labor of love, and your helping hands will make the process even more enjoyable. Keep an eye on the *Weekly Bulletin* for specific dates and times.

We would like to thank Kiki Mavrantonis, Marika Lamancusa, Steve Tzelalis, John and Arlene Generales, Georgia Dalacas, Nitsa Filios, Mike and Carolyn Beeler and Dimitri Kladouchos for their hard work in preparing over 150 pans of Bogatsa!

Coupon books and raffle tickets are now available for purchase through the Church Office or the Festival Website (www.lasvegaskgreekfest.com). These not only offer incredible value but also serve as a fantastic way to spread the word about our beloved event. Share the excitement with your friends, family, and colleagues, and encourage them to join in the festivities! Together, we can create an unforgettable experience that celebrates our rich Greek heritage while strengthening the bonds of our community. Let's make this year's Food Festival a resounding success through our collective efforts and unwavering spirit of volunteerism!

In Christ, Eleni Filios, Greek Food Festival Co-Chair

Building and Maintenance

Dear Friends,

As Summer unfolds, we are busy preparing our grounds and facilities for the highly anticipated Food Festival. We have faced some unexpected challenges this June, including a costly \$12,000 repair for our fountain pump, \$1,000 for irrigation valve and time clock replacements, and \$5,500 for sidewalk repairs. It has been a tough month financially.

We also have an urgent matter regarding Panos Hall. Many of you have enjoyed fellowship in Kokkos Hall recently, but both of our a/c units – one 25-ton and one 15-ton – are in need of full replacement. Given our recent experience replacing two 25-ton units for the Church, we know this will be a significant expense, estimated to exceed \$60,000. With Summer upon us and our Food Festival just around the corner, this is a priority.

Our buildings, being over 25 years old, frequently present us with unexpected expenses, and these costs are only increasing. We rely heavily on the incredible generosity and support of our community to manage these financial burdens.

This is where we need your help. Your contributions, no matter the size, are vital. Together, we can ensure our facilities are in top shape for our upcoming events and for the enjoyment of all.

Please consider making a donation to support this urgent need. Your kindness and generosity make all the difference.

Wishing you all a blessed and happy Summer.

With love and gratitude, Eleni Filios, Building Committee Chair

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither slave nor free, neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)

Panagias Luncheon

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

*Sunday, August 18
following the Divine Liturgy
in Panos Hall*

*\$20 per Person
(Advanced Payment Only by August 14)*

Menu:

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

51ST ANNUAL
GREEK
FOOD FESTIVAL



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5300 EL CAMINO RD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89118

RAFFLE TICKETS AND COUPON BOOKS ON SALE NOW
WWW.LASVEGASGREEKFEST.COM | 702-221-8245

FRIDAY - SUNDAY
27 - 29 SEPTEMBER 2024

AUTHENTIC FOOD & DRINK - LIVE
MUSIC - \$10,000 GRAND PRIZE -
KIDS AREA - CHURCH TOURS - AND
MUCH MORE

START AT

27 TH	3PM - 11PM
28 TH	NOON - 11PM
29 TH	NOON - 10PM



2024

51st FABULOUS

LAS VEGAS GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

September 27, 28 and 29, 2024, our community will be celebrating the 51st Fabulous Greek Food Festival on the beautiful grounds of our St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church. This year, 2024, ushers in our Food Festival's **SECOND HALF-CENTURY!** We thank you for your loyal support of the Greek Food Festival over the many years and hope that you will once again place an ad in the popular Greek Food Festival Souvenir magazine.

Attached is an Advertising Reservation Form with the information on ad sizes and prices. The magazine reaches thousands of Festival guests and provides important exposure for your business to the ever-growing population of Las Vegas and surrounding areas. Also, family, memorial and congratulatory pages help us keep a record of the rich history of both the Church and the Festival. The deadline for submitting an ad is Friday, August 30, 2024. Early submission is appreciated and recommended.

If we may assist you in any way, please contact one of the Ad Team members below or phone or email Karen Rawlinson at the Church Office 702.221.8245 - karen@vegaskgreekorthodox.com.

We look forward to hearing from you.

OPA!

Susan Stamis 702.460.9954 susanstamis@gmail.com

Nitsa Filios 702.595.6888 nitsalv@aol.com

Mary Hamilton 702.581.3272

Cheryl Pandelis 702.338.1601 cheryl.pandelis@outlook.com

Richard Acovino 702.592.1877 richardacovino@gmail.com

Tom Katsaros 424.215.7980 thomas.katsaros01@gmail.com

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5300 S. El Camino Road, Las Vegas, NV 89118 Tel 702.221.8245 - Fax 702.221.9167

web: lvgff.com



2024
51st FABULOUS
LAS VEGAS GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL

MAGAZINE DIMENSIONS 8½" X 11"

Ad Sizes and Prices (please check your choice):

____ \$1650 Back Cover in Color: 7½"w X 10"h

____ \$1250 Front or Back Inside Cover: 7½"w X 10"h

____ \$1000 Gold Border Page: 7½"w X 10"h

____ \$700 Full Page: 7½"w X 10"h

____ \$375 Half Page: 7½"w X 4¾"h

____ \$200 Quarter Page: 3¾"w X 4¾"h

____ \$125 Business Card: 3½"w X 2"h

____ \$75 Signature Ad - ONE LINE OF COPY

- All interior ads will print in black ink
- Gold Border Page will print with a ½" Gold Border
- NO SPREADS OR CROSSOVERS
- Please submit your ad art as JPG, PDF, or PSD at a minimum of 300 DPI
- Please submit your artwork electronically to karen@vegaskgreekorthodox.com
- Your donation is tax-deductible and all proceeds benefit St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
- The Festival Committee reserves the right to review and approve all ad copy that will appear in the magazine
- **DEADLINE: All ad copy and payment must be received by Friday, August 30, 2024**
- We will typeset your ad copy at no extra charge. Please print your copy in the space below or submit electronically to: karen@vegaskgreekorthodox.com

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Would you like a proof of your ad? NO____ YES____ If yes, please approve or make changes within 24 hours.

For more information, please contact:

Susan Stamis 702.460.9954 susanstamis@gmail.com

Cheryl Pandelis 702.338.1601 cheryl.pandelis@outlook.com

Nitsa Filios 702.595.6888 nitsalv@aol.com

Richard Acovino 702.592.1877 richardacovino@gmail.com

Mary Hamilton 702.581.3272

Tom Katsaros 424.215.7980 thomas.katsaros01@gmail.com

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
5300 SOUTH EL CAMINO ROAD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89118 - TEL 702.221.8245 - FAX 702.221.9167
web: lvgef.com



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2024-2025 CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Please Write Legibly - Use One Form Per Child

Church School Classes begin on Sunday, September 8.
Pre-Kindergarten (4 years by August 1) through High School.

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

Student Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

School Grade (2024-2025 school year): _____

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

Patron Saint and Date of Commemoration: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN OR OTHER RELATIVE (Relationship: _____)

Name: _____ Name: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ E-mail: _____

Home Address: _____
Street City ZIP

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

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

Signed, Parent or Legal Guardian: _____

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

_____ Classroom Cleanup

_____ Crafts

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

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

GREEK FOLK DANCE MINISTRY



2024-2025 REGISTRATION FORM

One Registration Form Required for Each Dancer
Registration Deadline: September 29, 2024

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

Minimum Age: 4 years old by September 29, 2024

Address: _____

City: _____, Nevada Zip Code: _____

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

Contact Information (Please fill out completely and legibly):

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

Dancer's Cell: _____ Home: _____

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

Email Addresses: Mother: _____

Father: _____

Dancer (if applicable): _____

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

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

1. The dancer must be Baptized or Chrismated in the Orthodox Church. Proof of Baptism or Chrismation must be provided for each dancer (or previously verified by Fr. John).
2. The parent(s) must be Steward(s) of St. John Church for 2024 **before their child(ren) attend any dance practice** and Steward(s) for 2025 by January 17, 2025. **Please check one box:**
 - ☐ I am already a 2024 Steward. (This will be verified with the Church Office.)
 - ☐ I am attaching my Stewardship Commitment Card to this registration form.
3. The dancer must **on a regular basis participate** in Divine Liturgy on Sunday, throughout the year, and in Church School (if he or she is of age), **September through May**. Infrequent participation is a basis for removal from the program.

Parent Initials _____
Dancer Initials _____
4. The dancer must arrive to practice **on time** and be **respectful**. The Greek Folk Dance Ministry has a strict **NO BULLYING** policy. This includes both verbal and physical bullying. Any dancer participating in bullying will be subject to removal from the program.

Parent Initials _____
Dancer Initials _____

(Continued On Back)

5. The dancer and parent(s) are expected to participate in **all fundraising activities** of the Greek Folk Dance Ministry.

Parent Initials _____ Dancer Initials _____

6. Dancers who have excessive practice absences may be subject to removal from the program.

Parent Initials _____ Dancer Initials _____

7. All practices will be CLOSED. This means no parents, families, or friends may be in the practice room for any group during practice times. The only exception is for parents and family of Liondaria, the non-competitive group.

Parent Initials _____ Dancer Initials _____

8. The Folk Dance Festival (FDF) will take place Feb 13-17, 2025. The location is unknown at this time. The dancer and parent(s) must determine by November 10, 2024 if they will attend FDF. Dancers who elect not to go to FDF may only participate in dance practices through the end of December. Please add yourself to the emailing list at www.yourfdf.org for up to date information.

Parent Initials _____ Dancer Initials _____

9. The dancer and parent(s) agree to meet all financial responsibilities assigned to the participants by the St. John Greek Folk Dance Ministry and FDF.

10. Registration fees are:

- Competitive Dance Groups: \$125 per dancer, or \$100 for each additional sibling, due by **September 29**. *(No registrations will be accepted after this date.)*
- Liondaria (non-competitive) Dance Group: \$75. *(Must be at least 4 years old by September 29.)*

11. Registration can **only** be accepted when all of the following are turned in:

- Registration form
- Non-refundable registration fee
- Proof of Baptism/Chrismation (unless verified by Fr. John)
- Stewardship Commitment Card (unless verified by Church Office)

12. Dancers from previous years must re-register. **Dancers are prohibited from practice until their registration is complete and until their parent(s) become Steward(s) for 2024.**

First Folk Dance Practice for ALL Dancers: Sunday, August 18, 2024

***Additional practice days/times: Tuesday evenings, beginning October 8, 2024; Time TBD
(for competitive groups only)***

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

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

Signature of Dancer _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____

Date _____

Date _____

FOR DANCE BOARD USE:

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

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

**2024
Stewardship
Report
(as of 6/24/24)**

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$548,606 (\$557,486 in 2023)
 Stewardship Gifts Received: \$325,270 (\$324,118 in 2023)
 Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$223,336 (\$233,368 in 2023)
 Stewardship Families Pledged: 382 (369 in 2023)
 2024 Goal: \$600,000 . . . Keep the Pledges Coming!

*“LET
GOD’S LOVE
GUIDE US”*

<u>Average Pledge</u>	<u>No. of Families</u>	<u>Amount Pledged</u>
\$1 - \$500	155	\$ 41,932
\$501 - \$1,000	73	\$ 58,090
\$1,001 - \$2,500	103	\$157,397
\$2,501 - \$5,000	33	\$121,650
\$5,001 - \$9999	14	\$ 87,357
\$10,000 & Above	4	\$ 81,180
Total Families	382	\$547,606

Church Account Summaries - May 2024

Nevada State Bank Accounts	April Ending Balance	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	May Ending Balance	Notes
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$61,973.88	\$104,681.10		36,497.94	\$57,375.77	\$72,781.27	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$22,635.49					\$22,635.49	
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$145,218.48	2,745.00		\$10,720.10	\$247.22	\$136,996.16	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$288,493.38	\$1,406.00		\$2,379.47	\$2,437.45	\$285,082.46	
Building & Maintenance (B&M)	\$83,336.93	\$1,638.87		\$212.00		\$84,763.80	
Folk Dance Group	\$24,126.59					\$24,126.59	
Hellenic Historical Society	\$800.96					\$800.96	
Designated Funds	April Ending Balance	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	May Ending Balance	Notes
Bookstore	\$40,573.44	\$1,406.00		\$434.97	\$1,383.62	\$40,160.85	
Restricted Funds	April Ending Balance	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	May Ending Balance	Notes
ICON	\$13,735.29					\$13,735.29	
Faithtree	\$1,626.39					\$1,626.39	
Youth Choir	\$2,989.18					\$2,989.18	
Church School	\$137,141.44				\$1,053.83	\$136,087.61	2024 Church School supplies
GOYA	\$530.36					\$530.36	
Eyler Memorial Fund	\$20,190.15					\$20,190.15	
Emergency Fund	\$5,000.00					\$5,000.00	
Three Priests	\$66,267.13			\$1,944.50		\$64,322.63	Kouvouklion Repair
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
Designated, Restricted and Other Total	\$288,493.38	\$1,406.00	\$0.00	\$2,379.47	\$2,437.45	\$285,082.46	
Building and Maintenance Funds	April Ending Balance	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	May Ending Balance	Notes
Building Fund	\$29,333.51	\$138.87		\$40.00		\$29,432.38	
Panos Flooring Repair	\$34,830.33	\$1,500.00				\$36,330.33	
Hall Painting	\$10,283.22					\$10,283.22	
HVAC	\$0.00					\$0.00	
Giving Tree	\$8,889.87			\$172.00		\$8,717.87	
Lighting	\$0.00					\$0.00	
Building & Maintenance Funds Total	\$83,336.93	\$1,638.87	\$0.00	\$212.00	\$0.00	\$84,763.80	
Other Funds	April Ending Balance	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	May Ending Balance	Notes
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$77,352.59					\$77,352.59	as of 03.31.24
Commonwealth Investments (Icon)	\$138,213.69		\$5,033.35			\$143,247.04	Change in Investment
May 2024 Candles	\$3,891.58						
May 2024 Trays	\$4,209.61						
May 2024 Candles - Holy Week	\$10,589.53						
May 2024 Trays - Holy Week	\$7,103.39						
Total May 2024 Candles & Trays	\$25,794.11						



JULY 2024 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

	1	2	3	4	5	6
				Independence Day Church Office Closed		
		National Clergy Laity Congress, San Diego, CA June 30 - July 5				
7 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Youth Chat with Priest follows in Kokkos Hall Chanter/Choir Practice	8	9	10	11	12 St. Paisios the Athonite 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	13
14 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	15	16	17	18	19	20 Holy Prophet Elias 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
21 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Youth Chat with Priest follows in Kokkos Hall Chanter/Choir Practice	22	23	24	25	26	27 Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Artoclasia
28 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy and Artoclasia	29	30	31			



AUGUST 2024 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1 Dormition Fast: August 1-14	2 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos	3
4 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Chanter/Choir Practice	5 Forefeast of the Transfiguration 6:00 pm Great Vespers of the Transfiguration	6 Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Blessing of the Grapes	7 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos	8	9 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos	10
11 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Chanter/Choir Practice	12 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos	13 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting in Library	14 Forefeast of the Dormition of the Theotokos 6:00 pm Great Vespers of the Dormition	15 Dormition of the Theotokos 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Artoclasia Fellowship Hosted by Philoptochos	16	17 7:30 am Philoptochos "Pop Up and Give" at Spring Valley HS
18 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Panagias Luncheon First Folk Dance Practice for ALL Dancers	19	20	21 6:30 pm Adult Study: The Twelve Great Feasts in Kokkos Hall	22	23	24 3:00 pm GOYA Potluck and Fun in Panos Hall 5:00 pm Mr. & Mrs. at Acovino Home
25 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Blessing of Phanouripita Dance Parent Meeting in Library Chanter/Choir Practice	26	27	28 6:30 pm Adult Study: The Twelve Great Feasts in Kokkos Hall	29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist (Strict Fast) 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	30	31

The Desert Messenger

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

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THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord

All-blessed one, you loved the Christian faith of your mother, and you convinced your father to convert and adopt it. You therefore received the grace from God almighty, O holy one, great and glorious Panteleimon the Martyr, to cure the illnesses of the sick who implore you with reverence and ardent faith.

*(Kathisma, First Tone, Feast of the Great Holy Martyr and Healer Panteleimon, July 27,
Translated by Father Seraphim Dedes)*

