

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 21, Issue 4 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

April 2023

From
Father
John

"After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), 'I thirst.' A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to His mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, He said, 'It is finished'; and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit." (John 19:28-30)

Beloved in Christ:

During Great and Holy Week, the turning point in all human history is commemorated – in liturgical services and solemn processions, Iconography, inspired hymns and Scriptural readings – leading the faithful on the holy journey from the voluntary Passion and Death on the Cross to the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. The Son of God became Man – while remaining fully Divine, co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit – for the purpose of bringing us fallen humans to the "New Jerusalem," which is the Kingdom of God. Through His teachings and signs, Jesus made it clear throughout His three-year earthly ministry that He was indeed the God-Man (*Theanthropos*) – and with His Passion and Crucifixion, our Lord showed us in His words and actions that His Death was not only the fulfilment of Scriptures, but moreover, it was intentional, according to the will of the Father, and for the salvation of the world.

In the excellent book, *The Crucifixion of the King of Glory*, Presvytera Eugenia Scarvelis Constantinou reflects on the physiological, theological and Scriptural depth of our Lord's Passion, as recorded in the four Gospels, which will be read at length in the services on Holy Thursday evening and throughout Holy Friday. As desert-dwellers we all know too well that water is essential for life: "In His humanity," Constantinou writes, "Jesus needed physical water as much as anyone else. On the Cross, He was suffering from hypovolemic shock – low bodily fluids – and by now His thirst was beyond description." Following the Last Supper, our Lord suffered great agony while praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, stressed to the point where, in the words of the Physician Luke the Evangelist, He was "sweating drops of blood" (Luke 22:44) – a medical condition called hematohidrosis. In the Service of our Lord's Passion, we recall in the *Synaxarion* "that He was spat upon, scourged, struck, ridiculed and mocked. We remember, too, the purple robe, the rod, the sponge, the vinegar, the nails, the lance; and above all the Cross and Death – all of which He willingly endured for us." All the bodily traumas Jesus suffered, including His struggle in carrying His Cross to Golgotha, the place of His execution, and moreover His posture on the Cross contributed to His severe dehydration.



(Continued on Page 3)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*Sundays: 8:45 am Orthros - 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Church School follows Holy Communion (except April 9 and 16)*

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

Abstain from Meat and Dairy until Holy Pascha

**Sunday, April 2/ Fifth Sunday of Lent/
St. Mary of Egypt/St. Titus the Wonderworker**

Orthros: First Tone

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

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

Memorials: His Eminence Metropolitan Ilia Katre of Philomelion (6 months); Mary Gentry (40 days); George Dracopoulos (6 months); Andreas Christou (3 years); Paul Kachikis (5 years), Peter Kachikis; Rebecca Berdos and Konstantinos Pouridis.

Fellowship: Mark Katre and Family, in memory of Metropolitan Ilia.

Monday, April 3

5:30 pm Great Compline and Adult Study

Wednesday, April 5

6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, April 8/ Saturday of Lazaros

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

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

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Palm Tying and Lenten Breakfast in Kokkos Hall

Sunday, April 9/ Palm Sunday

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

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel: John 12:1-18

Blessing and Distribution of Palms

Palm Sunday Luncheon in Panos Hall

GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday Evening, April 9

7:00 pm First Bridegroom Service

Holy Monday, April 10

7:00 pm Second Bridegroom Service

Holy Tuesday, April 11

7:00 pm Third Bridegroom Service/Hymn of Kassiani

Holy Wednesday, April 12

9:00 am Presanctified Liturgy

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

Holy Thursday, April 13

9:00 am Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil

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

Holy Friday, April 14

10:00 am Royal Hours

*3:00 pm Removal of Christ from the Cross/
Children's Procession*

7:00 pm Lamentations/Procession of the Epitaphios

Holy Saturday, April 15

9:00 am Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil

11:00 pm Vigil of the Resurrection

**Sunday, April 16/GREAT AND
HOLY PASCHA**

*12:00 am Resurrection Orthros
and Divine Liturgy*

Resurrection Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

Gospel: John 1:1-17

*Blessing and Distribution of
Red Eggs*

12:00 pm Agape Vespers and Picnic

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

Friday, April 21/ Theotokos, the Life-Giving Spring

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

Epistle: Acts 3:1-8

Gospel: John 2:12-22

**Sunday, April 23/ Thomas Sunday/St. George the
Great Martyr/ Holy Martyrs Emmanuel, Theodore,
George, Michael and George of Samothraki**

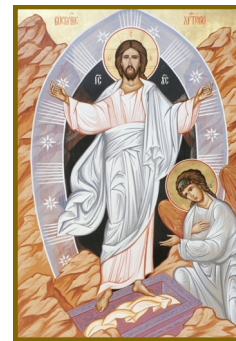
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Matthew 28:16-20

Epistle: Acts 12:1-11

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Fellowship: Kali Parea

(Continued on Page 3)



Worship Schedule (Continued from Page 2)

Sunday, April 30/ *Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers, St. Joseph of Arimathea and St. Nicodemus/ Apostle James, Brother of St. John the Theologian/ New Martyr Argyri/St. Clement the Hymnographer*
 Orthros: Second Tone
 Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:1-12
 Epistle: Acts 6:1-7
 Gospel: Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8
 Memorials: Eugenia Markantonis (1 year) and Minas Markantonis (4 years)
 Fellowship: Pan-Arcadians, benefitting the Orthodox Mission in the Philippines



Come, Receive the Light!
ΛΕΥΤΕ ΛΑΒΕΤΕ ΦΩΣ!

From Father John (Continued from Page 1)

While Jesus refused to partake of the wine mixed with the medicinal sedative “gall,” he did receive the vinegar offered through a sponge on a hyssop branch, in fulfillment of prophecy: *“They gave Me poison for food, and for My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink.” (Psalm 69:21)* Hyssop was associated with Passover and sacrifice, observes Constantinou: “During the Exodus, the Hebrews used hyssop to sprinkle the blood of a lamb on their doorposts to protect them from the angel of death. *(Exodus 12:22)* Hyssop was used in many temple ceremonies and was identified with forgiveness – for example, *‘Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean.’ (Psalm 50/51:7)* The use of hyssop was revelatory, for Christ is the Sacrificial Paschal Lamb Who shed His blood to take away the sins of the world by His Crucifixion and Death. When all was “finished” – that is, accomplished – according to the Father’s will, our Lord and Savior, in the words of Constantinou, “lowered His head and then allowed Himself to die . . . Christ was in complete control of His life because, as God, He is the source of life.” Thus, Orthodox Iconography uses the phrase “The King of Glory” in the sign above the head of our Crucified Christ.

“We worship Your Passion, O Christ. Show us now Your glorious Resurrection.” During the most somber services of Holy Friday (beginning on the evening of Holy Thursday), there is an expressed underlying faith and hope that the New Passover (*Pascha*) is dawning – the “passing-over” of our Lord from Death to Life by His Holy Resurrection. *“Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord,”* we read before the conclusion of the Orthros of Holy Saturday (celebrated on Holy Friday evening). *“Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath (spirit) to enter you, and you shall live.” (Ezekiel 37:4-5)* As we celebrate the Life-Giving Resurrection of Jesus Christ at the Midnight Divine Liturgy on Sunday, our souls are lifted as we are cheered on to respond in full voice to the powerful *Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom*: *“Death, where is your sting? Hades, where is your victory? Christ is Risen (Truly, He is Risen!) and you are overthrown. Christ is Risen (Truly, He is Risen!) and demons have fallen. Christ is Risen (Truly, He is Risen!) and angels rejoice. Christ is Risen (Truly, He is Risen!) and Life rules. Christ is Risen (Truly, He is Risen!) and not one dead remains in the tomb. For Christ, having Risen from the dead, has become the first fruits of those that slept. To Him be the glory and the dominion, forever. Amen.”*

With Deepest Love in the Crucified and Risen Lord,

Father John

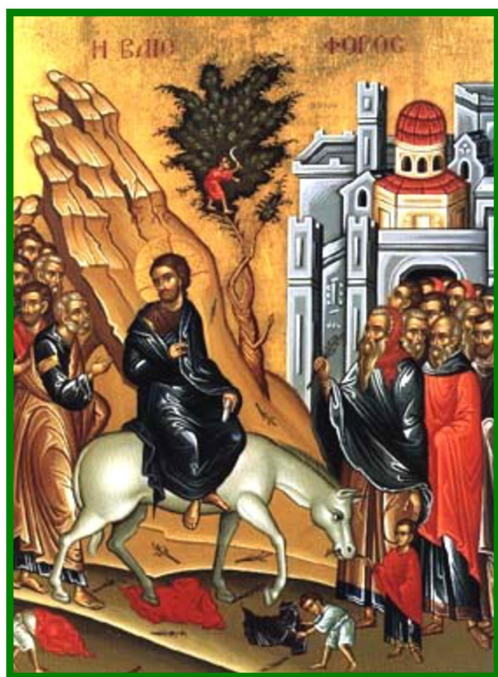
You and your family are cordially invited
to join us for
Palm Sunday Weekend 2023

Saturday of Lazaros ~ April 8

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Following Liturgy: Continental Lenten
Breakfast and Palm Tying in Kokkos Hall



Palm Sunday ~ April 9

8:45 am Orthros

10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Blessing and Distribution of
Palm Crosses

Following Liturgy:
Palm Sunday Luncheon
in Panos Hall

Menu: Rice and Shrimp, Peas, Fresh Baked Bread
and Halva ~ \$10 per Person
Cash Bar: Beer and Wine



Please Join Us for Our
AGAPE PICNIC
Holy Pascha Sunday, April 16, 2023
St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
12:00 noon to 4:00 pm
(Agape Vespers at noon, followed by the Picnic)



***Tickets are \$30
for either Traditional
Lamb or Chicken
Dinner Plate or
Specialty Item 4-Pack
(Spanakopita, Tyropita,
Loukaniko and Pastitsio)***

- ♦ *Greek Pastries and Bar*
- ♦ *Greek Music*
- ♦ *Easter Egg Hunt at 2:00 pm*
- ♦ *Table Reservations are Available and Encouraged*

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

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



Parish Council Report

Dear Father John, Father Florin, Ministries and Parishioners,

Kali Anastasi! We are very blessed that a few of our parishioners have answered the call to pay the balance of what was owed for our HVAC replacement. We are waiting for the units to be delivered and then we can enjoy the pleasure of having heat in our Church again. Thanks be to God! We have also paid off our line of credit, so we do not have to make payments on the note. Again, all thanks to our Lord!

With Pascha approaching, please plan on attending our Holy Week Services. There will be a Palm Sunday Luncheon after Church services *on Sunday, April 9*. The cost per person will be \$10, and you can pay at the door for this event. Steve Tzelalis will be preparing our meal – and we are grateful to him and his crew. I would also like to thank John Koutsulis for chairing the luncheon. Of course, we can always count on Philoptochos to assist in setting up and serving. Everyone is welcome to help. Please see John Koutsulis if you would like to offer your services.

Let's not forget the Agape Picnic *on Holy Pascha, Sunday, April 16!* This is always, year after year, a true family gathering celebrating our Lord's Resurrection. This year we are charging \$30 per person. If you would like to purchase a table of 10 for \$300, please make your arrangements with Karen: To date, we have sold over half our tables! We would appreciate buying your tickets ahead of time, so we know approximately how many we plan on serving. Steve Tzelalis, Telly Eliades and Adam Bieker will be chairing the Picnic. As always, we would very much appreciate your help with setting up and serving.

I announced that I wanted to meet with our Parish Ministry leaders to discuss some topics and address some concerns together. We will meet *on Sunday, April 2 at 12:30 pm* in Kokkos Hall. I pray we have a good showing so we can have a productive meeting.

Again, I prayerfully look forward to the Resurrection of Christ – and ask God to continue to bless the Parish of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church.

John Fotopoulos, Parish Council President



Sunday of Orthodoxy 2023

"We venerate Your Holy Icon, loving Lord, asking You to pardon our transgressions, Christ our God."

CHURCH 360

As we expand the ways we communicate and engage with our community, we request you take the time to fill out the questionnaire we have prepared. Click [HERE](#) to access the questionnaire. The information you provide will only be used by the Parish to better serve the members of our community.

Everyone who fills out this questionnaire will be entered into a raffle. The winner of the raffle will receive: A beautiful Icon of the Baptism of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. The drawing for this raffle will take place *on Sunday, April 9 – Palm Sunday*.





Stewardship 2023

WALK IN LOVE

*“Walk in love, as Christ loved us
and gave Himself up for us,
a fragrant offering and
sacrifice to God.”
(Ephesians 5:2)*

Connecting in Love
with Christ,
Our Church
and One Another
Throughout the Year!

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

+++++

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

“Walk in Love”

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 2023 of \$ _____.

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Orthodox Christian: Yes No

Orthodox Christian: Yes No

Others sharing in the gift (children): _____

Stewardship and Community Outreach



This month we celebrate our Lord's Passion and Glorious Resurrection. We will be filled with excitement and anticipation following the sober Lenten Season with its additional services, prayers and fasting and Confession. It is a time for jubilation. We will hopefully be restored in Faith and Good Will as we enjoy the Celebration of our Lord's defeat of Death. We will greet our Orthodox neighbors with "Christos Anesti," crack red eggs and dance at the Agape Picnic. Truly, it is a wonderful time of year! But how long will the joy last? A week or two? A month?

Herein lies the real question! Do we make the Lord's great gift to us a year-long focus? A lifetime focus? He offers the *"fully laden table"* for everyone, as expressed in the *Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom*, regardless of how much or long we have fasted, or been there for Him. The Lord gives the one who arrives at the banquet at the eleventh hour, the same gift He gives the one who honored Him from the first. *"He accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering"* of all his people. When we give a present to a family member or a good friend, we delight in their reception of that gift. We see them light up, and we are warmed by their reaction. So too, the Lord delights in our gifts to Him. He wants that closeness of a relative or a friend. But if we truly love Him and are thankful, what is our gift to Him?

Perhaps by embracing our Stewardship commitment, in understanding its true intent, we can give something important back to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We can act as Christ in providing a fully laden table to our brethren. Stewardship provides a means by which we can help those in need, care for our Parish, our ministries, and charitable activities. There is room for all these forms of gift-giving to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Our dear St. John the Baptist Parish achieved a record number of Stewards and Stewardship Gifts in 2022. Throughout 2023, all of us can better recognize the importance of our stewardship commitments. We can translate our Paschal joy in the Lord and zeal to serve Him through our time, talents, and treasures. This year, all of us have the opportunity to exceed last year's numbers. The more we have to work with, the more we can do the Lord's good work. We need not look at Stewardship as the yearly appeal for money, but as a means to please the Lord with our generosity. *"Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward!"*

Christos Anesti! Marina Adamy, Stewardship and Outreach Committee



Notes from the Choir Loft

In preparation for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Pascha, we will have the following rehearsals:

Sunday, April 2 after Liturgy

Monday, April 10 at 5:45 pm

Tuesday, April 11 at 5:45 pm

Please mark your calendars! If you would like to sing with the Choir, please join us up in the Choir Loft!

Athena Mertes, Director



Philoptochos News

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

As I write this we have passed the midpoint of our Lenten Journey. We have prayed together, fasted together and given our time, effort and support to Kids 'n' Cancer – Camp Agape. The Team is still taking donations – we are about \$2,500 less than last year. If you have not had a chance to show your love to these children, please contact Rena Loughton. You have also shown your faith by donating to Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodoxy Seminary. Many thanks for all your support.

The Ladies Philoptochos Society and its members are an integral part of the traditions of the Lenten Season. Adorning the Icon of the Virgin and Christ Child from the first Friday of the Salutations to the Theotokos to the last; offering the Pan Orthodox Lenten Vespers Dinner; and all the preparations of the Red Eggs and Epitaphios. Thank you for all your support. As you know the cost of flowers – like everything – has increased dramatically. This year, as always, we hope to prepare and present to our Lord and Savior a symbol of our love and devotion. You should have received a letter asking for your generous contribution for the Flower Fund. Please know that your Ladies Philoptochos Society keeps every dollar collected for flowers as a separate line item and the funds are only used when needed for flowers for the Church.

Along with the traditions of the Faith are those of the Culture – and this is expressed with our baking, cooking and serving for the Palm Sunday Luncheon and Agape Picnic. Without the preparation there would be no celebrations. We know there are those among you who are cooking professionals, and we would benefit from you sharing your knowledge and talents. We know there are willing hands that want to roll a cookie. Don't wait for a personal invitation! Just come on down. Look for the dates and times in the *LPS Weekly Word* or *Weekly Bulletin*.

Finally, the Ladies Philoptochos Society is continuing with the Wine Wagon Raffle this year. For \$5 you might win a garden wagon filled with WINE! Buy your tickets after Church or at the Agape Picnic. Winner will be drawn at the Picnic, and need not be present.

For Members: Election time is here! Please let Jennifer Paraskevi Santamaria, Marcie Karas or Michelle Hollar know if you would like to be a part of this vital ministry of the Church. If you have not paid your membership, it is not too late. We would love to have you!

Social Services will be back after Pascha with some hands-on projects. The best way to keep up to date with all the activities is to receive the *Weekly Word* email. Please let Christina Snow or Tina Liaos know if you are not receiving it.

I pray that the rest of your Lenten Journey and Holy Week is filled with the Holy Spirit, prayer and fasting.

Your Sister in Christ,
Bernadette Anthony,
Philoptochos President



The Ladies Philoptochos

Wine Wagon Raffle

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

\$5 per ticket



TICKETS ARE \$5, THE DRAWING WILL BE ON PASCHA SUNDAY. WINNER DOES NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.

Building and Maintenance Committee

Kali Anastasi! I would like to start off this month's message with an amazing update. Through your donations we have been able to secure all the funds needed to pay off the full \$95,000 for the new HVAC units. What a blessing!

With Spring in the air, we have completed much needed cleaning and reorganizing of all areas of the Church and Community Center. Western Elite once again helped us with a dumpster donation. A full inventory of all our dry goods in our back Conex container was also done and provided to our Food Festival Committee for future ordering. Daniel Brunetti at Lowe's once again came through and provided us with a palette of lightbulbs free of charge. The field was reseeded and fertilized as well as two main irrigation valves were replaced.

Many of you have expressed concerns regarding the safety of our outside areas. I am currently seeking bids to replace all the exterior lighting fixtures and procuring bids to repair, recoat and restripe the parking lots. Redoing the asphalt will have to be completed in phases as the cost will be high.

Lastly, I would like to kindly request that parents please, please keep your children from running around in closed off areas of the Hall and Church. Every week we are constantly cleaning up trash, left-over food from floors and bathrooms, and scuffs from children jumping on the walls. It is also a huge liability issue should one of your children get hurt, as such activity is occurring while children are not being supervised. This is something that I regretfully must reiterate continuously in my monthly messages, however it is becoming a serious issue. We spend a lot of time and financial resources to make sure our Church facilities are well maintained.

I sincerely would like to thank all of you for your continued support and generosity in helping us keep our St. John Church the "Jewel in the Desert". Wishing everyone a very happy and blessed Pascha.

With Love, Eleni Filios, Chair of the Building and Maintenance Committee

Orthodox Bookstore

Greetings from the Bookstore and Kalo Pascha!

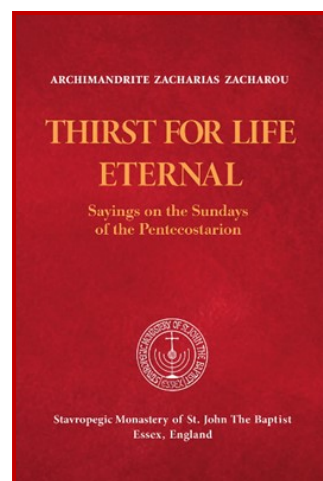
The end of the Lenten journey is the encounter with the Risen Lord, our eternal Passover, and the foretaste of the Kingdom of God. However, often overlooked in our Church is the fifty-day period of grace leading up to the Feast of Pentecost that ultimately bestows the flame of the Holy Spirit upon the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

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

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

Please stop by for your copy or any other books, Icons, gifts, and supplies you might need. Come and see!

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





Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun

Nicolas (Nico), son of Matthew and Michelle Jensen, on March 11, 2023.

Godparents: Timofey Zinukov and Miriam Zinukova.

Julitta (Julie) Zimmerman (Adult Baptism) on March 17, 2023.

Godparent: Janet Bryant.

Elizabeth (Lily), daughter of Adam and Courtney Prestage,

on March 17, 2023. Godparent: Janet Bryant.

Sophia (Larisa) De Filippo (Adult Baptism) on March 17, 2023.

Godparent: Amanda Massiha.

Ines, daughter of Andreas Sparkuhl and Diana Cosio, on March 18, 2023.

Godparent: Evania Fotopoulos.

Joseph, son of Joseph and Alexi Deep, on March 24, 2023.

Godparent: Allen Deep.

Chrismations

Porphyrios (Adam) Prestage on March 12, 2023.

Sponsor: Michael Beeler.

Andrew Massiha on March 23, 2023.

Sponsor: David Smith.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord

Nicholas Preketes on February 14, 2023. Funeral on March 9.

Mary Gentry on March 4, 2023. Funeral on March 14.

Violet Nabhan on March 10, 2023. Funeral on March 21.

Notice of Parish Assembly

Sunday, April 30, following the Liturgy, in Panos Hall

Agenda:

- *Call to Order/Opening Prayer*
- *Election of Assembly Chair*
- *Approval of Assembly Minutes (11-20-22)*
 - *Approval of 2022 Financials*
 - *External CPA Audit*
 - *Parish CPA*
- *Closing Prayer/Adjournment*

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Rev. Father Florin Ristache
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Michelle Eugenio
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Bruce Royal
Maintenance & Grounds

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

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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:

Fr. Florin Ristache & Maha Habiba

Orthodox Family Fellowship:
Fr. Florin Ristache & April Rivera

Young Adults:
Fr. Florin Ristache

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek School: Paula Kelesis

Mr. & Mrs.:

Fr. John & Presv. Maria,
Fr. Florin & Presv. Alexandra

Kali Parea: Demetrios 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

From Father Florin



There is both great joy and terrible sorrow associated with this day, the Sunday that begins Holy Week and portends the Crucifixion of our Lord.

It is a time of despair, perplexity, and contradiction. The very people who applaud Christ's entrance into Jerusalem that morning, shouting out "Hosanna" and words of adoration will, within a week, be crying, "Crucify Him!" They will go from acclaiming Him as the new King of Israel to urging His life be traded in favor of a convicted criminal; they will first praise Him and then mock Him. Even friends entering Jerusalem at Jesus' side will desert Him. All this discord will take place during one week beginning on what we call Palm Sunday.

We can find the narrative of Palm Sunday in all four of the Gospels: *Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28-38; and John 12:12-18*. Five days before the Passover, Jesus came from Bethany to Jerusalem. He sent two of His Disciples to bring Him a donkey and he sat upon it and entered the city. The people who had gathered in Jerusalem for the Passover, were now looking for Jesus, both because of His great works and teaching, and because they had heard of the miracle of the resurrection of Lazarus. When they heard Christ was entering the city, they went out to meet Him with palm branches. They laid their garments on the ground before Him and shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!"

On Palm Sunday we behold the Word of God, the Giver of Life and the Conqueror of Death, made flesh. This day reminds us that He is always present with us (*Matthew 28:20*) in His Church. That He comes ceaselessly to us in power and glory at every Eucharist, in every prayer and Sacrament, and in every act of love, kindness and mercy. He comes not only to deliver us from sin and death, but also to make us capable of attaining perfect communion with Him. He is our King, Who liberates us from the darkness of sin and the bondage of death.

In the fleeting moments that mark Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the world receives its King, on His way to the Cross to accomplish the mission for which the Father sent Him. Filled with infinite love for mankind, Jesus accepts the extreme abasement of the Cross. He bears our griefs and carries our sorrows. His glorification, which was accomplished by the Resurrection and the Ascension, was achieved through the Cross.

Palm Sunday calls us to see the Kingdom of God as the goal of our Christian life. We draw our very identity from Christ and His Kingdom. The Kingdom does not lie somewhere or sometime in the distant future; rather, the Kingdom is a present reality and a future realization at the same time. (*Matthew 6:10*) Moreover, the Kingdom is within us. (*Luke 17:21*) St. Theophan the Recluse wrote: "The Kingdom of God is within us when God reigns in us, when the soul in its depths confesses God as its Master and is obedient to Him in all its powers. Then God acts within it as Master 'both to will and to do of His good pleasure.' (*Philippians 2:13*) This reign begins as soon as we resolve to serve God in our Lord Jesus Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Then the Christian hands over to God his consciousness and freedom, which comprises the essential substance of our human life, and God accepts the sacrifice; and in this way the alliance of man with God and God with man is achieved, and the covenant with God, which was severed by the Fall and continues to be severed by our willful sins, is re-established."

Why do we use palm branches during this Great Feast? Because they were symbols of life among the nomadic tribes who, when crossing the desert, rejoiced at seeing the palm tree, as it indicated an oasis with life-giving water was near. Palms have long been a sign of victory, success, and glory. Victorious armies or leaders returning from the battlefield, or a long military campaign, were welcomed by the populace jubilantly waving palm branches. On Palm Sunday, we still go out to meet Christ, carry the blessed palms, joyfully sing "Hosanna!" and join in His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. The palms we take home and put in a special place serve to remind us that Palm Sunday is not lost to the ages but that by Christ's victory we, too, can achieve everlasting life. Amen.

Fr. F. J. Ristache.

Ministry News

Church School

Hi Everyone! Thank you for bringing your children to Church. I bet they are learning so much; please encourage them to share what they are learning and to keep growing in our wonderful faith. We continue learning about the Holy Sacraments along with following the Church Calendar.

There are a few special events coming up, which are geared to include our children. We will be having *our Palm Cross Tying on Saturday of Lazaros, April 8, following the Divine Liturgy which begins at 9:00 am*. We will be serving a light Lenten breakfast in Kokkos Hall, where we will make Palm Crosses. This is a wonderful family event. Many hands help ease the load.

On Holy Friday, April 14 we will have the *Removal of Christ from the Cross at 3:00 pm* with the *Children's Procession*. Please do your best to have your children attend this holy event.

On Holy Pascha, Sunday, April 16, there will be an Egg Hunt for the children on the field during the Agape Picnic. Our kids always have a blast each year.

I have had some parents and grandparents ask me about snacks. Yes! We love them along with mini bottles of water. Feel free to ask your child's teacher what they need.

Our last day of class will be *on Sunday, May 21* with a fun *Field Day* event. Please let me know if you would like to help with help with this. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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

Egg Hunt

I am looking for donations for our annual *Egg Hunt at the Agape Picnic on Sunday, April 16*. We need both filled and empty plastic eggs, candy (no foil chocolate please, as it melts), and even little non-candy items. If you do not have the time to shop, I will also accept any cash donations and do the shopping and stuffing.

Please bring them to Karen during the week, to me personally, or leave them in the Parish Council Office during Holy Week *by Holy Thursday*. This is such a great event for the kids – they love it so much! With your generosity there are usually plenty of eggs. Please reach out to me if you have any questions about what to bring.

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



Myrrh Bearers

Calling all Orthodox Middle and High School girls! Once again, we will be having the girls participate in being a *Myrrh Bearer*. We will be having a meeting in my classroom on *Mary of Egypt Sunday, April 2*. I will be sharing all the details, if you cannot attend the meeting, please reach out to me so I can give you the information regarding dress code and services.

The girls will be participating on *Palm Sunday Evening 1st Bridegroom Service, Holy Thursday, Holy Friday and the Resurrection Vigil on Saturday night*.

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

Altar Servers

We welcome Acolytes from the past, those currently serving and, yes, young men *8 years and older* to serve in the Altar for Holy Week and Pascha . . . and beyond! There are many holy services and your willingness to assist would be greatly appreciated and pleasing to God.

Please contact Mark Stransky or Father John if you are interested in serving.

Kalo Pascha! Father John frjohn@vegasgreekorthodox.com

GOYA - Our Teen Ministry

Dear GOYANs,

Thank you all for being present at our overnight Teen Lenten Retreat last month and, especially, thank you for participating and understanding the importance of the Sacrament of Holy Confession! I also want to thank all the speakers, dance directors, young adults and, of course, parents who helped us during our Retreat. We could have not done it without their help!

We are getting closer to the Great Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ! Please, try to attend as many services as you can in this period, especially during Great and Holy Week!

This month, we will have the opportunity to have *GOYA Night on Sunday, April 2, 5:00-7:00 pm, in Panos Hall*. We will have our customary Lenten meal along with fellowship, prayer, games, and discussion. If you would like to help, please bring a Lenten dish to share!

A second activity is open and available to us on the morning of *Lazaros Saturday, April 8* – after the Orthros and Divine Liturgy. We will participate in the enjoyable labor and fellowship of *Palm Tying* and decorating the Church! Please come help us, as many hands are needed and make the work go quickly! A light Lenten breakfast will be offered.

Another wonderful opportunity for service to the Community of our Parish is available on *Holy Pascha, April 16 at the Agape Picnic*. We need our GOYANs to step up and take a shift serving food: If you are interested in this selfless act of service, please contact the Church Office – Karen will connect you with either Steve Tzelalis or Demetri Asim who are coordinating volunteers. Thank you so much!

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

Orthodox Family Fellowship (OFF)

Dear Parents and Elementary School Youth,

Our Lenten Journey is coming to an end in the month of April! As every year, before and after the Great Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we have many activities organized for you.

First, we will participate in the *All-Youth Palm Tying on Lazaros Saturday, April 8*, following the Divine Liturgy in Kokkos Hall. A light Lenten breakfast will be offered.

Then, *on Great and Holy Friday, April 14 at 3:00 pm* – the day on which our Lord Jesus Christ was nailed to the Precious Cross for our salvation – we will have the *Children's Procession* following the *Removal of the Lord's Body from the Cross*.

On Holy Pascha Sunday, April 16 after the *Agape Vespers (at noon)*, and during the *Agape Picnic*, there will be a celebratory *Egg Hunt* for the young kids. This is always a blast!

Thank you and hope to see you at all events!

With Love in Christ, Father Florin and April Rivera, OFF Advisors

Youth Choir

The Youth Choir members are practicing for our favorite service of the year: Holy Saturday Morning. *There is only practice left – on Sunday, April 2 at 12:15 pm, in Classroom 6.*

On Holy Saturday, April 15, please meet in the front right side of the Church *no later than 8:45 am*. Our favorite *Hymn of the Three Youths* is chanted near the beginning of the service, so please be prompt.

We need readers! If you would like to read either *on Holy Wednesday Evening or Holy Saturday Morning*, please let me or Eileen Koutsulis know ahead of time, so we can assign you a reading to practice.

A Blessed Pascha to All! Love in Christ, Presvytera Maria

Praise the Lord and Exalt Him Forever!



Young Adults ~ 18 Years through Early 30s

Dear Young Adults of St. John the Baptist,

This month, please try to be present and to actively participate as much as you can at our liturgical services, especially during Holy Week.

On Great and Holy Pascha, Sunday, April 16, please volunteer and help where needed at the *Agape Picnic, following the Agape Vespers*. Our presence and support is very much needed. I thank you all for your dedication and see you there!

Blessed Resurrection! Father Florin

Mr. & Mrs.

Dear Couples of St. John the Baptist,

Kalo Pascha! We will be gathering for our fellowship *on Saturday, April 29, starting at 6:00 pm*, at the home of Thomas and Sharon Katsaros. We thank them for generously opening their house to us.

The theme for our Paschal feast is Mediterranean – please contact Karen for their address, and to let us know what dish or drink you will bring. We are looking forward to seeing you all there for an amazing dinner and lively discussion.

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



Kali Parea ~ For the 40+ Crowd

This month, we will not be having a gathering, but rather we will participate, help, support, and serve *both on Palm Sunday, April 9 and on Holy Pascha, April 16, at the Agape Picnic*.

Thank you all for your loving support for our Community as a Body of Christ!

In Christ, Demetrious Asim

Forerunners ~

Our Seniors Fellowship

Kalo Pascha!

We had a great turn out for our March Lenten lunch, which was deliciously prepared and served by Steve Tzelalis, Marika Lamancusa, Mike and Carolyn Beeler, and Savva Savvas.

A door prize, raffle and bingo prizes were awarded to the lucky winners.

There will be no luncheon in April due to Great and Holy Pascha. Please join our community at the *Agape Picnic on Holy Pascha, April 16*.

We will come back together in May for our final luncheon that will be a huge affair. You will not want to miss it! Fun for everyone!

Love in Christ, Faye Brown



Lenten Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

*Lord and Master of my life,
cast away from me the spirit of laziness,
idle curiosity,
love of power and vain talk.*

*But grant me, Your servant,
the spirit of moderation,
humility, patience and love.*

*Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see
my own faults and
not to judge my brothers and sisters.*

*For You are blessed forever.
Amen.*

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

With Gratitude to God for Our Pledged Stewards in 2023
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
 Alcalá, Georgia
 Alexander, Eleni
 Alford, Cynthia "Mary"
 Allen, John and Denise
 Alvarez, Kelly
 Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine
 Andrews, Catherine+
 Andrews, Chris and Pamela
 Andrews, George
 Andrews, Vasiliki
 Andricopulos, Margo
 Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette
 Antoniou, Elias and Glorielys
 Aristides, George and Diana
 Asim, Demetrious
 Balaouras, Panos and Helen
 Balason, Voula
 Baldwin, Richard and Vivi
 Balodimas, James
 Barbarino, Demetra
 Bartel, Robert and Ioanna
 Beeler, Mike and Carolyn
 Beeman, Benita
 Belojevic, Marija
 Berendji, Jim and Vivian+
 Birtas, Helen and Ann
 Bjorklund, Danielle and
 Geroncin, Justin
 Blume, Michael
 Bochanis, Aris and Savannah
 Bochanis, George
 Booth, Alina
 Britten, Ronald and Carol
 Brown, Faye
 Brown, Mark and Alyssa
 Bruninga, William and Erin
 Bryant, Timothy and Janet
 Bucy, Brent and Elaine
 Carahalís, John and Constance
 Caredis, Jon and Marjorie
 Carrico, William and Alexandra
 Carter, Maria
 Chachas, Bessie
 Chachas, James
 Chamie, Elie, Emil and Claudine
 Chandrinós, Alexia
 Chanos, Jennifer
 Chomakos, Dean and Tammy
 Chondrakís, Dimosthenis and
 Kragerud, Kaaren
 Christou, Toni
 Coll, Patrick and Anita
 Collins, David
 Conger, William and Alexia
 Costacos, John
 Costuros, George and Marsha
 Cotsilis, Jenny
 Crist, Adam and Kanistra
 Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia
 Dalacas, Georgia

Damascus, Peter
 Daskalos, George and Voula
 Davis, Matthew and Christine
 Deep, Joseph and Alexi
 Demas, Spiro and Rita
 Demoleas, Spero and Grace
 Demoleas, Stephanie
 Dominguez, Eric and Amalia
 Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia
 Doukakis, Panagiotis and Chrisi
 Dramitinos, Mary
 Dudunakis, Michael
 Earl, Christine
 Eliades, Aristotelis and Caroline
 Eliades, Eleni and
 Garza, Everardo
 Eliades, Gregory and Maria
 Eliades, Harry and Agapi
 Eliades, Katerina
 Eliades, Sia
 Eliakis, Peter
 Eliakis, Varthie
 Eyler, John and Elizabeth
 Eyler, Fr. Paul and Nathan
 Failla, Jennifer
 Fenlason, Nathan and
 Zmina-Fenlason, Jennifer
 Feola, Richard
 Filios, Spiridon and Eleni
 Fischer, Cheryl
 Fischetti, George and Cassidy
 Fitzgerald, Norman and
 McCullen, Sandra
 Flangas, Gus and Tamara
 Flangas, Marilyn
 Fleischer, Robert and Penny
 Foster, Kyle and
 Pierro, Maria Elena
 Fotopoulos, John and Barbara
 Fountas, Constantinos
 Fountoulakis, Vasileios
 Franco, Yolanda
 Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia
 Gauvin, Chad and Marissa
 Gekakis, George
 Generales, John and Arlene
 George, Pete and Georgia
 Gialketsis, William and Rachelle
 Giambi, Jason and Kristian
 Giouzelis, Sasa
 Gordon, Victor and Demetria
 Grabovoi, Daphne
 Granillo, Abraham
 Gutierrez, Connie
 Gutierrez, Daniel
 Hagos, Yohannes and Mebrat
 Hamilton, Mary
 Hamilton, Paul and Brandi
 Haralambakis, Demetre and
 Dimitra
 Haramis, John and
 Kitsios, Eugenia
 Hastings, Teri

Haynes, Maria
 Hemmers, Oliver and
 Pantelas, Anne
 Himaegiosca Goldie Family
 Hollar, Michelle
 Hondros, Christina
 Hondros, Christopher and Darlene
 Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria
 Hondros, Marissa
 Howard, Eddie and Willie
 Iteen, Robert and Sophia
 Jandete, Johanna
 Jaynes, Christine
 Jensen, Matthew and Michelle
 Kachikis, Ernestine
 Kakavulias, George and Helen
 Kalkas, John and Rena
 Kambouris, Litsa
 Kanis, Constantinos and Katie
 Karas, George
 Karas, James
 Karas, John and Marcie
 Karas, Kevin and Elaine
 Karris, Mark and Suzanne
 Kasiotis, Nicholas and Claudia
 Katopodis, Efstratios
 Katre, Sotir Mark
 Katris, Nick and Theana
 Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon
 Kelesis, Paula
 Kiflezgi, Rahel
 Kirchner, Gary "Barlaam"
 Kirolos, Michael and
 Molina, Adriana
 Kokkinis, Peter and Jennifer
 Koliambas, Eleni
 Kontos, Diana
 Koroni, Tara
 Kostas, James
 Kostopoulos, Georgia
 Kountanis, Panagiota
 Kouretas, Daniel
 Kouretas, Spiro
 Kouris, Demetris and Terry
 Koutsulis, John and Eileen
 Koutsulis, Sam and Effie
 Krikie, Jonathan and Iryna
 Kypreos, George
 Kypreos, Peter and Geri
 Kyriannis, Justin and Linda
 Lakkis, Christina
 Landahl, Richard and Johana
 Lavine, Frederick
 Lee, David and Alexandra
 Lekar, Caroline
 Lekar, Michael and Effie
 Leong, Marissa and Elaine
 Leonis, Tishe
 Leonis, Nick and Sophia
 Liaos, James and Tina
 Liaos, Steven and Francine
 Likourinou, Angie
 Likourinou, Steve and June

Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine
 Loughton, Dustin and Rena
 Makris, Apostolos
 Malamatos, Kindina+
 Manakides, Alexis and
 Varonos, Nicholas
 Manolakos, Catherine
 Manos, Constantine and Michele
 Mansour, Muna
 Markakis, Sandy Kiriaki
 Markantonis, Demos and Kate
 Markantonis, George and Sarah
 Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki
 Mavros, Alex and Jen
 Mavros, Debbie
 Mazzorana, Vicki
 McKinney, Michael and Mersene
 McPherson, Robert and Marie
 McSweeney, Farolyn
 Mehas, Andrew and Samantha
 Melake, Nayel and Euxana
 Menegatos, James
 Merritt, Devin and Sonia
 Meyers, Evon
 Mikelis, Nikolas and Angela
 Minas, Arthur and Ewa
 Monolakis, Anthony
 Monoyudis, Jim and Julie
 Moore, Brenda
 Murray, Christopher and
 George, Veneta
 Nicholas, John and Estella
 Nichols, George and Tereza
 Nicolas, Samer and Christine
 Niforos, Helen
 Nikoloudakos, Georgia
 Nixon, John and Ellyn
 Olmsted, Travis and Marilyn
 Orlando, Ritsa
 Oustian, Juliette and Ararat
 Pahigiannis, Nikon
 Paikos, Tom and Elizabeth
 Palivos, Peter and Vicky
 Pallis, Paul
 Pandelis, Cheryl
 Panos, Jeanne
 Papas, Christian and Nicole
 Papas, Peter and Rita
 Pappas, Panagiotis and Andrea
 Paschalis, Evangelos and Maria
 Payan, Luis and Eleni
 Pendleton, Tricia
 Peratikos, Tony
 Peterson, Todd and Diane
 Petro, Aleko and Georgia
 Philoptochos Society
 Pierro, Joe and Rhonda
 Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra
 Poulis, Chris and Francine
 Poulos, Christine
 Pouridis, Kouli and Para
 Powell, Scott and Angela
 Powers, Russell and Rebecca

With Gratitude to God for Our Pledged Stewards in 2023
If you wish to become a Parish Steward, please fill out Pledge Form and return to Karen

Rasmussen, Scott and Rebecca
 Rigas, Anthony and Mary
 Rigas, Evie
 Rihani, Gary and Linda
 Ristache, Fr. Florin and
 Presv. Alexandra
 Rivera, Elias and April
 Robison, Diane and Patricia
 Rodis, Dimitri and Angeline
 Rodis, Sophia
 Rotas, Beatrice
 Sakkas, Georgios and
 Stavropoulos, Bessie
 Santamaria, Jennifer and Robert
 Savvas, Savva
 Sechrist, Carl and Christine
 Setian, Gary
 Simmons, John

Simpson, Bryan and Julie
 Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia
 Skandros, Stephanie
 Soteropoulos, Gust and Rita
 Sotiropoulos, Christopher and
 Jessica
 Soursos, Helene
 Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette
 Sparkuhl, Andreas and Diana
 Staubs, Douglas and Anastasia
 Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki
 Stransky, John and Rachel
 Stransky, Mark
 Szukiewicz, Joseph and Justina
 Tadich, Katerina
 Tafoya, Steven and Irene
 Thanos, Nicholas and Victoria
 Theros, James and Kathryn

Thompson, Maggy
 Thompson, Steven and Alik
 Tijiboy, Ana
 Tijiboy, Christine
 Tohme, Tony and May
 Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katerina
 Tsolis, Christos and Panagioula
 Wagner, Sophye
 Waincott, Betty
 Walter, Vernon and Alice
 Ward, Angeliki
 Waterhouse, David and Aleighzja
 Webb, Taylor
 Williams, Anthony and Anna
 Williamson, Daniel and
 Stavroula Halatsis-
 Wilson, Clyde
 Wilson, Kelly and Egi, Junichiro

Wilson, Cleo
 Wirtz, Aphrodite
 Womack, Karl
 Womack, Kimberly
 Xerogianes, Nick and Nikki
 Yurkov, Andre, Kalina and
 Daniella
 Zaferatos, Ted
 Zakis, Pope
 Zarkos, Nick and Dina
 Zaronis, Mary
 Zarras, Nick and Chery
 Zervas, Dionisios
 Zimmerman, Paul, Angela,
 Christopher and Vangeli
 Zimmerman, Paul and Julie
 Zmina, Stephen and Cynthia



**2023
Stewardship
Report
(as of 3/28/23)**

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$480,266 (\$463,810 in 2022)
 Stewardship Gifts Received: \$211,632 (\$212,067 in 2022)
 Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$268,634 (\$251,743 in 2022)
 Stewardship Families Pledged: 306 (312 in 2022)
 2023 Goal: \$600,000 . . . Keep the Pledges Coming!

***“WALK
IN
LOVE”
(Ephesians 5:2)***

<u>Average Pledge</u>	<u>No. of Families</u>	<u>Amount Pledged</u>
\$1 ~ \$500	126	\$ 31,367
\$501 ~ \$1,000	63	\$ 47,978
\$1,001 ~ \$2,500	76	\$121,973
\$2,501 ~ \$5,000	21	\$ 78,764
\$5,001 ~ \$9999	14	\$ 83,964
\$10,000 & Above	6	\$116,220
Total Families	306	\$480,266

Church Account Summaries - February 2023

Nevada State Bank Accounts	January	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	February	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$52,795.32	\$88,837.16	\$1,235.21	\$21,693.42	\$47,330.82	\$73,843.45	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$61,569.50					\$61,569.50	
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$86,789.87	\$0.00	\$45.00	\$3,580.54	\$445.00	\$82,809.33	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$270,997.05	\$9,879.14	\$1,268.00	\$2,910.31	\$932.19	\$278,301.69	
Folk Dance Group	\$29,082.21	\$5,317.00	\$50.00	\$12,557.52	\$10.00	\$21,881.69	
Hellenic Historical Society	\$290.47			\$15.00		\$275.47	
Designated Funds	January	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	February	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$35,204.76	\$3,701.00	\$68.00		\$932.19	\$38,041.57	
Ornaments	\$601.33					\$601.33	
Restricted Funds	January	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	February	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
ICON	\$6,207.58	\$1,795.76	\$200.00			\$8,203.34	
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	\$115,390.99	\$1,782.38		\$2,910.31		\$114,263.06	
Youth Choir	\$2,989.18					\$2,989.18	
Church School	\$2,116.44					\$2,116.44	
Three Priests	\$51,395.72					\$51,395.72	
Roof Appeal	\$10,283.22					\$10,283.22	
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$530.36					\$530.36	
Panos Flooring Repair	\$23,722.83					\$23,722.83	
Church Flooring Replacement	\$0.00					\$0.00	
Restricted Donation	\$5,654.00					\$5,654.00	
Live Streaming Equipment	\$473.61					\$473.61	
HVAC	\$0.00	\$2,600.00	\$1,000.00			\$3,600.00	
Designated, Restricted, and Other Total	\$270,997.05	\$9,879.14	\$1,268.00	\$2,910.31	\$932.19	\$278,301.69	
Other Funds	January	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	February	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$61,691.65					\$61,691.65	as of 12.31.22
Commonwealth Investments (Icon)	\$122,773.22				\$3,193.64	\$119,579.58	Change in Investment

February 2023 Candles **\$5,880.50**
 February 2023 Trays **\$5,271.40**
Total February 2023 Candles & Trays \$11,151.90



APRIL 2023 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<div>April 2 Meetings: Adult Choir after Liturgy in Loft 12:15 pm Myrrh Bearers in Class 5 12:15 pm Youth Choir in Class 6 12:30 pm Ministries Meeting in Kokkos</div>							1 8:30 am Philoptochos Baking
2 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm GOYA Night	3 5:30 pm Great Compline and Adult Study in Church	4	5 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy	6	7	8 Saturday of Lazaros 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy <i>Palm Tying Follows</i>	
9 Palm Sunday 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy <i>Palm Sunday Luncheon</i> 7:00 pm 1st Bridegroom Service	10 Holy Monday 5:45 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:00 pm 2nd Bridegroom Service	11 Holy Tuesday 5:45 pm Adult Choir Practice 7:00 pm 3rd Bridegroom Service <i>Hymn of Kassiani</i>	12 Holy Wednesday 9:00 am Presanctified Liturgy 7:00 pm Holy Unction	13 Holy Thursday 9:00 am Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil 7:00 pm Holy Passion of Our Lord <i>Reading of 12 Gospels</i>	14 Holy Friday 10:00 am Royal Hours 3:00 pm Removal of Christ from the Cross <i>Children's Procession</i> 7:00 pm Lamentations	15 Holy Saturday 9:00 am Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil 11:00 pm Resurrection Vigil	
16 Holy Pascha 12:00 am Resurrection Orthros and Divine Liturgy <i>Blessing of Red Eggs</i> 12:00 pm Agape Vespers and Agape Picnic	17	18	19	20	21 Life-Giving Spring 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	22	
23 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	24	25	26	27	28	29 6:00 pm Mr. & Mrs. at Katsaros Home	
30 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	Metropolis Clergy Laity and Clergy Retreat at St. Nicholas Ranch						

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

*It is the day of Resurrection;
let us then make ourselves
resplendent for the festival
and embrace one another.*

*Let us say, brethren, even to those
who do not love us:*

*“Let all be forgiven in the
Resurrection,”
and so exclaim:*

*“Christ is Risen from the dead
by Death trampling down upon death
and to those in the tombs
He has granted life.”*

