

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 20, Issue 6 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

June 2022

From
Father
John

Beloved in Christ:

Since the 1960s, *Fiddler on the Roof* has been an enduring musical, with “Tradition” as the driving theme. Tevye, the poor milkman and protagonist, reflects in the grand opening number: “Because of our traditions, we’ve kept our balance for many, many years. Here in Anatevka, we have traditions for everything: How to sleep, how to eat . . . how to work . . . how to wear clothes. For instance, we always keep our heads covered, and always wear a little prayer shawl that shows our constant devotion to God. You may ask, ‘How did this tradition get started?’ I’ll tell you! [Pause] I don’t know. But it’s a tradition . . . and because of our traditions . . . every one knows who he is and what God expects him to do.”

In the Orthodox Christian Church, we too have our Tradition – Holy Tradition with a capital “T” – and while most of us would not question the importance of keeping and adhering to our sacred Tradition, many really do not know why Tradition is so important for our spiritual lives and merely just “go with the flow” without probing deeper.



This month, *on Sunday, June 12*, our Church will celebrate the *Great Feast of Holy Pentecost* – the *fiftieth* day after the Resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. During His Passion, our Lord promised He would not leave His Disciples “*desolate*” (*John 14:18*): “*But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My Name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*” (*John 14:26*) This promise of Christ was fulfilled with the Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles on the Sunday of Pentecost (*see Acts 2*), which marked the beginning of the Apostolic Mission of preaching the “good news” of Jesus’ Resurrection, Baptizing people in the Name of the Holy Trinity, and establishing the community of faithful – what we know as the Church – in all nations. Indeed, this Apostolic Mission continues still today in the Orthodox Church and will be ongoing until the Second Coming of Christ!

(Continued on Page 3)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

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

Wednesday, June 1/ *Holy Ascension of Our Lord (Observed)*

5:00 pm Orthros

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy

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

Epistle: Acts 1:1-12

Gospel: Luke 14:36-53

Thursday, June 2/ *Holy Ascension of Our Lord Liturgy on the Preceding Evening*

Sunday, June 5/ *Holy Fathers of the First and Second Ecumenical Councils/Holy Hiermartyr Dorotheos of Tyre/Holy Martyrs Nikandros, Gorgios and Apollonos*

Orthros: Second Plagal Tone

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

Epistle: Acts 10:16-18, 28-36

Gospel: John 17:1-13

Memorials: Eugenia Markantonis (40 days); and Peter Chagares (40 days)

Fellowship: Hosted by Pan-Arcadians

Sunday, June 12/ *Holy Pentecost/St. Onouphrios of Egypt/St. Peter the Athonite*

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

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11

Gospel: John 7:37-52

Kneeling Vespers follows Divine Liturgy

Fellowship: Hosted by Manny Kess

Pentecost Week: Fast-free

Sunday, June 19/ *First Sunday of Matthew/All Saints/Holy Apostle Jude/Holy Martyr Zosimos/Holy Fathers Zenon and Paisios the Great*

Orthros: Plagal Fourth Tone

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

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

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

Fellowship: Greek Specialties

Friday, June 24/ *Nativity of St. John the Baptist*
8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

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

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

Sunday, June 26/ *Second Sunday of Matthew/Holy Father David of Thessaloniki*

Orthros: First Tone

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

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16

Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

Memorial: Xenocrates Berdos (1 year); and Kaliopi Georgis (3 years)

Fellowship: Hosted by Benita Beeman and Dora Hart

Wednesday, June 29/ *Holy Apostles Peter and Paul*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

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

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19



*“Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.”
(1 Corinthians 9:24-25)*

From Father John (Continued from Page 1)

For Orthodox Christians, Holy Tradition is intrinsically linked to Pentecost: In the words of Vladimir Lossky, Tradition is “the life of the Holy Spirit in the Church.” St. Paul, who came to know Christ through His revelation and subsequently became an Apostle himself, wrote to the Church in Corinth: *“I commend you because you remember me in everything and maintain the traditions even as I have delivered them to you.” (1 Corinthians 11:2)* Holy Tradition is that same faith which Christ taught to His Apostles, and which they passed on to their disciples: It is preserved in the whole Church – through the Holy Scriptures, Councils, dogmas and doctrines, Canon Law, worship and prayer, holy writings and the lives of the Saints, hymnography, architecture and iconography, and various spiritual practices – and especially through the Apostolic Succession of the Orthodox Priesthood.

On the day of our Baptism, we were “sealed” with the Gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Holy Chrismation, thus becoming part of *“a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people.” (1 Peter 2:9)* As such, we were united with the Body of Christ, and we were endowed with the divine grace and gifts we need for our personal spiritual growth as well as what we need to participate in the building up of His Church – and moreover, His Kingdom. Through our active spiritual life in the Church, we are dynamic vessels of the Holy Spirit and part of the living Holy Tradition: We know our true identity – that we are made in the image and likeness of God – and we embrace His mission in our lives, for His glory, our sanctification, and the salvation of the world, which is His will.

On the Sunday of Pentecost, as we bend our knees in awe, let us invite the Holy Spirit to come and abide in us, renew us, build up God’s Church, cleanse us from all sins, and save our souls.

With Love in the Trinitarian God,

Father John



Our Community Registry



Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun

George Fischetti (Adult Baptism) on May 7, 2022.
Godparent: Elias Rivera.

Maria, daughter of Hristos and Anastasia Stathopoulos,
on May 14, 2022. Godparent: Helene Soursos.

Marriages: Na Zisete

Aris Bochanis and Savannah Spataro on April 30, 2022.
Koumbara: Maria Kapetanios-Fountoulakis.

Joseph Deep and Alexi Schumacher on May 7, 2022.
Koumbaros: Albert Deep.



Fallen Asleep in the Lord

Eugenia Markantonis on April 30, 2022. Funeral on May 4.
Dimitrios Kalkantzakos on May 17, 2022. Funeral on May 25.



Parish Council Report

Reverend Father John, Ministry Leaders and Parish Members of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church,

Christos Anesti!

We have had a very busy first few months of this year. I feel very blessed that many of our events have brought the community closer together. Thank You to all who supported and participated in the thirty-five year celebration of Father John and Presvytera Maria's service to the Lord and His Church. We offered a heartfelt "good-bye" to Father Seraphim, Presvytera Olenka and family, and we pray they stay well and continue to do God's work in their new parish.

The present tone of the Parish Council continues to address the many needs of our Church. Every board member is hands-on and involved in moving the parish forward. I am so grateful to all of them.

Thanks to all our parishioners for assisting during Holy Week and Pascha. All the services were beautiful and, I must say, it truly is a blessing to have so much participation and help. On Holy Friday, our Lord's Tomb – which was beautifully decorated by the Philoptochos – was processed by our young adults and some of our seasoned adults. During the procession around the Church, we had a water main break under the parking lot. We shut the water off that night after the service and attended to the repair on Holy Saturday morning. Gus Flanges gave me the name of a plumber who immediately came to our assistance and repaired the pipe. Further, by God's grace, Dean Chomakos had the hole and asphalt repaired at no cost to us: This was a \$3,200 donation by the Chomakos Family, and we are grateful! Thank You to Kouli Pouridis for facilitating the contacts. Also, a special Thank You to Steve Tzelalis for hanging out with me in the parking lot until the repairs were finished.

We appreciate your patience with the mess involved with recarpeting the Community Center and the Church: The recarpeting is nearly complete and looks great. Much gratitude again to George Kypreos for supporting this much needed project.

We have found a landscaping company to maintain our Church grounds, address the irrigation, cut the lawn and assess our pine trees. A cleaning service has been hired to do an extensive cleaning of both the Church and Community Center, and polish our marble floors in the Church; after this, they will maintain the interior of our facilities on a weekly basis. None of these projects would have taken place without the generous donations by our parishioners.

We ask that you fulfil your Stewardship commitment so we can continue to beautify and maintain our blessed property, as well as support the ongoing parish operations. Remember: VANCO is now operational, and you can sign up and make your offerings in the Narthex or through our parish website.

Thank You for your continued support! We have some great things happening and the months ahead will prove to be beneficial for our spiritual wellbeing. Last but certainly not least, our Greek Food Festival will be upon us before we know it: *September 23, 24 and 25*. Please plan to attend meetings (*our first is on June 8 at 6:00 pm*) and get involved. Manpower is one of our greatest expenses. Collectively, let us answer the call and give of our talents, for the good of our Church and God's glory.

With Love in the Resurrected and Ascended Christ,
John Fotopoulos, Parish Council President

*After Your Rising from the sepulcher, O Savior,
and Your Divine Ascension to the heights of Heaven,
You sent down on Your Disciples Your glory, O Good One,
renewing an upright Spirit in them, O Christ.
And therefore those men who saw God proclaimed to all
Your sayings and Your economy, as if melodious guitars that
mystically are played with the pick of the Spirit, O merciful Lord.
(Kathisma, Orthros of Holy Pentecost)*

Philoptochos News

Dear Father John, Ladies Philoptochos Board and fellow Parishioners of St. John the Baptist,

June is here and while we may not have lots of activities planned, the Ladies Philoptochos Society will still be continuing with Social Services projects funded by our benefactress, Mary Bartsas, of blessed memory. Every year, Mary's family continues her tradition by generously donating to help the homeless children and senior citizens of Southern Nevada. In keeping with tradition, Philoptochos recently hosted a Memorial and Fellowship, in honor of the Bartsas Family. We are pleased to say that we also received another generous donation to the Bartsas Social Services Fund, which will allow us to do even more for those who are in the most need. Many thanks to that person who has asked to remain anonymous.



If you are interested in helping with any of the upcoming projects, please contact Geri Kypreos for more information. Also, you do not need to be a member of Philoptochos to participate.

We are looking into a trip to visit the Life Giving Spring Monastery at Saint Nicholas Ranch in Dunlap, California. Now that Summer is upon us, the Ranch will be busy with the children Summer Camps, so we most likely will plan for early Fall, which should be a lovely time to go. We will try to arrange it so it will not interfere with our helping at the Greek Food Festival. If you would be interested in going, please let me know. It will most likely be over a weekend so that those of us who work will be able to attend. Look for more information to come.

It is with great privilege that I will be representing our Panagia Chapter at the National Biennial Philoptochos Convention in early July. I hope to relay to them what a dynamic and dedicated group of talented women we have in Las Vegas. I will present the many projects we do and learn what other groups are doing for their community. Thank you for allowing me to represent you.

May our dear Lord and Savior keep you safe and well on any trips you make this Summer.

Bernadette Anthony, Philoptochos President

Souvenir Magazine

We are now taking ads for the Greek Food Festival Souvenir Magazine! If you own a business or know of someone who does, please contact us. You can also place an ad in memory of a loved one, to acknowledge a milestone or anniversary, or to congratulate the 49th Annual Greek Food Festival.

The Food Festival is scheduled for *September 23, 24 and 25.*

Registration Forms are available at the Church Office, or with Marilyn Flangas (702) 871-1730.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Las Vegas, NV 89118

Rev. Father John Hondros
fjohn@vegaskgreekorthodox.com

Karen Rawlinson
Administrative Assistant

Michelle Eugenio
Bookkeeper

Mara Braun
Catering & Events

Marc Harvel
Maintenance & Grounds

Office Hours

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

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

Parish Council: John Fotopoulos

Philoptochos: Bernadette Anthony

Stewardship & Community Outreach:
John Karas

Choir: Athena Mertes

Chanters & Youth Choir:
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Church School: Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers: Father John

GOYA:

Anne Pantelas & Maha Habiba

Orthodox Family Fellowship:
Imtisal Amy Khuri & April Rivera

Young Adults:
Father John

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek School: Paula Kelesis

Mr. & Mrs.:
Father John & Presvytera Maria

Kali Parea: Demetrious Asim

Adult Basketball:
Nick Kelesis

Forerunners: Paula Kelesis

Orthodox Bookstore:
Paraskevi Santamaria

Greek Food Festival: Gus Flangas

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

Photography & Live-Streaming:
Bill & Erin Bruninga

Stewardship and Community Outreach



“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11)

“The festival of Pentecost has its roots in the Old Testament. Our Christian celebration of Pentecost is commemorated on the fiftieth day after the Resurrection of Christ. It was this event that revealed to the world the knowledge of the mystery of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial, undivided, and yet distinct. The Icon of Pentecost depicts the Apostles with serenity and composure. All of them are seated, some gesturing as if in subdued conversation with one another. The gift of the Holy Spirit is the inner life of grace. Pentecost gives birth to the Church and is the inauguration of the Kingdom of God on Earth.” (goarch.org)

What does this mean for us? Who is the Holy Spirit and what does He do for us?

At every Divine Liturgy we say the Creed – our statement of Faith – and we state that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father. The Holy Spirit is the third Person in the Holy Trinity, the helper, guide and comforter Who dwells within every Orthodox Christian. The Holy Spirit comes upon us when we receive the Holy Eucharist and helps us to play an active role in the life of the Church. The Spirit is a Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life. But this sanctification also can dwindle in us, as we leave the Church on Sunday and get about our “daily lives.” How do we prevent this? How do we keep the Holy Spirit alive and working within us the rest of the week? ***Through Our Stewardship!*** Stewardship provides the beautiful opportunity to keep this spiritual light alive and burning bright. By offering back to God from the blessings we receive, we live a life pleasing to Him. The practice of *philanthropia*, or the love of mankind, allows us to give back through our blessings of time, talents and treasures.

Generally, parishioners equate treasures with monetary donations, but money, which is indeed important, is only one of the ways to give back. Our participation of time – for example, as we help at the annual Greek Food Festival for a few hours, which is a joyful endeavor – financially costs nothing, but benefits the Church tremendously, and keeps us from hiring additional “outside help” which costs a lot. Other examples of offering our time: Helping set up Sunday Fellowship, collecting the books after a Church service, walking the Church grounds to see if something needs repair, lending a hand with our ministries, attending a Parish Assembly to better understand all the facets of keeping the Lord’s house in order. All one needs to do is ask if they can help!

Our talents include not only artistic ability, but asking to read a Scriptural passage, baking for a particular event, joining a ministry. When we utilize the abilities with which the good Lord has blessed us: This is Stewardship! We see the Holy Spirit at work within us.

Pentecost reminds us of our opportunity and our responsibility as Orthodox Christians to grow the Holy Spirit within us. Father Anthony Coniaris, of blessed memory, wrote: “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 be, 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



Ministry News

Church School

Hi Everyone! I cannot believe that the Church School year is over: Where did the time go? We are all so happy that we were able to meet in person after so much time.

I would like to thank our teachers for all their hard work and dedication to our program. We had a few new teachers who were a great blessing.

Congratulations to our High School Seniors on their graduation. We are so proud of you and cannot wait to see all your future accomplishments.

Commencement was a success as was the All-Youth BBQ and Field Day. A special Thank You to the Ladies Philoptochos Society for their very generous donation toward our BBQ. We had so many helpers with this event: We really appreciate all the parents who stepped in and made the activities a hit.

Please let me know if you would like to receive the *Orthodox Journeys* lessons over the Summer. I will be happy to get them to you: Please text me or email your email address and I will send the curriculum to you.

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

OFF & GOYA: All Youth Swim at Whitney Ranch Pool

Christ is Risen!

Calling all Youth and families of St. John the Baptist Church: Please Join us *on Sunday, June 12, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm*, as we beat the heat at the Whitney Ranch Activity Pool (1575 Galleria Drive, Henderson).

The Church has rented a canopy for two hours, and we are looking forward to an enjoyable afternoon of water fun.

Please bring a change of clothes with you to Church, so after Fellowship we can all head out to the activity pool! Please also bring your own lunch to the canopy! We hope to see you there!

Love in Christ, Father John, Amy, April, Anne and Maha



Church Field Day!



Greek Folk Dance

Christos Anesti!

Congratulations to all our graduates! We wish everyone has a great summer! Please mark your calendars: Greek Folk Dance will resume *on August 21, 2022!* Please look for the Registration Form in the July/August issue of *The Desert Messenger*, along with more details on practice times, practice days, and registration fees!

Much Gratitude, Folk Dance Board

Mr. & Mrs.

Christ is Risen!

We are anticipating a lovely evening at Mark and Alyssa Brown's Home on Memorial Day weekend – and especially the grilled brisket! Thank You to the Brown's for offering to be our hosts!

For June, please join us at Tim and Janet Bryant's Home *on Saturday, June 25 at 6:00 pm.* We will have a potluck dinner – and with Janet in the kitchen, we are in for some great Lebanese fare! Along with the great food we always enjoy, we look forward to an evening of engaging discussion and wonderful fellowship.

Please RSVP with Karen for the Bryant's address and she will let them know you are attending. Looking forward to seeing our married and engaged couples there!

Love in Christ, Father John and Presvytera Maria, Tim and Janet

Forerunners - Our Seniors Fellowship

The "Spring Fling" Luncheon was enjoyed by our Seniors. Our hard-working and dedicated kitchen staff – consisting of Steve Tzelalis, Sava Savvas, Mike Beeler and Eli Rivera – prepared a delicious meal. Father John gave an opening prayer with "Christos Anesti" being sung by all. Dimos Chondrakis, St. John's own Elvis impersonator, entertained the appreciative group. Door and raffle prizes were awarded.

This was our last luncheon before the Summer, and we will reconvene in October. Have a safe and blessed Summer.

Love in Christ, Faye Brown for the Forerunners

Orthodox Bookstore

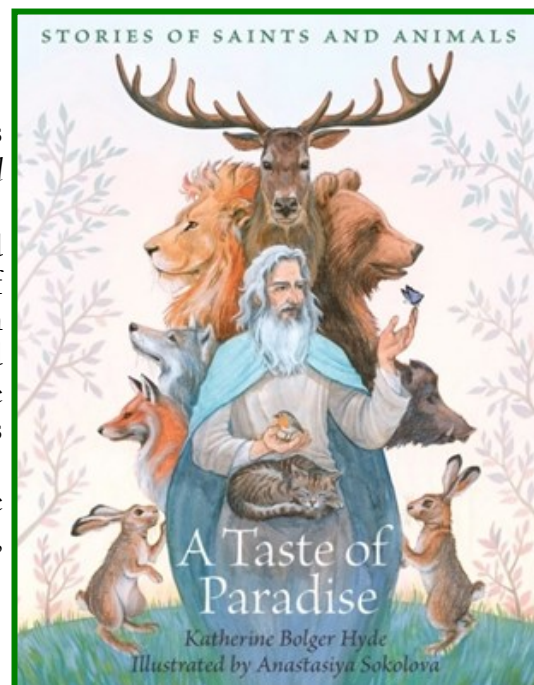
Greetings from the Bookstore!

New for the kids from Ancient Faith Publishing and June's featured book selection is *A Taste of Paradise, Stories of Saints and Animals* by Katherine Bolger Hyde.

From the publisher: "Long ago in Paradise, animals and people walked side by side. When we return to Paradise, the wolf will lie down with the lamb, and a little child shall lead them. In the time in between, many holy men and women have befriended even the fiercest beasts through the power of God's love. Come and meet a few of these saints and their animal friends in this beautifully illustrated collection of inspiring stories!"

Looking forward to seeing you in the Bookstore. We have restocked a few of our staple books on St. Paisios, St. Porphyrios, and St. Nektarios. Come and see!

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



The logo for Golden Nugget Las Vegas is a circular emblem. It features a dark background with gold-colored text and decorative elements. At the top is a small crest with a crown. Below it, the words "GOLDEN NUGGET" are written in a large, bold, serif font. Underneath that, the words "LAS VEGAS" are written in a smaller, sans-serif font. The entire logo is framed by a gold border.

<https://goldennugget.reztrip.com/ext/promoRate?property=1115&mode=b&pm=true&sr=734240&vr=3>

#	Include a Chapter or personal full page ad	\$100.00	anniversary pricing
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Work Phone	Home Phone	Cell Phone
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Email Address

Total amount Enclosed \$ **Check #**

Congratulations, Graduates!

High School Graduates



Nadia Agrebi, daughter of Kathy Ruffner, is graduating from the Las Vegas Academy of Fine Arts with all Honors, AP and an Orchestra major. She will attend Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec, on a merit scholarship with a Math Major.

Brianna Bucy, daughter of Brent and Elaine Bucy, will graduate from Centennial High School with an Advanced Honors Diploma and High Honors. She will be attending Southern Utah University in the Fall pursuing a degree in aviation/aerospace sciences.



Eleni Ciulla, daughter of Anthony and Kleri Ciulla, is graduating from Faith Lutheran High School with Honors. She will be attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Honors College in the Fall, majoring in Business.

Class of 2022

Niko Elgaard, the son of Alik Thompson, is graduating from Centennial High School. He is planning on going to a trade school to become an appraiser.



Jonathan Pantelas-Hemmers, son of Oliver Hemmers and Anne Pantelas, is graduating from Coronado High School's AP Academy and Honors Program. He has accepted admittance to Baylor University in Waco, Texas and plans to major in Business. Jonathan has received an Academic Scholarship from Baylor, for his Academic Achievements at Coronado High School, having achieved a GPA of 4.95.

Nicholas Katsaros, son of Thomas and Sharon Katsaros, graduated from Palo Verde High School with Honors. He will be attending University of Nevada, Reno to study engineering and computer science. During his years at St. John, Nicholas served at the Altar, participated in GOYA and volunteered at the Greek Food Festival.



Congratulations, Graduates!

Sarah Kokkinis, daughter of Pete and Jennifer Kokkinis, is graduating from Northwest Career and Technical Academy. She will be attending UNR Honors College for Kinesiology/Health Science in the Fall of 2022.



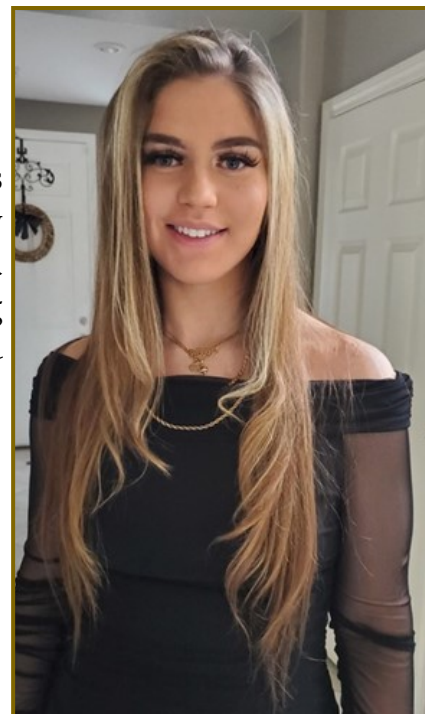
Tivon Laine, son of Yonas Desta and Amy Girmay, will be graduating from West Career and Technical Academy where he studied Cybersecurity. He will be pursuing a major in Computer Science and a minor in Cybersecurity at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Vivian Tatiana Merritt, daughter of Devin and Sonia Merritt, is graduating from Desert Oasis High School on May 31, 2022. She will be attending UNLV in the Fall and will start the teaching program.



Class of 2022!

Rebeka Pouridis, daughter of Kouli and Para Pouridis, is graduating from Northwest Career and Technical Academy receiving her certification in the Hospitality Program. She was a member of DECA for all four years. Rebeka plans on furthering her education at the University of Nevada, Reno this Fall and plans to pursue a career in the medical field, most likely nursing.



Maya Sorkhabi, daughter of Arian Sorkhabi and Maha Habiba, will graduate from Amplus Academy and receive an Advanced Diploma for all of the honors and dual credit classes she has completed. She plans to attend UNLV in the Fall of 2022 and Major in Business Administration.

Congratulations, Graduates!

College Graduates

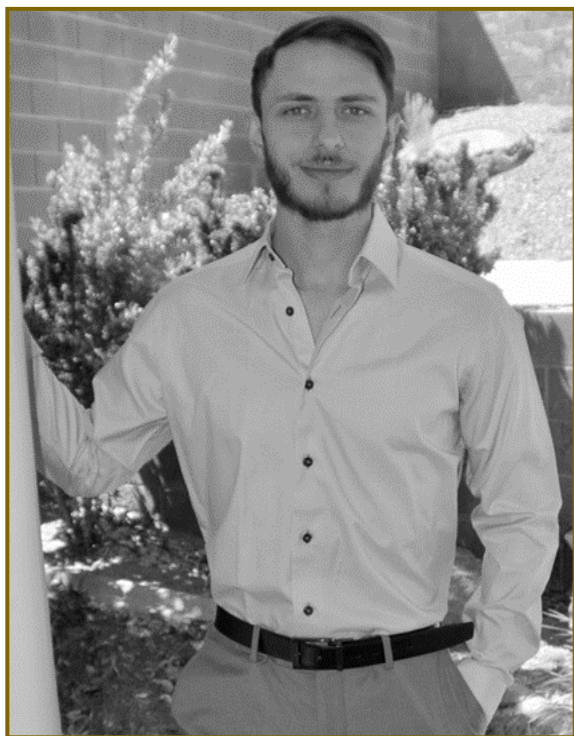
Nikolaos Baldwin, son of Richard and Vivi Baldwin, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Arizona State University. Niko will continue his education by applying to Medical School.



Juliana Marie Likourinou, daughter of Steve and June Likourinou, and Goddaughter of Angie Likourinou, graduated Summa Cum Laude from Arizona State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Geography (Meteorology-Climatology), a minor in Communication, a certificate in Atmospheric Sciences, and a certificate in Geographic Information Science (GIS).

She was on the Dean's List and received the Moeur Award for achieving a 4.0 GPA for eight consecutive semesters at ASU. Juliana competed against her classmates and seasoned meteorologists in multiple forecasting contests for four semesters and was inducted into ASU's Forecasting Hall of Fame. In Fall 2021, she won first place.

This past year, Juliana worked with the Arizona State Climatologist at the Arizona State Climate Office as part of the leadership team for the Sun Devil Weather and Climate Club. She will continue working for the Arizona State Climate Office while obtaining upper-air certification at the National Weather Service in Las Vegas.

Class of 2022

Demetri Pouridis, son of Kouli and Para Pouridis, is graduating from the Lee Business School from UNLV with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. He is starting his own business called Premier Curb Appeal.

*When the Most High God came down and confused the tongues,
He divided the nations.
When He distributed the tongues of fire,
He called all to unity.
And with one voice we glorify the All-Holy Spirit.
(Kontakion for Holy Pentecost)*



With Gratitude to God for Our Pledged Stewards in 2022

If you wish to become a Parish Steward, please fill out Pledge Form and return to Karen

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

Cosulas, Fr. Basil and
 Presv. Samantha
 Cotsilis, Jenny
 Crist, Adam and Kanistra
 Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia
 Dalacas, Eleni
 Dalacas, Georgia
 Daskalos, George and Voula
 Demas, Spiro and Rita
 Demolas, Maria and Nour, Reza
 Demoleas, Spero and Grace
 Demoleas, Stephanie
 Demopoulos, Dimitrios and Selina
 Demopoulos, Vasiliki
 Dimitri, Patricia, Martha and Janet
 Dominguez, Eric and Amalia
 Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia
 Dramitinos, Mary
 Earl, Christine Michaelides
 Eliades, Aristotelis and Caroline
 Eliades, Gregory and Maria
 Eliades, Harry and Agapi
 Eliades, Katerina
 Eliades, Sia
 Eliakis, Peter and Glenda+
 Eliakis, Varthie and LeeAnn+
 Eyler, John and Elizabeth
 Eyler, Fr. Paul
 Failla, Jennifer
 Farren, Anthony and Maritsa
 Feola, Richard
 Filios, George and Nitsa
 Filios, Spiridon and Eleni
 Fischer, Cheryl
 Fischetti, George and Cassidy
 Fitzgerald, Norman and
 McCullen, Sandra
 Flangas, Gus and Tamara
 Flangas, Marilyn
 Flangas, Wanda
 Foster, Kyle and
 Pierro, Maria Elena
 Fotopoulos, John and Barbara
 Fountas, Constantinos
 Fountoulakis, Vasileios
 Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia
 Frudakis, George and Darlene
 Gauvin, Chad and Marissa
 Gekakis, George
 Generales, John and Arlene
 George, Pete and Georgia
 Georgis, Pete and Keshia
 Geranios, John
 Ghebrehab, Daniel and
 Ghermay, Selam
 Gialketsis, Julie
 Gialketsis, William and Rachelle
 Giouzelis, Sasa
 Goodman, Linda
 Gordon, Victor and Demetria
 Granill, Abrahan
 Gutierrez, Connie
 Gutierrez, Daniel

Hamilton, Mary
 Hamilton, Paul and Brandi
 Hastings, Teri
 Hemmers, Oliver and
 Pantelas, Anne
 Herman, Martin and Diane
 Hertberg, Jennifer
 Hollar, Michelle
 Hondros, Christina
 Hondros, Christopher and Darlene
 Hondros, Fr. John and
 Presv. Maria
 Hondros, Marissa
 Howard, Eddie and Willie
 Hristopoulou, Spiridoula
 Iteen, Robert and Sophia
 Jandete, Johanna
 Kachikis, Ernestine
 Kakavulias, George and Helen
 Kanis, Constantinos and Katie
 Kapetanios - Fountoulakis, Maria
 Karas, James
 Karas, John and Marcie
 Karris, Mark and Suzanne
 Karvounidis, George
 Kasiotis, Nicholas and Claudia
 Katopodis, Efstratios
 Katris, Nick and Theana
 Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon
 Katsikakis, Evangelos
 Kelesis, Paula
 Kess, Emanuel
 Kiflezgi, Rahel
 Kinard, Panorea
 Kirchner, Gary "Barlaam"
 Kirolos, Michael and
 Molina, Adriana
 Kleanthis, George and Zanetta
 Kokinelis, Irene
 Kokkines, Peter and Jennifer
 Koliambas, Eleni
 Konsolakis-Garcia, Eleni
 Kontos, Diana
 Koroni, Tara
 Kostas, James
 Kostopoulos, Georgia
 Kountanis, Panagiota
 Kouris, Demetris and Terry
 Koutsulis, John and Eileen
 Koutsulis, Sam and Effie
 Kypreos, Peter and Geri
 Kyriannis, Justin and Linda
 Kyriazopoulos, Constantine Jr.
 Lakkis, Christina
 Lamancusa, Lisa
 Lambros, Kyriakos and Mary
 Latelle, Penny
 Lavine, Frederic
 Lee, David and Alexandra
 Lekar, Caroline
 Lekar, Michael and Effie
 Leone, Stephen
 Leong, Marissa

Leonis, Nick and Sophia
 Leonis, Tishe
 Leventis, Naomi
 Leventis, Nicholas and Christina
 Lexis, Annette
 Liaos, James and Tina
 Liaos, Steven and Francine
 Likourinou, Angie
 Likourinou, Steve and June
 Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine
 Loney, Thomas and Chrysi
 Loughton, Dustin and Rena
 Makris, Apostolos
 Malamatos, Kindina
 Maland, Donna
 Mangafas, Kyriakos and Elefteria
 Manolakis, Catherine
 Manos, Constantine and Michele
 Manteris, Arthur and Sue
 Margaretis, John and Lucila
 Markakis, Catherine and Joseph
 Markakis, Sandy Kiriaki
 Markantonis, Demos and Kate
 Markantonis, George and Sarah
 Martinaitis, Louis
 Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki
 Mavros, Alex and Jen
 Mavros, Debbie
 Mavroudis, Frank
 McManus, Jeanette
 McKinney, Michael and Mersene
 McPherson, Robert and Marie
 McSweeney, Farolyn
 Mehas, Andrew and Samantha
 Menegatos, James
 Merritt, Devin and Sonia
 Meyers, Evon
 Minas, Arthur and Ewa
 Moffett, Todd and
 Eliopoulos, Tina
 Mohammednur, Algenes
 Monolakis, Anthony
 Monoyudis, Jim and Julie
 Moore, Brenda
 Murray, Christopher and
 George, Veneta
 Myers, Stella
 Neocleous, Plato
 Newell, Ronald and Maria
 Nicholas, John and Estella
 Nichols, George and Tereza
 Nicolas, Samer and Christine
 Nikitas, Milissa
 Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra
 Nixon, John and Ellyn
 Pahigiannis, Nikon
 Paikos, Tom and Elizabeth
 Palivos, Peter and Vicky
 Pallis, Paul
 Pandelis, Cheryl
 Panos, Jeanne
 Papalois, John and Maria
 Papas, Christian and Nicole

Pledged Stewards in 2022

Papas, Peter and Rita
 Pappas, Panagiotis and Andrea
 Pappas, Rita
 Paschalis, Evangelos and Maria
 Pavlicas, Connie
 Payan, Luis and Eleni
 Pendleton, Tricia
 Peratikos, Tony
 Peterson, Todd and Diane
 Petriuc, Constantin
 Petro, Aleko and Georgia
 Petrou, Jim and Penelopi
 Philippou, Demetrios and Luanne
 Pierro, Joe and Rhonda
 Pitts, Anton and Athena
 Platis, Anna
 Polimerou, Angeline
 Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra
 Poulis, Chris and Francine
 Poulos, Christine
 Pouridis, Kouli and Para
 Powers, Russell and Rebecca
 Powell, Scott
 Ramos, Fr. Seraphim and
 Presv. Olenka
 Raptis, Presv. Evonne
 Rasmussen, Scott and Rebecca

Rigas, Anthony and Mary
 Rigas, Evie
 Rihani, Gary and Linda
 Rivera, Elias and April
 Robison, Diane and Patricia
 Rodis, Dimitri
 Rosenthal, JD and Stephanie
 Rotas, Beatrice
 Ruffner, Skip and Kathy
 Salon, Janelle
 Samoszuk, Michael and Jeanne
 Santamaria, Jennifer and Robert
 Savvas, Savva
 Searles, Chrysoula Sourla
 Sechrist, Carl and Christine
 Sehremelis, Andy and Leslie
 Setian, Gary
 Simpson, Bryan and Julie
 Sirhan, Michael and Imtisal
 Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia
 Smith, Kathleen
 Snow, Clifford and Christina
 Soursos, Helene
 Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette
 Spotti, Peter and Alexandra
 Stathopoulos, Hristos and
 Anastasia

Staubs, Douglas and Anastasia
 Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki
 Stenos, Louis
 Stransky, Jack and Rachel
 Stransky, Mark
 Szukiewicz, Joseph and Justina
 Tadich, Andrea and Milisav
 Tafoya, Steven and Irene
 Tanguay, Steven and Elizabeth
 Tasios, Ramona
 Taxopoulos, Bryan and Irene
 Thanos, Nicholas and Victoria
 Theros, James and Kathryn
 Thompson, Maggy
 Tijiboy, Christine
 Tohme, Tony and May
 Trebicka, Adrian and Paola
 Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katerina
 Tsobanoglou, Paris and Niki
 Tsohis, Christos and Panagioula
 Tsohis, Panagiot
 Tsortanidis, Sophia
 Tzelalis, Steve, Vaso and Antonia
 Varinos, Nick and Kiki
 Vervilos, James and Anna
 Wadlow, Nicholas and Pamela
 Wagner, Sophie

Wainscott, Betty
 Walter, Vernon and Alice
 Ward, Angeliki
 Waterhouse, David and
 Aleighzja
 Webb, Taylor
 Welles, Brigitte
 Wells, Adrienne
 Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina
 Williams, Anthony and Anna
 Wilson, Clyde
 Wilson, Kelly and
 Egi, Junichiro
 Wilson, Steven and Cleo
 Womack, Karl
 Womack, Kimberly
 Xerogianes, Nick and Nikki
 Xikis, Victoria
 Yurkov, Andre, Kalina and
 Daniella
 Zaferatos, Ted
 Zarkos, Nick and Dina
 Zarras, Nick and Chery
 Zimmerman, Paul and Angela
 Zimmerman, Paul
 Zmina, Stephen and Cynthia



OCMC is Hiring: Missionary Director

OCMC, the missions agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops in the United States of America, has an immediate opening for a Missionary Director at its St. Augustine, Florida headquarters.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Assists the Executive Director to develop and implement the goals and vision of OCMC through its missionaries in countries around the world.
- Interacts with mission leaders worldwide to execute OCMC's global mission to the nations.
- Supervises and participates in recruiting, training, sending, managing, and supporting missionaries in regions that lie within OCMC's purview.

Prior overseas missionary service and Orthodox theological education preferred.

Correspondence with accompanied resume may be forwarded directly by email to Fr. Martin Rits's attention at: missions@ocmc.org

For more detailed information scan the QR code or visit:
<https://www.ocmc.org/hiring-missionary-director>



**2022
Stewardship
Report
(as of 5/23/22)**

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$465,285 (\$446,709 in 2021)
 Stewardship Gifts Received: \$284,223 (\$251,109 in 2021)
 Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$181,062 (\$195,600 in 2021)
 Stewardship Families Pledged: 345 (339 in 2021)
 2022 Budgeted Goal: \$500,000 . . . Keep the Pledges Coming!

*"Let Us
Exalt
His Name
Together!"
(Psalm 34:3)*

<u>Average Pledge</u>	<u>No. of Families</u>	<u>Amount Pledged</u>
\$1 ~ \$500	143	\$ 38,615
\$501 ~ \$1,000	77	\$ 61,004
\$1,001 ~ \$2,500	87	\$ 136,476
\$2,501 ~ \$5,000	22	\$ 81,940
\$5,001 & Above	<u>16</u>	<u>\$ 147,250</u>
Total Families	345	\$465,285

Church Account Summaries - April 2022

Nevada State Bank Accounts	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$137,470.65	\$108,288.14	\$4,571.63	\$43,003.56	\$66,878.11	\$140,448.75	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$54,045.50	\$3,000.00		\$2,016.00		\$55,029.50	
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$94,026.64	\$3,150.00		\$3,445.32	\$1,800.85	\$91,930.47	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$255,380.10	\$9,476.35	\$2,044.00	\$6,820.86	\$2,925.73	\$257,153.86	
Folk Dance Group	\$20,593.30			\$16.00		\$20,577.30	
Hellenic Historical Society	\$4,242.47			\$16.00		\$4,226.47	
Designated Funds	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$25,631.69	\$3,870.00	\$1,569.00	\$1,965.86	\$1,925.73	\$27,179.10	
Ornaments	\$1,169.41					\$1,169.41	
Restricted Funds	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
ICON	\$3,199.27	\$481.35	\$250.00			\$3,930.62	
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	\$95,399.06	\$825.00	\$225.00			\$96,449.06	
Youth Choir	\$2,989.18					\$2,989.18	
Church School	\$6,306.37					\$6,306.37	
Three Priests	\$56,544.51			\$509.00		\$56,035.51	
Roof Appeal	\$11,183.22					\$11,183.22	
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$530.36					\$530.36	
Landscaping	\$1,000.00				\$1,000.00	\$0.00	Transferred to GOA - Project completed
Panos Flooring Repair	\$5,000.00	\$1,000.00				\$6,000.00	
Church Flooring Replacement	\$25,000.00					\$25,000.00	
Restricted Donation	\$10,000.00			\$4,346.00		\$5,654.00	Holy Water Font
Live Streaming Equipment	\$0.00	\$3,300.00				\$3,300.00	
Designated, Restricted, and Other Total	\$255,380.10	\$9,476.35	\$2,044.00	\$6,820.86	\$2,925.73	\$257,153.86	
Other Funds	March	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	April	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$76,944.03			\$8,832.27		\$68,111.76	Change in Investment
Commonwealth Investments (Icon)	\$132,306.51			\$10,008.77		\$122,297.74	Change in Investment

April 2022 Candles	\$3,373.94
April 2022 Candles - Holy Week	\$14,526.00
April 2022 Trays	\$1,796.00
April 2022 Trays - Holy Week	\$8,229.00
Total April 2022 Candles & Trays	\$27,924.94



JUNE 2022 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1 5:00 pm Orthros 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Holy Ascension Observed)	2 Holy Ascension (Liturgy on 6/1)	3	4
5 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	6 6:00 pm Adult Basketball	7	8 6:00 pm Greek Food Festival Meeting in Kokkos Hall	9	10	11	
12 Holy Pentecost 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Kneeling Vespers Follow Liturgy 2:00 pm All Youth Swim at Whitney Ranch Pool	13 4:00 pm Folk Dance Board in the Library 6:00 pm Adult Basketball	14	15	16	17	18	
Pentecost Week: Fast Free							
19 All Saints 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	20 6:00 pm Adult Basketball	21 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting in Library	22	23	24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	25 6:00 pm Mr. and Mrs. at Tim and Janet Bryant's Home	
Holy Apostles Fast (through June 29)							
26 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	27 6:00 pm Adult Basketball	28	29 Holy Apostles Peter and Paul 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	30			

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



*O Holy
Apostles,
make
intercession
to our
merciful God,
that He grant
our souls
forgiveness of
offenses.
(Apolytikion for
the Holy Apostles)*