

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 15, Issue 9 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

October 2017

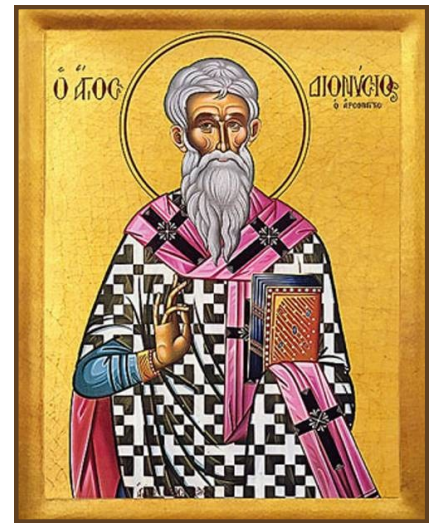
From Father John

Beloved in Christ:

We were blessed with perfect weather and an amazing crowd of 25,000 for our annual Greek Food Festival, and as a community we must first and foremost give thanks to God! Under the talented and enthusiastic leadership of Gus Flangas and with the commitment of our staff, captains and volunteers, the 45th Annual Greek Festival was an impressive event for all who attended – thank God for all of you! The following week Ramona Tasios and Constantin Petriuc, although exhausted, rolled up their sleeves and managed the massive cleanup of the grounds – thank God for them!

This year's Festival provided many opportunities for us to share the richness and truth of the Orthodox Christian Faith, beginning with our Festival theme, *St. John the Baptist: A Voice in the Desert*. We had an impressive courtyard exhibit on the life of the Forerunner of Christ, which we have also displayed in Panos Hall; our attractive Souvenir Magazine included thoughtful and inspiring articles related to our theme, along with beautiful icons (especially on the cover); our Orthodox Bookstore attracted more than ever with its eye-catching display of icons, books, crosses and items for home devotionals. Thousands came for our Church Tours, admiring the beauty of our place of worship (even with the scaffolding) and very much engaged in our presentation; we are currently enjoying a respectable crowd of those who attended the tours and are interested in learning more at our Orthodoxy classes. I thank God that our parish leadership consists of people who are true coworkers, embracing the importance of shining the Light of Jesus Christ, His Saints and His Holy Church in the context of our Greek Food Festival. While most people come for our delicious food, many souls are drawn to and appreciate the spiritual food we also offer, and as a result we have received many converts over the years.

Shining the Light of Christ in a fallen world was an integral part of the Apostolic preaching: St. Paul went to Athens, a city full of idols, temples and philosophers, and because of his boldness was brought to the Areopagus (Mars Hill), where the Athenian high court met – there he gave witness to the True Creator, the Living God and the Resurrected Christ. While many of those who heard St. Paul's preaching mocked him and other philosophers were curious to learn more at a later time, there were some who were moved by the Holy Spirit and believed and joined him, among them was Dionysios the Areopagite. (*Acts 17:16-34*) St. Dionysios, whom we commemorate on *October 3*, lived in Athens and was educated in the Greek classical manner; he studied astronomy in Egypt, where he witnessed the solar eclipse that occurred at the moment of our Lord's Death on the Cross. After returning to Athens, he was chosen to be a judge in the high court, thus his title "the Areopagite." After St. Paul's preaching, Dionysios was baptized and for three years he was a companion of the Apostle and numbered among the Seventy Apostles – he eventually became the second bishop of Athens (after St. Hierotheos, his friend and teacher). St. Dionysios had a deep reverence for the Theotokos, traveling from Athens to Jerusalem to meet her, and he was present when she fell asleep in the Lord in the year 57.



(Continued on Page 2)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

*Sundays: 8:45 am Orthros ~ 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Church School follows Holy Communion*

Sunday, October 1/*2nd Sunday of Luke/Holy Apostle Ananias/St. Romanos the Melodist*

Orthros: Tone Eight (Fourth Plagal)

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

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

Sunday, October 8/*3rd Sunday of Luke/St. Pelagia*

Orthros: Tone One

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

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Gospel: Luke 7:11-16

Sunday, October 15/*Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council*

Orthros: Tone Two

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

Epistle: Titus 3:8-15

Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

Wednesday, October 18/*St. Luke the Evangelist*
8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Colossians 4:5-11; 14-18

Gospel: Luke 10:16-21

Friday, October 20/*Great Martyr Artemios/
St. Gerasimos of Cephalonia*

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10

Gospel: Luke 10:1-15

Sunday, October 22/*6th Sunday of Luke/
St. Averkios of Hieropolis, Equal to the Apostles/
The Seven Holy Youths (Sleepers) of Ephesus*

Orthros: Tone Three

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

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel: Luke 8:27-39

Monday, October 23/*St. Iakovos (James),
the Apostle and Brother of the Lord*
9:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Iakovos (James)

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Gospel: Matthew 13:54-58

Wednesday, October 25

5:00 pm Orthros

6:00 pm Divine Liturgy (Great Martyr Demetrios)

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10

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

Thursday, October 26/*St. Demetrios the Great-
Martyr and Myrrh-Streamer*
Liturgy celebrated on previous evening

Sunday, October 29/*7th Sunday of Luke/
St. Anastasia of Rome/St. Avramios and St. Maria*

Orthros: Tone Four

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

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

"Grace be with you all." (Titus 3:15)

From Father John (Continued from Page 1)

After St. Paul's martyrdom, St. Dionysios began preaching in the West – accompanied by the priest Rusticos and deacon Eleftherios – converting many to Christ in Rome, Spain and Gaul (in present day Paris), where according to one tradition all three were imprisoned. After Dionysios celebrated the liturgy in his cell, all three were beheaded the year 96 – a pious woman, Catulla, buried his relics. According to another tradition, the Hieromartyr Dionysios was beheaded in Athens, where many miracles have taken place at his grave. St. Dionysios has four major writings which are highly regarded in the Orthodox Church: *On the Celestial Hierarchy*; *On the Ecclesiastical Hierarchy*; *On the Names of God*; *On Mystical Theology* (the latter work focuses on communion with God and deification, or theosis). Through the prayers of St. Dionysios, may we come to a fuller knowledge of God and bear the torch of His Light to all whom we meet!

Love in Christ,



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 1

Ushers: Bessie Stavropoulos, Gus Flangas, Mike Beeler, Demetrious Asim, Stacy Mavrantonis and Skip Ruffner

Memorials: Departed Choir Members; Father Constantine Raptis (6 months); Marinella Marina Zaferatos (1 year); Michael Cahill (4 years); Departed Members of the Gotsulias Family

Fellowship: Breakfast, hosted by the Parish Council

OCTOBER 8

Ushers: John Koutsulis, Pete Tsois, Mark Karris, Skip Ruffner, George Bochanis and Justina Szukiewicz

Memorial: Maria Xenos (6 months)

Fellowship: Spiridoula Hristopoulou - In memory of her sister, Maria Xenos

OCTOBER 15

Ushers: Demetrious Asim, Stacy Mavrantonis, Gus Flangas, John Koutsulis, Pete Tsois and Kouli Pouridis

Memorial: Catherine Kaptain (40 days)

Fellowship: The Dounis Family

OCTOBER 22

Ushers: Demetrious Asim, Stacy Mavrantonis, Gus Flangas, John Koutsulis, Pete Tsois and Kouli Pouridis

Memorials: Bob Birch (40 days); Evan Kolias (1 year); Departed Members of the Neocleous Family

Artoclasia (Blessing of Five Loaves): Papas Family for St. Luke

Fellowship: AHEPA - OXI Day

OCTOBER 29

Ushers: John Koutsulis, Pete Tsois, Mark Karris, Skip Ruffner, George Bochanis and Justina Szukiewicz

Fellowship: Ladies Philoptochos Society, benefitting Ecumenical Patriarchate

Parish Greek-Style Breakfast

Sunday, October 1, following Liturgy, in Panos Hall

Free Will Offering



“Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith”

Please join us for this popular six-week course!

*Every Wednesday in October
7:00 - 8:30 pm ~ in Kokkos Hall.*

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

Parish Council Report

Hello Everyone!

We had an amazing Greek Food Festival this year. Although the numbers are not all in, it appears that we have had our best year ever. We put on an extremely high energy event that showcased our Church and our great Greek culture in a tremendous way. The music and stage production were absolutely incredible, the food we served was the best ever, the kids' area was awesome, our wonderful Church Tours were well attended, and our Parishioners and friends who worked at the Festival had great enthusiasm. We also had great weather which made it all the more enjoyable. All of this coupled with the surroundings of our beautiful grounds and our positively charged atmosphere made for an amazing "Greek Experience." We thank God for a truly blessed event.

Our annual 26.2 mile Torch Run was very successful. With the run, we were able to raise money to support the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the Fischer House Foundation. We capped off the Torch Run by having Geri Kypreos light the Church Torch – which is our way to honor her for her tremendous contributions to the Church over the years. In addition to the monies we raised for the two charities with the Torch Run, we also earmarked ten percent of the raffle proceeds to donate to the victims of the recent deluge of hurricanes that devastated so many communities in our country.

It takes a tremendous amount of hard work by many to put on the Festival and to make it work. We want to thank everyone who gave so much of their time and talents this year to make the Festival a resounding success. There are so many people to thank for the Festival's success and, at the risk of leaving somebody out, we think there are many people who deserve special recognition for their efforts and we sincerely apologize if we left anyone out. These people are: Steve Likourinou, who did all the fantastic stage production; Marilyn Flangas, who spearheaded the Souvenir Magazine and obtained and coordinated the publicity; Peter Papas, who worked on the Festival planning, helped with the food and supply ordering, and chaired the Gyro Booth; Steve Tzelalis, who prepared the Tzatziki, prepared the salad dressing, worked on the Greek Fries, and co-chaired the Loukoumathes Booth; Sam Koutsoulis, Telly Eliades and John Nicholas, who ran the kitchen and oversaw the pre-cooking; Stephanie Demoleas, who put together the raffle, coordinated the Festival Website, worked on the Festival planning, and chaired the Pastry Booth along with Grace Demoleas; John Karas, who spearheaded the Count Room and money drops; Skip and Kathy Ruffner, who took over and chaired the Taverna; Dean Chomakos and crew, who cooked the Greek Fries; and Eddie Howard, who did an amazing job of keeping the equipment operating.

Continuing: Amy Bauck, who formatted and put together the Souvenir Magazine for printing; the Tzelalis Family, who chaired the Loukoumathes Booth; Effie Lekar, who chaired the Greek Salad Booth; Ken Bacon, who coordinated and oversaw the vendors; Tammy Chomakos, who chaired the Souvlaki Booth; Mia Paton, Estella Nicholas and Presvytera Maria, who chaired the Athenian Plate Booth; Marcie Karas and Susan Melton, who chaired Admissions; Spiros and Eleni Filios, who chaired the Bar; Tammy Stefanatos, who chaired the Specialty Booth; John Kelesis and crew, who roasted the whole lambs on the spit and grilled the lamb chops; Eileen Koutsoulis, who chaired the Soda Booth; John Koutsoulis, who assisted in so many ways getting things done, and helped immensely with the TV shoots; Alex Sparkhul and Kitty Gott, who chaired the Raffle Booth; Dianne Bacon and Demetrious Asim, who oversaw the volunteers; Marina Adamy and Alexia Chandrinos, who spearheaded the Festival decor; Anthony Farren, who worked the grills; Constantine Frangakis, who chaired the Orthodox Bookstore; Guy Monroe and Vicki Xikis, who coordinated the volunteers for the Church Tours; Niko Asim and Andrew Flangas,, who oversaw the Torch Run; Jim Monoyudis, who spearheaded the Festival Hosts; Tom Foskaris who coordinated the bands; Sophia Leonis, who spearheaded the Pastries prep; Jennia Szukiewicz, who oversaw our Outreach Booth; Bill Bruninga who took amazing photographs; and everyone who worked on the Festival.



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Parish Council Report *(Continued from Page 4)*

There are three individuals who really deserve special mention: Ramona Tasios, Constantin Petruic, and Karen Rawlinson. Without these three, you could not have a Festival. Ramona and Constantin both worked months prior to the Festival getting the building and grounds ready and worked countless hours supervising work crews for the setup, during the Festival, and the take-down and cleanup. We are extremely grateful for their efforts. Karen put in countless hours in obtaining permits, ordering equipment and supplies, providing historical documentation, coordinating meetings, gathering information, fielding inquiries, coordinating and verifying service and equipment suppliers, and dealing with the myriad of issues with which we saddled her. Again, we are extremely grateful for her efforts.

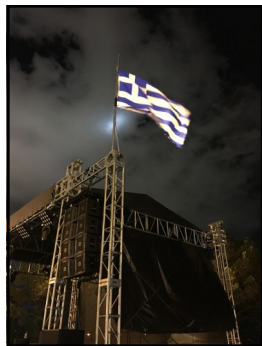
It is time to build on the momentum of the Festival and turn our attention toward Stewardship. We cannot over emphasize the importance of Stewardship: This is the program St. John Greek Orthodox Parishioners have agreed to use for the operation of the Church, augmented by funds from passing the trays, the sale of candles, specific donations, and other miscellaneous fundraisers. Unfortunately, Stewardship has fallen way short for many years, despite the great work done by the Stewardship Committee and many others. The perpetual shortfall in Stewardship continually and significantly limits what our Church can do going forward, in the way of capital improvements, greater funding for our ministries, maintaining and repairing our facilities and fulfilling our visions for the future. For many years now, we have had to rely on funds from the Festival to make ends meet with the operation of the Church and to keep the doors open. Funds from the Festival are supposed to be used for the building fund, which includes paying the mortgage on the Community Center and maintaining our facilities. Festival funds were never intended to cover shortfalls in the operating budget. As previously stated, this has to be the year in which we get Stewardship fully on track and start realizing our goals. Please pray and look into your hearts about Stewardship, understanding that this is our way of “giving back” to God for our many blessings.

Pertaining to the Iconography, we are still working on obtaining certification as a 501(c)(3) organization. We just about have all the necessary paperwork ready to submit and anticipate submitting it in the next week. As stated last month, we have hired a lawyer who specializes in forming 501(c)(3) charitable organizations to get us this designation. As stated last month, once this is done, we will again work on getting the Iconographers here to Las Vegas in the very near future. We are working diligently on it and will keep everyone informed of any developments. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any specific questions.

We have a Parish Assembly scheduled for *Sunday, November 19*, right after Liturgy, in Panos Hall. We encourage you all to attend and learn about the administrative and financial part of our Church. At this Assembly, we will present a financial report, Festival report, receive nominations for the Parish Council, vote on the 2018 Budget, discuss our annual Archdiocese Allotment, as well as other important items. Please mark your calendars and attend.

We want to again thank the various Church ministries and organizations, and the many individuals for all the work they do and have done to help us secure the future of the Church for ourselves and, most importantly, our children. Please step forward whenever you can and pitch in. May God Bless.

Gus Flangas, Parish Council President



AHEPA OXI Day Celebration

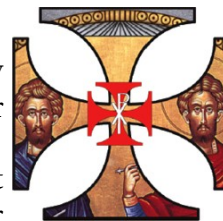
Please join the AHEPA Family of Las Vegas in Panos Hall for our annual observance of *OXI Day on Sunday, October 22*, following Liturgy. Presentation of Flags and the National Anthems will be followed by appetizers, dessert, and coffee. All donations received at this event will benefit the AHEPA Chapter 314 Scholarship Fund – so please be generous!

For more information, please contact Kouli Pouridis, AHEPA Chapter President, at (702) 604-0885.

Philoptochos News

Dearest Ladies of Philoptochos,

Welcome to our fall season! We have started our new ecclesiastical year with renewed energy and enthusiasm to fulfill our Philoptochos goals.



On Sunday, September 10, Philoptochos made an appeal for donations to benefit Hellenic College/Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. We wish to express our utmost appreciation to the congregation for your generous support! HC/HC is one of Philoptochos' principal national ministries and all the Philoptochos women throughout the Archdiocese support and hold this institution close to their heart. The mission of Hellenic College is the formation and education of the person within the life of an Orthodox Christian community. To that end, it educates men preparing for the holy priesthood of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and other Orthodox Christian entities, as well as men and women for leadership roles in the Church, their chosen professions, and our society. Holy Cross collaborates with Orthodox-affiliated institutions and ministries, and offers opportunities for lifelong learning. Thank you to our past president, Bernadette Anthony, for chairing the Fellowship and to all the ladies that contributed and helped with this event. Also, thank you to the many people who provided the basil adorning the Holy Cross on September 14.



The Ladies Philoptochos society once again manned a welcome booth at our 45th annual Greek Festival, which is the largest annual cultural event in the State of Nevada. As many as 25,000 people from the Las Vegas community came to experience and celebrate the hospitality, culture, faith, food, music, dance and the unsurpassed Greek spirit! The energy, joy, love and the incredible sound of the live bouzouki music filled the Las Vegas desert with a piece of our beautiful, beloved Greece. Thank you to all our volunteers!

Special appreciation goes to our booth chairwoman, Jennifer Chanos, and her committee: Dora Hart, Helen Gretsas, Cleo Wilson, Christina Snow, Eleissa Lavelle, Karlie Conger and Elizabeth Kouris. These women welcomed everyone, promoted our mission, and sold Philoptochos aprons as well as water to the thirsty visitors. Once again, ladies, you exemplified your commitment to the beautiful cause of service and philanthropy!

Following, are the upcoming Philoptochos events:

Tuesday, October 3: General Meeting at 6:00 pm in Kokkos Hall. Light dinner will be served.

We invite all the ladies of our community to embark on this journey with us, and to learn about the mission of Philoptochos and our exciting projects for this year. For more information please see Vicky.

Sunday, October 29, Ss. Cosmas and Damianos (observed): There will be a presentation, collection and Fellowship benefitting the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. The philanthropic ministries of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, such as Balukli Hospital and a nursing home, schools, shrines and parishes are supported through this commitment. Please be generous with your contributions!

May our Lord continue to bless our work and ministry in the days, months and years to come, so that our actions of love will glorify and praise God.

With love, Vicky Palivos, Philoptochos President

2017 Stewardship Report (as of 9/26/17)

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$352,348 (\$400,948 total in 2016)

Stewardship Gifts Received: \$261,182

Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$91,166

Stewardship Families Pledged: 388 (443 total in 2016)

Average Pledge to Date: \$910 (\$905 in 2016)

Stewardship and Community Outreach

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Glory to God for all things. Are we living a life in Christ? Are we showing our unconditional love for mankind as the Lord has done since the beginning of time? Are we taking care of our brothers and sisters as the Lord has shown us? Do we understand that the Lord will bless us according to our gift if we show mercy and compassion on the ones less fortunate among our brethren? *“The one who has mercy on the poor lends to God, and He will repay him according to his gift.” (Proverbs 19:17)*

In other words, *“the poor man who begs and the rich man who gives, both make the Lord their Debtor, but only under the condition that the poor man begs in the Name of the Lord with humility and that the rich man gives in the Name of the Lord and with compassion and love.” (June 18 Homily, Prologue from Ochrid)* Then he who receives the alms and he who gives the alms should know and understand they receive and give that which belongs to God.

You may ask: How can this be? Keep in mind, we all enter the world with nothing and when we leave this world, we leave with nothing. We are all beggars before the Lord because we possess nothing that we have not received from Him. Therefore, we must give to the poor man as God has given to us. As we read in *Deuteronomy 15:7-8: “If there is among you a poor man of your brethren within any of the cities in your land . . . you shall not harden your heart, nor shut your hand from your poor brother; but you shall surely open your hands to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs.”*

There are numerous examples of saints giving to their fellow man with love and compassion. One such example is St. Theophanes the Confessor. He possessed a mind illumined by the light of Christ even as a child. Once, while walking along the street in very cold weather, he saw a naked child freezing. He quickly removed his clothes, clothed the child and thus warmed him and brought him back to life. He then returned home naked. His startled parents asked him, “Where are your clothes?” To this the saint replied, “I clothed Christ.” St. Theophanes the Confessor clearly understood the Lord’s message: *“In as much as you have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, you have done it unto me.” (Matthew 25:40)*



In a similar story, St. Martin of Tours as a young soldier encountered a beggar in Amiens, France, where he was serving in the Roman army. The beggar was unclothed, asking alms, and was very cold. Others passed the beggar by as if he did not exist; however Martin, having nothing else to give, removed his cloak and with his sword, he cut it in half. He gave one half to the beggar and dressed himself in the other half. That night, Martin had a vision in which the Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him and said, “Martin, a mere catechumen has clothed me.”

The Lord does not deny us that which we need and neither should we deny our brethren that which they need. The Lord has sent them to us to assess where our hearts are, as He did to the rich man in the parable from Luke’s Gospel: The rich man ignored the needs of poor Lazaros and ended up being *“in torments in Hades.” (Luke 16:23)* My dear sisters and brothers in Christ, *“Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of the hand to do it.” (Proverbs 3:27)*

In Christ, St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church Stewardship and Outreach Committee



“I know My own and My own know Me.” (John 10:14)
Please prayerfully fill out and return your
2017 Stewardship Pledge Card.

Notes from the Choir Loft



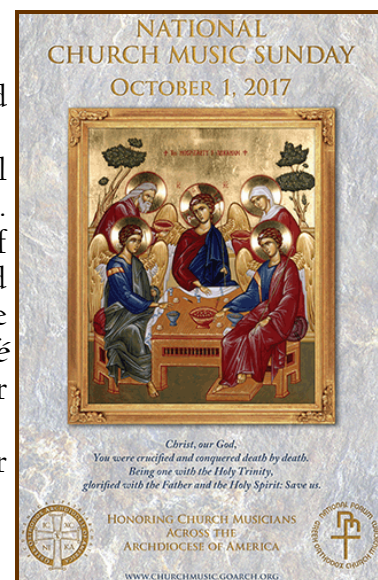
Thank you to all the Choir members who volunteered their time and talents at the Greek Food Festival!

On *Sunday, October 1*, we will celebrate National Church Music Sunday and recognize all our Church Musicians. This date is celebrated in conjunction with the feast of the patron saint of Church Musicians, St. Romanos the Melodist. We will honor all our departed Church Musicians with a Memorial Service following the Liturgy. Then we will gather for a fellowship luncheon at *1:00 pm at Yassou Greek Grill Café Restaurant*, located at 7871 W. Charleston Blvd. Thank you to Vicki Xikis for organizing this event!

We would also like to thank Debbie Mavros for attending the Summer Church Music Conference as our Parish's choir delegate.

There will be no Wednesday rehearsals in October.

Athena Mertes, Director



Our Community Registry



Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun!

Athanasios (Chad) Gauvin (Adult Baptism), on September 9, 2017.

Godparent: Stamatios Likourinou.

Juliette, daughter of Joseph and Stephanie Rosenthal, on September 23, 2017.

Godparent: Adrienne Snow.

Marriages: Na Zisetel!

Christopher Hondros and Darlene Meier on September 2, 2017. Koumbara: Anyisia Metrakos.

Paul Campbell and Victoria Vafiadis on September 10, 2017. Koumbaros: John Vafiadis.

Chrismation

Ignatios (Brandon) Fleetwood on September 24, 2017.

Sponsors: Constantine and Michele Manos.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory!

Catherine Kaptain on September 4, 2017. Funeral on September 12.

Magdalini Lili Constantinou on September 14, 2017. Funeral on September 20.

Greek Language Classes



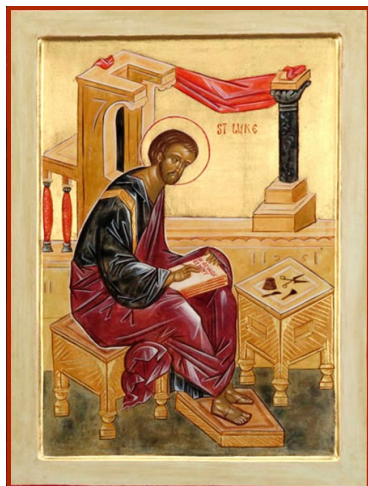
Greek School began with 25 registered children and 10 adults on Tuesday, September 17. Father Seraphim started the new school year off with a prayer and blessing.

We are looking forward to another year of learning Greek culture and language – it is not too late to register. *Childrens' classes are at 4:30 pm and Adult class is at 5:00 pm.* Lastly, I am need of teachers still, so if you are interested please contact me at (702) 249-4740.

Paula Kelesis, Director

From Father Seraphim

There are many different seasons in the Orthodox Church. One of these cycles is the pattern of how we read the four Gospels, with passages assigned for every single day of the year. Pascha is our starting point for everything, and to prepare during the long journey of Lent, we read the Gospel of Mark which is directly concerned with the Passion narrative. From the night of the Resurrection we hear, *“In the beginning was the Word . . .” (John 1:1)*, reminding us that He who was crucified, buried, and resurrected is the incarnate God, and we continue reading John’s Gospel for fifty days until Pentecost. After Pentecost we read Matthew for a varying number of weeks until we find ourselves at the feast day of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14. After this feast we begin reading the Gospel of Luke. Thus, in the month of October we find ourselves at the beginning not only of the Fall Season, but also at a new season in the Church.



Although all the Gospels have similarities, St. Luke has so much unique information! He alone writes incredibly in depth about the birth narrative of our Lord and His meeting in the temple with Saints Symeon and Anna. Again, only in Luke do we hear about the conception of St. John the Baptist, our Parish Patron. Luke records the greatest number of parables (more than the other Gospels), and many of these beloved parables are only found in Luke, such as the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. Without Luke’s Gospel we would not have known about Zaccheos, the raising of the widow’s son at Nain, or his own personal encounter with the risen Lord on the first Sunday of the Resurrection as he journeyed from Jerusalem on the road to Emmaus with Cleopas (who like St. Luke was one of the 70 Apostles). Finally, we would not have the deep insight we enjoy into the early history of the newborn Church without Luke’s firsthand account of the Acts of the Apostles.

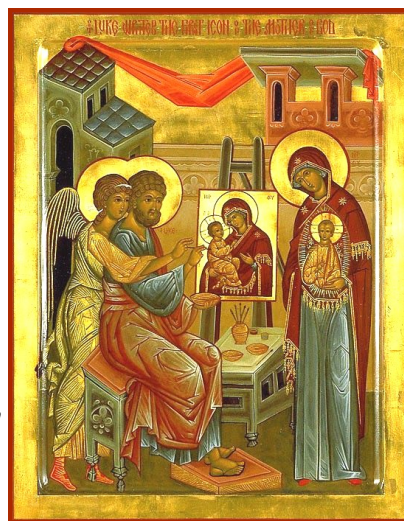
So just who was this wonderful man? Luke was interestingly not a Jew, but born in Syria, in Antioch, and as an adult he heard about the miracles and preaching of Christ. He traveled to Judea to find out about the man named Jesus, and once he met the Lord he was compelled to follow Him. Luke was highly educated by first century standards, and his Greek is the purest and most professional of the evangelists. He was a physician by trade, as St. Paul notes (*Colossians 4:14*), and a historian and iconographer. St. Luke was an eyewitness of the resurrected Christ on two occasions.

St. Luke accompanied St. Paul on his second missionary journey, and was among the company of the first Christians in Greece. As a constant travel companion of St. Paul, Luke was also probably a witness to his martyrdom in Rome under the tyrannical persecution of Christians by the Emperor Nero: *“The time for my departure is near . . . only Luke is with me . . .” (2 Timothy 4:6, 11)* Luke wrote both his Gospel account and the Acts of the Apostles while in Rome under the direct supervision of St. Paul, and in careful conversation with the other Apostles during the time when Paul was first imprisoned there for two years. After the death of Paul (AD 67) Luke continued to preach and teach in Boiotia, central Greece, and even traveled to Egypt to ordain the second bishop of the Church that the Apostle Mark started there. At the age of 84, while teaching as the bishop of the city of Thebes in Greece, St. Luke was martyred after torture by crucifixion to an olive tree.

Let us therefore, beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, listen attentively to this holy doctor of souls and bodies as we receive the holy words he wrote down for our salvation, which are encased in gold upon our Altar. Just as St. Luke was the first to write the icon of the Theotokos, let us allow him to write for us an icon of the true meaning and beauty of our life in Christ.

With Love,

Father Seraphim



Youth and Family Ministries

Church School

Hi Everyone!

What a great Greek Food Festival we had. It was wonderful to see all of our youth lending a hand.

We have 85 students registered for Church School so far this year. If you have not registered your child yet, please grab a registration form on the bulletin boards outside the classrooms. Please give the form to me, your child's teacher, or to Karen in the Church Office. It is very important that we have all of the students registered – and best yet, registration is free!

There are lesson plans on the bulletin boards; please take a look so that you can find out what we have planned for the school year. It is always a great idea to keep our faith alive at home with prayer during the week, keeping the fasts of the Church, and preparing as a family for Holy Communion. Find out what your child learned in class: We have wonderful teachers that love our faith and are eager to teach our youth. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

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

Youth Choir News



On Sunday, September 10 we had *16 Fabulous Voices* chanting the Divine Liturgy! It was *Heavenly!* New voices are also joining our ranks! Huge shout out to the parents for bringing them on time!

Our next practice will be on *Sunday, October 1* after Church School at *12:15 pm*. We will chant the Divine Liturgy on *Sunday, October 8*. Please show up at the front right pew *no later than 9:40 am*. More Sunday practices may be added; look out for those Youth Choir email blasts and Sunday notes on the classroom dry-erase boards.

Love in Christ, Presvytera Maria

Moms & Tots

Praise God in all his works! For we have a good and loving God!

What a blessing it truly is to be part of such a wonderful parish. With the 45th Annual Greek Food Festival in the books, our outreach booth was able to connect our ministry to many more Orthodox moms and their tots. We look forward to meeting them very soon!

We have completed one year of this beautiful ministry, and now it is time for more! Let us enjoy more activities, more songs, more play, more conversations, and more fellowship. How wonderful it is to be able to connect to each other, but most importantly, for our children to connect with each other at this age. They are the future of our Church. And let us continue to strengthen the bond between God, our Orthodox Faith, and the friendships made here in our Parish.

Our next meeting will be on *Tuesday, October 10 at 10:30 am* in Kokkos Hall. Please feel free to bring a snack.

Mark your calendar for our next Moms Night Out on *Friday, October 20 at 7:00 pm* at *Brio Restaurant, Town Square* – where it all began! Please RSVP to Athena Pitts at Athena.pitts05@gmail.com or (503) 701-6081 (call or text).

In Christ, Cassie Bieker



*“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men,
and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”
(Galatians 6:10)*



Orthodox Family Fellowship

Dear Families of St. John the Baptist,

We want to thank you for coming out and enjoying a memorable day of fun at Exploration Peak Park in September. Get ready for our *Family Field Day here at the Church: Saturday October 21 beginning at 3:00 pm*. We will have games, activities, dinner together, a movie, and more! If parents would like to oversee an activity or help cook, or to RSVP, please email Father Seraphim at frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

Love in Christ, Father Seraphim and OFF Advisors, Jelena Boskovic and Amy Khuri

GOYA ~ For Teenagers

Dear Members of Our St. John the Baptist GOYA,

Thanks for a great start to another year – and a special thanks to all of you who volunteered your time at our 2017 Greek Food Festival! In September we had our first GOYA night and also took advantage of the great weather as it began to cool down with a hike in Red Rock Canyon!

Join us for our *October GOYA Night on Sunday, October 1, 5:30 – 7:30 pm*. Also, on *Saturday, October 21, beginning at 3:00 pm* we invite you to our annual “Olympics” *Family Field Day* here at the Church! You will be challenged athletically, mentally and spiritually as we utilize our beautiful Church grounds for a day of community fun and fellowship. If parents would like to oversee an activity or help cook, or to RSVP, please email Father Seraphim at frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com.



In Christ, Father Seraphim and GOYA Advisors, June Likourinou and Kouli Pouridis

Greek Folk Dance

The Folk Dance groups' performance at the Greek Food Festival this year was wonderful! Thanks to everyone for your attendance and support of our ministry at the Festival. Dance is in full gear and we look forward to another great season. Please mark your calendars for the following special events we will be having:

Saturday, November 4: Our Annual Wine Experience. Bring your friends and family for an evening of wine tasting, appetizers, and great *parea* while we support our ministry's largest fundraiser.

Friday and Saturday, December 15 and 16: Christmas Caroling! We will be singing traditional Greek and English carols. More details to come.

Sunday, December 18: Our annual Fasolada Luncheon after Liturgy in Panos Hall.

A huge THANK YOU for all the parents for making dance a priority in your kids' lives. Your continued support is what keeps this ministry alive.

Much Gratitude, Greek Folk Dance Board



FAITH. DANCE. FELLOWSHIP.

January 11 - 14, 2018 Marriott Marquis Hotel San Francisco

For Hotel Reservations, Go to www.yourfdf.org

Adult and Young Adult Ministries

Young Adults

Dear Young Adults,

What a wonderful time was had at Sunset Park last month! With beautiful weather and temperatures dropping we played volleyball, ate delicious food, and enjoyed God's blessings together. We would also like to thank all of you who graciously took time out of your busy schedules and joined us at the Greek Food Festival last month, helping to lift the heavy load of serving 25,000 people! Amazing job!



Join us this month as we gather on *Saturday, October 21 at 8:30 am, with a departure time of 9:00 am!* We will be hiking *Gateway Canyon at Red Rock!* There is no entrance fee because the parking lot for this hike is *before* the entrance to "Red Rock proper." It is called "Kraft Mountain Parking Lot" or "Calico Parking" on Google Maps, where you can zoom in and see both the trail we will take and the parking lot we will use. Remember to bring snacks, sunscreen, and lots of water/electrolytes to help sustain you throughout the hike. Also, wear appropriate clothing to get your sweat on! After the hike, we will all decide on a place to eat and replenish. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Love in Christ, Niko Asim and Fani Mavrantonis, Young Adults Advisors

Mr. & Mrs. ~ A Couples Fellowship



Dear M&M's,

We look forward to starting our meetings back up this October! We will be at *John and Ellyn Nixon's home on Saturday, October 28 at 6:00 pm.* Please RSVP with John, Ellyn, or Father Seraphim. See you there!

In Christ, Father John, Father Seraphim, and their Presvyteres

Kali Parea ~ "Good Company" for the 40+ Crowd

Dear Members of Kali Parea ("Good Company"),

Thank you for making our play in the park such a wonderful event! We had a beautiful time with many laughs and memories last month as we attended a summer outdoor theatre together.

This month we will have a dinner potluck meeting *Sunday, October 29* at the home of Demetri Asim. Melissa Fleetwood will be giving a wonderful presentation on Fast-friendly Foods, Diets, and Nutrition. For directions and to RSVP, please contact Demetri at demetrivegas@yahoo.com. We hope to see you there!

Demetrious Asim, Kali Parea Advisor

Forerunners ~ The Seniors of St. John the Baptist

Greetings to all! Hopefully you are well rested after our very successful Greek Food Festival. A special thank you to all our Forerunners who came forth and gave a helping hand. It is most appreciated. It would be remiss of me not to say a tremendous thank you to our Parish Council President, Gus Flangas, and everyone who planned and executed such a huge undertaking.

October is here and our Senior Forerunners will be resuming their activities. It will be nice to catch up with everyone and exchange summer stories. Our first get together will be *on Monday, October 9* and our Luncheon will be hosted by Atria Senior Living. We look forward to a tasty meal, good fellowship, raffles and bingo.

A little birdie told me that we are in for a wonderful lunch during the month of November. It will be prepared by our Master Chef, Sam Koutsulis.

As always, our prayers and good wishes go out to all our seniors in facilities or who are homebound.

Love in Christ, Victoria Xikis, for the Forerunners – the Seniors of St. John the Baptist

Orthodox Bookstore

Greetings from the Bookstore.

This month we are featuring: *The Ladder of Divine Ascent* by Saint John Climacos. This was the most widely used handbook in the ancient Byzantine Church describing and instructing Christians in the ascetic life. It was popular among lay people as well as monastics, and continues to remain as a classic standard of Orthodox spirituality today.

Excerpt from Step 19: On Sleep, Prayer, and the Singing in Church of Psalms:

"Sleep is a natural state. It is also an image of death and a respite of the senses. Sleep is one, but like desire it has many sources. That is to say, it comes from nature, from food, from demons, or perhaps in some degree even from prolonged fasting by which the weakened flesh is moved to long for repose.

"Just as too much drinking comes from habit, so too from habit comes overindulgence in sleep. For this reason one has to struggle against it especially at the start of one's religious life, because a long-standing habit is very difficult to correct."

Until next month, God willing, ICXC NIKΑ, Constantine Frangakis, Bookstore Director



*Glory to God for an Amazing
Greek Food Festival 2017!*

45th Annual Greek Food Festival



Photos
by
Bill
Bruninga



OPA Memories!



"I know My own and My own know Me." (John 10:14)

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Adamy, Marina | Cominos, Ted | Georgis, John and Kaliopi | Kotonias, Patricia |
| Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine | Conger, William and Alexia | Georgoulakis, Mary Ellen | Kountanis, Pat |
| Anastasiou, Andrew and Kathleen | Constantinou, Magdalini + Costacos, John | Gialketsis, Barbara | Kourlos, Georgia |
| Andrews, Catherine | Costas, Charles and Louise | Gialketsis, Bill and Shelli | Koutsulis, John and Eileen |
| Andrews, Chris and Pamela | Costuros, George and Marsha | Gialketsis, Julie | Koutsulis, Sam and Effie |
| Andricopoulos, Margo | Cosulas, Fr. Basil and Presv. Samantha | Gialketsis, Steve | Kratky, Frank and Constance |
| Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette | Cotsilis, Jenny | Gialketsis, William | Kunard, Derek |
| Anton, Mike and Carol | Coutris, Angela | Giouzelis, Anastasia | Kypreos, George and Lesley |
| Arcamuzi, Georgia | Crescenti, Stephen and Katherine | Gianakoulis, Nick and Magda | Kypreos, Peter and Geri |
| Aristides, George and Diana | Crist, Adam and Kanistra | Goltsos, Andreas and Sofia | Kypreos, Sophia |
| Asim, Demetrious | Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia | Goodman, Linda | Kyprianou, Gilbert and Alexis |
| Asim, Nicholas | Dalacas, Eugenia + | Gott, C. Thomas and Kitty | Kyriannis, Justin and Linda |
| Austgen, Harold Max | Dalacas, Nick + and Georgia | Gousdovas, Nikos | Lagomarsino, Victor and Sophia |
| Balaouras, Panos and Helen | Daskalos, George and Carrie | Grillas, Roula | Lakis, Antoinette |
| Balason, Anna | Daskalos, George and Voula | Gruber, Ernest and Zoe | Lamancusa, Lisa |
| Baldwin, Richard and Vivi | Delalis, Dina | Gutierrez, Connie | Lambros, Kyriakos and Maria |
| Balodimas, James | DeMangus, Joanne | Hadzoglon, Christos and Barbara+ | Latelle, Penny |
| Barbarino, Demetra | Demetriou, Demetrios and Bessie | Hall, Elizabeth | Lazarakis, John and Panagiota |
| Bartzos, Sam and Eugenia | Demolas, Maria and Nour, Reza | Hamilton, Mary | Lekar, Caroline |
| Bather, Crissie | Demoleas, Spero and Grace | Hamilton, Paul and Brandi | Lekar, Michael and Effie |
| Bauck, Jeremy and Amy | Demoleas, Stephanie | Harrison, Angie and | Lemper, Brian and Betsy |
| Beeler, Mike and Carolyn | Demopoulos, Vasiliki | Schildmeyer, Christine | Leonis, Nick and Sophia |
| Beeman, Karl, Sr. and Benita | Diamantis, Filippas | Hayes, Tulla | Leonis, Tishe |
| Beeman, Karl, Jr. and Ivana | Dimitri, Patricia and Martha | Hemmers, Oliver and | Leventis, Naomi |
| Berendji, Jim and Vivian | Dominguez, Eric and Amalia | Pantelas, Anne | Lewis, Foula |
| Bernier, Micah and Alissa | Dornin, Christopher and Marcella | Henneforth, Rula | Liaos, Jim and Tina |
| Berta, Irene | Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia | Hetzel, David and Joanne | Liaos, Steve and Francine |
| Bieker, Adam and Cassie | Doukakis, Panagiotis and Chrisi | Hoadrea, Jimmy and Monci | Liaos, William and Irene |
| Bieker, Georgea | Dounis, Dina | Hondros, Christina | Likourinou, Angie |
| Birtas, Helen and Ann | Dounis, Georgia | Hondros, Christopher | Likourinou, Steve and June |
| Bochanis, George and Enid | Dounis, Kiki | Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria | Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine |
| Bratta, Georgene | Dramitinos, Mary | Hoover, Patrick and Pauline | Little, Martin and Kaytia, Patricia |
| Brilis, George and Satoko | Earl, Christine Michaelides | Houlis, Ila and Debbie | Lymberopoulos, Mary |
| Britten, Ronald and Carol | Eliades, Aristotelis and Caroline | Howard, William and Willie | Maddox, Thomas and Maria |
| Bourell, Peter and Amanda | Eliades, Artemisa | Hristopoulou, Spiridoula | Malamatos, Kindina |
| Brown, Faye | Eliades, Harry and Agapi | Ignadiou, Marios | Maland, Tim and Donna |
| Bruninga, Bill and Erin | Eliakis, John | Iteen, Robert and Sophia | Malpee, Mack and Kalliope |
| Bucy, Brent and Elaine | Eliakis, Peter and Glenda | Jensen, Matthew and Michelle | Maniatakos, Ted and Maria |
| Cahill, Irene | Eliakis, Varthie and LeeAnn | Kachikis, Paul and Ernestine | Manos, Constantine and Michele |
| Camel, Joseph | Eliopulos, Goldie | Kakavulias, Christina | Mansour, Muna |
| Campbell, Theodore and Cheryl | Exarhos, Sharon | Kakavulias, George and Helen | Manteris, Arthur and Sue |
| Capre, Julio and Betty | Eyler, John and Elizabeth | Kakavulias, John and Elizabeth | Margaretis, John and Lucila |
| Carabas, Stephen and Linda | Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean | Kalkas, John and Rena | Markakis, Catherine |
| Carabas, Thymios and Sotiroulla | Farren, Anthony and Maritsa | Kambouris, Litsa | Matsis, John and Rebecca |
| Carahalas, John and Jillian | Filos, Spiridon and Eleni | Kanis, Constantinos and Katie | Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki |
| Caredis, Jon and Marjorie | Fischer, Bob and Cheryl | Kanis, Georgios | Mavrantonis, Theofania |
| Carrico, William and Alexandra | Fitzgerald, Norman and McCullen, Sandra | Kaptain, Catherine | Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debra |
| Carter, Maria | Flangas, Bill and Marilyn | Karalias, Petros and Constance | Mavros, Michael+ and Debbie |
| Cero, Dean | Flangas, Gary and Amanda | Karas, John and Marcie | Mavroudou, Frank and Vess, Olga |
| Chachas, Bessie | Flangas, Gus and Tamara | Karris, Mark and Suzanne | McClain, Gavin and Jaymee |
| Chachas, James | Fleetwood, Thomas and Melissa | Katopodis, Efstratios | McManus, Jeanette |
| Chagares, Kiki | Foster, Kyle and Maria | Katris, Nick | McKinney, Michael and Mersene |
| Chandrinis, Alexia | Fotopoulos, John and Barbara | Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon | McSweeney, Farolyn |
| Chanos, George | Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia | Katsikakis, Evangelos | Melton, Donald and Susan |
| Chanos, Jennifer | Frangakis, Constantine | Kelesis, John, Vickie and Niko | Minas, Arthur and Ewa |
| Chomakos, Dean and Tammy | Frangakis, John | Kelesis, Paula | Moffett, Todd and Eliopulos, Tina |
| Chomakos, George and Nikki | Frangakis, Sophocles | Kiflezgi, Rahel | Monoyudis, Jim and Julie |
| Chondrakis, Dimos | Funk, Helen | Kimball, Sarah | Moore, Brenda |
| Christian, Clair and Chloe | Garza, Evarardo and Eliades, Eleni | Kinard, Panorea | Mulopulos, George and Jenny |
| Christou, Andreas and Toni | Geiger, Dan and Hart, Dora | Kleanthis, George and Zanetta | Murray, Christopher and George, Veneta |
| Christou, Eleni | George, Pete and Georgia | Kofinas, Maria | Myers, Stella |
| Ciulla, Anthony and Kleri | | Koliambas, Eleni | Neocleous, Plato |
| Cokotis, Julie | | Konsolakis, George and Sophia | Nestlebusch, Marissa |
| Collins, David | | Kostopoulos, Georgia | Newell, Eric and Devona |

*Please contact the Church Office or
a Parish Council Member for a Pledge Card!*

Newell, Ronald and Maria
Nicholas, John and Estella
Nichols, George and Tereza
Nikitas, Rigas and Aphrodite
Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra
Nixon, John and Ellyn
Olmsted, Travis and Marilyn
Osborn, Pearl
Ostis, Sotirios
Pahigiannis, Nikon
Paikos, Thomas and Elizabeth
Palivos, Peter and Vicky
Pallis, Paul
Pan-Arcadians
Pandelis, Cheryl
Panos, William and Jeanne
Papas, Peter and Rita
Papas, Christian and Nicole
Pappas, Antonia
Pappas, Constantine and Karina
Pappas, Spiro and Libby
Pappas, Rita
Patrick, Ernest
Payan, Luis and Eleni
Pelletier, Michael
Pendleton, Patricia
Pentogenis, Katherine
Peredera, Maria
Petersen, Todd and Diane
Petro, Aleko and Georgia
Petrou, James and Penelopi
Pierro, Joe and Rhonda
Pierro, Joseph and Christine
Pitts, Anton and Athena
Platis, Anna
Plentzas, Spiros + and Ruth
Polimerou, Angeline
Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra
Poulos, Christine
Pouridis, Kouli and Para
Powers, Russell and Rebecca
Prokopis, Ritsa +
Punsalan, Basil and Sophie
Pursell, Robert and Mary
Radosta, Athena
Radza, Mike

Ramos, Fr. Seraphim and
Presv. Olenka
Raptis, Fr. Dean+ and
Presv. Evonne
Rifakes, John
Rifakes, John
Rigas, Evie
Rihani, Gary and Linda
Robison, Diane and Patricia
Rodis, Dimitri
Rodis, Sophia
Rosenthal, Joseph and Stephanie
Rotas, Beatrice
Rouvas, John and Keri
Rudolph, Brandon
Ruffner, Skip and Kathy
Salon, Nicholas + and Janelle
Salonikis, Valentinos and Sophia
Santamaria, Jennifer
Savvas, Savva
Senior Forerunners
Setian, Gary and Marie
Simpson, Brian and
Zacharias, Julie
Sinclair, Bill
Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia
Skarlatos, Nick
Smith, Kathleen
Snow, Adrienne
Snow, Clifford and Christina
Snowden, Robert and Niki
Sparangis, Spyro and Helen
Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette
Stamatakis, Christine
Staubs, Douglas and Anastasia
Stavropoulos, Bessie
Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki
Stefanatos, Michael and Tami
Stenos, Louis
Stransky, Mark
Stransky, Jack and Gladys
Strong, Karlie
Struzas, Maria
Swella, Fr. Matthew and
Presv. Annie
Szukiewicz, Joseph and Jennia

Szukiewicz, Joseph
Tafoya, Steven and Irene
Takas, Andrea
Tasios, Ramona and Pete
Temple, Jonathan and Voula
Thanos, Nick and Victoria
Thompson, Maggy
Thompson, Steve and Alik
Touroutoglou, Nikolaos
Tsarouhas, Maria
Tsiralidis, Kosmas and
Katerina
Tsolis, Christos and Panagioula
Tsolis, Panagiot
Turman, Lucas and Maria
Tzortzis, Maria
Vafiades, Victoria
Vervilos, James and Anna
Vlahos, Thomas and
Demas, Rita
Vreeland, Chandler
Wadlow, Nicholas and Pamela
Wallace, Robert and Katerina
Walter, Vernon and Alice
Waterhouse, David and
Aleighza
Weisman, Diane
Wheeler, Charles and Alyce
Wilcox, Thalia
Wilkerson, Chuck and
Kristina
Williams, Anthony and Anna
Wilson, Steven and Cleo
Wixom, Penelope
Wolfenbarger, Joy
Womack, Karl
Womack, Kimberly
Wood, Nadine
Wronski, Chuck
Xerogianes, Nick and Nikki
Xikis, Victoria
Zaferatos, Ted
Zarkos, Nick and Dina
Zarras, Nick and Chery
Zimmerman, Paul and Angela

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

5300 S. El Camino Rd.
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Rev. Father Seraphim Ramos
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Bookkeeper

Mara Braun
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Constantin Petriuc & Ramona Tasios
Maintenance & Grounds

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Parish Council: Gus Flangas

Philoptochos: Vicky Palivos

Stewardship & Community Outreach:
Justina Szukiewicz

Choir: Athena Mertes

Chanters & Youth Choir:
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Church School: Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers: Alex & Eric Szukiewicz

GOYA:
Kouli Pouridis & June Likourinou

Orthodox Family Fellowship:
Jelena Boskovic & Amy Khuri

Moms & Tots:
Cassie Bieker

Young Adults:
Nicholas Asim & Fani Mavrantonis

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek School: Paula Kelesis

Mr. & Mrs.:
Fr. John, Fr. Seraphim & Presvyteres

Kali Pareia: Demetrios Asim

Adult Basketball: George Chomakos

Forerunners: Marie & Gary Setian

Orthodox Bookstore:
Constantine Frangakis

Greek Food Festival: Gus Flangas

Hellenic Historical Society:
Cheryl Pandelis and Susan Stamis

Photography: Bill Bruninga



Notice of Parish Assembly ~ Sunday, November 19

Following the Divine Liturgy in Panos Hall

AGENDA:

- Call to Order/Opening Prayer
 - Election of Assembly Chair
- Stewardship Report & 2018 Stewardship Commitment Drive
 - Greek Food Festival Report
 - Financial Review
 - Approval of 2018 Budget
- Iconography Update & 501(c)(3) Status
 - Parish Bylaws
- Elect Nominations/Election Committee
- Nominations for Parish Council 2018-19
- Audit Report & CPA Audit (for 2016)
 - Election of 2018 Audit Committee
- Closing Prayer/Adjournment

Everyone is encouraged to attend, although only Pledged Stewards for 2017 may vote.

Church Account Summaries ~ August 2017

| Nevada State Bank Accounts | July | Deposits | Transfers In | Withdraws/ Checks | Transfers Out | August | Notes |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------|---|
| | Ending Balance | | | | | Ending Balance | |
| General Operating Account (GOA) | \$22,542.66 | \$30,563.00 | \$40,413.25 | \$9,087.03 | \$42,175.34 | \$42,256.54 | |
| Community and Education (C&E) | \$6,436.44 | | | \$4,510.36 | | \$1,926.08 | |
| Greek Food Festival (GFF) | \$9,894.34 | \$26,114.00 | | \$7,658.40 | | \$28,349.94 | |
| Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O) | \$320,876.69 | \$400.00 | | \$8,688.23 | | \$312,588.46 | |
| Folk Dance Group | \$10,000.54 | | | | | \$10,000.54 | |
| Mortgage Account | \$10,490.36 | | | | \$5,201.14 | \$5,289.22 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Designated Funds | July | Deposits | Transfers In | Withdraws/ Checks | Transfers Out | August | Notes |
| | Ending Balance | | | | | Ending Balance | |
| Bookstore | \$12,083.41 | | | \$1,542.55 | | \$10,540.86 | |
| Ornaments | \$1,077.41 | | | | | \$1,077.41 | |
| Restricted Funds | July | Deposits | Transfers In | Withdraws/ Checks | Transfers Out | August | Notes |
| | Ending Balance | | | | | Ending Balance | |
| ICON | \$270,740.33 | \$300.00 | | | | \$271,040.33 | Iconography In Memory Donations |
| Library Account | \$1,470.77 | | | | | \$1,470.77 | Account owed \$21,000. Funds used to make payroll and pay bills in 2015 |
| Giving Tree | \$3,450.91 | | | | | \$3,450.91 | |
| Building Fund | \$27,822.93 | | | \$7,145.68 | | \$20,677.25 | Floors, Carts Expense, Grounds |
| Youth Choir | \$3,069.82 | | | | | \$3,069.82 | |
| Church School | \$1,206.37 | \$100.00 | | | | \$1,306.37 | |
| Misc. D & R Deductions | -\$535.26 | | | | | -\$535.26 | |
| Altar Servers | \$440.00 | | | | | \$440.00 | |
| GOYA | \$50.00 | | | | | \$50.00 | |
| Designated, Restricted, and Other Total | \$320,876.69 | \$400.00 | \$0.00 | \$8,688.23 | \$0.00 | \$312,588.46 | |
| Other Funds | July | Deposits | Transfers In | Withdraws/ Checks | Transfers Out | August | Notes |
| | Ending Balance | | | | | Ending Balance | |
| Kokkos Scholarship Fund | \$55,859.07 | | \$2,310.77 | | | \$58,169.84 | Change in Value of Investments |



OCTOBER 2017 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy <i>Parish Breakfast</i> 12:15 pm Youth Choir Practice 5:30 pm GOYA Dinner | 2 | 3 6:00 pm Philoptochos General Meeting in Kokkos Hall 4:30 pm Childrens' Greek Class 5:00 pm Adult Greek | 4 7:00 pm Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith: Class #3: The Holy Sacraments | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy <i>Youth Choir Chants</i> | 9 11:30 am Forerunners Luncheon in Panos Hall | 10 10:30 am Moms & Tots in Kokkos Hall 4:30 pm Childrens' Greek Class 5:00 pm Adult Greek 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting in Library | 11 7:00 pm Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith: Class #4: The Divine Liturgy | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy | 16 | 17 4:30 pm Childrens' Greek Class 5:00 pm Adult Greek | 18 St. Luke 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith: Class #5: Orthodox Spirituality | 19 | Father Seraphim Away 10/13-16 | |
| 22 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy | 23 St. Iakovos <i>(James) the Apostle</i> 9:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Iakovos | 24 4:30 pm Childrens' Greek Class 5:00 pm Adult Greek | 25 5:00 pm Orthros 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy <i>(St. Demetrios)</i> 7:00 pm Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith: Class #6: Church Architecture | 26 Great Martyr Demetrios <i>(Celebrated 10/25)</i> | 27 | 28 9:00 am Divine Liturgy at St. Alexios in Ely 6:00 pm Mr. and Mrs. at John & Elynn Nixon's Home |
| 29 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Kali Pareia Potluck at Demetri Asim's Home | 30 | 31 4:30 pm Childrens' Greek Class 5:00 pm Adult Greek | Greek Folk Dance Practices: Sunday: Liondaria 12:45-1:30 pm, Delfinia & Elliniki Iperifania 1:00 -2:45 pm Tuesday: Delfinia & Elliniki Iperifania 6:00-7:30 pm | | | |
| | | | Father John at National Clergy Retreat 10/31-11/3 | | | |

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



*“Therefore, my beloved
brethren, be steadfast,
immovable, always abounding
in the work of the Lord,
knowing that in the Lord
your labor is not in vain.”
(1 Corinthians 15:58)*