

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 16, Issue 4 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

April 2018

**From
Father
John**

Beloved in Christ:

At the end of WWII, renowned singer Doris Day had her first hit – a catchy tune called “Sentimental Journey” – which became a homecoming theme for many veterans. The opening lyrics of this song were: *Gonna take a sentimental journey, gonna set my heart at ease, gonna make a sentimental journey, to renew old memories.*

Beginning with Palm Sunday on April 1, Orthodox pilgrims will travel from near and far to attend the services of Great and Holy Week, which constitute our journey through the Passion, Death and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. But for us Orthodox Christians Holy Week must be more than a “homecoming” and “sentimental journey” – that is, an annual ritual that focuses merely on the external traditions of showing up in Church, receiving a Palm Cross, being anointed with Holy Oil, venerating and receiving a blessed flower from the Epitaphios, lighting our Paschal Candle, and cracking our red eggs. While all these things are grace-filled and essential components of this sacred week, accompanying them must be a genuine effort on our part to internalize the saving events of our Lord which are commemorated – moreover, re-lived – for the spiritual benefit of our souls, minds and bodies.

We are challenged once again this year to take more than a “sentimental journey” – in the nostalgic, feel-good sense – through Holy Week that leads to a roasted lamb dinner with family and friends: Rather, let us make a concerted effort to be mindful that we are traversing each day of this blessed week toward our Lord’s empty Tomb – where the Sacrificial Lamb was laid to rest – and do so with a genuine desire for a life-changing renewal, so that we may truly rise with Him.

During Palm Sunday weekend, our Parish will be blessed with the presence of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos for the services of Saturday evening Palm Sunday Vespers, Palm Sunday morning Orthros and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and the First Bridegroom (Nymphios) Service that evening. Great and Holy Week actually begins with the Orthros of Holy Monday – known as the Bridegroom Service – on Palm Sunday evening: For three nights we have our eyes fixed on the icon of Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom of the Church, in the center of the Soleas – although this is an image of our Lord clothed in a scarlet robe, crowned with thorns, hands bound, and holding a reed. The hymns and readings of these services set the stage for our Lord’s Passion, while simultaneously making us mindful of His imminent Second Coming: *“Behold, the Bridegroom approaches in the middle of the night, and blessed is the one He finds awake and waiting.”*



In the Greek Orthodox practice, the Sacrament of Holy Unction is placed mid-week and, as a service of healing, its link to Christ’s Passion is indisputable: We humans are sick – physically, emotionally and spiritually – as a result of Adam and Eve’s Fall and the perpetual sinfulness of each generation. In the seventh and final Gospel reading of the service, the Lord’s words are directed to each of us: *“Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.” (Matthew 9:12)* All of us are in desperate need of healing and redemption of our Great Physician, Jesus Christ, and as we shall see within a day, *“with His stripes we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)*

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Abstain from Meat and Dairy until Holy Pascha

Sunday, April 1/Palm Sunday

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, Celebrant

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

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel: John 12:1-18

Blessing and Distribution of Palms

Palm Sunday Luncheon in Panos Hall

GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday Evening, April 1

7:00 pm 1st Bridegroom Service

with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos

Holy Monday, April 2

7:00 pm 2nd Bridegroom Service

Holy Tuesday, April 3

7:00 pm 3rd Bridegroom Service/Hymn of Kassiani

Holy Wednesday, April 4

9:00 am Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm Sacrament of Holy Unction/

Anointing with Holy Oil

Holy Thursday, April 5

9:00 am Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil

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

Holy Friday, April 6

10:00 am Royal Hours

3:00 pm Descent from the Cross/

Children's Procession

7:00 pm Lamentations/Procession of the Epitaphion

Holy Saturday, April 7

9:00 am Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil

11:00 pm Vigil of the Resurrection

This is the day the Lord has made:

Let us exult and rejoice in it!

Sunday, April 8/GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

12:00 am Resurrectional Orthros & Divine Liturgy

Resurrection Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

Gospel: John 1:1-17

Blessing and Distribution of Red Eggs

12:00 pm Agape Vespers and Picnic

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

Friday, April 13/Theotokos, the Life-Giving Spring

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 3:1-8

Gospel: John 2:12-22

Sunday, April 15/Thomas Sunday/Crescens the

Martyr/Leonidas, Bishop of Athens

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

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 22/Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers,

St. Joseph of Arimathea and St. Nicodemus/

Apostle James, Brother of St. John the Theologian

Orthros: Tone Two

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

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

Gospel: Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8

Monday, April 23/St. George the Great Martyr

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 12:1-11

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

Sunday, April 29/Sunday of the Paralytic/Ss. Jason

& Sosipater of the 70

Orthros: Tone Three

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:13-35

Epistle: Acts 9:32-42

Gospel: John 5:1-15

I look upon Your bridal chamber and behold it, my Savior, all adorned.

But I have not appropriate clothing, that I might enter therein.

Make radiant the clothing of my soul, O Giver of light, and save me.

(Exaposteilarion of the Bridegroom Service)

SUNDAY SCHEDULE



APRIL 1: PALM SUNDAY

Ushers: Entire Parish Council
PALM SUNDAY FISH LUNCHEON

APRIL 8: GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

Ushers: Entire Parish Council
AGAPE PICNIC



APRIL 15

Ushers: John Matsis, Adam Bieker, Stacy Mavrantonis, Gus Flangas, Justina Szukiewicz,
and George Bochanis

Fellowship: Spiridoula Hristopoulou, in memory of her sister, Maria Xeno

APRIL 22

Ushers: Demetrious Asim, Mark Karris, Bessie Stavropoulos, John Koutsulis, John Nicholas and Mike Beeler

Memorials: Michael Pentogenis (3 years); Sophie Mia Papas (4 years), Lukas Kokkinos, Loizos Papas,
Eleni Papas, Emilios Papas, Kostas Papas

Fellowship: Daughters of Penelope

APRIL 29

Ushers: Justina Szukiewicz, John Koutsulis, Adam Bieker, Stacy Mavrantonis, Mark Karris
and John Matsis

Fellowship: Forerunners, Seniors of St. John the Baptist

All-Youth Activities for Saturday of Lazaros March 31, 2018

9:00 am Divine Liturgy for St. Lazaros

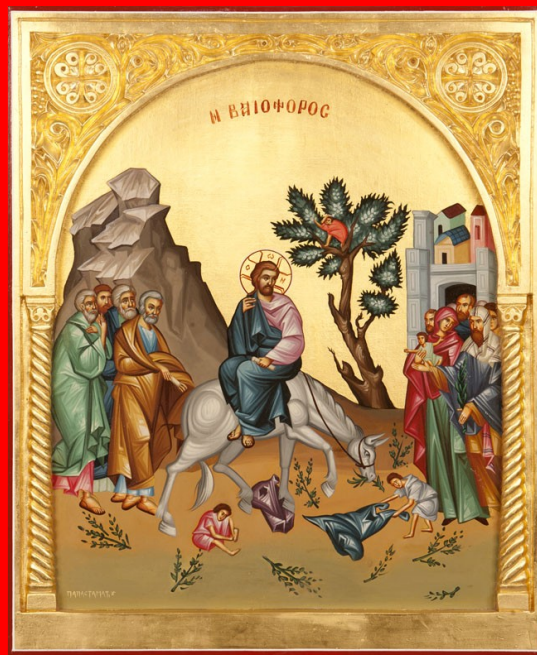
10:30 am Palm Cross Tying and Continental Breakfast

5:00 pm Great Vespers for Palm Sunday

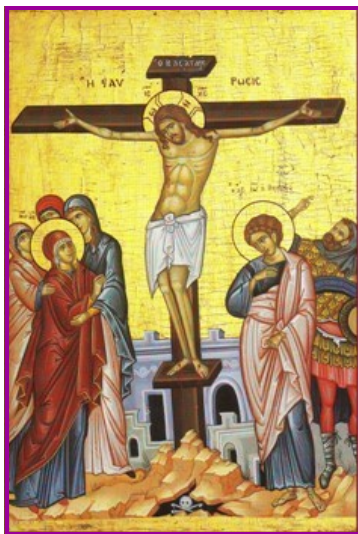
Special Meeting and Chat with
His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos

All families and youth welcome!

Bring your questions!



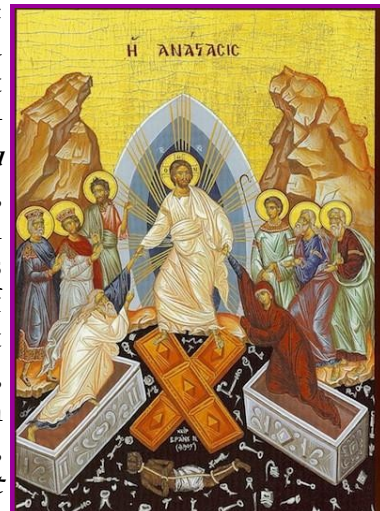
*Buried with You through Baptism, O Christ
our God, we have been granted immortal life
by Your Resurrection, and we sing Your
praises, saying: Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of
the Lord. (Apolytikion, Palm Sunday)*

From Father John (Continued from Page 1)

Holy Thursday is the turning point of Holy Week: Although the services become more powerful and admittedly much longer, the saving works of our Lord accelerate rapidly – within twelve hours we witness in hymns, readings and liturgical actions our Lord Jesus Christ washing the feet of His Disciples, instituting the Mystical Supper (the Eucharist), as well as His betrayal by Judas Iscariot, His agony in the garden of Gethsemane, His arrest, trial, mocking and scourging, His death sentence and, at the climax, His voluntary Crucifixion for the salvation of the world. That evening, after the fifth of twelve Gospel readings, the priest carries the Lord's Cross, just as Simon of Cyrene, and after placing the Crucified Lord in the midst of the faithful, he solemnly intones, *"We worship Your Passion, O Christ. Show us now Your glorious Resurrection."*

Although fresh off Spring Break this year, our faithful are encouraged to take an additional day off from school and work to be present for the beautiful, solemn and spiritually stirring services of Holy Friday. At the mid-afternoon service the priest reads the long Gospel passage recounting the Lord's Crucifixion and Death, and toward the end he pauses to bring the narrative home: He goes before the Cross, prostrates himself and then solemnly removes our Lord, wraps Him in a linen shroud, and places Him in the Altar, which becomes His Tomb. Shortly after, the priest processes the *Epitaphios* (the cloth icon of the Entombed Lord) around the Church and then gently lays Him in the Sepulcher. That night, the faithful gather in the Church for the Funeral of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with candles in hand all chant the Lamentations: *"In a grave they laid You, O my life and my Christ; and the armies of the angels were quite amazed, as they sang the praise of Your submissive love."*

The Vespertine Liturgy of Holy Saturday morning is replete with joyful anticipation, especially with the inspired and spirited chanting of our Youth Choir: Many prophecies from the Old Testament are read, prefiguring Christ's Resurrection on the third day and His power over Death. Just before the reading of the Holy Gospel, the priest sprinkles bay leaves all around the Church – as a symbol of Christ's victory – while chanting triumphantly: *"Arise, O God, and judge the earth, for You shall bring all nations to Your inheritance!"* Much later that night, thousands will assemble in the darkened Church and in the overflow section under the tent outside: If there is one service people will attend in a year, this is it, for all Orthodox Christians embrace Great and Holy Pascha as the Feast of all feasts. At midnight the Royal Doors are quickly opened and the priest lights the large Paschal Candle from the solitary flame of the Altar vigil lamp, and then raises it before the faithful, – as a visual expression that our Risen Christ has overcome the bonds of Hades and Death – proclaiming in chant, *"Come, receive the light from the Light that is never overtaken by night and glorify Christ, Who is risen from the dead."*



Καλο Πασχα και Καλη Ανασταση! May each of us experience, both internally and externally, a blessed Pascha and Resurrection!

With love in the Crucified and Risen Christ,

Father John

*From the nightwatch my spirit keeps vigil for You, O God, when judgments dawn upon the earth.
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

You and your family are cordially invited
to join His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos
for the Annual



Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon

Sunday, April 1, 2018

Salad, Baked Fish, Rice,
Briami, Skordalia,
Pita Bread and Dessert

Following the Divine Liturgy in Panos Hall

\$15 Per Person

Cash Bar: Beer and Wine

*Tickets are available from Parish Council Members
or at the Church Office*

Advanced purchase is encouraged as seating is limited at the door

Parish Council Report

Kali Anastasi!

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who volunteered during the Lenten period, and all who will volunteer during Holy Week leading up to Pascha, to make all the services and events a holy and pleasant experience for all of the Stewards and visitors. As we know, Father John, Father Seraphim and Father Paul work tirelessly to conduct the services and see to the spiritual needs of all. There are so many others to thank: The Ladies of Philoptochos, especially for providing the beautiful floral adornment of the Kouvouklion; the Myrrh-Bearers; the Acolytes; the Pall Bearers of the Holy Kouvouklion and Epitaphion; the Chanters; the Adult and Youth Choirs; the cooks and volunteer servers for the Palm Sunday Luncheon, as well as those who will tirelessly work the Agape Picnic after the late night Anastasi service. And the list goes on: We thank everyone for their time, talent and treasures during this holiest of times.

Additionally, we would like to thank Steve Likourinou for his closed circuit television setup in front of the Church. While this was originally done to compensate for the lack of extra seating in the Church due to the scaffolding, we may consider doing this annually to accommodate overflow on Good Friday and Holy Saturday services. The camera give the viewers an “up close” perspective of the services that is very special, and we appreciate Steve’s generosity in making this view available.

On another note, the Parish Council is in the process of addressing the security of our community with the design of a broad plan that includes entertaining bids from local security companies for an updated comprehensive video security system that is badly needed to replace the current outdated system. The safety of our Staff, Clergy and Stewards is of utmost importance and there will more to report on this after the April Parish Council Meeting.

The entire community is anxious about the situation with the Iconographers and, as previously reported, this is a fluid situation that is being addressed by the Parish Council with the assistance of our Legal Counsel and outside accounting firm. We are confident that the solution is in sight and, in addition, contingency plans are being considered as they must to ensure that this job can be completed in the timeliest way possible.

Now that we are about to celebrate Pascha, it is not time to gear up for the Annual Greek Food Festival, scheduled for September 14, 15 and 16. While scheduling the event for four days was discussed, we will continue with the three-day format and look forward to a successful event. The most noteworthy change will concern the raffle: Rather than raffling a car, the grand prize will be \$25,000 cash with the option of having that money paid directly toward a new car. We are in the process of having four dealers displaying their products as potential cars for the winner, which will add to the excitement and visual impact of the event. As always, the success of the Festival depends on us, namely the volunteers. If you have not been an active volunteer, please get involved. We all know that labor costs continue to be high because of lack of community involvement. Let us all commit to lowering the cost of outside labor by working as much as possible during these three days and recruiting our family and friends to help.

John Matsis, Parish Council Vice President

The Myrrh-Bearing Women, having come to Your Tomb, O Savior, heard an angel speaking clearly to them: “Why do you reckon among the dead the One Who lives? As God He has risen from the Tomb.”
(Evlogetaria, Holy Friday Evening)

2018 Stewardship Report (as of 3/21/18)

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$270,476
Stewardship Gifts Received: \$107,859
Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$162,618
Stewardship Families Pledged: 280
Average Pledge to Date: \$966

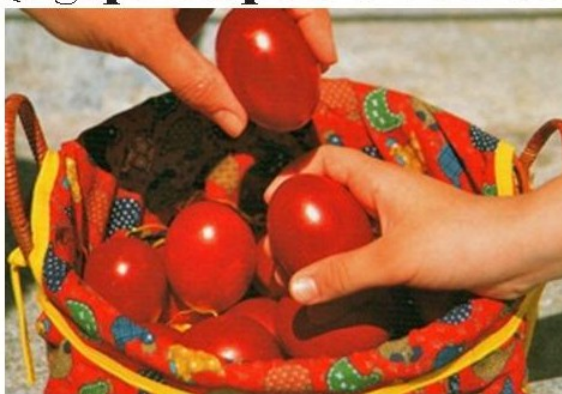


Please join us for our
AGAPE PICNIC

Holy Pascha ♦ Sunday, April 8, 2018

**St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
(On Hacienda between Jones and Torrey Pines)**

**12:00 noon to 4:00 pm
(Agape Vespers at noon, then the Picnic begins.)**



Tickets are \$25
for either one
Dinner Plate
(Lamb or Chicken)
or for Specialty Items

- ♦ Traditional Roasted Lamb or Chicken Dinner
- ♦ Specialty Items and Greek Pastries
- ♦ Greek Music and Dancing
- ♦ Covered Seating
- ♦ Easter Egg Hunt and Sports Activities
- ♦ Table Reservations are available and encouraged

Χριστος Ανεστη! Christ is Risen!

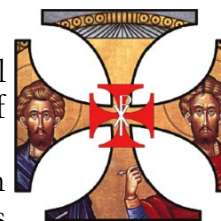
See Parish Council Members for tickets and reservations or call
Karen at the Church Office (702) 221-8245



Philoptochos News

Dearest Sisters of Philoptochos,

Καλή Ανασταση! With Palm Sunday on April 1, we will embark on Holy Week, which will lead us to the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Philoptochos is strong in its membership and continues to increase, not only in numbers, but in its philanthropic endeavors as well. I would like to thank all Philoptochos members for their prompt response to the stewardship notice. We are in the Philoptochos membership enrollment period, so once again I appeal to you: If you have never been a member, please become a new member; if you have been a member, please renew your stewardship! It is a great privilege and responsibility of every Greek Orthodox woman – whether baptized as an infant, converted as an adult, or married to an Orthodox – to be a Philoptochos member. Philoptochos women are blessed with Christ's Light of peace, hope and strength as we continue helping our brothers and sisters throughout the world and in our local community. Join us in emulating Christ's spirit of compassion and following His work of good will toward humanity.



On March 4 we had the pleasure of hosting the Pan-Orthodox Vespers Dinner in Panos Hall. Our Ladies Philoptochos served and offered a Lenten dinner and welcomed all of our Orthodox brothers and sisters from the different parishes in Las Vegas who attended the Vespers, which was presided by His Grace Bishop Maxim of the Serbian Orthodox Church. We are grateful to LeeAnn Eliakis for once again making and contributing the delicious lentil soup, Steve Tzelalis and Mike Beeler for making the flavorful salad and our board for bringing fresh fruit and helping with the set-up and serving.

On March 6, we had our Philoptochos General Meeting, at which we went over the remaining events of the year. Thank you to all the ladies who attended the meeting.

On Sunday, March 11, the Veneration of the Holy Cross, we were honored with a visit by Father Christopher Metropulos, President of Hellenic College Holy Cross, and four students. The Divine Liturgy, the chanting and the presentations were very uplifting. Our Philoptochos had a collection and hosted the Fellowship with fasolada, potato salad, green salad, bread, olives and Lenten cakes. Thank you to Effie Eliades Lekar for chairing the event, Steve Tzelalis for making the two salads, Vickie and John Kelesis for preparing and donating the fasolada soup and to all the volunteers who baked and helped on that day. The total collection from the baskets and the Lenten luncheon was \$2,044, in support of HCHC. We are grateful to our community for their contributions to this worthy cause.



Upcoming Events

● **Wine Wagon:** Please buy raffle tickets so you can have a chance to win a wagon full of very good wine. The drawing will be on Pascha, April 8, at the Agape Picnic – winner need not be present. Tickets are \$5 each and are on sale through Palm Sunday and then again at the Agape Picnic. Luanne and Penny Philippou are in charge of this fun event. Please donate two bottles of wine of your preference, red or white (minimum \$10 per bottle), and bring them to Church through Palm Sunday. The proceeds will benefit the Philoptochos charities.

● **Palm Sunday Luncheon, Sunday, April 1:** His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos will honor us with his presence, celebrating Palm Sunday with us. Following the Divine Liturgy, our community is invited to a traditional Fish Luncheon in Panos Hall. Philoptochos members and volunteers are needed with the set-up and decorating on Saturday and serving on Sunday. Please contact Geri Kypreos regarding the times at gkypreos@aol.com. Philoptochos will also be having a collection for Epitaphio flowers on Palm Sunday.

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Stewardship and Community Outreach

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Glory be to God for all things! As we come to the end of Great Lent and Holy Week we prepare to celebrate the greatest gift ever given to mankind: The gift of the Lord's salvific Passion and Resurrection, which opened a pathway back to God's Kingdom, closed since the fall of Adam and Eve.



With this in mind, let us always remember that on Earth we are guests in the household of Christ. If we are at table eating, it is He Who honors us. If we breathe air, it is His air we breathe. If we bathe, it is in His water that we bathe. When we travel, He travels with us, and it is over His land that we travel. If we are gathered together, we are His guests. If we enjoy the beauty of Earth's nature, we are in His garden. When alone, He is always with us. No matter what we do, He remembers it.

The goods we amass in our lives are His goods. If we recklessly squander these goods, we are squandering His goods. If we use these goods to His Glory, with love in our hearts, He will repay us a hundredfold. As the *Gospel of Luke (16:10)* notes, *"He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much."*

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ demonstrates complete faithfulness to the will of the Father: May we likewise be faithful in the use of the abundant gifts with which the Lord has blessed us to act in accordance with His will, so that on Judgment Day we may hear those beautiful words from Christ *"Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord."* (Matthew 25:21)

Καλή Ανασταση – Blessed Resurrection! May everything we do be for His Glory!
Stewardship and Community Outreach Committee

Mindful of what befell the fig tree, withered for its barrenness, brethren, let us bear fruits worthy of repentance to Christ, Who in turn bestows on us great mercy. (Aposticha, Bridegroom Service)

Philoptochos News (Continued from Page 8)

● *Dyeing of Red Eggs, Thursday, April 5:* Andrea Takas and Effie Eliades Lekar are again chairing the dyeing of the red eggs provided by Philoptochos for the Midnight Resurrection Liturgy and Agape Picnic. Many hands are needed – please contact Effie for more information at agapi1993@icloud.com.

● *Decorate Epitaphios, Holy Friday Morning, April 6:* Ernestine Kachikis is again spearheading the decoration for the Epitaphios. Please come appropriately dressed and participate in the decoration of the Kouvouklion (Our Lord's Tomb) following the Royal Hours at 10:00 am. Donations for the flowers for Holy Friday and Pascha can be dropped off or mailed to St. John the Baptist Church: Please make your check payable to Ladies Philoptochos Society and put "Epitaphio Flowers" in the memo line. The generosity of members of the community is greatly appreciated.

● *Pastry Sales at Agape Picnic, Holy Pascha, Sunday, April 8:* Each year Philoptochos sells pastries to benefit the Church. This year Amanda Flangas and Bernadette Anthony are chairing pastry sales. Koulourakia and kourambietes are needed – please contact Amanda at agflangas@cox.net or Bernadette at bernadette.anthony@gmail.com for more information.

May Christ bless you and your families during Holy Week and Pascha!
With Love in Christ, Vicky Palivos, Philoptochos President

Youth and Family Ministries

Church School

Kalo Pascha and Kali Anastasi!

Can you believe that it is this wonderful time of year again? Pascha is just around the corner. Please encourage your children to attend the services of Holy Week along with you.

We are still collecting money for "Missions Possible." The collection will end on Palm Sunday, April 1 (though I will not turn away money for our mission Churches if you come to me later). I will be handing out treats in our classes for the students who bring coins in their cups. There will also be a collection outside of the Church doors.

Here are a few important dates and some activities to get involved in:

On *Saturday of Lazaros, March 31*, after the 9:00 am Divine Liturgy we will have a light Lenten breakfast followed by Palm Cross Tying. Every year we tie about 1,500 palms. Please come and help us continue this beautiful tradition: Many hands help ease the load!



Later, at 5:00 pm we will have Great Vespers for Palm Sunday with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. After Vespers the Metropolitan will have a 30 minute chat with the youth. This is a great way for you and your children to spend time with His Eminence, develop a relationship, ask some questions and learn a few things. Please try to make it to this important event. He loves connecting with our youth and we would love a great turn out.

The following day is Palm Sunday, when His Eminence will celebrate the Divine Liturgy, then bless and distribute the palm crosses. The annual Fish Luncheon will follow Liturgy – we hope you can attend this event since Metropolitan Gerasimos will be our honored guest. Then at 7:00 pm His Eminence will preside at the First Bridegroom Service in our Church.

All youth are encouraged to join us on *Holy Friday, April 6 at 3:00 pm* for the annual Children's Procession with the Epitaphios. This is a beautiful parish tradition, which includes a special discussion with Father John and Father Seraphim at the end of the service.

Please also join us for the *Agape Picnic on Pascha Sunday, April 8 at noon*, for a lamb dinner followed by our annual Egg Hunt. If you would like to donate filled eggs, please drop them off to Karen or to your child's teacher by *Holy Thursday, April 5*.

Lastly, save the date: *Church School Commencement is on Sunday, May 20*.

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

Youth Choir News



Kali Anastasi!

We had a small but very mighty little group chanting the responses to the Salutations Services and the Akathist Hymn on the Friday evenings of Lent. Kudos to the children and their parents for participating in those beautiful services.

We have been asked *to join forces with the Adult Choir on Palm Sunday, April 1*. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos will be in attendance that weekend. It has been several years since we have been up in the Choir Loft on Palm Sunday – it will be a wonderful opportunity to chant some responses from up there. We will sing portions of the Divine Liturgy by ourselves so I need everybody in attendance early: *Please be up in the Choir Loft no later than 9:45 am*.

The Youth Choir's favorite service (and much beloved by our Parish members) is the Divine Liturgy on *Holy Saturday morning* – which includes the Hymn of the Three Youths. We meet at *8:45 am sharp*, as our favorite hymns are chanted in the beginning of the Service. We get our Pascha goodie gifts *on that day only*.

Praise the Lord and exalt Him to all ages! A Blessed Pascha to all!

Love in Christ, Presvytera Maria

Orthodox Family Fellowship

We will once again have the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos' presence for Palm Sunday weekend. He will be meeting with our youth for an informal discussion on *Saturday of Lazaros, March 31, after the 5:00 pm Great Vespers*. Please join us, as His Eminence loves connecting with our kids!

Also, do not forget that on that morning, *following the 9:00 am Divine Liturgy*, we will have our annual *Palm Cross Tying* event. Come, have a bite to eat and learn how to tie crosses with us!

Finally, we will celebrate our Lord's Resurrection with our families at the *Agape Picnic on Sunday, April 8* and participate in the *Pascha Egg Hunt* at the picnic! Join us for the great food and fun!

In Christ, Amy Khuri and Jelena Boskovic, OFF Advisors

GOYA ~ For Teenagers

Dear GOYANs,

Thank you so much for coming out to our Annual Teen Lenten Retreat! A wonderful time was had by all . . . with Holy Confession and prayer, fellowship, fun and games, eating together, bonding with each other and the Lord! Hopefully we all came away with a deeper understanding of our Orthodox identity in this technologically saturated world we live in. *A special and huge thank you to our parents and young adults who volunteered so many hours of their time*, and for bringing our teens to this event – truly, without major parent support, this retreat could not have happened.



Beginning April 1, as we progress through Holy Week and finally arrive to Great and Holy Pascha, we ask that all our GOYANs attend some of the Holy Week services – especially Holy Friday, Holy Saturday and Holy Pascha (see Father John for an absence letter for School).

Again this year we will have the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos' presence for Palm Sunday weekend. He will be meeting with GOYA for a discussion on *Saturday of Lazaros, March 31, after 5:00 pm Great Vespers*. Please join us! Also, do not forget that on that morning, *following the Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am*, we



will have our *annual Palm Cross Tying* event. Please join your GOYA friends as we tie palm crosses and decorate the Church.

Finally, we will need all hands on deck from GOYANs and their parents for our *red egg wrapping and Agape Picnic setup on Holy Saturday, April 7, following the 9:00 am Divine Liturgy*.

With Love in Christ, June Likourinou and Kouli Pouridis, GOYA Advisors

From Father Seraphim

*“In congregations bless ye God, the Lord from the well-springs of Israel.”
(Psalm 68:26 - the Entrance Hymn of Pascha)*

It is not without purpose that we hear these words in the middle of the Feast of Feasts, the Paschal Divine Liturgy, together with the invitation in the Canon of Pascha to . . . “Come drink a new drink,” not “brought forth from a barren rock,” as in the Old Testament, but which rather “springs forth from the tomb of Christ.” Water is a precious element. Without it there is no life. In Genesis we learn that all life began in the waters and is sustained by water. Thus, in the Sunday Gospel readings following the Resurrection of the Lord we are found at the Sheep’s pool, the Well of Jacob, and the Pool of Siloam. It is during this festive period that we hear our Lord’s words concerning the “living water”: *“Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:14)* Our Savior Himself is the living water, which we receive through Baptism wherein we put on Christ; He is the Cup of Life, uniting Himself with the faithful through the Eucharist, unto remission of sins and life everlasting.



The days following Pascha are treated liturgically as a single day – every day is Pascha for a whole week, which we call Bright Week! We sing Resurrectional hymns in all eight tones, there is no fasting, no kneeling, the bay leaves and flowers remain in the Church and the doors to the Altar remain open – it truly is the greatest week of our lives and our year as Orthodox Christians. A major celebration immediately following Pascha Sunday is the feast of *the Theotokos, the Life-Giving Spring*, commemorated on the Friday of Bright Week (April 13).

The shrine of the Virgin of the Spring, later called the *Zoodochos Pege* (Life-Receiving Spring in Greek actually, as Panagia received Christ in her womb) was founded on the outskirts of Constantinople in the fifth century, during the reign of Leo I (457-474). Before ascending the throne Leo found this spring while searching for water for a thirsty blind man just outside the land walls of the city.

The Theotokos appeared to Leo and directed him to the spring, blocked up with mud, which miraculously restored the man’s sight. As a thanksgiving offering for the miracle, Leo built on the site of the spring a small shrine; its waters have been revealed as a source of healing up to the present day. In the sixth century the emperor Justinian, cured of a urinary ailment by water from this Spring, commissioned the construction of a domed Church. This Church, although damaged by earthquakes on several occasions and restored, survived until the fifteenth or sixteenth century.

The feast-day was established in the early 14th century under the Emperor Andronikos II (1282-1328) and the service for the feast was written by Nikephoros Kallistos Xanthopoulos, an ecclesiastical writer and Church historian. It was also at this time that the Church received its name, *Zoodochos Pege* (Ζωοδόχος Πηγή). We should not be surprised that the Lord in the greatest moment of His triumph over death should also allow us to honor His Holy Mother. She stood by His cross and shared His suffering. St. Gregory Palamas tells us she waited at the Tomb and was the first to behold Christ (*Homily on the Myrrh Bearing Women*), and she was greeted once again by the Archangel Gabriel with good news – this time about the Resurrection! In the 9th ode of the Canon of Pascha we sing, “Rejoice! Rejoice, O New Jerusalem in the Rising of the One you bore.” On this feast of the Theotokos, the Life Giving Spring, we rejoice together with the Panagia in the Resurrected Lord.

Blessed Resurrection!

Father Seraphim

Adult and Young Adult Ministries

Young Adults

Kalo Pascha!

Thank you to everyone who came out for our Lenten Bowling night in March.

Our next gathering will take place on *Sunday, April 22 at 3:00 pm* in our very own backyard (literally)! We are going to have our very own YA picnic in the field behind the Church. Elizabeth Arbuiso will be providing sandwiches for everyone, so please bring a side dish, salad, dessert or drink to share as well as your lawn chairs, and your favorite backyard game/ball/Frisbee. We are looking forward to getting our Vitamin D and playing volleyball, as well as enjoying the love and communion of fellowship in Christ!

With love, Elizabeth Arbuiso, on behalf of the Young Adults Advisors

Mr. & Mrs. - A Couples Fellowship



Dear M&Ms,

This month we will meet at *Yassou Greek Grill Cafe on Thomas Sunday, April 15, at 1:00 pm*. Peter Papas is graciously opening his restaurant to us to enjoy some great food and fellowship. The price is \$15 per person for a Paschal season feast – and we are encouraged to bring some wine to share with fellow couples.

Please RSVP with Father Seraphim by *Wednesday, April 11* so we can get a head count to Peter.

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

Kali Parea - “Good Company” for the 40+ Crowd

Great and Holy Pascha is on Sunday, April 8! Keeping our focus on Christ, Kali Parea is keeping things simple this month. I have reserved a table for Kali Parea at *both the Palm Sunday Luncheon and at the Agape Picnic on Holy Pascha*. Please see me for your tickets, so we can sit together – and please volunteer to help if you are available for the Agape Picnic as we will need all hands on deck for this wonderful community-wide event!

Demetrious Asim, Advisor

Forerunners - The Seniors of St. John the Baptist

Kalo Pascha!

Holy Pascha, being early this year, changed our April Luncheon/Meeting for the Forerunners. Please note that we will be getting together on *Monday, April 16 at 11:30 am*. A delicious lunch will be hosted and prepared by Atria Senior Living.

Our March gathering was light on attendees due to colds, etc. Those who attended enjoyed a Lenten vegetable medley prepared by our Master Chef Sam and his crew. As always our fellowship was great. Recently I had the pleasure of speaking with our seniors Dina Delalis in Elgin, IL and Georgia Kourlos in Boston, MA. Both are doing well and send their best to all our Forerunners and to all in the Parish. I also enjoyed a visit recently with our Forerunner, Kindina Malamatos.

Please take a minute and call one of our seniors who may be at home, in a hospital or a facility, and who cannot come and join us. I am sure it would be much appreciated.

Love in Christ, Victoria Xikis, on behalf of the Forerunners

Soul, you have heard the sentence pronounced on him who hid his talent, so do not bury God's word. Rather, proclaim His wonders, so that abounding in grace, you may enter into the joy of your Lord.
(Lauds, Holy Monday Evening Bridegroom Service)

Notes from the Choir Loft



Kalo Pascha!

Thank you to those who were able to attend our Friday rehearsals during Lent! It is important that we prepare ourselves to sing the hymns for Holy Week and Pascha. We will be singing the services for Palm Sunday, the Bridegroom services on Palm Sunday, Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday, Holy Friday evening and Holy Pascha. We will also have rehearsals on Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday and Holy Wednesday **at 6:00 pm** before the services. Thank you for your time and dedication!

Athena Mertes, Choir Director

Adult Basketball



Join us for a pick-up basketball game *every Monday evening at 7:00 pm in Panos Hall*. No basketball on Holy Monday. Please call *George Chomakos at (702) 523-8675* to be added to the basketball email list.

AHEPA

Thank you all for participating in and celebrating March 25, Greek Independence Day.

Please mark your calendars for our April Meeting on *April 10 at 6:30 pm* in Kokkos Hall. We will be accepting nominations for the Following Executive Board Positions: President, Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. Voting and Confirmation of the newly elected board will be announced during the meeting on *May 1*.

Kouli Pouridis



Adult Study with Father John

The Period of the Pentecostarion: Sunday Readings and Hymns

*Meets Every Wednesday, Starting April 18 - 7:00 - 8:30 pm
in the Church - Bring Your Bibles (RSV Preferred)*

For with the Lord is mercy and full redemption . . .

Orthodox Bookstore

Καλή Ανασταση from the Bookstore!

This month we are featuring *On the Incarnation* by Saint Athanasios. From the introduction by CS Lewis: "When I first opened his *De Incarnatione* I soon discovered I was reading a masterpiece . . . for only a mastermind could have written so deeply on a subject with such classical simplicity."

Excerpt from Chapter One:

"This, then, was the plight of men. God had not only made them out of nothing, but had also graciously bestowed on them His own life by the grace of the Word. Then, turning from eternal things to things corruptible, by counsel of the devil, they had become the cause of their own corruption in death; for as I said before, though they were by nature subject to corruption, the grace of their union with the Word made them capable of escaping from the natural law, provided that they retained the beauty of innocence with which they were created. That is to say, the presence of the Word with them shielded them even from natural corruption, as also Wisdom says: God created man for incorruption and as an image of His own eternity; but by envy of the devil death entered into the world. When this happened, men began to die, and corruption ran riot among them and held sway over them to an even more than natural degree, because it was the penalty of which God had forewarned them for transgressing the commandment."

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

Memories of Lent 2018



*Pan Orthodox Vespers with
His Grace Bishop Maxim*



*More photos
on Page 17.*

Father Christopher Metropoulos, President of Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, visited our Parish on the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross. Father Chris and four students from HCHC came to promote the college and seminary and speak of the unique experience of attending the only Greek Orthodox Institute of Higher Education in the US. The students were: Lydia Charles, Vasili Grigoriadis, Ioannis Zempos and Demetrios Constantine.

Philoptochos took up a collection and hosted a luncheon after services.

ORTHODOXY STRONG ~ STEWARDS 2018

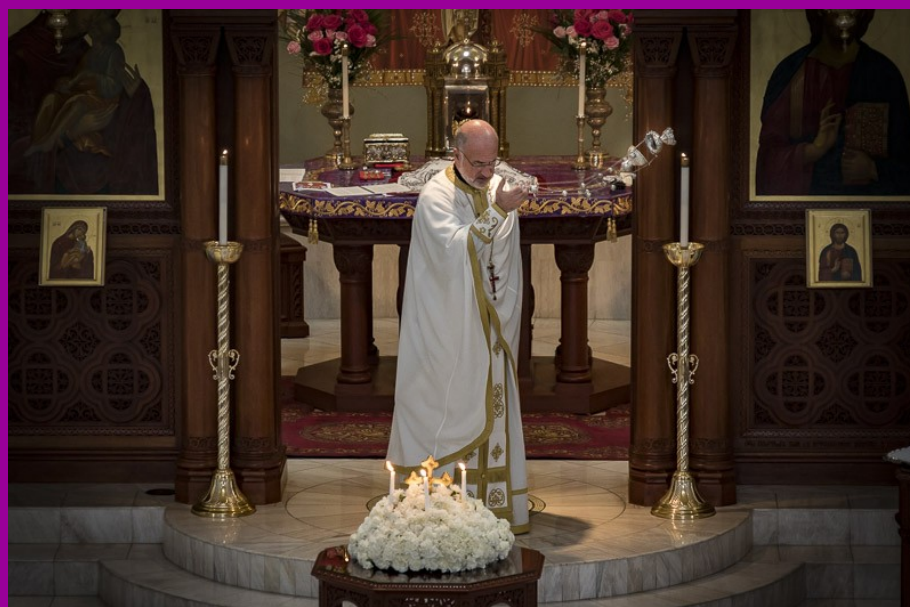
| | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Adamy, Marina | Demoleas, Stephanie | Kambouris, Litsa | Nixon, John and Ellyn |
| Alex, Steve | Diamantis, Filippas | Kanis, Constantinos and Katie | Olmsted, Travis and Marilyn |
| Alexander, Eleni | Dominguez, Eric and Amalia | Karas, James | Orlando, Alleck and Jennifer |
| Alhayek, Majd and Areen | Dounis, Dina | Karas, John and Marcie | Pahigiannis, Nikon |
| Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine | Dounis, Georgia | Karris, Mark and Suzanne | Paikos, Thomas and Elizabeth |
| Anastasiou, Andrew and Kathleen | Dounis, Kiki | Katopodis, Efstratios | Palivos, Peter and Vicky |
| Andrews, Catherine | Dudunakis, Michael | Katris, Nick | Pallis, Paul |
| Andrews, Chris and Pamela | Earl, Christine Michaelides | Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon | Pandelis, Cheryl |
| Andrews, George | Eliades, Artemisa | Kelesis, Paula | Panos, William and Jeanne |
| Andricopoulos, Margo | Eliades, Gregory and Maria | Kiflezgi, Rahel | Papas, Peter and Rita |
| Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette | Eliades, Harry and Agapi | Kinard, Panorea | Papas, Christian and Nicole |
| Anton, Mike and Carol | Eliades, Peter | Kofinas, Maria | Pappas, Constantine and Karina |
| Arcamuzi, Georgia | Eliakis, John | Koliambas, Eleni | Pappas, Rita |
| Aristides, George and Diana | Eliakis, Peter and Glenda | Kostopoulos, Georgia | Payan, Luis and Eleni |
| Asim, Demetrious | Eliakis, Varthie and LeeAnn | Kountanis, Panagiota | Pelletier, Michael |
| Austgen, Harold Max | Eliopulos, Goldie | Kourlos, Georgia | Pendleton, Patricia |
| Balaouras, Panos and Helen | Eyler, John and Elizabeth | Koutsulis, John and Eileen | Pentogenis, Katherine |
| Balason, Anna | Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean | Koutsulis, Sam and Effie | Peratikos, Tony |
| Baldwin, Richard and Vivi | Filios, George and Nitsa | Koutsulis, Sam | Pertsinides, Irene and |
| Balodimas, James | Fischer, Bob and Cheryl | Kypreos, George and Lesley | Arbusio, Elizabeth |
| Barbarino, Demetra | Fitzgerald, Norman and McCullen, Sandra | Kypreos, Peter and Geri | Petro, Aleko and Georgia |
| Bartzos, Sam and Eugenia | Flangas, Bill and Marilyn | Latelle, Penny | Petrou, James and Penelopi |
| Beeler, Mike and Carolyn | Flangas, Gus and Tamara | Lathouris, Evan and Vicki | Philippou, Demetrios and Luanne |
| Beeman, Karl, Sr. and Benita | Floyd, Charles and Maria | Lazarakis, John and Panagiota | Pierro, Joe and Rhonda |
| Berendji, Jim and Vivian | Foster, Kyle and Maria | Lekar, Caroline | Pitts, Anton and Athena |
| Bernier, Micah and Alissa | Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia | Lekar, Michael and Effie | Platis, Anna |
| Berta, Irene | Frangakis, Constantine | Lemper, Brian and Betsy | Polimerou, Angeline |
| Bieker, Adam and Cassie | Frangakis, John | Leonis, Nick and Sophia | Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra |
| Bland, Robert and Maria | Frangakis, Sophocles | Leonis, Tishe | Poulos, Christine |
| Bochanis, George and Enid | Garza, Evarardo and Eliades, Eleni | Leventis, Naomi | Pouridis, Kouli and Para |
| Bratta, Georgene | Gauvin, Chad and Marissa | Leventis, Nicholas and Christina | Powers, Russell and Rebecca |
| Britten, Ronald and Carol | Generales, John and Arlene | Liaos, Jim and Tina | Punsalan, Basil and Sophie |
| Brown, Faye | Georgoulakis, Mary Ellen | Liaos, Steve and Francine | Pursell, Robert and Mary |
| Bruninga, Bill and Erin | Giouzelis, Anastasia | Liaos, William and Irene | Radosta, Athena |
| Bucy, Brent and Elaine | Gianakoulis, Nick and Magda | Likourinou, Angie | Ramos, Fr. Seraphim and Presv. Olenka |
| Campbell, Paul and Victoria | Goodman, Linda | Likourinou, Steve and June | Rifakes, John |
| Capre, Julio and Betty | Gott, C. Thomas and Kitty | Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine | Rigas, Evie |
| Carabas, Stephen and Linda | Gousdovas, Nikos | Loughton, Dustin and Rena | Rihani, Gary and Linda |
| Carahalios, John and Jillian | Hadzoglon, Christos | Malamatos, Kindina | Rodis, Dimitri |
| Caredis, Jon and Marjorie | Hamilton, Mary | Maniatakos, Ted and Maria | Rodis, Sophia |
| Carrico, William and Alexandra | Hamilton, Paul and Brandi | Manolakos, Catherine | Rosenthal, Joseph and Stephanie |
| Carter, Maria | Harrison, Angie and Schildmeyer, Christine | Manos, Constantine and Michele | Rotas, Beatrice |
| Chachas, Bessie | Hayes, Tulla | Mansour, Muna | Rouvas, John and Keri |
| Chachas, James | Hemmers, Oliver and Pantelas, Anne | Matsis, John and Rebecca | Ruffner, Skip and Kathy |
| Chagares, Kiki | Hetzal, David and Joanne | Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki | Salon, Janelle |
| Chandrinos, Alexia | Hoadrea, Jimmy and Monci | Mavrantonis, Theofania | Salonikis, Valentinos and Sophia |
| Chanos, Jennifer | Hondros, Catherine | Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debra | Santamaria, Jennifer |
| Chomakos, Jeremy and Romina | Hondros, Christina | Mavros, Debbie | Savvas, Savva |
| Chondrakis, Dimos | Hondros, Christopher and Darlene | Mavroudis, Frank and Vess, Olga | Setian, Gary and Marie |
| Christian, Clair and Chloe | Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria | McManus, Jeanette | Shaffer, Travis and Veneta |
| Collins, David | Hoover, Patrick and Pauline | McKinney, Michael and Mersene | Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia |
| Cominos, Ted | Houlis, Ila and Debbie | McSweeney, Farolyn | Smith, Kathleen |
| Conger, William and Alexia | Howard, William and Willie | Melton, Donald and Susan | Snow, Adrienne |
| Costuros, George and Marsha | Iteen, Robert and Sophia | Menegato, James | Snow, Clifford and Christina |
| Cosulas, Fr. Basil and Presv. Samantha | Kachikis, Paul and Ernestine | Moffett, Todd and Eliopulos, Tina | Snowden, Robert and Niki |
| Cotsilis, Jenny | Kakavulias, Christina | Monoyudis, Jim and Julie | Sparangis, Helen + |
| Crist, Adam and Kanistra | Kakavulias, George and Helen | Mulopulos, George and Jenny | Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette |
| Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia | Kakavulias, John and Elizabeth | Myers, Stella | Spotti, Peter and Alexandra |
| Dalacas, Eleni | | Neocleous, Plato | Staub, Douglas and Anastasia |
| Daskalos, George and Voula | | Nicholas, John and Estella | Stavropoulos, Bessie |
| DeMangus, Joanne | | Nichols, George and Tereza | Stenos, Louis |
| Demolas, Maria and Nour, Reza | | Nichols, Stella | Stevens, Charles and Mary |
| | | Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra | Stransky, Mark |

STEWARDS 2018

Stransky, Jack and Gladys
Susmani, Krystle
Szukiewicz, Alex
Szukiewicz, Joseph and Jennia
Szukiewicz, Joseph
Tafoya, Steven and Irene
Takas, Andrea
Tasios, Ramona and Pete
Thanos, Nick and Victoria
Thompson, Maggy
Tobin, Jean
Thome, Tony and May
Tringas, Chris and Bridgette

Tsirailidis, Kosmas and
Katerina
Tsolis, Christos and Panagioula
Tzelalis, Antonia
Velimorivic, Nikolaj and Maja
Vervilos, James and Anna
Vlahos, Thomas and
Demas, Rita
Wadlow, Nicholas and Pamela
Walter, Vernon and Alice
Welles, Brigitte
Wheeler, Charles and Alyce
Wilcox, Thalia

Wilkerson, Chuck and
Kristina
Wilson, Steven and Cleo
Wirtz, Athena
Womack, Karl
Womack, Kimberly
Wood, Nadine
Wronski, Chuck
Xerogianes, Nick and Nikki
Xikis, Victoria
Zaferatos, Ted
Zarras, Nick and Chery
Zimmerman, Paul and Angela
Zmina, Stephen and Cynthia



Photos by Bill Bruninga

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Las Vegas, NV 89118

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frjohn@vegaskgreekorthodox.com

Rev. Father Seraphim Ramos
frseraphim@vegaskgreekorthodox.com

Karen Rawlinson
Administrative Assistant

Rebekah Black
Bookkeeper

Mara Braun
Catering & Events

Constantin Petriuc & Ramona Tasios
Maintenance & Grounds

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

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www.vegaskgreekorthodox.com

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 Parea: 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

Greek Language Program

Greek Language Classes continue for both adults and children. The children performed the Greek National Anthem and recited poems on Sunday, March 25 after Liturgy, to commemorate Greek Independence Day in conjunction with AHEPA. There will be no classes on Holy Tuesday, April 3, but we will resume on *Tuesday, April 10*.

Καλη Ανασταση! Paula Kelesis, Greek School Director

Our Community Registry

Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisi

Athanasia Panagiota, daughter of George and Lesley Kypreos, on March 10, 2018.

Godparent: Demetra Dandolos.

Chrismation

Anastasia (Jean) Tobin on March 18, 2018.

Sponsor: Eleni Bruninga.



We Love Our Mother!

Church Account Summaries ~ March 2018

| Nevada State Bank Accounts | January | Deposits | Transfers In | Withdraws/ Checks | Transfers Out | February | Notes |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---|
| | Ending Balance | | | | | Ending Balance | |
| General Operating Account (GOA) | \$31,884.41 | \$35,050.00 | \$13,912.32 | \$16,557.70 | \$46,524.14 | \$17,764.89 | |
| Community and Education (C&E) | \$7,962.59 | | | \$1,200.00 | | \$6,762.59 | |
| Greek Food Festival (GFF) | \$73,228.73 | | | | | \$73,228.73 | |
| Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O) | \$307,255.38 | \$90.00 | \$1,000.00 | \$1,350.00 | \$608.48 | \$306,386.90 | |
| Folk Dance Group | \$15,496.24 | | | \$558.20 | \$973.51 | \$13,964.53 | |
| Mortgage Account | \$41,734.66 | | | | \$5,201.14 | \$36,533.52 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Designated Funds | January | Deposits | Transfers In | Withdraws/ Checks | Transfers Out | February | Notes |
| | Ending Balance | | | | | Ending Balance | |
| Bookstore | \$13,570.60 | \$40.00 | | \$1,350.00 | \$608.48 | \$11,652.12 | |
| Ornaments | \$1,077.41 | | | | | \$1,077.41 | |
| Restricted Funds | January | Deposits | Transfers In | Withdraws/ Checks | Transfers Out | February | Notes |
| | Ending Balance | | | | | Ending Balance | |
| ICON | \$273,542.96 | \$50.00 | | | | \$273,592.96 | |
| Library Account | \$1,470.77 | | | | | \$1,470.77 | Account owed \$21,000. Funds used to make payroll and pay bills in 2015 |
| Giving Tree | \$4,450.91 | \$1,000.00 | | | | \$5,450.91 | Giving Tree - Malamatos |
| Building Fund | \$8,811.80 | | | | | \$8,811.80 | Fuel Pumps, Building Supplies |
| Youth Choir | \$3,069.82 | | | | | \$3,069.82 | |
| Church School | \$1,306.37 | | | | | \$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 | \$307,255.38 | \$1,090.00 | \$0.00 | \$1,350.00 | \$608.48 | \$306,386.90 | |
| Other Funds | January | Deposits | Transfers In | Withdraws/ Checks | Transfers Out | February | Notes |
| | Ending Balance | | | | | Ending Balance | |
| Kokkos Scholarship Fund | \$58,169.84 | | | | | \$58,169.84 | |



APRIL 2018 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| 1 Palm Sunday 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Hierarchical Liturgy with Met. Gerasimos <i>Fish Luncheon</i> 7:00 pm 1st Bridegroom Service | 2 Holy Monday 6:00 pm Adult Choir Practice in Choir Loft 7:00 pm 2nd Bridegroom Service | 3 Holy Tuesday 6:00 pm Adult Choir Practice in Choir Loft 7:00 pm 3rd Bridegroom Service <i>Hymn of Kassiani</i> | 4 Holy Wednesday 9:00 am Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm Adult Choir Practice in Choir Loft 7:00 pm Holy Unction <i>Anointing with Holy Oil</i> | 5 Holy Thursday 9:00 am Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil 7:00 pm Holy Passion of Our Lord <i>Reading of the 12 Gospels</i> | 6 Holy Friday 10:00 am Royal Hours <i>Decorate Kouvouklion</i> 3:00 pm Removal of Christ from the Cross <i>Children's Procession</i> 7:00 pm Lamentations | 7 Holy Saturday 9:00 am Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil 11:00 pm Resurrection Vigil |
| 8 Holy Pascha 12:00 am Resurrection Orthros and Divine Liturgy <i>Blessing of Red Eggs</i> 12:00 pm Agape Vespers and Picnic | 9 7:00 pm Adult Basketball | 10 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes 6:30 pm AHEPA Meeting in Kokkos Hall | 11 | 12 | 13 Life-Giving Spring 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy <i>Church Cleanup follows</i> | 14 |
| 15 Thomas Sunday 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 1:00 pm Mr. & Mrs. at Yassou Greek Grill Cafe | 16 11:30 am Forerunners Luncheon in Panos Hall 7:00 pm Adult Basketball | 17 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes 6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting in Library | 18 7:00 pm Adult Study | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 3:00 pm Young Adults Picnic on Church Field | 23 St. George 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Adult Basketball | 24 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes | 25 7:00 pm Adult Study | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy | 30 7:00 pm Adult Basketball | | | | <div> <p><i>Christ is Risen from the dead by death trampling down upon death and to those in the tombs He has granted life.</i></p> </div> | |
| | | | | | | |

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

*The great Moses prefigured this mystically,
saying, "And God blessed the seventh day."
For this is truly the blessed Sabbath;
this is truly the day of rest,
when the only-begotten Son of God
"rested from all His work
which He had done," through the
dispensation of death resting in the body.
Returning to it through the Resurrection,
He granted us eternal life
as the only good and loving Lord.
(Doxastikon, Holy Saturday Morning Liturgy)*

***Καλη Ανασταση!
Blessed Resurrection!***

