

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 16, Issue 9 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

October 2018

From Father John

Beloved in Christ:

The weather was unusually hot and there was a lot of competing activity in our city, yet we were blessed with a crowd of loyal supporters who made it a priority to partake of our many Greek culinary offerings and join in the spirit of "Opal" as they have for the past 46 years – and for this, we thank God! Under the inimitable leadership of Gus Flangas and with the commendable commitment of our staff, captains and volunteers – as well as the invaluable hands on labor of the Red Rock Search and Rescue team – this year's Greek Festival was an impressive event for all who attended: Thank God for all of you who cared enough to sacrifice so many hours for the good of our Parish!

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; while most people come for our delicious food, many souls we also drawn to and appreciated the spiritual food we also provided – so many of our attendees thanked us for offering this event and sharing our beautiful Church and Faith. Nearly 20,000 visitors passed by our magnificent Church as they entered the Festival grounds, and most assuredly many were moved by the beautiful mosaic icons that adorn the exterior of our holy place of worship.

One of our exterior icons – which I encourage all of us to observe more closely as we enter the Church this month – is that of St. Gerasimos, the patron of the Island of Cephalonia whom we commemorate on **October 20**. In the hands of this great saint there is a scroll which reads, "*Children, find peace within yourselves and do not seek lofty places.*" This wonderful teaching, which paraphrases a passage in *Ecclesiastes (10:6)*, reminds us that we must continuously seek the spiritual peace that only Jesus Christ gives and imitate His genuine humility.

St. Gerasimos was born in the early 16th century in Trikala, Peloponnesos and from a young age was drawn to the life of an ascetic: When he reached the age of maturity, he went to Mount Athos to become a monk and upon leaving the holy mountain he made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, where he eventually served as a lamp-lighter at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The Patriarch Germanos ordained Gerasimos to the diaconate and then to the priesthood, but even as a priest he continued to live as an ascetic, spending five years in solitude. Eventually the holy Gerasimos made his way to the lush Island of Cephalonia, where he lived in a cave that he dug in the earth, overlooking the sea, around which he personally planted many plane trees (which still exist) – until the Lord called him to establish and build a convent at Omala.

After 30 years in Cephalonia, St. Gerasimos fell asleep in the Lord on August 15, 1579, at the age of 71 – and when his grave was opened two years later, as is the custom in Greece, his body was found fragrant and incorrupt with a healing power. When canonized, the celebration of St. Gerasimos' falling asleep was moved to August 16 so as to not conflict with the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos; the disinterment of his sacred body is commemorated on October 20.



(Continued on Page 3)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Wednesday, October 3

6:00 pm Special Paraklesis to the Theotokos for our Icons

Sunday, October 7/3rd Sunday of Luke/

Ss. Sergius and Bacchus

*Hierarchical Liturgy with Metropolitan Gerasimos
National Church Music Sunday*

Orthros: Tone Two

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

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-33, 12:1-9

Gospel: Luke 7:11-16

Sunday, October 14/Holy Fathers of the Seventh
Ecumenical Council/Martyrs Nazarios, Gervasios,
Protasios and Celcius

Youth Choir Chants

Orthros: Tone Three

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

Epistle: Titus 3:8-15

Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

Saturday, October 20/St. Gerasimos of Cephalonia
Feast Day of Metropolitan Gerasimos

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10

Gospel: Luke 6:1-10

Sunday, October 21/6th Sunday of Luke/

St. Hilarion the Great/St. Christodoulos of Patmos

Orthros: Tone Four

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

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

Gospel: Luke 8:27-39

Tuesday, 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

Friday, October 26/St. Demetrios the Great-
Martyr and Myrrh-Streamer

8:00 am Orthros

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10

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

Sunday, October 28/7th Sunday of Luke/
Holy Protection of the Theotokos/Ss. Terrence
and Eunice

Orthros: Tone Four

Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 21:14-25

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Gospel: Luke 8:41-56



*Please join us for the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with His Eminence
Metropolitan Gerasimos on Sunday, October 7 at 10:00 am.*



"Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith"

Sunday, October 21/6th Sunday of Luke/

St. Hilarion the Great/St. Christodoulos of Patmos

Orthros: Tone Four

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

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

Gospel: Luke 8:27-39

Please join us for this popular six-week course!

Every Wednesday through October 24

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 7: HIERARCHICAL LITURGY WITH METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY

Ushers: Adam Bieker, George Bochanis, Demetrious Asim,
Justina Szukiewicz, Gus Flangas and Stacy Mavrantonis
Memorials: Vasiliki (Betty) Hallis (1 year), Anastasia (Stacy-Ann) Hallis;
Marina Zaferatos (2 years), Christo and Andrina Zaferatos;
Andreas Rallis (5 years); Aliko Panos;
Departed Members of St. John Choir
Fellowship: Pan-Arcadians

OCTOBER 14

Ushers: Justina Szukiewicz, John Koutsulis, Stacy Mavrantonis,
Bessie Stavropoulos, Mark Karris and Gus Flangas
Artoclasia: Offered by Papas Family for the Feast of St. Luke
Fellowship: Folk Dance Groups Chili and Cornbread Luncheon

OCTOBER 21

Ushers: Stacy Mavrantonis, Bessie Stavropoulos, John Koutsulis, Stacy Mavrantonis,
Bessie Stavropoulos, Mark Karris and John Nicholas
Memorials: Phivos Neocleous, Christina Neocleous, John Neocleous, Mirofora Neocleous
and Neoclis Michael
Fellowship: Forerunners, the Seniors of St. John the Baptist

OCTOBER 28: OXI DAY CELEBRATION

Ushers: Gus Flangas, Mark Karris, John Koutsulis, John Matsis,
Demetrious Asim and John Nicholas
Fellowship: AHEPA OXI Day

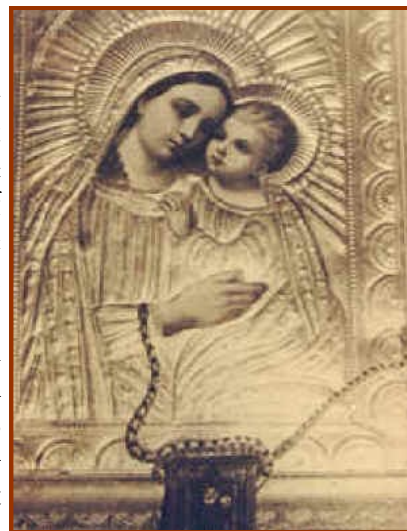
From Father John (Continued from Page 1)

Each year on Cephalonia, there is the miraculous appearance of non-poisonous snakes with crosses on their foreheads that suddenly appear out of nowhere during the Fast of the Theotokos and disappear again on the Feast of her Dormition: The islanders date this appearance from the time of the Ottoman invasion (according to the Cephalonians, the nuns were initially transformed into snakes to ward off the invaders) and consider it a great blessing to hold these sacred creatures.

St. Gerasimos is associated with healing those suffering from physical ailments, as well as those who are demon-possessed or struggling with mental illnesses. It is an awesome blessing to have St. Gerasimos prominently placed in front of our Church, especially with all the ailments – physical, mental and spiritual – that afflict us so regularly, particularly right here in the spiritual wilderness of Las Vegas!

Through the prayers of St. Gerasimos may we, the beloved children of God, struggle faithfully toward our permanent home in the Kingdom of Heaven.

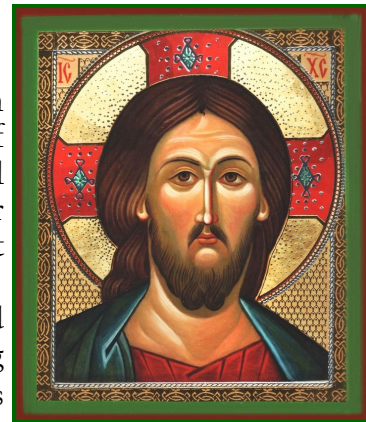
With love in Christ,



Stewardship and Community Outreach

Due to unforeseen circumstances I find myself with something of an enforced slow-down during this month (written in September), which is one of the Church's busiest – what with Greek Food Festival preparations, the Festival itself, scrambling to cover expenses for the last (hopefully) of the slow Summer months, a new inquirers class beginning, additional mid-week services for feast days – you get the idea.

With time on my hands, and a natural inclination toward thanking (and thinking about) God regarding His abundant mercy, I have found myself reading through the *Orthodox Study Bible* and thought I would share a few text selections for this month's Stewardship reflection.



From *1 Timothy, Chapter 6, Verses 17-19*, we find St. Paul exhorting Timothy to: *“Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, Who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”*

From the OSB Glossary come a few terms with which to refresh our memories:

Discipleship – The life of learning, growing, self-sacrifice, and commitment required of every Christian. A Christian not only believes in Christ but leaves everything to follow Him.

Mercy – The compassionate, steadfast love of God for sinners. Christians reflect the mercy of God by caring for others. The most frequent prayer in Orthodox worship is “Lord, have mercy.”

Steward(ship) – A Steward is one who manages property belonging to another. All that a Christian has belongs to God. Thus, the Christian gives back to God out of the material blessings he has received from Him for the work of the Church. In the Old Testament, God commanded the faithful to give a tithe or ten percent of their goods to God; though not under law, St. John Chrysostom teaches Christians should give that much and more. Christians are also Stewards of the spiritual knowledge which God has entrusted to us. We must preserve and advance the heritage of Apostolic doctrine intact for future generations.

Now that the hustle and bustle of the Festival is over, let us put aside the knowledge of how well it went and how much money it generated. Let us instead pause and contemplate our discipleship, our caring for others, and our Stewardship that we may discern whether we are doing all we can do to grow in our faith, to engage with the Church community, and to strengthen our Stewardship. Further, regarding that strong Stewardship, perhaps we will discern that we can actually boost our giving a little bit each year, aiming toward a true tithe, thus leaving the Church in a strong position to serve our children for many generations.

On a personal note, I would like to close with a heartfelt thank you to all at St John the Baptist Church who have lifted us up in prayer, sent well wishes, and offered support. It has been a rich blessing of humbling magnitude.

Mike Beeler, for the Stewardship and Community Outreach Committee

2018 Stewardship Report (as of 9/21/18)

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$372,544 (\$378,092 in 2017)
 Stewardship Gifts Received: \$287,792 (\$283,496 in 2017)
 Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$84,752 (\$94,595 in 2017)
 Stewardship Families Pledged: 412 (412 in 2017)
 Average Pledge to Date: \$904.23 (\$917 in 2017)
 Average Pledge Needed to Cover Operating Expenses: \$2,026.47

“Fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no want!” (Psalm 34:9)

**The Priests, Parish Council and the
Stewardship & Community Outreach Committee
Invite You to Join Us for the Annual**

Stewardship



Luncheon

**Honoring Demetrious Asim,
Stephanie Demoleas
and Marika LaMancusa**

**Sunday, November 11
Following Divine Liturgy
Panos Hall**

**Join us as we pay tribute to three MVPs . . .
Most Valuable Parishioners!**

Free-Will Offering

Parish Council Report

We just completed another successful and tremendous Greek Food Festival. Although not as financially successful as last year, it is still one of our best in financial terms. Unfortunately, because we had to deal with daytime temperatures in excess of 100 degrees, and competition from many other large events held that weekend, our all overall attendance numbers were down, especially during the daytime. However, the Festival was amazing and one of our best yet. The music and stage production was absolutely incredible, the food we served was great as usual, our Church Tours were well attended, and our parishioners and friends who worked at the Festival had great enthusiasm. This year we had the help of the Red Rock Search and Rescue. They did all the set up, provided most of the labor for the event, and helped with the clean-up after it was over. They were absolutely outstanding, true professions and we sincerely hope they come back again next year – we cannot thank them enough. All of this coupled with the surroundings of our beautiful grounds and our positively charged and high-energy atmosphere made for an amazing “Greek Experience.” We thank God again for a truly blessed event.

Our annual 26.2 mile Torch Run was truly successful and an event in of itself. This year we supported the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Southern Nevada, in memory of 12 year-old Michael Manteris, who was diagnosed with a rare form of Leukemia known as AML. The run was kicked off with a prayer by Father Seraphim at Tivoli Village, who was also the first runner. Several news anchors from Channel Three and Channel Five participated in the run and carried the torch on several of the miles. We also had several of our parishioners and parish friends carry the torch. On two of the miles of the run, the torch was carried by two pediatric patients along with their families; it was amazing seeing these kids participate. Many moments of the run were streamed live at the Festival on the large video screen on the stage. The entry of the torch on to the Church Grounds was truly amazing and highly emotional. Led by the John Koutsulis’ Search and Rescue truck, the torch was carried in by the family of Michael Manteris, accompanied by about 30 other runners, two Metropolitan police officer cruisers, the command and control limousine, a mobile electronic billboard truck advertising the Festival and Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Southern Nevada, and another limousine that picked up our runners. In addition, four other motorcycle police officers joined in on the last two miles after seeing the procession and helped escort the torch to the Church Grounds. For his tremendous contributions to our Church, Peter Papas was chosen to light the Torch jointly with Art Manteris in memory of his grandson, Michael. It was a phenomenal start to our Festival. In addition to the Torch Run, we earmarked ten percent of the raffle proceeds to donate to FEAT (Families for Effective Autism Treatment).

As I have said many times in the past, 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 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 took charge of preparing the tzatziki and salad dressing, worked on the Greek Fries, and co-chaired the Loukoumathes Booth with the Tzelalis Family; Sam Koutsoulis, Telly Eliades and John Nicholas, who ran the kitchen and oversaw the pre-cooking; Stephanie Demoleas who co-chaired the Festival, coordinated the Festival Website, worked on the Festival planning, and chaired the Pastry Booth along with Spero and Grace Demoleas and family; Kitty Gott who did an great job with the Raffle, along with Alex Sparkuhl; John Karas who spearheaded the Count Room and money drops; Demetri Philippou, who took over and chaired Demetri’s Taverna, and helped with the pork souvlaki; Effie Lekar and Adam Bieker for the amazing job they did with our new booth, Taverna Elias, Dean Chomakos and crew, who cooked the Greek Fries; Eddie Howard who did an amazing job of keeping the equipment operating; Tom and Sharon Katsaros 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 Hondros, who chaired the Athenian Plate Booth; Marcie Karas, who chaired Admissions;

(Continued from Page 7)

Parish Council Report *(Continued from Page 6)*

George, Spiros and Eleni Filios who chaired the Bar; Tami Stefanatos who chaired the Specialty Booth; John Kelesis and crew who did the whole lambs and 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; Dianne Bacon and Demitri Asim who coordinated the volunteers; Marina Adamy and Alexia Chandrinos who spearheaded the Festival decor; Constantine Frangakis, Paisios and Mary Pursell who chaired the Church Bookstore; Guy Monroe and Vicki Xikis, who oversaw the volunteers for the Church Tours; Niko Asim and Andrew Flangas who organized the Torch Run; Jim Monoyudis who spearheaded the Festival Hosts; Tom Foskaris who handled the bands; Marika Lamancusa and Sophia Leonis who spearheaded the Pastries prep; George Belch and his son-in-law Daniel who ran the outdoor oven; Justina Szukiewicz who oversaw our Outreach Booth; Bill Bruninga who took amazing photographs; the Politis Family and Sandy Valley Farms for donating all the produce; Joe Szukiewicz and Stavros Anthony for their work on security; and everyone who volunteered for the Festival.

There are four individuals who really deserve special mention, Ramona Tasios, Constantin Petriuc, Karen Rawlinson and Penny Latelle. Without these four, you could not have a Festival. Ramona and Constantin worked months prior to the Festival getting the building and grounds ready, and countless hours supervising work crews – and labored themselves – during the set-up of the Festival, during the Festival, and the take-down of the Festival. 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. Penny worked countless hours for almost two weeks, keeping track of inventory and making sure we had everything we needed to operate, and we are truly 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 and we ask that everyone step up and contribute. It is so important to the future of our Church. Please pray and look into your hearts about Stewardship and look at it as a way of “giving back..”

Pertaining to the Iconography, we are still working on obtaining certification as a 501(c)(3) organization. We have nothing new to report other than it is still in the hands of the IRS. As stated over and over again, this a moving and fluid target. Once we get this certification, we will again work on getting the Iconographers here to Las Vegas. We are working diligently on it and praying. It is extremely frustrating to say the least. We 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 4*, right after Liturgy in Panos Hall. We encourage you all to attend and learn about the operations of our Church. At this Assembly we will be giving reports on our finances and the Festival, receiving nominations for the Parish Council, voting on a Budget for the 2019 year, and discussing our annual Archdiocese Total Commitment as well as several other important items. Please mark your calendars and attend.

In closing and as usual, 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. It clearly takes a lot of work from the entire community to maintain our Church. Please step forward whenever you can and pitch in. We know much is always happening, but every event is extremely important. Please get involved as we move forward to make our Church better.

May God bless. Gus Flangas, Parish Council President

Philoptochos News

Dearest Ladies of Philoptochos,

Welcome to our Fall season! We have started our New Ecclesiastical Year with energy and enthusiasm to fulfill our Philoptochos goals of service, philanthropy and community.



On September 9, Philoptochos made an appeal for donations to benefit Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology. Thanks to the generous support of our parish members, we collected \$860. HCHC is one of Philoptochos' principal national ministries and one that is close to our hearts. HCHC educates men preparing for the holy priesthood of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, as well as men and women for leadership roles in Church, chosen professions and society. Thank you to Bernadette Anthony for hosting the Fellowship and to all the ladies who contributed and helped. Also, a special thank you to Dina Dounis, Sophia Konsolakis, Eleni Kakavulias and Ernestine Kachikis for providing the abundant basil for the tray holding the Cross on September 14, the Feast of the Universal Elevation of the Holy Cross.

At our 46th Annual Greek Festival last month, the Ladies Philoptochos Society once again provided a welcome booth. The Greek Food Festival is annually the largest cultural event in the state of Nevada. People from the Las Vegas community came out in the thousands to experience and celebrate our hospitality, culture, Faith, food, music, dance and the perdurable Greek spirit! The energy, joy, love and incredible sound of the live bouzouki filled the Las Vegas desert with a piece of our beautiful, beloved Greece.



Much appreciation to our booth chairwomen, Jennifer Chanos and Alis Dokakis-Lovaas, and their committee – Cleo Wilson, Christina Snow, Eleissa Lavelle, Benita Beeman

Cheryl Pandelis, Alexia Chandrinis and Janet Paul – for welcoming everyone, promoting our mission, selling the Philoptochos jewelry, handmade bowls and aprons as well as water to the thirsty visitors! You ladies exemplified your commitment to the beautiful cause of service and philanthropy!

Following, are the upcoming Philoptochos events:

- **Tuesday, October 2 – General Meeting at 6:00 pm in Kokkos Hall.** Light dinner will be served. All ladies of our community are invited, as we embark on this journey with exciting challenges and great projects ahead of us!

- **October 4 – 7 – National Hellenic Society Heritage Weekend and Classic at the Four Seasons Hotel, Las Vegas:** The National Hellenic Society's focus is on the promotion of Hellenic Heritage and the advancement of Hellenic ideals through the sponsorship of scientific, educational programs. For more information, please visit www.nationalhellenicsociety.org.

- Congratulations to our Philoptochos member, Rahel Kiflezgi, for becoming an American citizen! We are so happy for you!

- A big thank you to my vice-president, Dora Hart, for handling everything during my summer vacation!

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 – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

With Love, Vicky Palivos, Philoptochos President

*“I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”
(Psalm 34:1)*

Notes from the Choir Loft

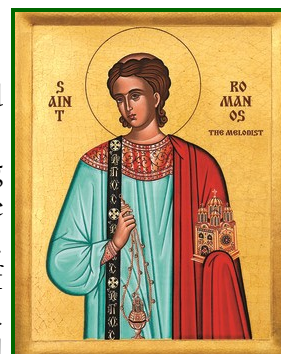


Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the Greek Food Festival!

This month, we will honor our Church Musicians by celebrating *National Church Music Sunday on October 7*. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos will be celebrating the Hierarchical Liturgy on that date. There will be a Memorial Service for our departed Choir Members at the conclusion of the Liturgy. Our Choir, Youth Choir and Chanters will be honored, and we will take a group photo with His Eminence after services. This day is designated as an annual Archdiocese-wide commemoration that occurs on the first Sunday in October, following the Feast of St. Romanos the Melodist, the Patron Saint of Church Musicians.

The Youth Choir will chant the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, October 14. Please see Presvytera Maria to participate in the Youth Choir.

If you are interested in joining the Choir, please come up to the Choir Loft. All adults and youth are always welcome! Athena Mertes, Choir Director



Byzantine Music Class

This month we continue the one-hour Byzantine Music Class on *Wednesdays at 6:00 pm* (except for October 3, when we will have a Paraklesis service). Join us for this informative class which explores the hymns of our Church starting with Sunday Orthros.

The class is open to everyone, regardless of your musical ability. Please come and join us!

In Christ, Presvytera Maria



Special Paraklesis Service for Our Icons

Please join us on *Wednesday, October 3 at 6:00 pm*, as we gather as a community to supplicate the Theotokos for the expedited completion of our iconography project.



Adult Basketball

Join us for a pick-up basketball game *every Thursday at 7:00 pm in Panos Hall*. Please call *George Karvounidis at (702) 339-8955* to be added to the basketball email list.

Our Community Registry

Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun

Dimitrios, son of Reginald Whitley and Erika Zakis on September 22, 2018.

Godparents: Dino Zakis and Alicia Soto.

Evangelos (Jett), son of Allen Thompson and Victoria Zakis on September 22, 2018.

Godparents: Erika Zakis and Dino Zakis.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory!

Delores Radich on August 24, 2018. Funeral on August 31.

Thomas Anthony Vlahos on August 2, 2018. Funeral on September 7.

From Father Seraphim

“Let us honor the man who by lances inherited the grace from the Savior’s side that was pierced by the lance, and from which the Savior pours out for us streams of life and incorruption; Demetrios, who was most wise in his teachings, and with the Martyrs wears a wreath of victory. He finished the course of his contest through blood, and through miracles he became illustrious throughout the world. He was zealous for the Master, and a compassionate lover of the poor; many a time the defender of the people of Thessalonika in many a dread danger...” (Doxastikon of the Feast of St. Demetrios)



Every year on **October 26**, the Holy Church commemorates the Great-Martyr and Wonder-Worker Demetrios, the Myrrh-Flowing. St. Demetrios was born circa 270 in the city of Thessaloniki and was the son of the Roman proconsul assigned with the defense of the city from barbarian invasion. The young nobleman was trained as a warrior himself, and raised as a Christian secretly by his pious parents due to persecution. Upon coming of age, the future saint was elevated to the rank of Duke of Thessaly by the pagan emperor of the East, Maximian (ruled 286-305), but soon returned to Thessaloniki to serve as proconsul following his father’s death. Immediately after assuming his new role he openly preached Jesus Christ, debating with the pagans of his city in the forum and winning many converts.

When the Emperor Maximian returned from a victorious campaign against the Sarmatians in 304, he stopped in Thessaloniki to hold pagan games and sacrifices celebrating his triumph. The Christian proconsul was denounced by pagans who were envious of his success, and when called before the Emperor St. Demetrios boldly confessed Christ. He was immediately imprisoned in a subterranean bath house where waste and excrement were disposed of to await sentencing. While confined, Demetrios was visited by a young Christian named Nestor whom he had personally catechized. Nestor asked for a blessing to engage in single combat with the giant Lyaeus, who was posing as the champion of paganism in the arena. St. Demetrios gave his blessing, signed him with the cross, and Nestor, against all odds, slew his opponent in the arena shouting “God of Demetrios, help me!” – just as David had once defeated Goliath.

Maximian, enraged and learning that this had occurred with Demetrios’ aid, first had Nestor beheaded outside the city, and then had Demetrios run stabbed with spears in prison, on October 26, 304 AD. Later Demetrios’ servant Lupus was beheaded after using his master’s blood-stained tunic and signet ring to work many miracles. The Christians buried Demetrios and Nestor together in the bath house where Demetrios had been imprisoned, and today a magnificent basilica-cathedral stands on the very site of his martyrdom. Instead of the foul smell there before, the grace of God shone forth and the body of St. Demetrios was shown to be a source of heavenly-smelling and healing myrrh, even to this day.

St. Demetrios is so dearly loved by the Christians of his city that for hundreds of years in Thessaloniki the Church has celebrated his memory with an entire week of divine services recounting the final days of the martyr’s life. Many of the hymns for this incredible event were written by St. Symeon of Thessaloniki in the 15th century, so we can see how long this tradition has endured. Thus, beginning on October 19 they begin the “Holy Week of St. Demetrios” and proceed to the feast of St. Demetrios on October 26, with a procession of his myrrh-flowing relics carried through the whole city by the military, led by many bishops, hundreds of priests and deacons, and thousands upon thousands of the faithful. The entire city smells like myrrh!

Finally, it was seen as truly providential that the Greek army retook the city of Thessaloniki on October 26, 1912 after almost 400 years of Islamic/Turkish occupation. May we have the holy prayers of this most popular and beloved of Saints that we might boldly confess Christ before the world, look to him for protection from danger, and ask for his help and victory against our true adversary, the devil. *(1 Peter 5:8)*

With Love in Christ,

Father Seraphim



**ELK FLAT
CAMPGROUND**



**CAVE LAKE
STATE PARK
ELY, NV**



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

**ALL YOUTH
OVERNIGHT
CAMPING TRIP**

**FRIDAY - SATURDAY
OCTOBER 26-27, 2018**



Join us for an incredible adventure this Nevada Day Weekend
as we explore the beauty of God's creation,
and celebrate Liturgy at St. Alexios Chapel!

**SEE SCHEDULE AND PACKING LIST
FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

RSVP: frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com or 702-768-7480

Youth and Family Ministries

Church School

Hi Everyone!

What a great Greek Food Festival we had. It was wonderful to see many of our youth lending a hand – they are the future of the Church and it is great to see them stepping up and working so hard.

We have 63 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 – and remember, for Pre-K, they must be 4 years-old before September 30. Please return 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!

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. Talk to your children and find out what they are learning in class each week. We have wonderful teachers who love Christ and our Orthodox Faith, and are eager to teach our youth.

Dates to Remember: *Sunday, October 28, Nevada Day – Family Worship Sunday (no classes); Sunday, December 23 – Christmas Pageant.* 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



Greetings Youth Choir Members!

Our Youth Choir practices started in September and we are ready to sing for the Glory of God! We will be chanting our first Divine Liturgy of the new Church Year on **Sunday, October 14**. Please be on the right side of the Church **by 9:40 am** so we can start Liturgy on time.

Youth Choir members should also be present for Liturgy on **October 7**, when we will have National Church Music Sunday – His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos will be celebrating the Hierarchical Liturgy that day. All our Church Musicians – Youth Choir, Choir and Chanters – will be recognized and take a group photo with His Eminence after services.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

With Love in Christ, Presvytera Maria

Orthodox Family Fellowship

We had a wonderful time at the trampoline park in September, and we also want to thank everyone who came out and supported our Greek Food Festival!

For October we will be joining GOYA for an all-youth camping and hiking trip in Ely, Nevada. After Divine Liturgy for St. Demetrios on **Friday, October 26**, we will leave the Church parking lot **at 11:00 am**. Please be sure to pack a lunch, as there is no place to stop for a bite on the way. We will be camping overnight in Cave Lake State Park (weather permitting). We will have the opportunity to see some of God's incredible beauty in nature and go hiking.

On **Saturday, October 27 at 9:00 am**, we will attend the Divine Liturgy at the historic St. Alexios Chapel in Ely. We will then return to Las Vegas later that afternoon.

As this will be a major OFF event, we will send out additional information together with a packing list, a chaperone volunteer form, etc.

In Christ, Amy Khuri and Jelena Boskovic, OFF Advisors



GOYA ~ For Teenagers

Dear GOYANs,

We had an amazing first event of the year at Grimaldi's Pizza last month! We would also like to thank all the teens who came out to help serve in our soda booth and in other areas at the Greek Food Festival. God bless you!

This month we will be continuing our second-Sunday of the month GOYA Night on *Sunday, October 14* in Panos Hall *from 5:00 to 7:00 pm*. We will have dinner, discussion and activities together!

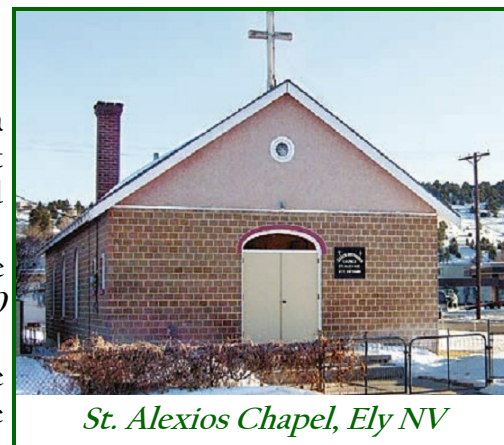
Secondly, we will be doing something quite amazing at the end of the month utilizing the Nevada Day Weekend. We will be traveling together to Ely, Nevada after Divine Liturgy for St. Demetrios on *Friday, October 26* – we will leave the Church parking lot *at 11:00 am*. Please be sure to pack a lunch, as there is no place to stop for a bite on the way. We will be camping overnight in Cave Lake State Park (weather permitting). We will have the opportunity to see some of God's incredible beauty in nature and go hiking.

On *Saturday, October 27 at 9:00 am*, we will attend the Divine Liturgy at the historic St. Alexios Chapel in Ely. We will then return to Las Vegas later that afternoon.

As this will be a major GOYA event, we will send out additional information together with a packing list, a chaperone volunteer form, etc.

Finally, if you are a teenager (6th through 12th grades) and are not currently involved in GOYA, please send us your contact information as we would love to have you join in the Faith, Fun, and Friendships we cultivate in this wonderful ministry!

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



St. Alexios Chapel, Ely NV

Greek Folk Dance

Thank you for all the wonderful support at the Greek Food Festival. We enjoyed putting on a show for our fantastic crowd! We are still accepting late registrations for all children, teens and young adults who want to be a part of our wonderful ministry celebrating our Greek heritage! Please see Karen in the Church Office for a Registration Form.

Please mark your calendars for some wonderful Fall events we are hosting. First, on *Sunday, October 14*, please join us for Fellowship in Panos Hall following Divine Liturgy for our first ever Chili and Cornbread sale! We will have vegetarian chili too!

Then on *Saturday, November 10*, please join us for our annual Wine Experience that will begin *at 6:30 pm*. (See flyer on Page 18.) Tickets are \$50 and will be on sale during Sunday Fellowship in October. It will be a wonderful night of wine, food and fellowship.

Any questions? Please email Stjohngreekdance@gmail.com.

Much Gratitude, The Folk Dance Board

Greek Language Program

We currently have 21 registered children in our Greek Language Classes – and some adults as well who meet concurrently in the Library. It is not too late to register.

On *Tuesday, October 30* the children will participate in our annual Halloween Greek Costume Party in Kokkos Hall. The children will dress up as a mythological or traditional Greek person, and explain something about their character. Paula Kelesis, Greek School Director



“The Lord redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.” (Psalm 34:22)

Adult and Young Adult Ministries

Young Adults

Dear Young Adults,

Thank you for coming out to our awesome Game Night last month. This month we will enjoy a Young Adult Sushi Night: Please join us on *Friday, October 19, 7:30 pm, at Sushi Fever* (7985 W. Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas).

We look forward to seeing you there, and you can RSVP with Father Seraphim at frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com.

In Christ, Niko Asim and Elizabeth Arbuiso, YA Advisors



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

Welcome Fall!

October is the beginning of our entertainment months. We will be celebrating the Feast Day of St. Demetrios the Great-Martyr on *Saturday, October 27 at 6:00 pm* at the home of Demetri Asim. As it is Demetri's Name Day, he says he will accept gifts – it should be valued at \$1,000 or more, and he is also registered at Neiman Marcus and Tiffany's. LOL! Of course, the old Greek tradition is with food, drinks and sweets. Everyone is invited! Please RSVP with Demetri at (702) 210-4056.

In Christ, Catherine Manolakis

Mr. & Mrs. - A Couples Fellowship

Dear M&Ms,

We look forward to starting our meetings back up this October! We will meet at John and Ellyn Nixon's home on *Saturday, October 13 at 6:00 pm*. You are invited to bring your favorite side dish, drinks, dessert or salad. Please RSVP with John, Ellyn, or Father Seraphim. See you there!

Yours in Christ, Father John, Father Seraphim, and their Presvyteres



Forerunners - The Seniors of St. John the Baptist

A big Thank You to all our Seniors who helped in all areas for our 46th Annual Greek Food Festival. *Kai tou hrono me to kalo!*

Mark your calendars for our first luncheon of the New Ecclesiastical year on Monday, *October 15 at 11:30 am in Kokkos Hall*. We will have a delicious lunch and great fellowship. I look forward to seeing you all after the break.

Also, on *Sunday, October 21* the Forerunners will be hosting Fellowship: Please bring treats and goodies for everyone.

Most of our Seniors are not aware of the service that is available to them through the RTC transportation company. If you no longer drive or if you are handicapped in any form, you can make use of their service. All you need to do is call RTC at (702) 228-4800; listening to the options, you need to press 4 for eligibility and verification information. You will be informed that RTC will pick you up to take you to your verification appointment, and return you home also. Once you have been verified, you can ride the RTC bus for \$3 each way. There are over 140,000 seniors in Las Vegas making use of this service.



As always, our prayers, love and good wishes to our Seniors in facilities, hospitals, or at home.
Love in Christ, Victoria Xikis, Forerunners Co-Chair

"Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days" (Job 12:12)

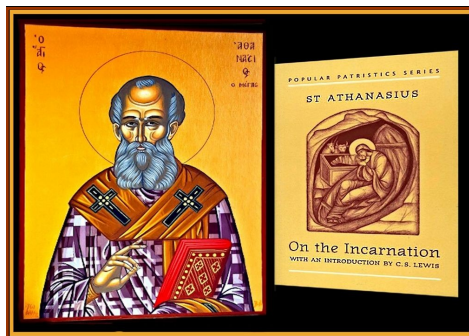
Orthodox Bookstore

Greetings from the Bookstore!

This month we are featuring *On the Incarnation* by Saint Athanasios. From Chapter IV – The Death of Christ”

“Thus, then, God the Word revealed Himself to men through His works. We must next consider the end of His earthly life and the nature of his bodily death. This is, indeed, the very center of our faith, and everywhere you hear men speak of it; by it, too, no less than by His other acts, Christ is revealed as God and Son of God.”

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



Peter Papas had the honor of lighting the Festival Torch this year. Proceeds from the Torch Run benefitted the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, in memory of Michael Manteris, grandson of Art Manteris (pictured above with Peter).

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5300 S. El Camino Rd.
Las Vegas, NV 89118

Rev. Father John Hondros
frjohn@vegaskgreekorthodox.com

Rev. Father Seraphim Ramos
frseraphim@vegaskgreekorthodox.com

Karen Rawlinson
Administrative Assistant

John Karas
Acting Bookkeeper

Mara Braun
Catering & Events

Constantin Petriuc & Ramona Tasios
Maintenance & Grounds

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

Telephone: (702) 221-8245
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: Father John

GOYA:
Kouli Pouridis & June Likourinou

Orthodox Family Fellowship:
Jelena Boskovic & Amy Khuri

Young Adults:
Nicholas Asim & Elizabeth Arbuiso

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek School: Paula Kelesis

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

Kali Parea: Demetrious Asim

Adult Basketball:
George Karvounidis

Forerunners:
Vicki Xikis & Faye Brown

Orthodox Bookstore:
Constantine Frangakis,
Paisios & Mary Pursell

Greek Food Festival: Gus Flangas

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

Photography: Bill Bruninga

46th Annual Greek Food Festival



*Photos by
Bill Bruninga*



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

Wine Experience



*Saturday,
November 10, 2018*

*Panos Hall
6:30 - 10:00 pm*

*\$50 per person
\$60 at the door*

*Come experience an evening of
tasting great wines and champagnes
from around the world!*

*For tickets and information,
Contact Sharon Katsaros at 702-292-0850 or the church office at 702-227-2845*

This is a 21 & Over Event

*All Proceeds benefit the Greek Folk Dance Group of St. John the Baptist
St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church 5300 El Camino Rd., Las Vegas 89118*



AHEPA OXI Day Celebration

Please join us, the AHEPA Family of Las Vegas for our annual observance of *OXI Day on Sunday, October 28*, after Divine Liturgy in Panos Hall. Presentation of Flags and the National Anthems will be followed by a Free Will Offering Lunch, 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.

LAS VEGAS AHEPA CHAPTER 314 2nd ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2018



The Tournament will be held at the Palm Valley in Summerlin
Golf Package-\$125: Green Fees, Lunch, Ticket for Raffle

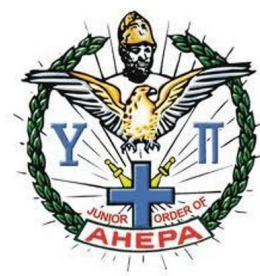
Shotgun Start at 1:00 pm

We are also looking for hole sponsors, donations and prizes
Please pick up a registration form outside the Church Office or Karen can email
you the form to register, sponsor or donate

For additional information please contact:

Jimmy Philippou (734) 260-4643

Jim Liaos (702) 449-6716



Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends of the Order of AHEPA Chapter 314:

We invite you to join us for a Pot Luck Dinner.

We look forward to exchanging ideas and continued discussion on how to promote the Hellenic ideals and the good work of AHEPA.

We urge all members of AHEPA, Daughters of Penelope and Sons of Pericles as well as family and friends to join us.

Tuesday, October 9 at 6:30 pm in Panos Foyer

Church Account Summaries - August 2018

Nevada State Bank Accounts	July	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	August	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$4,402.27	\$81,444.31	\$68,281.15	\$108,879.53	\$32,161.14	\$13,087.06	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$2,835.34	\$5,942.35		\$1,541.45	\$4,239.80	\$2,996.44	
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$56,203.17	\$45,172.00	\$16,614.56	\$24,355.54	\$52,634.71	\$40,999.48	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$316,939.01	\$2,776.60	\$4,604.65	\$20,029.27	\$11,378.74	\$292,912.25	
Folk Dance Group	\$14,597.68				\$270.00	\$14,327.68	
Mortgage Account	\$5,326.68					\$5,326.68	
Designated Funds	July	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	August	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$2,009.15	\$1,846.00	\$2,166.00		\$354.93	\$5,666.22	
Ornaments	\$1,077.41					\$1,077.41	
Restricted Funds	July	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	August	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
ICON	\$265,887.93	\$550.00	\$438.95	\$6,975.00	\$5,630.57	\$254,271.31	
Library Account	\$1,470.77					\$1,470.77	Account owed \$21,000. Funds used to make payroll and pay bills in 2015
Giving Tree	\$5,450.91					\$5,450.91	
Building Fund	\$4,162.04		\$2,173.10	\$3,069.76	\$3,248.30	\$17.08	
Mortgage Payoff Campaign	\$0.00	\$8,000.00			\$8,000.00	\$0.00	Philoptochos Donation for Campaign
Youth Choir	\$3,069.82					\$3,069.82	
Church School	\$1,306.37					\$1,306.37	
Three Priests	\$20,000.00					\$20,000.00	Arthur & Ewa Minas Donation
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$50.00	\$207.50			\$115.14	\$142.36	
Designated, Restricted, and Other Total	\$304,924.40	\$2,603.50	\$4,778.05	\$10,044.76	\$9,348.94	\$292,912.25	
Other Funds	July	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	August	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$58,169.84					\$58,169.84	

Aug 2018 Candles \$5,655.00
 Aug 2018 Trays \$3,417.00
 Total Aug Candles & Trays \$9,072.00

ORTHODOXY STRONG ~ STEWARDS 2018

Dessadegn, Abraha and Ghebrezgi, Adiam	Ciulla, Anthony and Kleri Ciulla, Dina	Frangakis, Sophocles and Tara Franzi, Jack	Karas, John and Marcie Karris, Mark and Suzanne
Adamy, Marina	Cokotis, Julie	Garza, Evarardo and Eliades, Eleni	Katopodis, Efstratios
Alex, Steve	Collins, David	Gauvin, Chad and Marissa	Katris, Nick
Alexander, Eleni	Cominos, Ted	Geiger, Dan and Dora	Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon
Alhayek, Majd and Areen	Conger, William and Alexia	Generales, John and Arlene	Kelesis, Paula
Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine	Costacos, John	George, Elias and Saladino, Maria Veronica	Kiflezgi, Rahel
Anastasiou, Andrew and Kathleen	Costas, Charles and Louise	Geiger, Dan and Dora	Kinard, Panorea
Andary, Oscar and Carnation+	Costuros, George and Marsha	Generales, John and Arlene	Kleanthis, George and Zanetta
Andrews, Catherine	Cosulas, Fr. Basil and Presv. Samantha	George, Elias and Saladino, Maria Veronica	Kofinas, Maria
Andrews, Chris and Pamela	Cotsilis, Jenny	George, Pete and Georgia	Koliambas, Eleni
Andrews, George	Coutris, Angela	Georgis, John and Kaliopi	Konsolakis, Eleni
Andricopoulos, Margo	Crist, Adam and Kanistra	Georgoulakis, Mary Ellen	Kordogiannis, Prodromos and Bell, Mary
Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette	Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	Gialketsis, Bill and Shelli	Kordogiannis, Christina
Anton, Mike and Carol	Dalacas, Eleni	Gialketsis, Julie	Koroni, Tara
Arcamuzi, Georgia	Dalacas, Georgia	Gialketsis, Steve	Kostopoulos, Georgia
Aristides, George and Diana	Daniel, Azieb	Gialketsis, William	Koultouridis, Christos and Wise, Jolene
Asim, Demetrious	Daskalos, George and Voula	Giouzelis, Anastasia	Kountanis, Panagiota
Asim, Niko	DeMangus, Joanne	Gianakoulis, Nick and Magda	Kourlos, Georgia
Austgen, Harold Max	Demolas, Maria and Nour, Reza	Gideon, Sara	Koutsulis, John and Eileen
Bacon, Ken and Dianne	Demoleas, Spero and Grace	Goodman, Linda	Koutsulis, Sam and Effie
Bagis, Eleni	Demoleas, Stephanie	Gott, C. Thomas and Kitty	Koutsulis, Sam
Balaouras, Panos and Helen	Demopoulos, Vasiliki	Gousdovas, Nikos	Kratky, Frank and Constance
Balason, Anna	Desta, Yonas and Girmay, Amy	Grabovoi, Daphne	Kunard, Derek
Baldwin, Richard and Vivi	Diamantis, Filippou	Gruber, Ernest and Zoe	Kypreos, George and Lesley
Balodimas, James	Dimitri, Patricia, Martha and Janet	Gutierrez, Connie	Kypreos, Peter and Geri
Barbarino, Demetra	Domínguez, Eric and Amalia	Hadzoglon, Christos	Kypreos, Sophia
Bartzos, Sam and Eugenia	Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia	Hall, Elizabeth	Lagomarsino, Sophia
Beeler, Mike and Carolyn	Dounis, Dina	Hall, Yvonne	Lamancusa, Lisa
Beeman, Karl, Sr. and Benita	Dounis, Georgia	Hamilton, Mary	Lambros, Kyriacos and Mary
Belch, George	Dounis, Kiki	Hamilton, Paul and Brandi	Lapi, Anisa
Berendji, Jim and Vivian	Dudunakis, Michael	Harrison, Angie and Schildmeyer, Christine	Latelle, Penny
Bernier, Micah and Alissa	Earl, Christine Michaelides	Hayes, Tulla	Lathouris, Evan and Vicki
Berta, Irene	Eliades, Artemisa	Hemmers, Oliver and Pantelas, Anne	Lazarakis, John and Panagiota
Bicos, Andriana	Eliades, Gregory and Maria	Henneforth, Rula	Lechner, Sofia
Bieker, Adam and Cassie	Eliades, Harry and Agapi	Hertberg, Jennifer	Lekar, Caroline
Bieker, Georgea	Eliades, Katerina	Hetzal, David and Joanne	Lekar, Michael and Effie
Birtas, Helen and Ann	Eliades, Peter	Hoadrea, Jimmy and Monci	Lemper, Brian and Betsy
Bland, Robert and Maria	Eliakis, John+ and Atsuko	Hondros, Catherine	Leonis, Nick and Sophia
Bochanis, George and Enid	Eliakis, Peter and Glenda	Hondros, Christina	Leonis, Tishe
Boskovic, Jelena	Eliakis, Varthie and LeeAnn	Hondros, Christopher and Darlene	Leventis, Naomi
Bratta, Georgene	Eliopulos, Goldie+	Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria	Leventis, Nicholas and Christina
Britten, Ronald and Carol	Eyler, John and Elizabeth	Hondros, Paul	Lewis, Foula
Brown, Faye	Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean	Hoover, Patrick and Pauline	Liaos, Jim and Tina
Bruninga, Bill and Erin	Farmakis, Nikolaos and Laura	Houlis, Ila and Debbie	Liaos, Steve and Francine
Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Fenlason, Nathan and Zmina, Jennifer	Howard, William and Willie	Liaos, William and Irene
Campbell, Paul and Victoria	Filos, George and Nitsa	Hristopoulou, Spiridoula	Likourinou, Angie
Capre, Julio and Betty+	Filos, Spiridon and Eleni	Iteen, Robert and Sophia	Likourinou, Steve and June
Carabas, Stephen and Linda	Fischer, Bob and Cheryl	Jandete, Johanna	Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine
Carahalios, John and Jillian	Fitzgerald, Norman and McCullen, Sandra	Kachikis, Paul+ and Ernestine	Loughton, Dustin and Rena
Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	Flangas, Bill and Marilyn	Kakavulias, Christina	Lovaas, Jason and Dokakis, Alis
Carrico, William and Alexandra	Flangas, Gary and Amanda	Kakavulias, George and Helen	Makris, Apostolos
Carter, Maria	Flangas, Gus and Tamara	Kakavulias, John and Elizabeth	Malamatos, Kindina
Chachas, Bessie	Fleetwood, Thomas and Melissa	Kambouris, Litsa	Maland, Tim and Donna
Chachas, James	Floyd, Charles and Maria	Kanellopoulos, Theodore	Malpee, Mack and Kalliope
Chagares, Kiki	Fotopoulos, John and Barbara	Kanis, Constantinos and Katie	Maniatakos, Ted and Maria
Chandrinis, Alexia	Foster, Kyle and Maria	Karas, James	Manolakis, Catherine
Chanos, George	Fountas, Constantinos		Manos, Constantine and Michele
Chanos, Jennifer	Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia		Mansour, Muna
Chomakos, Dean and Tammy	Frangakis, Constantine		Manteris, Arthur and Sue
Chomakos, George and Nikki	Frangakis, John		Margaretis, John and Lucila
Chomakos, Jeremy and Romina			Markakis, Catherine
Chondrakis, Dimos			Markakis, Sandy Kiriaki
Christian, Clair and Chloe			

ORTHODOXY STRONG ~ STEWARDS 2018

Martinaitis, Louis and Audra	Pappas, Constantine and Karina	Salonikis, Valentinos and Sophia	Tobin, Jean
Matsis, John and Rebecca	Pappas, Rita	Santamaria, Jennifer	Thome, Tony and May
Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki	Pappas, Stella	Savvas, Savva	Tringas, Chris and Bridgette
Mavrantonis, Theofania	Paton, Mia	Senior Forerunners	Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katerina
Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debra	Payan, Luis and Eleni	Serpetini, Athanasia	Tsolis, Christos and Panagioula
Mavros, Debbie	Pelletier, Michael	Setian, Gary and Marie	Tsolis, Panagiote
Mavroudis, Frank	Pendleton, Patricia	Shaffer, Travis and Veneta	Tzelalis, Antonia
McManus, Jeanette	Pentogenis, Katherine+	Simpson, Bryan and Julie	Tzelalis, Steve
McKinney, Michael and Mersene	Peratikos, Tony	Sirhan, Michael and Khuri, Imtisal	Tzortzis, Maria
McSweeney, Farolyn	Pertsinides, Irene and	Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia	Varinos, Nick and Kiki
Melton, Donald and Susan	Arbusio, Elizabeth	Skandros, Stephanie	Velimorivic, Nikolaj and Maja
Menegato, James	Petersen, Todd and Diane	Skaris, John and	Vervilos, James and Anna
Mertes, Patrick and Athena	Petro, Aleko and Georgia	Spyropoulos, Helen	Vlahos, Thomas+ and Demas, Rita
Minas, Arthur and Ewa	Petrou, James and Penelopi	Smith, Kathleen	Wadlow, Nicholas and Pamela
Mitchell, Thomas	Philippou, Demetrios and Luanne	Snow, Adrienne	Walker, Michelle
Moffett, Todd and Eliopulos, Tina	Pierro, Joe and Rhonda	Snow, Clifford and Christina	Wallace, Robert and Katerina
Monoyudis, Jim and Julie	Pitts, Anton and Athena	Snowden, Robert and Niki	Walter, Vernon and Alice
Mulopulos, George and Jenny	Platis, Anna	Soursos, Helene	Weisman, Diane
Murray, Christopher and	Plentzas, Ruth	Sparangis, Helen +	Welles, Brigitte
George, Veneta	Polimerou, Angeline	Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette	Wilcox, Thalia
Myers, Stella	Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra	Spirtos, Nick	Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina
Neocleous, Plato	Poulos, Christine	Spotti, Peter and Alexandra	Williams, Anthony and Anna
Newell, Ronald and Maria	Pouridis, Kouli and Para	Staub, Douglas and Anastasia	Wilson, Steven and Cleo
Nicholas, John and Estella	Pournatzis, Petros and	Stavropoulos, Bessie	Wirtz, Athena
Nichols, George and Tereza	Menegatos, Angelic	Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki	Wixom, Penelope
Nichols, Stella	Powers, Russell and Rebecca	Stefanatos, Michael and Tami	Womack, Karl
Nikitas, Milissa	Prifti, Teuta	Stenos, Louis	Womack, Kimberly
Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra	Punsalan, Basil and Sophie	Stevens, Charles and Mary	Wood, Nadine
Nixon, John and Ellyn	Pursell, Robert and Mary	Stransky, Mark	Wronski, Chuck
Oara, Ruben	Radosta, Athena	Stransky, Jack and Gladys	Xerogianes, Nick and Nikki
Olmsted, Travis and Marilyn	Ramos, Fr. Seraphim and	Susmani, Krystle	Xikis, Victoria
Orlando, Alleck and Jennifer	Presv. Olenka	Szukiewicz, Alex	Zaferatos, Ted
Osborn, Pearl	Raptis, Presv. Evonne	Szukiewicz, Eric	Zakis, Dino
Pahigiannis, Nikon	Rifakes, John	Szukiewicz, Joseph and Jennia	Zakis, Erika
Paikos, Thomas and Elizabeth	Rigas, Evie	Szukiewicz, Joseph	Zakis, Victoria
Palivos, Peter and Vicky	Rihani, Gary and Linda	Tafoya, Steven and Irene	Zarkos, Nick and Dina
Pallis, Paul	Rodis, Dimitri	Takas, Andrea	Zarras, Nick and Chery
Pan-Arcadians	Rodis, Sophia	Tasios, Ramona and Pete	Zimmerman, Paul and Angela
Pandelis, Cheryl	Rosenthal, Joseph and Stephanie	Tesfasilase Tiebe and	Zmina, Stephen and Cynthia
Panos, William and Jeanne	Rotas, Beatrice	Ghbremariam, Tsehaye	Zotos, Angela
Papas, Peter and Rita	Rouvas, John and Keri	Thanos, Nick and Victoria	
Papas, Christian and Nicole	Ruffner, Skip and Kathy	Thompson, Maggy	
Papas, Louis and Magaly	Salon, Janelle	Tiliakos, Rosemarie	

TRADING ACCOUNT: ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT OUR PARISH

Looking for ways to financially support our Parish? Have you considered offering stocks, mutual funds, or cash from your IRA accounts as your Stewardship or a general donation to the Church? Doing so will benefit the Church and you can avoid paying taxes on any capital gains.

For this very purpose, the Parish Council has set up a trading account with UBS. If you are interested in offering a donation this way, please contact the Church at (702) 221-8245 and ask to speak to John Karas. He will work with you to get your generous Stewardship or general donation processed.



OCTOBER 2018 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

	1	2 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes 6:00 pm Philoptochos General in Kokkos Hall 6:15 pm Folk Dance	3 6:00 pm Paraklesis for our Icons 7:00 pm Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith: Class #3: The Holy Sacraments	4 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	5	6
7 National Church Music Sunday 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Hierarchical Liturgy w Metropolitan Gerasimos 12:30 pm Folk Dance	8	9 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes 6:15 pm Folk Dance 6:30 pm AHEPA, DOP & Sons Potluck Meeting	10 6:00 pm Byzantine Music Class 7:00 pm Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith: Class #4: The Divine Liturgy	11 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	12	13 6:00 pm Mr. and Mrs. at Nixon Home
14 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Youth Choir Chants 12:30 pm Folk Dance 5:00 pm GOYA Night in Panos Hall	15 11:30 am Senior Forerunner Luncheon in Kokkos Hall	16 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes 6:15 pm Folk Dance 6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting in Library	17 6:00 pm Byzantine Music Class 7:00 pm Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith: Class #5: Orthodox Spirituality	18 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	19 7:30 pm Young Adults at Sushi Fever	20 St. Gerasimos 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
21 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:15 pm Youth Choir 12:30 pm Folk Dance 1:00 pm AHEPA Golf Tournament	22	23 St. Iakovos 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes 6:15 pm Folk Dance	24 6:00 pm Byzantine Music Class 7:00 pm Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith: Class #6: Church Architecture: Show/Tell	25 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	26 St. Demetrios 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 11:00 am Youth Depart from Church for Ely 5:00 pm Pilgrimage Mtg	27 9:00 am Liturgy at St. Alexios Chapel, Ely 6:00 pm Kali Parea St. Demetrios Celebration at Demetri Asim's House
28 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy OXI Day Celebration 12:15 pm Youth Choir 12:30 pm Folk Dance	29	30 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes 6:15 pm Folk Dance Practice	31	All Youth Overnight Camping Trip in Ely		

The Desert Messenger

*St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
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Las Vegas, Nevada 89118-1922*

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THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord

*“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving
yourselves. For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer,
he is like a man who observes his natural face in a mirror;
for he observes himself and goes away and
at once forgets what he was like.*

*But he who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty,
and perseveres, being no hearer that forgets but a doer that acts,
he shall be blessed in his doing.”*

(James 1:22-25)

“So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” (James 2:17)