

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 17, Issue 7 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV July/August 2019

From Father John

Beloved in Christ:

Let us thank God for the recent completion of our new iconography, but let us also remember that these icons are so much more than a beautiful adornment for our Church: Rather, they are vessels of divine grace, offering us a vision of the Kingdom of God as well as a theological expression of the prototype or event which is depicted. One of the newer icons, located in the dome of the northwest exedra, is *the Dormition (in Greek, Koimisis – literally, the “Falling Asleep”) of the Theotokos*, which is the twelfth and final Great Feast of the Ecclesiastical Year and celebrated *on August 15*.

Fifty days after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, on the Sunday of Pentecost, the Holy Apostles were empowered by the Holy Spirit to go fearlessly throughout the world – often in the face of opposition, persecution and even imprisonment – preaching, performing signs and miracles, and Baptizing in His Name. The missionary travels of the Holy Apostles, in obedience to our Lord’s Commission, resulted in countless people becoming believers in Christ everywhere they went, and in the unparalleled growth of the Church: While the Virgin Mary was integral to our salvation, she also was and continues to be inseparable from the missionary and spiritual life of the Church.

Following Christ’s directive on the Cross, the *Theotokos (God-Bearer)* was given to the care of St. John the Evangelist, the “beloved” Apostle of the Lord, since she had no other children. (*John 19:26-27*) The Virgin Mary lived from that time forth in the home of St. John and, as was her practice from a very young age, she remained constant in the ascetic practices of prayer, fasting and giving alms – which brought the Evangelist even closer to our Lord: “On account of her companionship, the Evangelist John spoke more than others of divine mysteries.” (*The Life of the Virgin Mary, the Theotokos*, p. 417) At the time of Herod’s persecution, St. John took the Mother of God with him to Ephesus, where two hundred years later the first Church was built in her honor – today only its ruins remain. However, contrary to some beliefs, the Theotokos did not repose in Ephesus.



(Continued on Page 4)

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

JULY

Sunday, July 7/*3rd Sunday of Matthew/St. Thomas of Maleon/St. Kyriaki the Great Martyr*
Orthros: Tone Two
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Mark 16:9-20
Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29, 4:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33

Friday, July 12/*St. Paisios the Athonite*
8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2
Gospel: Luke 6:17-23

Sunday, July 14/*Holy Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council/St. Nikodemos the Hagiorite/Apostle Aquila of the 70*
Orthros: Tone Three
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:1-12
Epistle: Titus 3:8-15
Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19

Saturday, July 20/*Prophet Elias*
8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: James 5:10-20
Gospel: Luke 4:22-30

Sunday, July 21/*5th Sunday of Matthew/Symeon the Fool for Christ/St. Parthenios, Bishop of Arta*
Orthros: Tone Four
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:13-35
Epistle: Romans 10:1-10
Gospel: Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1

Friday, July 26/*Holy Martyr Paraskevi*
8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5
Gospel: Mark 5:24-34

Saturday, July 27/*Great Martyr and Healer Panteleimon (His Relics are in our Holy Altar)*
8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Artoclasia (Lekar/Eliades Family)
Epistle: 2 Timothy 2:1-10
Gospel: John 15:17-27; 16:1-2

O holy one, victor and healer, Panteleimon, intercede with the merciful God, that He may grant remission of the offenses of our souls.

Sunday, July 28/*6th Sunday of Matthew/St. Irene Chrysovalantou/Holy Apostles and Deacons Prochoros, Nicanor, Timon and Parmenas*
Orthros: Tone Five (First Plagal)
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:36-53
Epistle: Romans 12:6-14
Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8

AUGUST

Dormition Fast August 1-14

Friday, August 2
6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Sunday, August 4/*7th Sunday of Matthew/Forefeast of the Transfiguration/Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus*
Orthros: Tone Six (Second Plagal)
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:1-10
Epistle: Romans 15:1-7
Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

Monday, August 5
6:00 pm Great Vespers for the Transfiguration

Tuesday, August 6/*Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*
8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy
Epistle: 2 Peter 1:10-19
Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9
Blessing of the Grapes

Wednesday, August 7
6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Friday, August 9
6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Sunday, August 11/*8th Sunday of Matthew/St. Euplus the Deacon/St. Niphon Patriarch of Constantinople*
Orthros: Tone Seven (Grave)
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:11-18
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17
Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

Monday, August 12
6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos

Wednesday, August 14
6:00 pm Great Vespers of the Dormition

Thursday, August 15/*Dormition of the Theotokos*
8:00 am Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and
Artoclasia (Papas and Kakavulias Families)

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

Fellowship hosted by Philoptochos

Sunday, August 18/*9th Sunday of Matthew/Holy
Martyrs Floros, Lauros, Leontios, and Hermas/
Ss. John and George Patriarchs of Constantinople*

Orthros: Tone Eight (Fourth Plagal)

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

Panigyri tis Panagias (Dormition Luncheon)

Sunday, August 25/*10th Sunday of Matthew/
Return of the Body of St. Bartholomew/St. Titus
Apostle of the 70*

Orthros: Tone One

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

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

Wednesday, August 28/*Beheading of St. John the
Baptist (Observed)*

5:00 pm Orthros - 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 13:25-32

Gospel: Mark 6:14-30

Thursday, August 29/*Beheading of St. John
(Strict Fast) - Liturgy on Preceding Evening*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

JULY 7

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

Memorials: Anna Balason (40 days); and Irene Rallis (40 days)

Fellowship: Kakavulias Family, in memory of Maria - proceeds to benefit the Building Fund

JULY 14

Ushers: Adam Bieker, Spiros Filios, Gus Flangas, Bessie Stavropoulos, John Nicholas and Skip Ruffner

Memorials: Zacharie (Jack) Franzi (40 days); and Cristo Tringas (40 days)

Fellowship: The Kypreos Family

JULY 21

Ushers: Demetrious Asim, John Matsis, Mark Karris, Stacy Mavrantonis, Justina Szukiewicz, John Koutsulis

Fellowship: Adult Choir

JULY 28

Ushers: Gus Flangas, Skip Ruffner, Bessie Stavropoulos, Spiros Filios, Demetrious Asim and John Nicholas

Memorial: Liliana Margaretis

Fellowship: Philoptochos Society

AUGUST 4

Ushers: Gus Flangas, Skip Ruffner, Bessie Stavropoulos, Spiros Filios, Demetrious Asim and John Nicholas

Memorial: Joseph Szukiewicz (40 days)

Fellowship: Pan-Cretans

AUGUST 11

Ushers: Demetrious Asim, John Matsis, Mark Karris, Stacy Mavrantonis, Justina Szukiewicz, John Koutsulis

Memorials: Nicholas Salon (1 year); and Vassilios Tzortzis (3 years)

Fellowship: Janelle Salon, in memory of Nick Salon

AUGUST 18 - PANIGYRI TIS PANAGIAS LUNCHEON

Ushers: Adam Bieker, Spiros Filios, Gus Flangas, Bessie Stavropoulos, John Nicholas and Skip Ruffner

Fellowship: "Panigyri tis Panagias" Luncheon

AUGUST 25

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

Fellowship: Farolyn McSweeney and Jennifer Santamaria, in honor of their Name Days

From Father John (Continued from Page 1)

According to Holy Tradition – which together with the Holy Scriptures constitute the two pillars firmly planted in Christ, Who is the Foundation of the Church – the Theotokos also journeyed to Antioch: There she visited St. Ignatios before he was sent off to martyrdom in Rome, and then she returned to the home of the Evangelist in Jerusalem. On a later voyage to see the Lord's friend, Bishop Lazaros, in Cyprus, strong storms led the ship on which the Theotokos was traveling to the shores of Mount Athos: It was here that she converted pagan virgins to Christianity and foretold that this would become a Holy Mountain inhabited by monks – and for this reason, the *Panagia (All-Holy One)* is the Patron Saint of Mount Athos.

After visiting St. Lazaros and the faithful of Cyprus, the Virgin Mary returned to Jerusalem, where she often ascended the Mount of Olives to “pray to her Son and God that He might take her from among the living to Himself.” (p. 445) At the foot of the mountain was the Garden of Gethsemane, the same place where our Lord prayed prior to His arrest: Here the Holy Mother received the consoling news from an angel that her departure from this life into Heaven was imminent. Having received a flowering branch from the angel as a sign she would enter Paradise, the Panagia returned home, gave the branch to St. John and directed him to carry it before her casket. The Holy Apostles were wondrously carried on clouds from the ends of the Earth and gathered in Gethsemane for the repose of the Theotokos – all but St. Thomas, whom God delayed for His divine purpose. On the third day after the burial, the Apostle Thomas was carried on a cloud from India to a place above the Virgin's tomb: From there he witnessed the translation of the Holy Mother's body into Paradise – and as a sign of this miracle, the Theotokos gave her Holy Sash to the Apostle.

In our domed icon of the Dormition, we observe the Holy Mother reposed on her bier, surrounded by the Apostles and angels (including one approaching from Heaven with a sword drawn to cut off the hands of the impious Jewish priest Athonios, who sought to cast her body to the ground and later repented). Above the bier stands our Lord – in all His glory and guarded by two angels – Who receives the soul of His All-Holy Mother in His Right Hand: According to St. Gregory Palamas, “*The seraphim are round about God, but the Queen of all is solely beside Him... God Himself proclaims her by the mighty deeds enacted with respect to Him.*” (p. 474) Finally, at the very top of the icon we witness the doors to the Kingdom, which are opened wide and filled with an abundance of angels – a powerful gesture of welcome and anticipation as they await to receive the Theotokos. Because of her purity of life and complete submission to God's will, the Theotokos was granted that which we all hope for: The glorious bodily resurrection!

During the two week fast in early August, as we prepare to celebrate this Great Fast, which is known as the “Second Pascha,” let us pray to our Most Holy Mother that we also might receive this same end in our lives – “*Most Holy Theotokos, Save Us!*”

With Love in Christ and the Theotokos,



*O You Apostles from far off, being gathered together in the village of Gethsemane:
Lay my body in burial, and You, my Son and my God,
receive now my spirit from me. (Exapostilarion of the Dormition)*

2019 Stewardship
Report
(as of 6/25/19)

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$403,487 (\$359,095 in 2018)

Stewardship Gifts Received: \$262,679 (\$211,209 in 2018)

Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$140,808 (\$147,886 in 2018)

Stewardship Families Pledged: 368 (363 in 2018)

Average Pledge to Date: \$1,096 (\$989 in 2018)

Average Pledge Needed: \$2,629 (Decreases with More Pledges)



Panigyri tis Panagias

Celebration for the Dormition of the Theotokos

*Come Celebrate the Feast!
Greek DJ and Dancing!*

*Sunday, August 18
following
Divine Liturgy
in Panos Hall*

\$20 per Person

(\$200 per 10-Person Table)

*Purchase your tickets from
a Parish Council Member
or the Church Office*



*Greek Salad
Chicken or Pork
Souvlaki
with Tzatziki
Rice Pilaf and Briami
Garlic Bread
Cake
Wine-Beer-Soda
Cash Bar*



Parish Council Report

Greetings to all of our fellow Parishioners of Saint John the Baptist!

Summer is now upon us and with it come vacations, cooling off at the pool, barbeques, graduation parties, the kids being off, and all of the other activities associated with this time of year. Traditionally, Church attendance is lower during the summer, but the overhead continues. While everyone may tire of hearing about money issues, the fact remains that Stewardship does not cover the operating costs of the Church as it is meant to, and the lower attendance means less candle and tray money, which is essential to help with expenses. Almost without fail, the Parish Council must approve money transfers from restricted accounts to ensure that the money is there to pay the bills. Therefore, we implore all Stewards to make their commitments during the summer months so that we can better see to the day to day financial management of our Parish.

As was noted in last month's issue of *The Desert Messenger*, with the help of generous donations, roof repairs have been completed at the Community Center. However, the Parish Council recently contracted with WE Consulting LLC to conduct a mold inspection, and mold has been uncovered in Father John's Office, Karen's Office and the Bookstore, and it can be more widespread. This is a serious issue that requires that Father John and Karen both move out of their offices until abatement and repair is completed, which will obviously be an expensive proposition.

While a claim is being filed with Church Mutual Insurance, our carrier, we do not know at this time what they will cover regarding this issue. That being said, once again, an appeal will most likely be forthcoming to cover the costs of the remediation, which will include carpet tear out, new flooring, dry wall tear out and replacement, paint, etc. We pray that this problem will be successfully alleviated as quickly as possible and that we can control this issue.

The funds from the Greek Food Festival are supposed to be utilized for maintenance and repairs as well as capital improvements, but as we know, due to the Stewardship shortfalls these funds have been used in past years for operations, and are not available when issues like the mold abatement arise.

Thanks to a donation from Peter and Vicky Palivos, we will be holding Sunday Fellowship in West Panos Hall during the summer months.

Our Parish is celebrating its 60th Anniversary on the weekend of **November 9-10**. You have received your appeals for contributions to pay off the mortgage as part of this celebration. If this appeal is met, we will remove a \$60,000 per year mortgage obligation which is paid out of Festival funds each year. What a blessing it will be to have no mortgage and have this money available when issues like the mold damage come up!

Summer always means that the Food Festival is right around the corner: Please be generous with your time this year as our volunteerism is the key to our Festival's financial success. Raffle tickets will be available soon after this is written for the Mercedes Raffle as well as the Festival Coupon Books which we can sell or gift to our friends. The Coupon Books and Raffle tickets are now ready for all of us to sell!

Finally, a highlight of our summer will be our annual Panigyri Luncheon that will be held **on Sunday, August 18**, celebrating the Dormition of the Theotokos. Please join us following Liturgy in Panos Hall for a delicious lunch prepared by our generous volunteers and enjoy fellowship on this special day.

John Matsis, Parish Council Vice President

Greek Food Festival Baking Dates:

Friday, August 9 & Saturday, August 10: Dolmathes

Friday, August 23 & Saturday, August 24: Pastitsio

Greek Food Festival: September 27, 28 & 29

Your Stewardship of Time is Encouraged!

Philoptochos News

I greet you in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Although we are in the hot summer months and many of us are on vacation, the work of our Philoptochos continues. I am profoundly humbled and very proud to have been elected as the new President of the Ladies Philoptochos Panagia Chapter. I will faithfully serve in the position to the best of my ability for this incredible organization.

Congratulations to the new Philoptochos Board for 2019-2021. May God bless all of you in continuing our sacred mission of philanthropy and service. I would also like to express immense appreciation to our immediate past President, Vicky Palivos, for the great achievements and hard work put forth during her term. She is a true example of the core values of Philoptochos women.

With excitement and appreciation for the completion of the new and much-anticipated iconography, we hosted the celebratory champagne reception outside the narthex of our Church on Sunday, May 26. We were uplifted to new spiritual heights being surrounded by the beautiful icons of the holy saints in the four exedras and listening to the presentations on each icon from Father John and Father Seraphim! We humbly praise our Lord for bestowing upon us the blessing of our magnificent Church!

Philoptochos hosted a lovely fellowship in celebration of Holy Pentecost and Fathers Day on June 16, with a display of tasty cookies, koulourakia, colorful and delicious fruit and refreshing mimosas. Our heartfelt appreciation to our beautiful hostesses, Jennifer Santamaria, Farolyn McSweeney and our very own and always present beloved Vice President, Kiki Mavrantonis.



Upcoming Events:

Sunday, July 28: Philoptochos will be hosting the *Fellowship* and needs volunteers to help. Please email Jennifer at jen.santamarialv@gmail.com or call Benita at (702) 885-6217.

Thursday, August 15: *The Dormition of our Most Holy Theotokos, the Feast Day of the Panagia Chapter.* We need two women to host this *Fellowship* – and we are asking those who celebrate their Name Day or the Name Day of a family member to please volunteer.

Sunday, August 18: *Panigyri Luncheon, hosted by the Parish Council.* Philoptochos will assist with set setting up and serving. Please volunteer a couple hours of your time; it will be greatly appreciated.

September 27 – 29: *Greek Food Festival.* We will once again be hosting a booth, greeting and welcoming the many thousands of guests who will be arriving to experience our Greek hospitality. To volunteer a few hours, please contact Jennifer Chanos, the Booth Chair, at (702) 371-1786 or via email at jlinn777@aol.com.

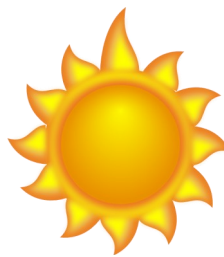
November 9 and 10, 2019: *60th Anniversary Celebration of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church.* Please plan on participating in the weekend festivities. As we thank God for granting us 60 years as a Parish, each of us is called to participate and prayerfully give from our precious resources to assist in paying off the mortgage of our Church. Our Church is the place where we worship God, hold fast to our ancient Faith, are healed and renewed by the Sacraments, and maintain our culture. Please contact the Chairwomen Cheryl Pandelis and Nitsa Filios to offer your pledge!

As your new President I am truly looking forward to working with our board, and all the Philoptochos sisters and brothers in our community, to continue the effort toward accomplishing the mission of Philoptochos, as we demonstrate our love and compassion to all those in need.

May you and your families enjoy a very blessed and wonderful summer!

Love in Christ, Benita Beeman, Philoptochos President

Stewardship and Community Outreach



"It's Too Hot Outside!" If we had a dollar for every time this has been proclaimed throughout the summer . . . Wow! We could air condition the Church, Panos Hall and Kokkos Hall with no worries, or need for considering (and reconsidering) "austerity measures."

My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, may each of us remember that with our wholehearted giving of gifts (meaning that we give the appropriate percentage according to our household income), we are making a meaningful offering to our beloved Parish of St. John the Baptist: With this comes a great comfort in knowing that all the needs of our community will be met, so that we may worship Christ our God without constantly having the burden of thinking about how to "make ends meet."

We hope you all have a peaceful and blessed summer! On those days when it is just too hot, please consider going to visit a fellow parishioner who is homebound and lonely. Offering our kindness and time to a soul in need of care is extremely rewarding and very important for our own spiritual wellness.

With Love in Christ, Stewardship and Outreach Committee



Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun

Elizabeth (Nora), daughter of Michael and Allison Cromwell,
on June 15, 2019.

Godparents: Joseph and Justina Szukiewicz.

Alexandra (Allison) Cromwell on June 15, 2019 (Adult Baptism).
Godparent: Amalea Bauck.

Christine (Danika), daughter of John and Erin Dakin, on June 23, 2019.
Godparents: Robert and Cheryl Fischer.

Chrismation

Romina Chomakos on June 16, 2019.
Sponsor: Vasiliki Stavropoulos.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory!

Anna Balason on May 31, 2019. Funeral on June 8.

Irene Rallis on June 2, 2019. Funeral on June 10.

Cristo Tringas on June 8, 2019. Funeral on June 18.

Zacharie (Jack) Franzi on June 10, 2019. Funeral on June 19.

Joseph Szukiewicz on June 18, 2019. Funeral on June 21.

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

Michelle Eugenio
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: Benita Beeman

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 &
Joy Wolfenbarger

Adult Basketball:
Nate Dallas

Forerunners: Vicki Xikis

Orthodox Bookstore:
Constantine Frangakis,
Paisios & Mary Pursell

Greek Food Festival: Gus Flangas

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

Photography: Bill Bruninga



From the personal collection of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America

Archbishop Elpidophoros of America Enthroned June 22, 2019 in New York

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America was enthroned as the seventh Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America on Saturday June 22, 2019 at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Manhattan. The Enthronement of Archbishop Elpidophoros attracted worldwide interest and was attended by hierarchs from the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops; dignitaries from the political, diplomatic, academic and business world; religious leaders, community and organization representatives; and clergy and laity from around the country and around the world.

On Sunday, June 23, the day after the Enthronement, His Eminence will preside for the first time as Archbishop at the Hierarchal concelebration of the Divine Liturgy with all the members of the Holy Eparchial Synod.

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

ABOUT OUR ARCHBISHOP

On May 11, 2019 he was unanimously elected as the seventh Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Born in 1967 in Bakirköy, Istanbul

In March 2005 he was ordained to the Holy Priesthood

In 2011 he was elected Metropolitan of Bursa and later appointed Abbot of the Holy Patriarchal and Stavropegial Monastery of the Holy Trinity on the island of Chalki

Since 1996 he has been a member of the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches

For over 15 years he has served as Chair of the Advisory Council for the Turkish Bible Society and in August 2017 was elected to serve on the the United Bible Societies' Global Council.



LEARN MORE!

Visit goarch.org/enthronement for:

- An official biography
- Official addresses
- Photos and video from the Enthronement and Divine Liturgy

Visit [youtube.com/y2am](https://www.youtube.com/y2am) to watch *Be the Bee* Episode #134: "Why Do Bishops Get Enthroned?"

FOLLOW

@ELPIDOPHOROS
 @GOARCH

www.goarch.org



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2019-2020 CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Please Write Legibly - Use One Form Per Child

Church School Classes Begin Sunday, September 8.
Pre-Kindergarten (4 years old by September 30) through High School

Student Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

School Grade (2019-2020 school year): _____

Special Needs, Allergies, Medications: _____
(e.g. "Autism Spectrum," "Peanuts," "Insulin Dependent")

Patron Saint and Date of Commemoration: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN OR OTHER RELATIVE (Relationship: _____)

Name: _____ Name: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ E-mail: _____

Home Address: _____
Street City ZIP

Student Cell Phone: _____ Student E-mail: _____
If you DO NOT want your child to be contacted by phone/text or by e-mail, please leave one or both of these blank.

Please don't be a drop-off parent! Come to Divine Liturgy with your children, and remain on the grounds while they are in Church School. Teach by example! Thank you!

I give my child permission to take part in all Church School activities and
will support this ministry through my annual Stewardship.

Signed, Parent or Legal Guardian: _____

Many hands ease the load! Please let us know in which way you would like to help our children:

_____ Teaching _____ Snack _____ Crafts

***Please return this registration form to Karen at the Church Office during the week
or to Eileen Koutsulis, Church School Director, on Sundays before classes start.***



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
GREEK FOLK DANCE MINISTRY

2019-2020 REGISTRATION FORM

One Registration Form Required for Each Dancer
Registration Deadline: October 6, 2019

Dancer's Name: _____ Age: _____ Birth Date: _____

Minimum Age: 4 years old by September 30, 2019

Address: _____

City: _____, Nevada Zip Code: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Father's Name: _____

Contact Information (Please fill out completely and legibly):

Phone Numbers: Mother's Cell: _____ Father's Cell: _____

Dancer's Cell: _____ Home: _____

If you DO NOT want your child to be contacted by text message, please check this box: ☐

Email Addresses: Mother: _____

Father: _____

Dancer (if applicable): _____

If you DO NOT want your child to be contacted by e-mail, please leave this blank.

I understand and accept the following requirements for participation in the Greek Folk Dance Ministry:

1. The dancer must be Baptized and Chrismated in the Orthodox Church. Proof of Baptism or Chrismation must be provided for each dancer (or previously verified by Fr. John).
2. The parent(s) must be Steward(s) of St. John Church for 2019 **before their child(ren) attend any dance practice** and Steward(s) for 2020 by January 10, 2020. **Please check one box:**
 - ☐ I am already a 2019 Steward. (This will be verified with the Church Office.)
 - ☐ I am attaching my Stewardship Commitment Card to this registration form.
3. The dancer must **on a regular basis participate** in Divine Liturgy on Sunday, throughout the year, and in Church School (if he or she is of age), **September through May**. Infrequent participation is a basis for removal from the program.

(Continued)

4. The dancer must arrive to practice on time and be respectful.
5. The dancer and parent(s) are expected to participate in all fundraising activities of the Greek Folk Dance Ministry.
6. Dancers who have excessive absences may be subject to removal from the program.
7. The Folk Dance Festival will take place in February 13-17, 2020 in Anaheim, California. The dancer and parent(s) must determine by November 10, 2019 if they will attend FDF. Dancers who elect not to go to FDF may only participate in dance practices through the end of December, 2019.
8. The dancer and parent(s) agree to meet all financial responsibilities assigned to the participants by the St. John Greek Folk Dance Ministry and the Folk Dance Festival (FDF).
9. Registration fees are:
 - a. Competitive Dance Groups: \$150 per dancer, or \$125 for each additional sibling, due by **October 6**. (No registrations will be accepted after this date.)
 - b. Liondaria (non-competitive) Dance Group: \$75. (Must be at least 4 years old by September 30.)
10. Registration can only be accepted when all of the following are turned in:
 - a. Registration form
 - b. Non-refundable registration fee
 - c. Proof of Baptism/Chrismation (unless verified by Fr. John)
 - d. Stewardship Commitment Card (unless verified by Church Office)
11. Dancers from previous years must re-register. **Dancers are prohibited from practice until their registration is complete and until their parent(s) become Steward(s) for 2019.**

First Folk Dance Practice for All Dancers: Sunday, September 8, 2019

For information on the St. John Greek Folk Dance Ministry, please contact the Folk Dance Board at stjohngreekdance@gmail.com or the Church at (702) 221-8245.

MAKE OUT CHECKS TO "ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH," WITH "FOLK DANCE GROUP" IN THE MEMO LINE.

Signature of Dancer

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Date

Date

FOR DANCE BOARD USE:

Payment Received On: _____ Check #: _____ OR Cash: _____

Stewardship Card Received: _____ Proof of Baptism/Chrismation: _____

From Father Seraphim

July 12 is the feast day of *St. Paisios the Athonite*, a Saint who reposed in the Lord in 1994, yet lives on to this day. I remember four years ago when St. Paisios was canonized, a monk relayed to me how his abbot from Mount Athos surprised the Monastery of Simonopetra with the wonderful news of St. Paisios' canonization. Geronta Elissaios did not inform the monks of the glad tidings until the end of the Divine Liturgy when he added St. Paisios' name to the dismissal list of intercession to the various ranks of Saints. My friend and professor Father Maximos shared how the monks suddenly looked up from their stasidia: All eyes bright with joy, and smiles full of grace burst forth. "You could feel the whole mountain dance and rejoice with the good news," he said. "This was one of us, we knew him and loved him."



Why it is so exciting to have a Saint from our modern times? Is it simply because we have photographs of him, or can see videos of him speaking on YouTube? It goes beyond the fact that he simply lived in our times and is "relevant," since we find the writings of the all the ancient Church Fathers applicable to our lives today. They always speak to the human condition and the soul, or heart of man. Rather, the unique and special joy of a modern Saint lies in the comfort of knowing that he lived through and saw the struggles we face in our own days and times. St. Paisios knew the insanity of our modern age in turning away from God as an entire Western culture. He could articulate this clearly by the grace of God, and show anyone who listens the path through the issues of today that leads to the Kingdom of Heaven.

I feel a special connection to St. Paisios, as he was our own spiritual father's spiritual father! At the age of seventeen Father Nicholas Kastanas went to Mount Athos and met St. Paisios for the first time. He speaks about how the elder came out of his small home that he and the monks built walking like a breeze and greeting him, saying, "Welcome I was expecting you!" Father Nicholas of course had not announced or sent ahead about his pilgrimage to see the Saint at Panagouda, but St. Paisios told him, "God told me, don't look so confused." They sat outside his home on stone seats and, as St. Paisios went in and out of his home to get water or put the dishes away, Father Nicholas told me how he would rub his eyes because it looked as if the Saint's feet were not on the ground as he walked. Father Nicholas continued to go back every year for many years to confess to St. Paisios and seek his guidance. From all these years of speaking with his spiritual father he tells me how the main thing he learned was to love. In everything he did or taught, the underlying tone of the Saint's life was: "Implant Jesus Christ in your heart through the Jesus prayer and love everyone: Shower love like a torrential downpour on everyone – even those who trouble you."

As Orthodox Christians we are so fortunate to have an extensive collection of the spiritual counsels, sayings, and letters of St. Paisios translated into English and collected in different volumes. These books are primarily his letters written to spiritual children, and talks he gave that were recorded. Allow me to whet your appetite a little with just two excerpts from these treasures, for his words are like manna for the spiritually hungry:

"Television has done us great damage. It's especially destructive for children. A seven-year-old child came to the hermitage once. I saw the demon of television speaking through the child's mouth, exactly as demons speak through the mouth of the possessed... And you see they don't get to think for themselves, they only repeat what they have heard and seen on television. That's why they have come up with television to begin with: to make people numb and dumb, so that they will take what they hear and see on television for a fact and act accordingly." (Elder Paisios of Mt. Athos: Spiritual Counsels. Volume Four: Family Life. Published by the Holy Monastery of St. John the Theologian. Souroti, Thessaloniki, Greece)

"I always tell people that if they want to avoid calamities in their life, they should stop working on Sundays and feast days. Work schedules could be arranged to keep these days free. Where there is spiritual sensitivity, everything is possible; solutions will be found. That's really the issue here. Even if a particular solution is to our disadvantage, and we suffer a loss, in the end we'll be twice blessed." (Volume One: With Pain and Love for Contemporary Man)

(Continued on Page 14)

Orthodox Bookstore

SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS

Summertime is here! Are you ready to read? Pack your beach bag or getaway bag with one of these easy-to-read and entertaining books.

Saint Nektarios, Saint of the Century: An exciting and thorough book exploring the life of this exceptional saint. It reads like a Greek Tragedy. It tells the story of how St. Nektarios' saintly approach to life helped him endure endless persecution by his envious peers.

Saint Porphyrios, Wounded by Love: This emotional book tells the story of St. Porphyrios' life and many miracles, in simple, deeply reflective and profoundly wise words.

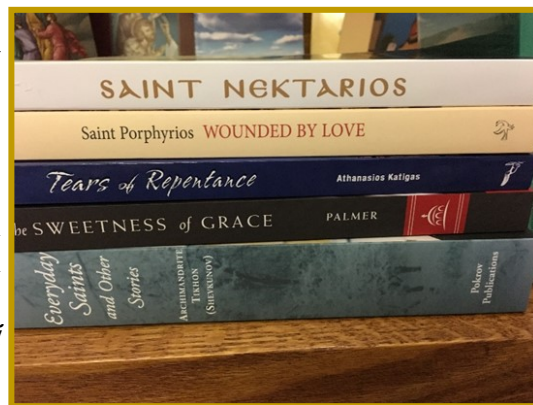
Tears of Repentance, True Experiences in a Greek Taxi Cab: Ride along with a devout Greek Orthodox taxi driver, as he changes the lives of his customers through the love of Jesus Christ.

Sweetness of Grace: A collection of stories from various trips to monasteries and other miraculous encounters. A follow-up book from the author of *The Scent of Holiness*.

Everyday Saints and Other Stories: Laugh and cry through these miraculous stories from the Pskov Caves Monastery during the communist years as your faith is strengthened and revived.

Going on a road trip? Pick out a CD from Father Kosmas of Australia and learn more about our incredible Orthodox Faith. We also carry a selection of Children's Books as well! We hope to see you before you leave for your travels.

Mary Pursell and the Bookstore Team



Church Office and Father John's Office Temporarily Moved

As the Parish Council works to address the mold abatement and remediation in these offices, Karen has moved to the Library and Father John's "temporary crib" is in Classroom 1.

Hopefully the mold issue will be resolved soon, so these rooms can be freed up. We appreciate everyone's patience (including Karen's and Father's) during this time.

From Father Seraphim (Continued from Page 13)

St. Paisios is a model for what it means to know and love God – especially for us today being so close to him in years. If we take the time to read his books he will help us love Christ in a new way, expanding our hearts capacity for grace in a way we never imagined. Father Nicholas tells me how weather-beaten the Saint's face was from his hard life, but his eyes were like stepping into Paradise. They were a deep blue and invited you to love God fully. These eyes are still alive today and waiting for us to look into them. The icons in his cell were worn down from the elder's kisses; he had an insatiable longing for the Kingdom of God. Through praying to St. Paisios and reading his words, we too can sit with him on his stone seats and he can transmit his fiery love for Christ into our hearts and sanity into our minds.

With Love in Christ,

Father Seraphim



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

REMINDER - REMINDER - REMINDER

By God's Grace, The Ladies Philoptochos Society Panagia Chapter has been entrusted with the chairmanship of the
60th Anniversary Celebration of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, November 9 and 10, 2019.

Last October, as a forerunner to the 60th you were presented with a

"\$300,000 One Year Plan"

which outlined the means by which our beloved Church Community can be **debt free by November, 2019.**

We have **FOUR MORE MONTHS** to raise an additional \$100,000 to bring this goal to fruition.

We are most thankful to our fellow parishioners listed below who have so generously made their contributions.

With a generous heart, please review once again, the packet sent to you on October 15, 2018

and choose the plan best suited to you so that we may include your name on this list.

ANY AND ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NEEDED AND WELCOME

Your sisters in Christ,

Benita Beeman, President
Ladies Philoptochos Society
Panagia Chapter

Nitsa Filios, Chairwoman
702 595-6888
nitsalv@aol.com

Cheryl Pandelis, Chairwoman
702 338-1601
cheryl.pandelis@outlook.com

AHEPA

Bacon, Ken and Diane
Berendji, Jim and Vivian
Carrico, William and Alexandra
Chagaras, Kiki
Chachas, Bessie
Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia
Dalacas, Georgia
Daughters of Penelope, Panope Chapter
Dimopoulos, Steve
Dominguez, Eric and Amalia
Dounis, Dina, Kiki and Georgia
Earl, Christine Michaelides
Eliakis, Peter and Glenda
Eliakis, Varthie and Lee Ann
Filios, George and Nitsa
Filios, Spiros and Eleni
Flangas Memorial Fund, William "Bill"
Flangas, Gus and Tamara
Flangas, Marilyn
Fountas, Constantinos
Gialketsis, Babe and Terry+
Gialketsis, Bill and Shelli
Gialketsis, Julie
Hamilton, Mary

Hamilton, Paul and Brandi
Hart, Dora and Geiger, Dan
Hetzel, David and Stephanatos-Hetzel, Joanne
Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria
Jandete, Johanna
Kakavulias, George and Helen
Kanis, Constantinos and Katie
Karas, John and Marcie
Karris, Mark and Suzanne
Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon
Kouretas, Daniel
Kunard, Antonis and Theofania
Kypreos, George, Lesley and Athanasia
Kypreos, Peter and Geri
Kypreos, Sophia, AP and Peter
Ladies Philoptochos Society, Panagia Chapter
Makris, Apostolos
Maland, Tim+ and Donna
Maravic, Marija
Matsis, John and Rebecca
Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki
Moffet, Todd and Eliopoulos, Tina
Monoyudis, Jim and Julie
Murray, Christopher and George, Veneta
Nixon, John and Ellyn

Palivos, Peter and Vicky
Pan Arcadians
Pandelis, Cheryl
Panos, William and Jean
Papas, Christian, Nicole and Luka
Papas, Peter and Rita
Pappas, Rita
Poulos, Christine
Powers, Russell and Rebecca
Ramos, Fr. Seraphim and Presv. Olenka
Rotas, Beatrice
Ruffin, Lee
Senior Forerunners
Setian, Gary and Marie
Smith, Litsa
Snow, Clifford and Christina
Stephanatos, Michael and Tami
Tsolis, Panagiote
Velimirovic, Nikolaj
Wilson, Steven and Cleo
Xikis, Vicki
Zaferatos, Theodore
Zamir, Talor and Michelle



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

\$300,000 ONE YEAR PLAN

SUGGESTED DONATIONS

Please choose one

Plan 1:	\$1,000	_____ pay in full or	_____ \$83.33 per month for 12 months***
Plan 2:	\$2,000	_____ pay in full or	_____ \$166.67 per month for 12 months
Plan 3:	\$5,000	_____ pay in full or	_____ \$416.67 per month for 12 months
Plan 4:	\$7,500	_____ pay in full or	_____ \$625.00 per month for 12 months
Plan 5:	\$10,000	_____ pay in full or	_____ \$833.33 per month for 12 months
Plan 6:	\$15,000	_____ pay in full or	_____ \$1,250.00 per month for 12 months
Plan 7:	\$25,000	_____ pay in full or	_____ \$2,083.33 per month for 12 months
Plan 8:	\$50,000	_____ pay in full or	_____ \$4,166.67 per month for 12 months

*****300 Contributors participating in Plan 1: \$1,000 over the course of 1 year,
or \$83.33 per month for 12 months, would abolish our \$300,000 debt!
Please think about what \$83.33 per month represents to you and
find a way to help make it happen!**

These are "SUGGESTED" donation plans, however

ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

FOR ASSISTANCE IN DESIGNING A PERSONALIZED PLAN

OR TO SET UP A MONTHLY PAYMENT SCHEDULE

please call or email

Cheryl Pandelis 702 338-1601
cheryl.pandelis@outlook.com

Nitsa Filios 702 595-6888
nitsalv@aol.com

THANK YOU!



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

\$300,000 ONE YEAR PLAN

Please fill out and return this form to St. John Church in the enclosed envelope

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ MOBILE: _____

EMAIL: _____

DONATION AMOUNT: \$ _____

IN FULL: \$ _____ **OR 12 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF \$ _____ EACH**

CHECK* Number: _____ Date: _____

CREDIT CARD** AMEX _____ VISA _____ MC _____ OTHER _____

Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

**Please make check payable to St. John Greek Orthodox Church*

***If you prefer, please call Karen directly at the Church Office 702-221-8245 with your credit card information*

ALL DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

FOR ASSISTANCE IN DESIGNING A PERSONALIZED PLAN

OR TO SET UP A MONTHLY PAYMENT SCHEDULE

please call or email

Cheryl Pandelis 702 338-1601
cheryl.pandelis@outlook.com

Nitsa Filios 702 595-6888
nitsalv@aol.com

THANK YOU!

Youth and Family Ministries

Church School

Hi Everyone! I hope you are all enjoying your summer break! Our first day of class for the new academic and Ecclesiastical Year will be **on Sunday, September 8**. Please register your children with me over the summer or with Karen in the Church Office during the week. (*See Registration Form on Page 10.*)

As always, to enroll in our Pre-K program, your child must be 4 years-old by September 30, or starting CCSD Kindergarten next year. Here are the teachers and the grades they will be teaching: Tammy Chomakos – Pre-K; Cassie Bieker – Kindergarten and 1st Grade; Rahel Kiflezgi – 2nd and 3rd Grades; Marina Adamy – 4th and 5th Grades; Sam and Eileen Koutsulis – 6th, 7th and 8th Grades; Dr. John Nixon – High School.

Please do not be a drop-off parent! Come to Liturgy with your children, and remain in the Church until the end of services, and then on the grounds while they are in Church School. Teach and lead by your example! Thank you!

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

Youth Choir News



Happy Summer! We will be taking a break for July and August and will resume chanting the Liturgy in September. We are always looking for new voices to join our ranks!

Have a wonderful and safe summer. Please do not forget God during the summer: Attend services, even if you are on vacation away from Las Vegas!

With Love in Christ, Presvytera Maria

Greek Folk Dance

Hello all! We hope everyone is having a wonderful summer, full of rest and relaxation! Greek Folk Dance will be starting back up in just a few short months. We welcome all dancers ages 4 and up (by September 30, 2019) to come and check out our vibrant ministry and participate in some wonderful fellowship.

The Registration Form is on Pages 11-12 in this issue of *The Desert Messenger*, and also available with Karen in the Church Office. Please fill out one form per child. Registration fees are \$150 for each dancer in our competitive groups and \$75 for each dancer in our non-competitive group.

Our first practice is **on Sunday, September 8** for both new and returning dancers. Look for further details in the *Weekly Bulletin* as it approaches. Questions? Please email stjohngreekdance@gmail.com.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

With Much Gratitude, The Folk Dance Board

Greek Language Program



We had 25 registered students this year and would love to expand the program for 2019-20. But . . . in order to do that we need teachers! To continue teaching our children the Greek Language we will need **four teachers**. Being a Greek Language Teacher requires a 90 minute commitment once a week. If you are interested, please contact me at pkelesis89104@yahoo.com.

Keep practicing Greek with your children this summer! Look to the *Weekly Bulletin* for more information on the upcoming Greek School year.

Have a nice summer!

Paula Kelesis, Greek School Director

GOYA ~ For Teenagers

Greetings GOYANs!

We hope everyone is having a good summer thus far. For the month of July we will be taking a break. We have 16 youth from our Parish attending St. Nicholas Ranch Summer Camp July 7-13: Father Seraphim and Niko Asim will be transporting nine of them via a rental van, and we will leave immediately following the Divine Liturgy *on Sunday, July 7*. Please come with your bags packed and ready to go!

In the month of August we will come together before the school year begins with a pool party: Please join us for a Parish-wide Family Swim Afternoon *on Sunday, August 11, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm*, at Aquatic Springs Pool (7025 S. Fort Apache Road, Las Vegas). Best of all: We will have the pool all to ourselves!

We will then have our annual Photo Scavenger Hunt and Pool Party at Steve, June and Juliana Likourinou's Home *on Saturday, August 24, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm*. Meet us at the Likourinou's Home, where we will divide into teams to drive around town on a photo scavenger hunt – parent chaperones and drivers are needed. First team back wins! After, we will swim in the Likourinou's pool and have dinner. Please remember to bring a swimsuit and towel! For more information, please contact Father Seraphim via email at frseraphim@vegasgreekorthodox.com.

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



Orthodox Family Fellowship

Happy and Blessed Summer! OFF is excited to announce two of the many amazing events we prepared for our children and parents this year. In July: A visit to SEAQUEST! And in August: A FREE OLYMPIC POOL EXPERIENCE!

On *Sunday, July 21, immediately after the Divine Liturgy*, we will go to SeaQuest Aquarium inside the Boulevard Mall (3528 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas). We will view all the exhibits as a group and enjoy a nice afternoon together. We visited last year and had an amazing time with all the different birds, fish, turtles and animals



there. We will receive a group discount again this year (\$6.95 per person).

For the following month, we will gather for a Parish-wide Family Swim Afternoon *on Sunday, August 11, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm*, at Aquatic Springs Pool (7025 S. Fort Apache Road, Las Vegas). Best of all: We will have the pool all to ourselves! We purposely chose the day before school starts to kick off the year in a fun, united manner. Last year's event at the same place was a huge success and we are anticipating another great event. Do not forget your towels, bathing suits, and some snacks to munch on.

Please join us for both events and remember that you are welcome to bring your friends.

With Love in Christ, Amy Khuri and Jelena Boskovic, OFF Advisors

*“Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers
an example in speech and conduct,
in love, in faith, in purity.”
(1 Timothy 4:12)*

Adult and Young Adult Ministries

Young Adults

Dear Young Adults,

Blessed Summer Break! In the month of July we will be gathering to do some swimming and have an incredible time in the sun at Nelson's Landing – Eagle Wash Beach Area at the Colorado River! We will meet *on Friday, July 19 at 8:00 am sharp* at the Church parking lot, and depart together so that we can beat the heat early in the morning and claim our spot.

Make sure you bring your sunscreen, towel, water, folding picnic chairs, and a picnic lunch. We plan to return in the early afternoon to Las Vegas.

In August we will convene at the home of Elizabeth Arbuiso for a wonderful fellowship and dinner *on Saturday, August 3 at 6:00 pm*. Please bring a fast-friendly side dish, salad, dessert or drinks to share – and RSVP so we know how many people to prepare for! We hope to see you over the summer!

In Christ, Nico Asim and Elizabeth Arbuiso, YA Advisors



Mr. & Mrs. - A Couples Fellowship



We want to thank Jason and Alis Lovaas for graciously hosting an amazing barbeque at their beautiful home. We enjoyed great fellowship and a lively discussion. We will not be having a Mr. and Mrs. gathering in July.

We will reconvene at the home of Thomas and Kitty Gott on *Saturday, August 24 at 6:00 pm*. More information will follow in the *Weekly Bulletin* and via email blasts. See you in August!

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

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

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3: 5)

If you are at least 40 years old and single, now is the time for your voice to be heard. Kali Parea (Greek for "Good Company") is the singles, 40 and older group of our Parish. Whether you have been single your whole life, divorced or widowed, this group originally started with the intention of meeting YOUR needs for monthly fellowship. Your feedback on the effectiveness of Kali Parea is important to us.

Please join us *on Sunday, July 14 at 1:00 pm* at Paymon's Mediterranean Cafe & Lounge (8955 S. Eastern Avenue, Las Vegas). Along with enjoying a great meal and fellowship, we will also discuss the future direction and activities of this ministry. If you will not be able to join us, please fill out the anonymous survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FXG9V8R>.

The following month, please join us at the "Kali Parea table" on Sunday, August 18, following Liturgy, at the "Panigyri tis Panagias" Dormition Luncheon. See Joy Wolfenbarger for your ticket.

May God bless you in this time as you prayerfully consider your thoughts and ideas to propel Kali Parea into its next phase!

Love in Christ, Joy Wolfenbarger and Demetrious Asim, Kali Parea Advisors

Adult Basketball

Join us for a pick-up basketball game *every Monday at 7:00 pm* in Panos Hall East. Please call *Nate Dallas at (347) 364-0313* for more information, or to be included in our Facebook group.

Nate Dallas, Hoop Advisor



Forerunners - The Seniors of St. John the Baptist

The Forerunners honored Sam Koutsulis at our June Luncheon. For many years Sam has provided the best meals for our monthly Senior gatherings. Sam has decided to take some time off and enjoy his golf game and rightly so. By no means is he leaving us, and from time to time he will again offer us some more delicious entrees. Sam's June meal was absolutely super. Thank you Sam and your crew for always coming up with the best.

At the luncheon we also honored all of our gentlemen with small magnets of our Lord Jesus for Fathers Day. Our own Teddy Kaye sang his heart out with many familiar tunes, and everyone had a great time along with raffle prizes and playing bingo. A very special thank you to Marika for our Galaktobouriko dessert.

Summer is now upon us and we wish you all a happy and cool summer. Please remember to stay hydrated and take extra care in everything you do.

Faye and I are in the process of brainstorming luncheon and fellowship gatherings for the next season, which begins in October. We will announce the dates in the September issue of *The Desert Messenger*. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please feel free to contact Faye or me.

We remind you to sign up and help for our Greek Food Festival the weekend of September 27-29.

As always our love, thoughts and prayers to all our Seniors who are homebound or in facilities.

Kalo Kalokairi! Have a Good Summer!

Love in Christ, Victoria Xikis for the Forerunners

Notes from the Choir Loft



This year's Church Music Conference will be held at St. Nicholas Ranch *on November 15-17*. If you are interested in attending, or would like more information, please let me know!

The Choir will take a short break during the month of July, and will resume singing the Sunday Liturgies *on August 4*. Enjoy some summer relaxation!

Athena Mertes, Choir Director



The AHEPA Las Vegas Chapter 341 will not be having a meeting during the summer months. We will return to our regular meetings beginning in September. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

We are actively seeking to fill ALL Executive Board Positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Thank you, Kouli Pouridis, Chapter President

pouridis5@cox.net or (702) 604-0885

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.

*"The Church is
your hope,
the Church is
your salvation,
the Church is
your refuge."
~ St. John
Chrysostom*

It's Like
Taking a Trip
to **Greece**
Without Leaving
Las Vegas!

47th Annual Las Vegas

GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL



3 EXCITING DAYS

Fri, Sept. 27th, 3PM-11PM
Sat, Sept. 28th, Noon-11PM
Sun, Sept. 29th, Noon-10PM

A FAMILY ORIENTED FUN EVENT!

LOCATED AT AND SPONSORED BY
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5300 S. El Camino Rd.
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89118
cross streets Hacienda and Jones

702-221-8245
LVGFF.com

TICKETS \$100 EACH
ONLY 1000

TICKETS AVAILABLE

GRAND RAFFLE PRIZE

Mercedes Sedan



from Fletcher Jones Imports

or
\$25,000 Cash
Many More Great Prizes

- Live Music & Dancing
- Greek Cuisine
- Greek Pastries
- Tour Our Magnificent Byzantine Church
- Greek Folk Dance Performances
- Kids Fun Zone



Plenty of free parking.
Convenient Uber/Lyft drop-off.

See LVGFF.com for further information on parking.

2019

LAS VEGAS 47TH ANNUAL GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL SOUVENIR MAGAZINE ADVERTISING RESERVATION FORM

Magazine dimensions 8½" x 11"

Ad Sizes and Costs (Please check your choice):

_____ \$1650 Back Cover Page: 7½" w x 10" h

_____ \$1250 Back and Front Inside Cover

_____ \$1000 Gold Page: 7½" w x 10" h
also 8½" w x 11" h plus bleeds

_____ \$375 Half Page: 7½" w x 4⅞" h

_____ \$700 Full Page: 7½" w x 10" h

_____ \$200 Quarter Page: 3⅝" w x 4⅞" h

_____ \$75 Signature: One line of copy

- All interior ads will print in black ink.
- Gold Pages will be printed in metallic gold border and black ink.
- Computer discs, camera ready art and photos are preferable.
- Discs must be set in JPG, PDF, TIF, ADOBE, PSD or ILLUSTRATOR (artwork & pictures should be a min. of 300 DPI).
- You may also send your artwork electronically to karen@vegasgreekorthodox.com
- Please make check payable to St. John Greek Orthodox Church and mail to the address below.
- Or if you wish to pay by credit card, please contact the Church Office at 702-221-8245.
- Your donation is tax-deductible and all proceeds benefit St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church.

PLEASE NOTE: Ad payments not received by deadline will not be included in the Souvenir Magazine.**DEADLINE: All ad copy must be received by Friday, August 30, 2019.****The Festival Committee reserves the right to review all ad copy that will appear in the magazine.**

We will typeset your ad copy at no extra charge. Please print your copy in the space below.

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Would you like a proof of your ad? NO: ☐ YES: ☐ If yes, please review and approve or make changes within 24 hours**For more information please contact:**Marilyn Flangas 702.871.1730 marilyn.flangas@yahoo.comPaula Kelesis 702.249.4740 pkelesis89104@yahoo.com

Christine Poulos 702.243.8177

Victoria Xikis 702.419.5294 bronxvx16@yahoo.comAlex Sparkuhl 702.339.9665 asparkuhl@cox.net**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH****5300 SO. EL CAMINO ROAD – LAS VEGAS, NV 89118 – 702-221-8245 – FAX: 702-221-9167****Web: www.lasvegasgreekfestival.com**

STEWARDS OF THE FAITH ~ 2019

Adamy, Marina
 Alexander, Eleni
 Alford, Cynthia "Mary"
 Anastakis, Mark and Elaine
 Anastasiou, Andrew and Kathleen
 Andary, Oscar
 Andrews, Catherine
 Andrews, Chris and Pamela
 Andrews, George
 Andricopoulos, Margo
 Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette
 Anton, Mike and Carol
 Antonopoulos, Angela
 Arbuio, Elizabeth
 Aristides, George and Diana
 Asim, Demetrious
 Asim, Niko
 Athens, Maria and Centers, Scott
 Bacon, Ken and Dianne
 Balaouras, Panos and Helen
 Balason, Anna+
 Balason, Voula
 Baldwin, Richard and Vivi
 Balodimas, James
 Barbarino, Demetra
 Bartzos, Eugenia
 Beeler, Mike and Carolyn
 Beeman, Karl, Sr. and Benita
 Beeman, Karl Jr. and Ivana
 Berendji, Jim and Vivian
 Bernier, Micah and Alissa
 Berta, Irene
 Bieker, Adam and Cassie
 Bieker, Georgea
 Birtas, Helen and Birtas, Ann
 Bizani, Katia
 Bledsoe, Lori
 Bochanis, George and Enid
 Booth, Brian and Effi
 Boskovic, Jelena
 Bougalis, Nickolaos
 Brennan, Peter and Maria
 Britten, Ronald and Carol
 Brown, Faye
 Bruninga, Bill and Erin
 Bucy, Brent and Elaine
 Capre, Julio
 Carabas, Stephen and Linda
 Carahalios, John and Jillian
 Caredis, Jon and Marjorie
 Carrico, William and Alexandra
 Carter, Maria
 Chachas, Bessie
 Chachas, James
 Chagares, Kiki
 Chandrinis, Alexia
 Chanos, Jennifer
 Chio, Napoleon
 Chomakos, Dean and Tammy
 Chomakos, Jeremy and Romina
 Chondrakis, Dimosthenis and Kragerud, Kaaren
 Christian, Clair and Chloe
 Christou, Andreas and Toni
 Ciulla, Anthony and Kleri

Ciulla, Dina
 Cocores - Ely, Caron
 Cokotis, Julie
 Collins, David
 Cominos, Ted
 Conger, William and Alexia
 Costuros, George and Marsha
 Cosulas, Fr. Basil and Presv. Samantha
 Cotsilis, Jenny
 Coutris, Angela
 Crist, Adam and Kanistra
 Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia
 Dalacas, Eleni
 Dalacas, Georgia
 Daskalos, George and Voula
 Daughters of Penelope
 Demoleas, Spero and Grace
 Demoleas, Stephanie
 Demopoulos, Vasiliki
 Diamantis, Filippas
 Dimitri, Janet
 Dimitri, Martha
 Dimitri, Patricia
 Dominguez, Eric and Amalia
 Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia
 Dudunakis, Michael
 Earl, Christine Michaelides
 Eliades, Artemis
 Eliades, Gregory and Maria
 Eliades, Harry and Agapi
 Eliades, Katerina
 Eliades, Peter
 Eliakis, Peter and Glenda
 Eliakis, Varthie and LeeAnn
 Eyler, John and Elizabeth
 Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean
 Filios, George and Nitsa
 Filios, Spiridon and Eleni
 Fischer, Bob and Cheryl
 Fitzgerald, Norman and McCullen, Sandra
 Flangas, Marilyn
 Flangas, Gary and Amanda
 Flangas, Gus and Tamara
 Fleetwood, Thomas and Melissa
 Fotopoulos, John and Barbara
 Foster, Kyle and Pierro, Maria
 Fountas, Constantinos
 Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia
 Frangakis, Constantine
 Frangakis, John
 Frangakis, Sophocles and Tara
 Frantzen, Robert
 Franzi, Jack +
 Garanyants, Sergey and Bilali, Markella
 Garza, Everardo and Eliades, Eleni
 Gauvin, Chad and Marissa
 Geiger, Dan and Hart-Geiger, Dora
 Gekakis, George
 Generales, John and Arlene
 George, Peter and Georgia
 Georgoulakis, Mary Ellen
 Geronikolaou, Constantine

Ghebreaab, Daniel and Ghermay, Selam
 Gianakoulis, Nick and Magda
 Gianoukakis, Andrew and Anna
 Gideon, Sara
 Giouzelis, Anastasia
 Goodman, Robert and Linda
 Gott, C. Thomas and Kitty
 Gousdovas, Nikos+
 Green, Todd and Susan
 Gruber, Ernest and Zoe
 Gutierrez, Connie
 Gutierrez, Daniel
 Hadzoglon, Christos
 Hamilton, Mary
 Hamilton, Paul and Brandi
 Hastings, Teri and Audra
 Hayes, Tulla
 Hemmers, Oliver and Pantelas, Anne
 Henderson, Jimmie Laverne
 Henneforth, Rula
 Herman, Martin and Diane
 Hertberg, Jennifer
 Hetzel, David and Joanne
 Hoadrea, Jimmy and Monci
 Hondros, Catherine
 Hondros, Christina
 Hondros, Christopher and Darlene
 Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria
 Houlis, Ila and Debbie
 Howard, William and Willie
 Howse, Paul and Kelly
 Hristopoulou, Spiridoula
 Hunter, Zach and Krystle
 Iteen, Robert and Sophia
 Kachikis, Ernestine
 Kakavulias, Christina
 Kakavulias, George and Helen
 Kakavulias, John and Elizabeth
 Kaltcheva, Maria
 Kambouris, Litsa
 Kanis, Constantinos and Katie
 Kapla, Mary
 Karalias, Petros and Constance
 Karas, James
 Karas, John and Marcie
 Karris, Mark and Suzanne
 Katopodis, Efstratios
 Katris, Nick
 Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon
 Kelesis, George
 Kelesis, Maritza
 Kelesis, Paula
 Kleanthis, George and Zanetta
 Kofinas, Maria
 Kokkinis, Peter and Jennifer
 Koliambas, Eleni
 Konstantarakis, Michelle
 Kontos, Diana
 Koroni, Tara
 Kostopoulos, Georgia
 Kountanis, Panagiota
 Koupais, Mario and Cheri
 Koupais, Pat
 Koutsulis, John and Eileen

Koutsulis, Sam and Effie
 Kypreos, George and Lesley
 Kypreos, Peter and Geri
 Kypreos, Sophia
 Kyprianou, Gilbert and Alexis
 Lagomarsino, Victor and Sophia
 Lakkas, Christina
 Lamancusa, Lisa
 Lambros, Kyriakos and Mary
 Latelle, Penny
 Lavelle, Eleissa
 Lavine, Frederick
 Lazarakis, John and Panagiota
 Lekar, Caroline
 Lekar, Michael and Effie
 Leonis, Nick and Sophia
 Leonis, Tishe
 Leventis, Nicholas and Christina
 Lewis, Foula
 Liaos, Jim and Tina
 Liaos, Steven and Francine
 Liaos, William+ and Irene
 Likourinou, Angie
 Likourinou, Steve and June
 Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine
 Loughton, Dustin and Rena
 Lovaas, Jason and Dokakis, Alis
 Makris, Apostolos
 Malamatos, Kindina
 Maland, Tim+ and Donna
 Malpee, Mak and Kalliopi
 Maniatakis, Ted and Maria
 Manolakos, Catherine
 Manos, Constantine and Michele
 Mansour, Muna
 Manteris, Arthur and Sue
 Margaretis, John and Lucila
 Markakis, Sandy
 Markantonis, George and Sarah
 Matsis, John and Rebecca
 Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki
 Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debra
 Mavros, Debbie
 Mavroudis, Frank
 McKinney, Michael and Mersene
 McManus, Jeanette
 McSweeney, Farolyn
 Melton, Don and Susan
 Menegatos, James
 Merrin, Maria
 Mitchell, Thomas
 Moffett, Todd and Eliopulos, Tina
 Molina, Adriana and Elhamy, Kirillos
 Monoyudis, Jim and Julie
 Murray, Chris and George, Veneta
 Mulopulos, George and Jenny
 Myers, Stella
 Nedelchev, Diyan
 Nedelchev, Zhivko
 Neocleous, Plato
 Newell, Ronald and Maria
 Nicholas, Christina
 Nicholas, John and Estella
 Nichols, George and Tereza
 Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra

STEWARDS OF THE FAITH ~ 2019

Nixon, John and Ellyn
Olmsted, Travis and Marilyn
Oustian, Ararat and Juliette
Pahigiannis, Nikon
Palivos, Peter and Vicky
Pallis, Paul
Pan-Arcadians
Pandelis, Cheryl
Panos, William and Jeanne
Papas, Peter and Rita
Papas, Christian and Nicole
Pappas, Antonia
Pappas, Libby
Pappas, Rita
Pappas, Stella
Paul, Janet
Payan, Luis and Eleni
Pelletier, Michael
Pendleton, Trisha
Peratikos, Tony
Pertsinides, Irene
Petro, Aleko and Georgia
Petrou, James and Penelopi
Philippou, Demetrios and Luanne
Pierro, Joe and Rhonda
Pierro, Joseph and Christine
Pitts, Anton and Athena
Platis, Anna

Polimerou, Angeline
Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra
Poulos, Christine
Pouridis, Kouli and Para
Powers, Russell and Rebecca
Punsalan, Basil and Sophie
Pursell, Robert and Mary
Radosta, Athena
Ramos, Fr. Seraphim and Presv. Olenka
Raptis, Presvytera Evonne
Rasmussen, Scott and Rebecca
Rigas, Anthony and Mary
Rigas, Evie
Rihani, Gary and Linda
Rodis, Dimitri
Rodis, Sophia
Rosenthal, Joseph and Stephanie
Rotas, Beatrice
Ruffner, Skip and Kathy
Sakkas, Georgios and Stavropoulos, Bessie
Salon, Janelle
Salonikis, Valentinos and Sophia
Santamaria, Jennifer and Robert
Savvas, Savva
Schildmeyer, Christine
Serafim, George and Tzeleki, Roxani

Serpentini, Athanasia
Setian, Gary and Marie
Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia
Skandros, Stephanie
Snow, Adrienne
Snow, Clifford and Christina
Snowden, Robert and Niki
Song, Adrienne
Sparkuhl, Alexander and Antoinette
Staubs, Douglas and Anastasia
Stefanatos, Michael and Tami
Stenos, Louis
Stevens, Charles and Mary
Stransky, Mark
Stransky, Jack and Gladys
Szukiewicz, Alex
Szukiewicz, Joseph and Jennia
Szukiewicz, Joe +
Tafoya, Steven and Irene
Takas, Andrea
Tasios, Ramona and Pete
Taxopoulos, Bryan and Irene
Tesfasilase, Tiebe
Thanos, Nicholas and Victoria
Thompson, Maggy
Thompson, Steve and Aliki
Tohme, Tony and May
Tsarouhas, Maria
Tsiralidis, Kosmas and Katerina

Tsolis, Christos and Panagioula
Tsolis, Panagioti
Tsortanidis, Sophia
Turman, Maria
Tzelalis, Antonia
Tzelalis, Steve
Tzortzis, Maria
Wadlow, Nicholas and Pamela
Wallace, Robert and Katerina
Walter, Vernon and Alice
Waterhouse, David and Aleighzja
Welles, Brigitte
Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina
Williams, Anthony and Anna
Wilson, Steven and Cleo
Womack, Karl
Womack, Kimberly
Wood, Nadine
Wronski, Chuck
Xerogianes, Nick and Nikki
Xikis, Victoria
Yurkov, Nikolina
Zaferatos, Ted
Zamir, Talor and Michelle
Zervas, Dionisios
Zimmerman, Paul and Angela
Zmina, Stephen and Cynthia

Church Account Summaries - May 2019

Nevada State Bank Accounts	April Ending Balance	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	May Ending Balance	Notes
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$52,513.23	\$37,550.30	\$27,763.25	\$47,079.62	\$51,473.61	\$19,273.55	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$12,245.26	\$4,000.00		\$1,079.80		\$15,165.46	Recurring Le Royal Dreams / Bedspread Payment
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$11,056.54	\$1,800.00	\$375.00	\$846.57	\$338.72	\$12,046.25	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$312,275.41	\$26,075.00	\$11,105.91	\$24,630.63	\$106,761.96	\$218,063.73	
Folk Dance Group	\$14,883.23	\$500.00				\$15,383.23	
Hellenic Historical Society	\$3,200.94	\$100.00				\$3,300.94	To keep this account FEE FREE
Mortgage Account	\$26,131.24				\$5,201.14	\$20,930.10	Monthly Mortgage Payment
Designated Funds	April Ending Balance	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	May Ending Balance	Notes
Bookstore	\$8,035.38	\$150.00	\$1,065.00	\$700.75	\$152.21	\$8,397.42	Purchases / CC Charges
Ornaments	\$1,077.41	\$10.00				\$1,087.41	
Restricted Funds	April Ending Balance	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	May Ending Balance	Notes
ICON	\$238,348.50	\$11,117.00	\$4,362.60	\$23,921.90	\$86,082.64	\$143,823.56	
Library Account	\$1,470.77					\$1,470.77	Account owed \$21,000. Funds used to make payroll and pay bills in 2015
Miscellaneous	\$3.20				\$50.80	-\$47.60	\$300K One Year Plan CC interest. Should not have been taken out of D&R.
Giving Tree	\$8,450.91					\$8,450.91	
Building Fund	\$1,958.86					\$1,958.86	
\$300,000 One Year Plan	\$0.00	\$14,798.00	\$5,678.31		\$20,476.31	\$0.00	Funds collected/sent for Mortgage
Youth Choir	\$2,989.18					\$2,989.18	
Church School	\$1,306.37					\$1,306.37	
Three Priests	\$2,692.47			\$7.98		\$2,684.49	Fedex - Customs/Import Duties
Roof Appeal	\$45,360.00					\$45,360.00	Prestige Roofing-\$14,460 Will show in June-Aug
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$142.36					\$142.36	
Designated, Restricted, and Other Total	\$312,275.41	\$26,075.00	\$11,105.91	\$24,630.63	\$106,761.96	\$218,063.73	
Other Funds	April Ending Balance	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	May Ending Balance	Notes
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$65,878.62					\$65,878.62	

May 2019 Candles **\$4,789.00**
May 2019 Trays **\$2,916.00**
Total May Candles & Trays \$7,705.00



JULY 2019 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1 7:00 pm Adult Basketball <div> Father John on Vacation June 30 - July 20, July 23 - 31 </div>				4 Independence Day Church Office Closed 	5		6
7 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Depart for St. Nicholas Ranch Summer Camp	8 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	9	10	11	12 St. Paisios the Athonite 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	13	
14 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:00 pm Festival Meeting 1:00 pm Kali Parea at Paymon's Mediterranean Café (Eastern)	15 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	16	17	18	19 8:00 am Young Adults at Nelsons Landing (Meet at Church Lot)	20 Prophet Elias 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	
21 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:00 OFF at SeaQuest Aquarium	22 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	23	24	25	26 St. Paraskevi 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	27 St. Panteleimon 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Artodasia	
28 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	29 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	30	31				



AUGUST 2019 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

				1	2	3
				1 Dormition Fast August 1-14	2 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos	3 6:00 pm Young Adults at Elizabeth Arbuiso's Home
4 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	5 6:00 pm Great Vespers for the Transfiguration 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	6 Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Grapes	7 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos 7:00 pm Folk Dance Board	8	9 9:00 am Festival Baking: Dolmades 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos	10 9:00 am Festival Baking: Dolmades
11 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Parish-Wide Pool Party at Aquatic Springs Pool	12 6:00 pm Paraklesis to the Theotokos 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	13 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting in the Library	14 6:00 pm Great Vespers of the Dormition	15 Dormition of the Theotokos 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy and Artoclasia Fellowship Follows	16	17
18 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:00 pm Panigyri tis Panagias Luncheon	19 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	20	21	22	23 9:00 am Festival Baking: Pastitsio	24 9:00 am Festival Baking: Pastitsio 4:00 pm GOYA Annual Scavenger Hunt and Pool Party at Likourinous 6:00 pm Mr. and Mrs. at Tom & Kitty Gott's Home
25 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:00 pm Festival Meeting	26 7:00 pm Adult Basketball	27	28 5:00 pm Orthros 6:00 pm Diving Liturgy (Beheading of St. John Observed)	29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist (Strict Fast) : Services on Preceding Evening	30	31

The Desert Messenger

*St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
5300 South El Camino Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89118-1922*

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAS VEGAS NV
PERMIT NO. 98

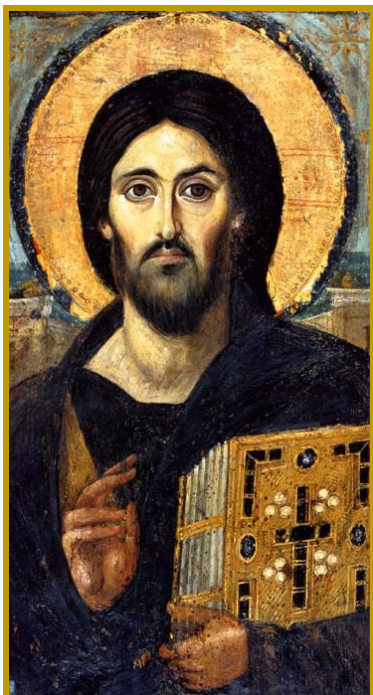
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

POSTMASTER : DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE EXPEDITE



THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord



*“We need to feel Christ as our friend. He is our friend.
He confirms this Himself when He says:
“You are My friends . . .” (John 15:14)
We need to look at Him and approach Him as a friend.
Do we fall? Do we sin?
We should run to Him with feelings
of familiarity, in love and trust;
not in fear of punishment but in courage
granted by the sense of friendship.
And say to Him: “Lord, I did it, I fell, forgive me.”
~ St. Porphyrios the Kapsokalivite*