

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 17, Issue 9 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

October 2019

**From
Father
John**

Beloved in Christ:

I thank God for the blessed opportunity, although I am admittedly unworthy, to be an ambassador for our Lord Jesus Christ in His Holy Orthodox Church in Las Vegas – for 17 years – with the ongoing and sometimes challenging task of encouraging you to love one another, forgive one another, and to help build up His Holy Body for His glory and our sanctification.

Our Greek Food Festival, under the very capable and committed leadership of Gus Flangas, proves once again that amazing feats happen when we truly desire to put aside our egos and our differences, and instead put Christ and the service of His Church as our top priority: I thank all of you who labor with much selfless love for our community – your tireless efforts reflect that our success is measured not merely in the monetary profit, but more importantly in the united goal we share in building up St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church . . . and, in doing so, the Kingdom of God!

As we continue to move ahead with the liturgical year, I implore you to remember that our parish life and, in particular, our ministries will succeed only to the extent that all of us love, respect and serve one another as unique and significant members of the Body of Christ: Let us remember always these words of St. Paul, *"For the body does not consist of one member but of many."* (1 Corinthians 12:14) In other words, just as with the human body, every member of the Church has been created, placed and appointed by God to contribute to the overall health, mission and growth of the mystical Body of Christ.

The Divine Liturgy cannot be celebrated alone by the priest: He requires the assistance of altar servers, prosforon bakers, chanters, the choir and, most importantly, the active presence of faithful parishioners. Likewise, we have competent members who were elected to our Parish Council – but without the prayerful, active and meaningful support and cooperation of the clergy and fellow lay members, our council will never accomplish its goal of effectively operating our Church, whether administering the parish, creating a vision or balancing our approved budget.

Similarly, although our Philoptochos may be blessed with the most committed and qualified Board, unless the members of our parish recognize that all of us are called to assist in the holy work of caring for those in need – regardless of our gender, race, ethnic background or age – then we cannot honestly claim that our local Church is wholeheartedly doing its part in feeding, sheltering, clothing, visiting and aiding those in need, as our Lord Jesus Christ commands us.

The same principle applies to every ministry of the Church: Whether we hold a position or not, our positive support and heartfelt cooperation leads to success, spiritual growth and fruitfulness – it is equally true that our negative criticism, antagonism and bitterness results in discouragement, destruction and eventual disassociation with the Church, which is what the devil desires.

Beloved brothers and sisters, our Lord has left no one deprived of His grace or an essential role in the Church, as *"all the members of the Body, though many, are one Body . . ."* (1 Corinthians 12:12) Beginning with our Baptism in the Church, Christ united all of us as one and we were each given the Gift of the Holy Spirit, granting us the grace to become co-workers in His Holy Vineyard – that is, His world: Whether elected, appointed, ordained or just a person in the pews, all of us are called to engage in Christ's holy work of salvation.

With love and gratitude in Christ for you,

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Sunday, October 6/*3rd Sunday of Luke/St. Thomas the Apostle/St. Eroteis of Cappadocia*
National Church Music Sunday

Orthros: Tone Seven (Grave)
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:13-35
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10
Gospel: Luke 7:11-16

Sunday, October 13/*Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council/Ss. Carpos, Papylos, Agathodoros and Agathoniki the Martyrs*

Orthros: Tone Eight (Fourth Plagal)
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:36-53
Epistle: Titus 3:8-15
Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

Sunday, October 20/*6th Sunday of Luke/St. Gerasimos of Cephalonia/St. Artemios the Great-Martyr/St. Andronicus the Martyr*

Orthros: Tone One
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:1-10
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
Gospel: Luke 8:27-39

Wednesday, 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

Saturday, 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 27/*7th Sunday of Luke/St. Nestor of Thessaloniki/St. Kyriakos, Patriarch of Constantinople*

Orthros: Tone Two
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:1-10
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-33; 12:1-9
Gospel: Luke 8:41-56

"Do not speak evil against one another, brethren." (James 4:11)

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 6 - CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY

Ushers: Justina Szukiewicz, John Koutsulis, Adam Bieker, Stacy Mavrantonis, Mark Karris and John Matsis
Memorials: Departed Members of St. John Choir; William Liaos (6 months); George Chomakos (1 year); and Marina Marinella Zaferatos (3 years).

Fellowship: Chomakos' and Liaos' Families in Memory of their Departed Loved Ones

OCTOBER 13

Ushers: Gus Flangas, Skip Ruffner, Bessie Stavropoulos, Spiros Filios, Demetrious Asim and John Nicholas
Memorials: Antonia Pappas (40 days); and Christina Rich (40 days).

Fellowship: Philoptochos Society - Membership and Mimosas

OCTOBER 20

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

Memorials: Phivos Neocleous, Christina Neocleous, John Neocleous, Mirofora Neocleous and Neoclis Michael.

Fellowship: Daughters of Penelope

OCTOBER 27

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

Fellowship: AHEPA - OXI Day

Parish Council Report

We had a tremendous Greek Food Festival, despite having to battle Mother Nature all weekend. Unfortunately, our numbers were down but not as much as they could have been given that Friday was fairly windy and the winds on Saturday were gusting up to 50 miles per hour. The amount of people that still came out on Saturday is a true testament to the strength of the Festival, and how much people really enjoy it. Many still came even though the weather forecasts on all the TV and radio stations, and the internet called for extremely high winds. Despite having these weather battles, we are still close in financial numbers to last year. We had a lower number of attendees; however, the per capita spending by our guests was higher.

As many of you know, every year we push our pre-sales for the Festival, which include the sale of raffle tickets, coupon books, and Souvenir Magazine ads. Pre-sales also include sales of space to the various vendors we have each year. Our Festival is weather dependent, and sustained severe weather could potentially ruin us. These pre-sales cut the risk by almost 40%, giving us an extra financial cushion toward our expenses going in. The bottom line: We need to push hard every year on the pre-sales.

Regardless of the adverse weather, the Festival was amazing and one of our best yet. As always, the music and stage production was absolutely incredible, and gave the Festival a high energy vibe. Our food was amazing, and people were really complimentary about it. We seem to be getting better every year. Our people and friends working the Festival worked very hard with great enthusiasm which permeated the Festival, and it was clearly noticeable to our guests. Our Church Tours were well attended. All of this coupled with the surroundings of our beautiful grounds and our positively charged atmosphere made for an amazing "Greek Experience." In addition, we had a lot of our younger people getting involved, especially in the kitchen and the Greek Fries. In both of these areas, our younger people have now taken over. Also, in many of the various booths, there were a lot of younger people working in very key positions. This is absolutely great to see. *We thank God again for a truly blessed event.*

Our annual 26.2 mile Torch Run was truly fantastic. This year we supported the Johnny Crisstopher Children's Charitable Foundation, whose mission is to raise awareness of pediatric cancer, and provide funds for research, treatment and ultimately a cure. It is a charity created by Criss Angel in honor of his very young son who had cancer. The run was kicked off with a prayer by Father Seraphim at Tivoli Village, who then ran the first mile leg. The run culminated with the lighting of the Torch on the Church Grounds. For his tremendous contributions to our Church, Savva Savvas was chosen to light the Torch. The entry of the torch on to the Church Grounds was amazing and highly energetic. Led by John Koutsulis' Search and Rescue Truck, the Torch was carried in by a large group of runners, accompanied by two Metro Police officer cruisers, the command and control limousine, a mobile electronic billboard truck advertising both the Festival and the charity, and another limousine that picked up participants after their run. In addition, four other motorcycle police officers joined in after seeing the procession and helped escort the Torch to the Church Grounds. It was a phenomenal official start to our Festival.

(Continued on Page 4)



"Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith"

Please join us for this popular six-week course!

*Starting Wednesday, October 2
7:00 - 8:30 pm - in Kokkos Hall.*

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

Parish Council Report *(Continued from Page 3)*

In addition to the Torch Run, we earmarked ten percent of the raffle proceeds to donate to the Johnny Crisstopher Foundation and the Las Vegas Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Criss Angel helped support our raffle by offering people the opportunity to have their picture taken with him by purchasing a raffle ticket while he was at the Festival. This really helped our sales.

As has been said many times in the past, it takes a tremendous amount of hard exertion by many to put on the Festival and make it work. We want to thank everyone who gave so much of their time, talents and treasures this year to make the Festival a success. There are so many people to thank for this year's Festival and, at the risk of leaving somebody out, we think there are many people who deserve special recognition for their efforts and we sincerely apologize if we left anyone out. These people are: Steve Likourinou who did all the fantastic stage production; Marilyn Flangas who spearheaded the Souvenir Magazine and obtained and coordinated the publicity, manned the Festival table each weekend, and sold an amazing number of raffle tickets; 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 pastitsio, dolmathes, tzatziki and salad dressing, co-chaired the Loukoumathes Booth, and co-chaired the Festival; Telly Eliades, Sam Koutsulis, and team, who ran the kitchen and oversaw all the cooking during the Festival; 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 and Alex Sparkuhl who did a great job with the Raffle Booth.

Our gratitude also to John Karas who spearheaded the Count Room and money drops, and instituted for the first time, a POS financial system; Demetri and Luanne Philippou and family, who chaired Demetri's Taverna, and helped with the pork souvlaki; Skip and Kathy Ruffner and family who chaired Taverna Elias; Dean Chomakos and Kouli Pouridis and their old and *new young crew*, who cooked the Greek Fries; Eddie Howard who did an amazing job of keeping the equipment operating; the Tzelalis family who chaired the Loukoumathes Booth; Tom and Sharon Katsaros who chaired the Greek Salad Booth together with Effie Lekar; Ken Bacon who coordinated and oversaw the vendors and kids' area; Tammy Chomakos who chaired the Souvlaki Booth; Mia Paton, Estella Nicholas and Presvytera Maria Hondros, who chaired the Athenian Plate Booth; Marcie Karas and Susan Melton, who chaired Admissions; 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 Koutsulis who chaired the Soda Booth; John Koutsulis who assisted in so many ways getting things done, and helped immensely with the TV shoots; Dianne Bacon and Demetri Asim, who handled the volunteers; Marina Adamy and Alexia Chandrinos, who spearheaded the Festival decor; Constantine Frangakis, and Paisios and Mary Pursell, who chaired the Church Bookstore; Paula Kelesis who chaired the Agora (Greek Market); Guy Monroe and Vicki Xikis, who worked on the Church Tours; Chris Kourafas, who did the architectural work; Niko Asim, who oversaw the Torch Run; Jim Monoyudis who spearheaded the Festival Hosts; Marika Lamancusa and Sophia Leonis who led the Pastries prep and helped with the other food preparations; George Belch and crew who ran the outdoor oven; Jennia Szukiewicz who oversaw our Outreach Booth; Bill Bruninga who took amazing photographs; Penny Latelle for her efforts in overseeing the inventory of food and supplies; the Politis Family for contributing the produce; Joe Szukiewicz for his work on security; and everyone who worked on the Festival. We would also like to thank Father John and Father Seraphim for their spiritual leadership.

There are three individuals who really deserve a special mention: Ramona Tasios, Constantin Petruic, and Karen Rawlinson. Without these three, we could not have a Festival. Ramona and Constantin both worked months prior to the Festival getting the building and grounds ready and worked countless hours helping to supervise work crews during the set-up, as well as throughout the weekend, and for the take-down and cleanup after the event. 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 encumbered her. *(Continued on Page 8)*

Philoptochos News

Dearest Philoptochos Sisters and Fellow Parish Members,

We continue to welcome the New Ecclesiastical Year with spiritedness and passion to fulfill the mission of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society. As I look back on my first month as Philoptochos president, I am beyond grateful for the never-ending dedication from all my Philoptochos sisters. I look forward to the year ahead and what we can accomplish together.

On Tuesday, September 3, Philoptochos held the first General Meeting of the Ecclesiastical Year with very good attendance. Our agenda was filled with many important items that were discussed and voted on. Thank you to those who attended, and a special thank you to Kiki Mavrantonis for the wonderful refreshments provided.

On Sunday, September 15, Philoptochos made an appeal for donations to benefit Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology. Our sincere thanks to the community for your generosity. HC/HC is one of the principal national ministries that all Philoptochos women throughout the Archdiocese support. Hellenic College curricula in the liberal arts and pre-professional studies prepares students for careers in which they can serve both Church and society. Holy Cross collaborates with Orthodox-affiliated institutions and ministries, and is the only Greek Orthodox Seminary in America. A very special thank you to Tami Stefanatos and Laverne Henderson for chairing the wonderful Fellowship and to all the ladies who assisted with serving.

47th Annual Greek Food Festival, September 27-29: Our Ladies Philoptochos Society, Panagia Chapter once again provided a welcome booth during the Festival. Many thousands of people from the Las Vegas community came out very enthusiastically, ready to enjoy and experience our Greek hospitality, culture, cuisine, music, dancing, Greek shops with clothing, jewelry, art and religious items. The Church tours were exceptional this year with the new addition of the beautiful Iconography. The energy of all who attended was better than ever! Thank you to our Philoptochos Booth Chairperson, Jennifer Chanos, and booth volunteers, Jennifer Santamaria, Melissa Fleetwood, Christina Snow, Cleo Wilson, Presvytera Olenka and Amy Girmay; you all did an outstanding job at welcoming everyone and promoting our mission.



Please mark your calendars for the following upcoming events:

Sunday, October 13, following Divine Liturgy – Mimosa and Membership Event! This will be a beautiful afternoon of fellowship and interaction with all Philoptochos sisters. We will welcome new members and honor our long-standing members. All ladies (and gentlemen too) are invited to join our wonderful philanthropic organization for the support of our charities. The need is great and Christ has enabled each of us to give our love, comfort and care to those in need. For more information or to RSVP please email Christina Snow snowy4000@cox.net or Bernadette Anthony bernadette.anthony@gmail.com.

November 9 – 10: 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 hearts to assist in paying off the mortgage. Our Church is the place where we worship God, hold fast to our ancient Faith, are healed and renewed by the Sacraments. Please contact the Chairwomen Cheryl Pandelis and Nitsa Filios to offer your pledge!

With Love in Christ, Benita Beeman, Philoptochos President

The Ladies Philoptochos Society

Officers and Board of Directors
joyfully invite you to the annual event



Mimosas & Membership

Please join us for a lovely afternoon of fellowship to celebrate our beautiful ministry of Philoptochos, honor our long-standing members, and welcome and embrace new members.

**Sunday, October 13, 2019 ~ Following Divine Liturgy
St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church**

Name _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Please reserve _____

Please RSVP by returning this form to:
The Ladies Philoptochos Society, St. John Greek Orthodox Church
5300 S. El Camino Rd. Las Vegas NV 89118
or contact Membership Chairman Christina Snow
Email: snowy4000@gmail.com

As Greek Orthodox Christian Women we are given the great privilege and utmost responsibility to be the arms of Christ in the world today and embrace all those in need. Please invite your daughter, your sister, your friend to join us and become a **“Friend of the Poor”**

Stewardship and Community Outreach

No doubt about it, the completion of the fall Greek Food Festival is *huge* in the cycle of our local Church activities. It is arguably second only to the completion of Lent and the celebration of Pascha the previous spring. It is interesting to note that St. Thomas (often referred to as Doubting Thomas or Thomas the Twin) makes an appearance one week after both events, and he will be the focus of this month's Stewardship reflection.

One week following Pascha we find "doubting" Thomas questioning the account of the other Apostles regarding the resurrected Lord, and hear that he must see and touch to believe. It is easy to identify with his "seeing is believing" attitude . . . his stance is certainly relatable. Likewise, one week following the Festival we commemorate Thomas "the twin". Here we might wonder twin of whom? Most likely, we will never know. Chalk it up as another biblical mystery – one which cannot be explained but one which can be contemplated and applied to our lives today. How so, you ask? By viewing St. Thomas as our own twin: Since we often find ourselves doubting when difficulties, challenges, or current events shake our faith.

The Gospel of St. John records two times in which Jesus speaks directly to Thomas (and thus, to us). The first involves Jesus describing His going to prepare a place for us. Thomas is a bit confused by the abstract details, yet he earnestly wishes to search out and learn the truth in order to follow the Lord, so he says, *"Lord, we do not know where You are going,"* and, *"How can we know the way?"* Jesus' reply teaches us one of the basic tenets of Christianity: *"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* (John 14:5-6)

The second finds Jesus appearing to all eleven Apostles, inviting Thomas to inspect His wounds but stating, *"Do not be unbelieving, but believing."* Thomas' reply, *"My Lord and my God!"* mirrors the confession of Christ all believers share, and then, in a manner which serves to strengthen those with wavering faith, Christ's final words to Thomas contain a blessing for the rest of us: *"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."* (John 20:27-28) Thomas is the catalyst for direct answers to universal questions during those times when events make one question, or even, more seriously, doubt one's beliefs. In both instances Jesus' answer teaches Thomas (and us) a profound truth by stripping away abstraction and speaking plainly. Thank God for Thomas serving as the kid in class who asked the questions we all have in mind.

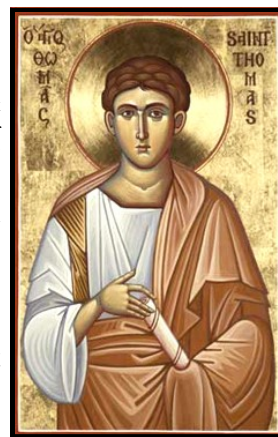
St. Thomas wanted to get at the truth, and once he sees the Truth he goes "all-in", to borrow a popular gaming phrase. He is a man of action and commitment – he searches, he learns, he applies with all his heart, mind and strength. We, too, can be a catalyst. We can be people of action and commitment by considering the Church year as more than just a couple of big weeks surrounded by all our other activities. If Orthodoxy is an add-on to our regular life of social engagements, work, family activities, sports and entertainment, it will soon become irrelevant if it is not already. In every week of every month opportunities abound in which to engage, to offer, and to give more fully toward our Church community. It is time to re-evaluate what we each may do to go "all-in", and spend a few moments reviewing our pledges of time, talent, and treasure in support of building up God's Kingdom here in Las Vegas, Nevada.

In the near term, please help us by supporting the final push toward paying off the mortgage and celebrating St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church's 60th Anniversary next month.

I will close with a short excerpt from an article titled "Stewardship: The Doubting Thomas" found on the goarch.org website:

Our Stewardship commitment is a pledge to be faithful to both Holy Scripture and Holy Tradition. The Apostles, Martyrs, Church Fathers, Ascetics, Saints, and countless Christians, empowered in this new life, testify to it as a dynamic reality so that we might join them and confess as does St. Thomas: "My Lord and my God!"

Mike Beeler, Stewardship and Community Outreach Committee





Baptized into Christ: Na Mas Zisoun

Eleni (Aubrey), daughter of Joseph and Stephanie Rosenthal,
on September 7, 2019.

Godparent: Adrienne Snow.

Aleksandr, son of Sergey Garayants and Markella Bilalis,
on September 21, 2019.

Godparent: Mathoula Bilalis.

Georgia, daughter of Hristos and Anastasia Stathopoulos,
on September 22, 2019.

Godparents: Gregory Economou and Panagoula Oikonomou.

Chrismation

Dionysios Hardge on September 1, 2019.

Sponsors: Kosmas and Katerina Tsiralidis.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory!

Antonia Pappas on September 4, 2019. Funeral on September 11.

Pearl Osborn on September 18, 2019. Funeral on September 25.

Parish Council Report *(Continued from Page 4)*

Karen also co-chaired the Festival, and we are extremely grateful for her efforts. We would also like to thank Red Rock Search and Rescue: They did all the setup and provided most of the labor for the event. They were absolutely outstanding in competence, hard work and effort, and positivity – we sincerely hope they come back again next year. They were true professionals and we cannot thank them enough.

On another note, we need to continue building on the momentum of the Festival and turn our attention toward Stewardship. We cannot overemphasize 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, considering Stewardship as a way of “giving back.”

We have a Parish Assembly scheduled for **Sunday, November 17**, right after Divine Liturgy in Panos Hall. We encourage everyone to attend and learn about the operational side of our Church. At this Assembly, we will be giving reports on our finances, the Festival, receiving nominations for the Parish Council, voting on the 2020 Budget, discussing our annual Archdiocese Total Commitment, and several other important items. Please mark your calendars and attend.

In closing, we want to again thank the various Church ministries and organizations, and the many individuals for all their labors for our Parish. Please step forward whenever you can and pitch in.

May God Bless, Gus Flangas, Parish Council President

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

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Philoctochos: 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 & Melissa Fleetwood

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 Father Seraphim

“He who sees Me, sees the Father.” (John 14:9)

On Sunday, October 13 we remember the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council. This council occurred in Constantinople in the year 787 and responded to the claims that the use of icons in worship was idolatrous and against the fourth of the Ten Commandments, *“You shall not make any graven image.” (Exodus 20:4)* Due to the negative impact of iconoclasm (icon smashing), this council took more than fifty years to finally be accepted throughout the Byzantine Empire and the whole Church. In 843 the Empress Theodora decisively brought the icons triumphantly back into the Church on the First Sunday of Lent. This event has forever been incorporated into the life of the Church as each year we hold a Procession of the Holy Icons on the First Sunday of Lent.

Icons in the Orthodox Church are not merely decorations but vessels of meaning that hold some of Christianity’s most important theological truths. One such truth is that each and every one of us is made in the image of God and called to grow into His likeness. Icons display that process of transformation in which our potential is realized and we see true humanity, in all its fullness in the images of the saints. It is immediately apparent that the faces and even landscapes depicted in icons seem different or even abstract. The Byzantine style depicts the body in a spiritual way – at once visible in both its glorified and still human form. Iconography is noticeably different from the fleshly Renaissance paintings. In Byzantine iconography the saints are depicted often with sunken cheeks and frail bodies signifying their life of fasting, modesty and abstinence. Their lips are small, signifying the prudence of words, rather than a loose and thoughtless tongue. The ears are slightly larger to show not only their attentiveness to the Voice of God, but also to the prayers of those who call upon them for help. The faces drawn are solemn and not smiling, not as an expression of sadness but rather dispassion before the things of this world.

For the Orthodox Church, icons are a testimony of the theology upon which it is founded: The Incarnation of the Son of God. In the words of St. John of Damascus, as Christ truly *“became matter for my salvation”*, then He could be seen, touched, heard and thus even depicted in artistic representation. Historically, iconographers were not just individuals with artistic talent – as in the West with artists such as Michelangelo and Leonardo Da Vinci – but they were monastics or individuals with a life of prayer, theologically educated, and skilled interpreters of sacred texts. During the Seventh Ecumenical Council it was affirmed: *“The making of icons is not the property of the artists, but is an established tradition of the Church . . . for to the artist belongs only the execution of the image, whereas its context and design belong to the Holy Fathers.”* Adherence to traditional forms and types is favored over innovation and novelty.

Icons provide a way to contemplate God and His saints. From their conception, the role of icons has been to provide a visual for prayer, helping to keep the mind focused; icons are also a wonderful visual tool for teaching. Icons are vessels of grace, bringing us into the presence of God – and some icons exude myrrh and are miracle working! Each icon cries out a single central message: *“God became man so that man could become God.” (St. Athanasios the Great)* This loving act of God is what Orthodox Christians venerate when they kiss icons, process icons, and reverently place them on the walls of their homes and Churches. The term “venerate” is at times improperly translated and replaced with “worship,” which can easily lead to confusion. It is not, however, the image itself that is worshiped, but rather God or His saints who receive the love we show: The veneration passes *through the image* to the heavenly archetype.

Let us then embrace our Holy Tradition and venerate the holy icons with love – in our icon corners, in our homes and in the Church. Let us seek to become worthy ourselves, by God’s grace, of becoming what we were created to be: The living icons of Christ through our love and self-sacrifice, humility and service.

With Love in Christ,

Father Seraphim



Youth and Family Ministries

Church School

Hi Everyone! I hope everyone had a great time at the Greek Food Festival. I know that it is one of my favorite times of the year. It was wonderful to see many of our youth lending a hand and our dancers keeping our culture alive. Our young people are the future of the Church and it is great to see them stepping up and working so hard.

If you have not registered your child yet for Church School, please grab a registration form from me and fill it out. Please 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, preparing as a family for Holy Communion, and learning the Creed. Please speak with your children and find out what they are learning in class each week.

This year we will be focusing on the Creed. Please have your child practice reciting the Nicene Creed – our goal is for each student to memorize it by the end of the school year. We have wonderful teachers who love Christ and our Orthodox Faith, and are eager to teach our youth.

Dates to Remember: *Sunday, October 25* (Nevada Day observed) – Family Worship Sunday (no classes); *Sunday, December 1* (Thanksgiving Weekend) – Family Worship Sunday.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns!

With Love in Christ, Eileen Koutsulis, Church School Director

(702) 521-6516 or vivaleenie@cox.net

Youth Choir News

Youth Choir will have a rehearsal *on Sunday, October 6 at 12:15 pm in the 4th/5th Grade Class*. All voices are welcome from Grades 2 and up. The Youth Choir will chant the Divine Liturgy *on Sunday, October 13*. Please be at the front right pew *by 9:40 am*.

With Love in Christ, Presvytera Maria



Greek Folk Dance



Hello all! Thank you for all your support at the annual Greek Food Festival! All our dancers had such a fun time entertaining the crowds.

This is our final push for registration, as *the last day for registration is Sunday, October 6*. Please get those Registration forms and fees in! We have a great group of dancers so far! Also, *please join us for a Parent*

Meeting on Sunday, October 20 at 12:30 pm in Kokkos Hall. Please make a point of attending so we can discuss all this year's events and lay out all the opportunities for volunteering to assist our ministry. The only way we can be successful is with the help and support of all the families involved.

Questions? Please feel free to email stjohnngreekdance@gmail.com

With Much Gratitude, The Folk Dance Board

GOYA ~ For Teenagers

Dear GOYANs,

We will be taking advantage of the beautiful October weather by hiking together Red Rock Canyon! *We will meet on Saturday, October 5 at 8:45 am* at the Terrible Herbst at the corner of West Charleston and Desert Foothills (1051 Desert Foothills Drive, Las Vegas). Then we will drive to the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and hike the *Icebox Canyon Trail*. Please bring a sack lunch or snacks, a water bottle, sunscreen, hiking shoes, and whatever else you need for a day in nature. We plan to be finished hiking about 1:00 pm. We strongly encourage carpooling, and/or making arrangements to get your teen home from Red Rock.



Secondly we will have a *GOYA Night in Panos Hall on Sunday, October 13 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm*. We will be teaming up with our Ladies Philoptochos for a service project: We will put together some activity bags to be donated to the UMC Children's Hospital. Philoptochos will provide the activity bag items (coloring books, puzzle books, crayons, etc.) and GOYA will organize them and individually stuff two gallon ziplock bags with the items listed above to make "kits," so to speak, for the nurses at the hospital to distribute to children. In addition to this activity we will play some games, eat dinner, and pray together. We hope to see you at both events!

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

Orthodox Family Fellowship

Please join us *on Sunday, October 20* to enjoy the afternoon together at the beautiful *Fall Festival at Lake Las Vegas* (1600 Lake Las Vegas Parkway, Henderson).

We will enjoy some free activities including a pumpkin patch, a hay bale maze, a trick-or-trike tricycle course, and a corn pile where kids of all ages can play in a giant pile of real corn kernels. Hot cider and doughnuts will be available at Seasons Market. We will leave after Greek Dance Practice ends and *gather at the Fall Fest from 3:00 to 6:00 pm*.



We look forward to seeing you there!

In Christ, Amy Khuri and Jelena Boskovic, OFF Advisors

Greek Language Program



We currently have 25 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 29* 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



"Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with Whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

(James 1:17)





\$300,000 ONE YEAR PLAN

Almost There!

ONE MORE MONTH

To Raise An Additional

\$70,000

So We Can Be

DEBT FREE

For

“OUR DIAMOND JUBILEE”

The 60th Anniversary

Of Our Beloved

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY



PLEASE JOIN US IN THE CELEBRATION OF

“OUR DIAMOND JUBILEE”

THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY

of

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

5300 South El Camino Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89118

NOVEMBER 9 AND 10, 2019



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

GREAT VESPERS 5:30 pm

CELEBRATION 7 pm

Silent Auction, Cocktails, Dinner and Dancing

Pictorial History of St. John Community



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

ORTHROS 8:30 am

HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY 10 am

CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH

INVITATIONS TO FOLLOW
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED
702 221-8245

Adult and Young Adult Ministries

Young Adults

Hello, Young Adults of St. John the Baptist!

Please join us this month for an awesome game of golf in the Twilight Zone! We will be gathering on **Saturday, October 26 at 2:00 pm** at Bally's (3645 S. Las Vegas Blvd.) to play a game of glow in the dark mini golf at the Twilight Zone. The cost is \$12 per person to golf 18 holes. In the complex there are also arcade games, bowling lanes, and a gift shop. So come and join us as we enter the Twilight Zone!

In Christ, Niko Asim and Melissa Fleetwood, YA Advisors

Mr. & Mrs. ~ A Couples Fellowship

We look forward to starting our dinner and fellowship meetings back up this October! We will meet at John and Ellyn Nixon's home **on Saturday, October 19 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



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



WHAT'S IN A NAME? If possible, it is generally desirable to attend Divine Liturgy or another Church service on your Name Day. Another tradition is for the family to include the saint's hymns (troparion and kontakion) in the family's prayers. The icon of the saint is displayed prominently, perhaps even brought to Church for all to venerate. Often, gifts are given to the person whose Name Day is being celebrated, as this day is seen to be more important than a birthday. In at least the Greek and Romanian tradition, celebrations often include an open house.

St. Demetrios, the Great Martyr and Myrrh-Streamers, is credited with many miraculous interventions to defend the City of Thessaloniki. Our Demetri Asim may not have any miracles attached to him, but he does so much for our Church, our Church family and Kali Parea. We love him!

You are all welcome to come and celebrate our Kali Parea leader's Name Day **on October 26, at 6:00 pm** at Demetri Asim's home. Please bring a dish to share if you can, and RSVP to Demetri!

We hope to see you there! Love in Christ, Joy Wolfenbarger, for Kali Parea

FESTIVAL FAVORITES SALE



FESTIVAL FOOD FOR SALE

Please see Karen during the week, no sales will occur on Sundays.

Koulourakia \$80	Case of Lokaniko \$40
Kourambiedes \$80	Pan of Dolmades \$40
Large Cut Baklava \$53	Pan of Pastitsio \$30
Chocolate Baklava \$63	Case of Fix Beer \$35
Koks & Mousse \$28	Uncooked Lamb \$25
Baklava Cheesecake \$40	Pan of Uncooked Lamb
Large Melomakarona \$67	Chops \$60
Crescent Cookies \$90	Spanakopita \$20
Macaroons \$60	Tyropita \$20
Diples \$38	

Forerunners - The Seniors of St. John the Baptist

On Monday, October 14 we will begin the new season for our Forerunners, with our Luncheon at 11:30 am in Kokkos Hall. Chef Sam is temporarily coming out of retirement to prepare a special meal to start off our season.

This first luncheon/fellowship gathering is being held in loving memory of our fellow Forerunner, Antonia Pappas, and founding member, Pearl Osborn, and all Forerunners who have fallen asleep in the Lord. Father John will begin our season with a short presentation. Door and raffle prizes will follow as well as Bingo.

A list of all luncheons and fellowship hours will be distributed to all.

Please note that our November gathering will take place on the *first Monday, November 4*. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

As always, our prayers, thoughts and love to all our homebound and hospitalized seniors.

Love in Christ, Victoria Xikis for the Senior Forerunners

Notes from the Choir Loft



Sunday, October 6 is Church Music Sunday. We will be doing a memorial for all Departed Chanters and Choir Members. Additionally, a special prayer will be offered by Father John and Father Seraphim for all those who sing for the Glory of God. All Choir members should come down from the Choir Loft in their Choir robes for the special prayer offering which will take place after the final "Amen."

A Choir and Chanter Luncheon will follow at 1:00 pm in the Panos Hall Foyer. This will be offered by the Parish Council to thank all of our musicians who give of their time and their voices to our Lord. Please RSVP to Athena or Vicki ASAP.

Registration information for the November Church Music Conference at St. Nicholas Ranch is coming soon! For details, please check the website sfchurchmusic.org.

Athena Mertes, Director

Adult Basketball

After a month-long hiatus, we will resume our pick-up basketball games *every Monday at 7:00 pm in Panos Hall*. Please call *Nate Dallas at (347) 364-0313* for more information, or to be included in our Facebook group.



The AHEPA Las Vegas Chapter 341

Happy October! Please attend our meeting *on Tuesday, October 8 at 6:30 pm in the Library*. We are currently looking for Board Members to assist with the redevelopment of the Chapter. If you are interested in a Board Position or assisting with this very important organization, please contact me.

AHEPA OXI Day Celebration

Please join us, the AHEPA Family of Las Vegas for our annual observance of *OXI Day on Sunday, October 27*, 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!

Thank you, Kouli Pouridis, Acting Chapter President

pouridis5@cox.net (702) 604-0885

Orthodox Bookstore

"The lives and praises of the saints are like the stars in brilliance. . . the radiance of the saints, though their relics be entombed in sepulchers, is not bounded by the ends of this earth here below. Therefore, we marvel at their lives and are amazed at how God has glorified them that please Him." (St. Symeon Metaphrastes)

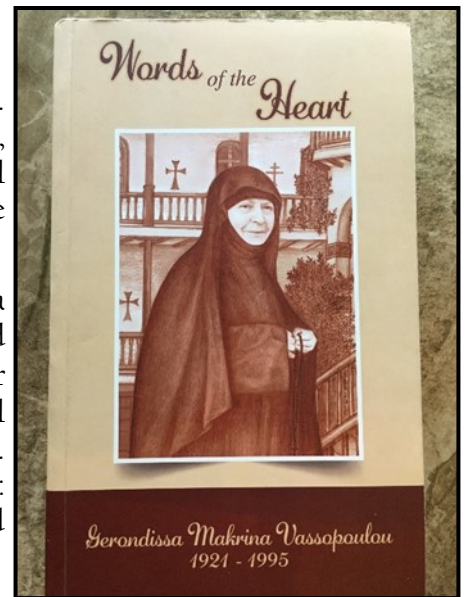
The Bookstore carries many books on the saints. Gerondissa Makrina led a very blessed life and, God-willing, may one day be counted as one of those "brilliant stars." Her book, *Words of the Heart*, tells her blessed story and contains many of her homilies. She was a Spiritual Daughter of Elder Joseph the Hesychast and Elder Ephraim of Arizona. Two of her spiritual daughters are presently Gerondissas here in America: Gerondissa Markella (Life Giving Spring Monastery in Dunlap, CA) and Gerondissa Efpraxia (St John the Forerunner in Goldendale, WA).

From Gerondissa Makrina:

"One time (as young girls) we went to a chapel. It was during the Dormition fast, and I suggested, 'Shall we go light the vigil lamps at Saint Nicholas' chapel and then return?' There were seven of us, and we set out all together without taking even a bread roll with us – only antidoron. When we approached the chapel, I said, 'How nice it would be if we each had a slice of bread and a fig to eat!' We went into the chapel, lit the vigil lamps, and chanted. I noticed a package on the Altar Table. I picked it up, and on my way out I said, 'Girls, Saint Nicholas has left us something. I don't know what it is, but it is a gift from Saint Nicholas.' I opened it, and what did I see!!! There was one fig and one warm slice of bread for each of us! It was fresh bread, hot out of the oven!"

"I do not have eloquent speech . . . but these humble words that I say to you, I say to you from my heart."

Until next month, God Willing, Mary Pursell and the Bookstore Staff



Blessing for the New Year of Church School and Procession of the Holy Cross



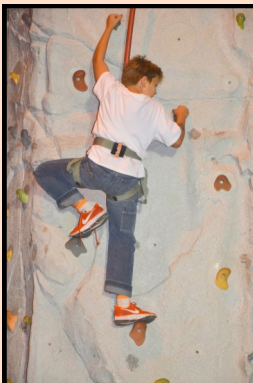
47th Annual Greek Food Festival



Triumph and Glory



OPA!!! *With gratitude to our photographers, Bill Bruninga and Clark McCarrell*



2019 Greek Food Festival Raffle Winners

Ticket #	Name	Prize
0872	James Munger	\$25,000 or 2019 Mercedes
0295	Cleo Wilson	\$2,500
0786	Criss Angel	\$1,000
0150	Panos Pappas	\$500
0817	Criss Angel	\$500
0855	Joshua Grant	LG 65" 4K Ultra HD LED LCD TV
0131	Michele Freeman	LG 65" 4K Ultra HD LED LCD TV
0696	Scott Rasmussen	LG 65" 4K Ultra HD LED LCD TV
0146	Ruth Ahlbrand	Sampsel Preston Photography Portrait Package
0163	Mickey Bohn	One Night Stay at the Palazzo in a Luxury Suite and \$25 certificate to Go Greek Yogurt
0762	Suzette Luddon	One Night Stay at the Venetian in a Luxury Suite and \$25 certificate to Go Greek Yogurt
0231	Connie Gutierrez	One Night Stay at Casablanca Resort and choice of 50 min. massage or Round of Golf
0748	Tom Gott	One Night Stay at Casablanca Resort and choice of 50 min. massage or Round of Golf
0170	Evan Frangos	\$200 Gift Certificate to Bootlegger Bistro
0165	William Liaos	\$100 Gift Certificate to Flemings Steakhouse
0135	Paul Greenbaum	\$100 Gift Cards to YardHouse
0264	Bojan Bojicic	\$100 in Gift Cards to New York New York
0197	Eric Hanlon	\$100 in Gift Certificates to Yassou Greek Grille
0078	Ann Marie Fascione	\$100 in Gift Certificates to Yassou Greek Grille
0669	Amber Medina	\$100 in Gift Certificates to Yassou Greek Grille
0040	Mavroidis	\$100 in Gift Certificates to Yassou Greek Grille
0286	Banee Rock	\$100 in Gift Certificates to Yassou Greek Grille
0878	Kleri Ciulla	\$50 Gift Card to New York New York plus 4 movie tickets
0683	Krystle Hunter	\$200 Facial and Product Kit from The Spa at The Lakes
0116	Apollo Andre	Black Bear Diner Gift Basket
0226	Stella Nichols	5 Coupon Books for 2020 Greek Food Festival
0419	Nikki Manteris	5 Coupon Books for 2020 Greek Food Festival
0757	Ken Bacon	5 Coupon Books for 2020 Greek Food Festival
0772	Athena Eliades	Food Festival Favorites Package
0614	Red Rock "549"	Food Festival Favorites Package

2019 Stewardship Report (as of 9/28/19)

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$430,907 (\$395,703 in 2018)
 Stewardship Gifts Received: \$352,948 (\$293,561 in 2018)
 Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$77,958 (\$102,142 in 2018)
 Stewardship Families Pledged: 400 (417 in 2018)
 Average Pledge to Date: \$1,077 (\$949 in 2018)
 Average Pledge Needed: \$2,412 (Decreases with More Pledges)

STEWARDS OF THE FAITH ~ 2019

Adamy, Marina	Ciulla, Anthony and Kleri	Georgoulakis, Mary Ellen	Kountanis, Panagiota
Alexander, Eleni	Ciulla, Dina	Geronikolaou, Constantine	Koupais, Mario and Cheri
Alexandrakis, George	Cocores - Ely, Caron	Ghebrea, Daniel and	Koupais, Pat
Alford, Cynthia "Mary"	Cokotis, Julie	Ghermay, Selam	Koutsulis, John and Eileen
Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine	Collins, David	Gianakoulis, Nick and Magda	Koutsulis, Sam and Effie
Anastasiou, Andrew and	Cominos, Ted	Gianoukakis, Andrew and Anna	Kypreos, George and Lesley
Kathleen	Conger, William and Alexia	Gideon, Jesse and Sara	Kypreos, Peter and Geri
Andary, Oscar	Costuros, George and Marsha	Giouzelis, Anastasia	Kypreos, Sophia
Andrews, Catherine	Cosulas, Fr. Basil and	Goodman, Robert and Linda	Kyprianou, Gilbert and Alexis
Andrews, Chris and Pamela	Presv. Samantha	Gott, C. Thomas and Kitty	Lagomarsino, Victor and Sophia
Andrews, George	Cotsilis, Jenny	Gousdovas, Nikos+	Lakkas, Christina
Andricopoulos, Margo	Coutris, Angela	Green, Todd and Susan	Lamancusa, Lisa
Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette	Crist, Adam and Kanistra	Gruber, Ernest and Zoe	Lambros, Kyriakos and Mary
Anton, Mike and Carol	Cromwell, Michael and Allison	Gutierrez, Connie	Latelle, Penny
Antonopoulos, Angela	Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	Gutierrez, Daniel	Lavelle, Eleissa
Arbuiso, Elizabeth	Dalacas, Eleni	Hadzoglon, Christos	Lavine, Frederick
Aristides, George and Diana	Dalacas, Georgia	Hamilton, Mary	Lazarakis, John and Panagiota
Asim, Demetrious	Daskalos, George and Voula	Hamilton, Paul and Brandi	Lekar, Caroline
Asim, Niko	Daughters of Penelope	Hastings, Teri and Audra	Lekar, Michael and Effie
Athens, Maria and	Demolas, Maria and Nour, Reza	Hayes, Tulla	Leonis, Nick and Sophia
Centers, Scott	Demoleas, Spero and Grace	Hemmers, Oliver and	Leonis, Tishe
Bacon, Ken and Dianne	Demoleas, Stephanie	Pantelas, Anne	Leventis, Nicholas and Christina
Balaouras, Panos and Helen	Demopoulos, Vasiliki	Henderson, Jimmie Laverne	Lewis, Foula
Balason, Anna+	Diamantis, Filippas	Henneforth, Rula	Liaos, Jim and Tina
Balason, Voula	Dimitri, Janet	Herman, Martin and Diane	Liaos, Steven and Francine
Baldwin, Richard and Vivi	Dimitri, Martha	Hertberg, Jennifer	Liaos, William+ and Irene
Balodimas, James	Dimitri, Patricia	Hetzel, David and Joanne	Likourinou, Angie
Barbarino, Demetra	Dominguez, Eric and Amalia	Hoadrea, Jimmy and Monci	Likourinou, Steve and June
Bartzos, Eugenia	Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia	Hondros, Catherine	Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine
Beeler, Mike and Carolyn	Dudunakis, Michael	Hondros, Christina	Loughton, Dustin and Rena
Beeman, Karl, Sr. and Benita	Earl, Christine Michaelides	Hondros, Christopher and Darlene	Lovaas, Jason and Dokakis, Alis
Beeman, Karl Jr. and Ivana	Eliades, Artemis	Hondros, Fr. John and	Makris, Apostolos
Berendji, Jim and Vivian	Eliades, Gregory and Maria	Presv. Maria	Malamatos, Kindina
Bernier, Micah and Alissa	Eliades, Harry and Agapi	Hondros, Marissa	Maland, Tim+ and Donna
Berta, Irene	Eliades, Katerina	Houlis, Ila and Debbie	Malpee, Mak and Kalliopi
Bieker, Adam and Cassie	Eliades, Peter	Howard, William and Willie	Maniatakos, Ted and Maria
Bieker, Georgea	Eliades, Vaso	Howse, Paul and Kelly	Manolakos, Catherine
Birtas, Helen and Birtas, Ann	Eliakis, Peter and Glenda	Hristopoulou, Spiridoula	Manos, Constantine and Michele
Bizani, Katia	Eliakis, Varthie and LeeAnn	Hunter, Zach and Krystle	Mansour, Muna
Bledsoe, Lori	Eyler, John and Elizabeth	Iteen, Robert and Sophia	Manteris, Arthur and Sue
Bochanis, George and Enid	Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean	Justice, Flora	Margaretis, John and Lucila
Booth, Brian and Effi	Filios, George and Nitsa	Kachikis, Ernestine	Markakis, Catherine
Borzeka, Stephen	Filios, Spiridon and Eleni	Kakavulias, Christina	Markakis, Sandy
Boskovic, Jelena	Fischer, Bob and Cheryl	Kakavulias, George and Helen	Markantonis, George and Sarah
Bougalis, Nickolaos	Fitzgerald, Norman and	Kakavulias, John and Elizabeth	Matsis, John and Rebecca
Brennan, Peter and Maria	McCullen, Sandra	Kaltcheva, Maria	Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki
Britten, Ronald and Carol	Flangas, Marilyn	Kambouris, Litsa	Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debra
Brown, Faye	Flangas, Gary and Amanda	Kanis, Constantinos and Katie	Mavros, Alex and Jen
Bruninga, Bill and Erin	Flangas, Gus and Tamara	Kapla, Mary	Mavros, Debbie
Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Fleetwood, Thomas and Melissa	Karalias, Petros and Constance	Mavroudis, Frank
Campbell, Paul and Victoria	Fotopoulos, John and Barbara	Karas, James	McKinney, Michael and Mersene
Capre, Julio	Foster, Kyle and Pierro, Maria	Karas, John and Marcie	McManus, Jeanette
Carabas, Stephen and Linda	Fountas, Constantinos	Karris, Mark and Suzanne	McSweeney, Farolyn
Carahalios, John and Jillian	Frangakis, Christos and Anastasia	Katopodis, Efstratios	Melton, Don and Susan
Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	Frangakis, Constantine	Katris, Nick	Menegatos, James
Carrico, William and Alexandra	Frangakis, John	Katris, Theana	Merrin, Maria
Carter, Maria	Frangakis, Sophocles and Tara	Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon	Mitchell, Thomas
Chachas, Bessie	Frantzen, Robert	Kelesis, George	Moffett, Todd and
Chachas, James	Franzi, Jack +	Kelesis, Maritza	Eliopoulos, Tina
Chagares, Kiki	Garanyants, Sergey and	Kelesis, Paula	Molina, Adriana and
Chandrinis, Alexia	Bilali, Markella	Kiflezzi, Rahel	Elhamy, Kirolos
Chanos, Jennifer	Garza, Everardo and	Kleanthis, George and Zanetta	Monoyudis, Jim and Julie
Chio, Napoleon	Eliades, Eleni	Kofinas, Maria	Mulopoulos, George and Jenny
Chomakos, Dean and Tammy	Gauvin, Chad and Marissa	Kokkinis, Peter and Jennifer	Murray, Chris and
Chomakos, Jeremy and Romina	Geiger, Dan and	Koliambas, Eleni	George, Veneta
Chondrakis, Dimosthenis and	Hart-Geiger, Dora	Konstantarakis, Michelle	Myers, Stella
Kragerud, Kaaren	Gekakis, George	Kontos, Diana	Nedelchev, Diyan
Christian, Clair and Chloe	Generales, John and Arlene	Koroni, Tara	Nedelchev, Zhivko
Christou, Andreas and Toni	George, Peter and Georgia	Kostopoulos, Georgia	Neocleous, Plato

STEWARDS OF THE FAITH ~ 2019

Nesheiwat, Peter and Ohan, Ida
Newell, Ronald and Maria
Nicholas, Christina
Nicholas, John and Estella
Nichols, George and Tereza
Nikolopoulos, Nick and Dimitra
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
Papad, Peter and Rita
Papad, Christian and Nicole
Pappas, Antonia+
Pappas, Libby
Pappas, Panos and
Katotakis, Andrea
Pappas, Rita
Pappas, Spiro
Pappas, Stella
Paton, Mia
Paul, Janet
Payan, Luis and Eleni
Pelletier, Michael
Pendleton, Trisha
Peratikos, Tony
Pertsinides, Irene
Petersen, Todd and Diane
Petro, Aleko and Georgia
Petrou, James and Penelopi

Philippou, Demetrios and Luanne
Philippou, Kyriacos and Christine
Philippou, Philippos
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
Pytikakis, Emmanouil and Elaine
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
Simos, Tony and Lorie
Sirhan, Michael and
Khuri, Imtisal
Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia
Skandros, Stephanie
Snow, Adrienne
Snow, Clifford and Christina
Snowden, Robert and Niki
Song, Adrienne
Sparkuhl, Alexander and Antoinette
Spotti, Peter and Alexandra
Stathopoulos, Anastasia
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
Tefasilase, 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, Panagiot
Tsortanidis, Sophia
Turman, Maria
Tzelalis, Antonia
Tzelalis, Steve
Tzortzis, Maria
Varinos, Nick and Kiki
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 and Daniela
Zachariou, Sozos and Aspasia
Zaferatos, Ted
Zamir, Talor and Michelle
Zarras, Nick and Chery
Zervas, Dionisios
Zimmerman, Paul and Angela
Zmina, Stephen and Cynthia

Church Account Summaries ~ August 2019

Nevada State Bank Accounts	July	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	August	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$17,395.77	\$61,180.53	\$30,884.30	\$17,395.02	\$68,264.74	\$23,800.84	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$1,170.10	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,670.10	Recurring Le Royal Dreams
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$23,789.07	\$38,194.11	\$18,267.00	\$9,320.45	\$30,719.73	\$40,210.00	\$30K Transfer to cover bills and payroll
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$184,434.21	\$5,069.00	\$4,034.19	\$7,279.28	\$5,468.88	\$180,789.24	
Folk Dance Group	\$15,383.23	\$75.00			\$375.00	\$15,083.23	Registration/Souvenir Magazine Ad
Hellenic Historical Society	\$3,300.94					\$3,300.94	
Mortgage Account	\$10,527.82				\$5,201.14	\$5,326.68	Mortgage Balance \$81,879.96
Designated Funds	July	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	August	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$4,741.14	\$2,614.00	\$1,517.00	\$3,168.95	\$356.37	\$5,346.82	
Ornaments	\$1,087.41					\$1,087.41	
Restricted Funds	July	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	August	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
ICON	\$138,162.76	\$430.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$138,592.76	
Library Account	\$1,470.77					\$1,470.77	Account owed \$21,000. Funds used to make payroll and pay bills in 2015
Miscellaneous	-\$435.68		\$838.88		\$403.20	\$0.00	\$400 transfer was in error. Corrected to Festival Account
Giving Tree	\$8,450.91					\$8,450.91	
Building Fund	\$1,006.00	\$201.00			\$1,207.00	\$0.00	Transferred to Mortgage Principal
\$300,000 One Year Plan	\$0.00	\$1,824.00	\$1,678.31		\$3,502.31	\$0.00	collected and transferred
Youth Choir	\$2,989.18					\$2,989.18	
Church School	\$1,306.37					\$1,306.37	
Three Priests	\$2,684.49					\$2,684.49	
Roof Appeal	\$21,018.50			\$4,110.33		\$16,908.17	Mold Ebatement/Renovations
Baptismal Water Heater	\$1,370.00					\$1,370.00	Expenses applied to GOA. Will transfer \$1300.76 from D&R in September.
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$142.36					\$142.36	
Designated, Restricted, and Other Total	\$184,434.21	\$5,069.00	\$4,034.19	\$7,279.28	\$5,468.88	\$180,789.24	
Other Funds	July	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	August	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$67,990.45					\$67,990.45	
August 2019 Candles	\$5,559.00						
August 2019 Trays	\$3,594.00						
Total August Candles & Trays	\$9,153.00						



OCTOBER 2019 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

		1 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes	2 7:00 pm Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith - Class #1: What We Believe	3	4	5 8:45 am GOYA Hike at Red Rock (meet at Terrible Herbst on Charleston/Desert Foothills)
6 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:15 pm Youth Choir Practice in 4th/5th Class 1:00 pm Choir Luncheon in Panos Foyer	7	8 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes 6:00 pm Folk Dance Practice 6:30 pm AHEPA Meeting in Library	9 7:00 pm Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith - Class #2: History of the Church	10	11	12
13 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy Youth Choir Chants 5:00 pm GOYA Night Service Project in Panos Hall	14 11:30 am Senior Forerunner Luncheon in Kokkos Hall	15 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes 6:00 pm Folk Dance Practice 6:00 pm Folk Dance Board Meeting 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting in the Library	16 7:00 pm Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith - Class #3: The Holy Sacraments	17	18	19 6:00 pm Mr. and Mrs. at John and Ellyn Nixon's Home
20 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:30 pm Dance Parents Meeting in Kokkos Hall 3:00 pm OFF at Lake Las Vegas Fall Festival	21	22 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes 6:00 pm Folk Dance Practice	23 St. Iakovos 9:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. Iakovos (James) 7:00 pm Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith - Class #4: The Divine Liturgy	24	25	26 St. Demetrios 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Young Adults at Twilight Zone Mini Golf 6:00 pm Kali Pareia at Demetri Asim's Home
27 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:00 pm AHEPA OXI Day Celebration	28	29 5:00 pm Greek Language Classes 6:00 pm Folk Dance Practice	30 7:00 pm Six Classes on the Orthodox Faith - Class #5: Orthodox Spirituality	31		

The Desert Messenger

*St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
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THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord

How the house of the soul is built we can learn from the building of a material house and from the knowledge and care it demands. A man who wants to build a house must see that it is solid and thoroughly safe and he raises it four-square (on a sound foundation). He does not concentrate on one part and neglect the rest since this is of no use but defeats his aim and makes vain the expense and labor. So it is with the soul: We must on no account neglect any part of it, but build it up equally and harmoniously. This is what Abba John means when he says, "I would rather a man acquire a little of each one of the virtues than master one virtue as some have done, persisting in it and practicing only that but neglecting the rest."

(*St. Dorotheos of Gaza, Discourses and Sayings*)

