

The Desert



Messenger

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

Volume 15, Issue 4 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Las Vegas, NV

April 2017

**From
Father
John**

Beloved in Christ:

Please pardon the mess! As I write my monthly message I am at a loss for words, as I had fully expected the scaffolding to be dismantled, the new iconography to be adorning our exedra walls and the full-house capacity seating – as always – to be available in the nave for Great and Holy Week. Yet, due to circumstances beyond my control (or understanding), I am in the position of humbly requesting your pardon, your patience, your cooperation with this inconvenience and, most especially, your continued prayers.



Similarly, as we conclude our forty-day Lenten fast and prepare for our journey to our Lord Jesus Christ's Passion and Resurrection, we most likely are beseeching Him to pardon our own personal messes! Indeed, Christ came into the world when we were not at our personal best, but quite the contrary: As Holy Week will again reveal to us, the glorious praises of "Hosanna!" offered to the Messiah on Palm Sunday will quickly evolve into the false accusations and convictions to "Crucify Him!" In like manner, we will enter the most sacred week of the year spiritually ill-prepared, for our lack of genuine repentance and our refusal to love and forgive those who have offended us – even though it is for all of us that Christ cries out His last words from the Cross, *"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."* (Luke 23:34)

The saving message of Holy Week is this: Our Lord loves us not because we deserve His love, but because HE IS LOVE. *"In this is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the expiation for our sins."* (1 John 4:10) Thank you, Lord and Master, for by Your voluntary Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection, You have pardoned – and continue to pardon – our sins! *"We worship Your Passion, O Christ. Show us now Your glorious Resurrection."* (Fifteenth Antiphon of Holy Thursday Evening)

Lord, pardon our mess! If we come to the Holy Week services with the right disposition, the inconveniences of our surroundings and the imperfections of our brothers and sisters will not annoy us – but rather, our focus will be on Christ, His powerful and ever-relevant words, His voluntary suffering and Crucifixion and, most importantly, HIS LOVE. His saving actions will be seen and understood as both personal and universal: Just as He dies for all, He also resurrects for all! *"King and Lord, though You slept as a mortal, You rose in three days, raising up Adam from corruption and annulling death. O Pascha of immortality, salvation of the world!"* (Exaposteilarion of the Resurrection)

Καλή Ἀνάσταση! Blessed Resurrection!

With love in Christ,

Father John

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

Abstain from Meat and Dairy until Holy Pascha

Saturday, April 1/ *Lenten Retreat with Bishop Ilia*
9:00 am *Divine Liturgy*

Sunday, April 2/ *5th Sunday of Lent/
St. Mary of Egypt/Titus the Wonderworker*
Orthros: Tone Eight (Fourth Plagal)
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): John 20:11-18
Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14
Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

5:00 pm *Lenten Vespers at St. Michael*

Monday, April 3
6:30 pm *Great Compline*

Wednesday, April 5
6:30 pm *Presanctified Liturgy*

Saturday, April 8/ *Saturday of Lazaros*
8:00 am *Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy*
Epistle: Hebrews 12:28-29; 13:1-8
Gospel: John 11:1-45
Palm Tying and Lenten Breakfast

5:00 pm *Great Vespers of Palm Sunday
with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos*

Sunday, April 9/ *Palm Sunday*
His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, Celebrant
Festal Gospel: Matthew 11:1-11, 15-17
Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9
Gospel: John 12:1-18
Blessing and Distribution of Palms
Palm Sunday Luncheon in Panos Hall

GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday Evening, April 9
7:00 pm *1st Bridegroom Service
with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos*

Holy Monday, April 10
7:00 pm *2nd Bridegroom Service*

Holy Tuesday, April 11
7:00 pm *3rd Bridegroom Service/Hymn of Kassiani*

Holy Wednesday, April 12
9:00 am *Presanctified Liturgy*
7:00 pm *Sacrament of Holy Unction/
Anointing with Holy Oil*

Holy Thursday, April 13
9:00 am *Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil*
7:00 pm *Holy Passion of our Lord/12 Gospel Readings*

Holy Friday, April 14
10:00 am *Royal Hours*
3:00 pm *Descent from the Cross/
Children's Procession*
7:00 pm *Lamentations/Procession of the Epitaphion*

Holy Saturday, April 15
9:00 am *Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil*
11:00 pm *Vigil of the Resurrection*

Sunday, April 16/ *GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA*
12:00 am *Resurrectional Orthros & Divine Liturgy*
Resurrection Gospel: Mark 16:1-8
Epistle: Acts 1:1-8
Gospel: John 1:1-17
Blessing and Distribution of Red Eggs
12:00 pm *Agape Vespers and Picnic*
Gospel (in various languages): John 20:19-25

Friday, April 21/ *Theotokos, the Life-Giving Spring*
8:00 am *Orthros - 9:00 am Divine Liturgy*
Epistle: Acts 3:1-8
Gospel: John 2:12-22

Sunday, April 23/ *Thomas Sunday/
St. George the Great Martyr*
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Matthew 28:16-20
Epistle: 1 John 1:1-7
Gospel: John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 30/ *Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers,
St. Joseph of Arimathea and St. Nicodemus/
Apostle James, Brother of St. John the Theologian*
Orthros: Tone Two
Resurrection Gospel (Orthros): Luke 24:1-12
Epistle: Acts 6:1-7
Gospel: Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8

CHRIST IS RISEN!

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΘΗ!

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

APRIL 2

Ushers: Skip Ruffner, Mike Beeler, Mark Karris, Kouli Pouridis, John Koutsulis and Bessie Stavropoulos

Memorials: Mike Mavros (40 days); Kathy Fay Weisman (40 days); and Troy Michael Edens (1 year);
George Bassounas (1 year); Rebecca Bourdos, Constandinos Pouridis.

Fellowship: Ladies Philoptochos Society - Kids 'n' Cancer

APRIL 9 - PALM SUNDAY

Ushers: Entire Parish Council

PALM SUNDAY FISH LUNCHEON

APRIL 16 - GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

Ushers: Entire Parish Council

AGAPE PICNIC

APRIL 23

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

Fellowship: Dina Delalis

APRIL 30

Ushers: Demetrious Asim, Stacy Mavrantonis, Gus Flangas, Bessie Stavropoulos, Mike Beeler and
Kouli Pouridis

Fellowship: Pan-Arcadians

Father John's 30th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood



On the occasion of Father John's 30th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood on the Sunday of the Cross, the Parish Council and Philoptochos presented him an embroidered Epigonation with the icon of St. John the Baptist. A community luncheon, hosted by Philoptochos, followed Liturgy and benefitted Holy Cross Seminary.



Photos by Bill Bruninga

Parish Council Report

Kalo Pascha! We want to first thank all the many volunteers who are stepping up with their time and talents to help with Holy Week and all the related activities such as the Palm Sunday Luncheon and the Agape Picnic. Your efforts, as always, provide a beautiful and meaningful experience for all during this most important season in our Church, and we greatly appreciate it. We are looking forward to a tremendous Holy Week and joining together to worship in our Faith. We are also pleased and honored that His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos will be here over the Palm Sunday weekend to worship and celebrate with us. Please keep in mind that the *Palm Sunday Luncheon* will be held on *April 9* following Church services and the *Agape Picnic* will be held on *Pascha, April 16 starting at noon*. These are great events for fellowship so please come and join us. You can purchase tickets for both of these events through the Church Office or in Panos Hall during Fellowship on Sundays. On a less than pleasant note, when attending services and events during Holy Week, please do not store valuables in your cars and please keep them locked. In the past, we have had a few instances of cars being broken into. We have hired a security company to patrol the parking lot at all times during Holy Week, but please still take the necessary precautions.

We recently recognized and congratulated Father John on the 30th anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood with a surprise gift in Church and a surprise luncheon in Panos Hall following services. We are proud that 15 of those years have been in service to our Church here in Las Vegas and we want to thank Father John and Presvytera Maria for all they have done for our Community over the years. They have been tireless in their work and we are truly blessed to have them. We look forward to many more years with them leading our Parish. We also want to thank the Ladies Philoptochos, Members of the Parish Council and everyone else who worked so hard to put on the luncheon and honor Father John on this blessed milestone in his service to the Church. Also we need to give a shout out to the cooks: The luncheon was tremendous!

On another note, Father Matthew and his family will be leaving us in June to become the Priest of another parish, St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Beaverton, Oregon. It is bittersweet for everyone in that we are extremely sorry to see him go; but at the same time we are tremendously proud that he will be receiving a parish of his own consisting of around 150 families. The new Parish is very fortunate, for they are receiving a great and energetic priest. We want to thank Father Matthew and Presvytera Annie for all of their work for and contributions to our community, especially with our youth, and wish them well in their future endeavors. We will truly miss them. A *farewell luncheon* and send off has been set for Holy Pentecost *Sunday, June 4*, in Panos Hall following services.

As Father Matthew departs, we will welcome his replacement in June, Seraphim Ramos, a soon-to-be graduate of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary. He is married and has a baby daughter. He has been described as energetic, and pious yet down to earth. We are looking forward to welcoming him and his family to our community. We are still awaiting the official word on Seraphim's ordination from His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. I will keep you posted.

Pertaining to the Iconography, the latest is that it may take up to three more months before we can get the Iconographers back into the country to finish their work. As part of the process, an on-site inspection has to be conducted by someone from the Immigration Office out of Southern California to verify that we are a Church. We are being told that this alone might take up to two months or more. Thus, we are essentially on hold until this inspection is completed. We are working diligently on the matter with the help of one of our parishioners who specializes in immigration issues. As stated last month, we are truly grateful for his efforts in helping us.

In the same vein, we still have the scaffolding up for the Iconography and unfortunately, it is too cost prohibitive to take it down and set it up again, so the decision was made to leave it in place. It would cost over \$10,000 to remove it and set it up again, yet around \$1,000 to \$1,500 to leave it until the Iconography is complete. Unfortunately, having the scaffolding up will make it somewhat difficult for Holy Week in that we lose around 150-200 seats inside the Church. The current plan is set up an overflow tent with chairs outside with live video and audio feed of the services for Holy Friday and Holy Saturday night and to put chairs for seating up in the choir loft.

(Continued on Page 5)

Parish Council Report *(Continued from Page 4)*

To keep you informed, other projects we are presently working on include finishing the roof repairs, working on the landscaping to finish the massive landscaping project undertaken last summer, and finishing the work on the floors in Panos Hall. Most of the roof repairs have been completed. However, we still have a slight leak in the women's bathroom ceiling in the Narthex. This was not part of the original bid and is presently in process of being fixed as well. On the landscaping, we have completed replacing the remaining deficient watering pipes, have almost completed weeding and putting decorative rock in the planters around the entire property, and are in the process of filling in and leveling off the holes in the grass in the large field and re-seeding it. Of particular note about the water pipes, by fixing them, we have already saved thousands of dollars on our water bill. As to the floors in Panos Hall, we finished the project; however, some of the urethane that was applied near the periphery of hall, clouded up while drying. We will need to sand out those small areas and reapply the urethane. The rest of the floor looks good.

As we proceed through this Lenten period, and celebrate Pascha, it is important to remember Stewardship. We ask that you look into your heart, pray, and give back accordingly to help our Church in this coming year. We absolutely have to get Stewardship fully on track where it covers most if not all of our operating expenses. So please help with the effort and contribute.

Other important milestones include this year's Greek Food Festival which will be held the weekend of September 15 through 17. We are fully immersed in the planning process and will be starting the Festival meetings for further planning soon. Please keep a look out for the dates and please step up and help. Our goal is get better every year and to provide a high-energy, well-attended event. Also we are planning a New Year's Eve Party to be held this year in Panos Hall with live music (Greek and American), great food, lots of dancing and fun, and no speeches. This event will also serve as part of the initial plan to help retire the Mortgage. It is our intent to make this the best event to hang out for New Year's Eve, so mark your calendars.

In closing and as usual, we want to again thank the various Church ministries and organizations, and the many individuals for all the work they do and have done to help us secure the future of the Church for ourselves and most importantly, our children. It clearly takes a lot of work from the entire community to maintain our Church. Please step forward whenever you can and pitch in. We know a lot of things are always happening; but, they are extremely important. Please get involved as we move forward to make our Church better. May God bless.

Gus Flangas, Parish Council President



The Orthodox Clergy of Clark County continued its annual tradition of hosting Sunday evening Vespers during Lent at each of the parishes. St. John the Baptist hosted the service on Sunday of Orthodoxy, followed by a Lenten meal hosted by Philoptochos.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Council: Gus Flangas

Philoptochos: Bernadette Anthony

Stewardship & Community Outreach:
Justina Szukiewicz

Choir: Athena Mertes

Chanters & Youth Choir:
Presvytera Maria Hondros

Church School: Eileen Koutsulis

Altar Servers: Alex & Eric Szukiewicz

GOYA:

Kouli Pouridis & June Likourinou

Orthodox Family Fellowship:
Jelena Boskovic & Amy Khuri

Moms & Tots:

Presv. Annie Swehla & Cassie Bieker

Young Adults:

Nicholas Asim & Anthony Kunard

Greek Folk Dance: Sia Dalacas

Greek School: Paula Kelesis

Mr. & Mrs.:

Fr. John, Fr. Matthew & Presvyteres

Kali Parea: Demetrious Asim

Adult Basketball: George Chomakos

Forerunners: Marie & Gary Setian

Orthodox Bookstore:
Constantine Frangakis

Greek Food Festival: Gus Flangas

Hellenic Historical Society:
Cheryl Pandelis and Susan Stamis

Bill Andrews Library: Susan Stamis

Photography: Bill Bruninga



"WHEN YOU PRAY... PRAY LIKE THIS..."

(MATTHEW 5:5-13)

A LENTEN RETREAT

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

BISHOP ILIA (KATRE) OF PHILOMELION, SPEAKER

HIERARCH OF THE ALBANIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF AMERICA

FORMER PRIEST OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH IN LAS VEGAS

FORMER DEAN OF STUDENTS AT HOLY CROSS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



RETREAT SCHEDULE

9:00AM DIVINE LITURGY

10:00AM REFRESHMENTS & REGISTRATION

10:30AM RETREAT BEGINS

12:00PM LENTEN LUNCH

3:30PM RETREAT CONCLUDES

• \$15 PER PERSON, INCLUDING LUNCH

• REGISTER BY FRIDAY, MARCH 24

• CASH OR CHECK ONLY

PAYABLE TO: "ST. PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH"

MEMO: "LENTEN RETREAT"

SPONSORED BY THE CLARK COUNTY ORTHODOX CLERGY ASSOCIATION



Philoptochos News



Every year during Lent, as Orthodox Christians we try to put aside our day-to-day activities and concentrate more on the devotions and practices of our Faith. The Ladies Philoptochos Society participates in activities that accompany and assist in the Traditions of the Faith and of our Church community. These extra activities help to fill out our Lenten journey. Please make your plans to join us along the way.

The Wine Wagon is back. Penny Philippou and her team have tickets for sale for \$5 to win a garden wagon filled with wine! Tickets are for sale every Sunday or from any Philoptochos Member. We will announce the winner at the Agape Picnic!

On **Sunday, April 2** the Ladies Philoptochos will host the Sunday Fellowship to benefit the Kids 'n' Cancer Camps. These camps provide a welcome respite for children suffering from cancer. For one week during the summer they can play, sing, do crafts and forget doctors, chemo and hospitals. Their parents also get to go and know that their child is being cared for. As we ask for your donation for this cause, we also ask for your prayers for those children who are not well enough to go to camp this year – that they may be able to go next year! Please see Dora Hart for more information.

Sunday, April 9 is our annual Palm Sunday Luncheon. Make your plans and buy your ticket for this parish-wide luncheon. Our Philoptochos members are asked to come and decorate the tables and take a turn serving at the buffet. So grab your apron and let me know if you will be able to help.

Spring Break will be during Holy Week and it will be the perfect time to bring your kids to Church services! If you would like to let them know where the original red Pascha eggs come from, bring them to the morning service on **Holy Thursday, April 13 at 9:00 am**, and following service we will be dying the eggs. For early birds, a few hands are needed early to cook the eggs. Thanks in advance to Andrea Takas, Justina Szukiewicz, Effie Lekar and Jenn Orlando!

We started Lent with the beautiful flowers surrounding the Panagia Icon every Friday for the Salutations services. Many thanks to the generous sponsors of the flowers. The beauty of flowers will continue with the decorating of the Epitaphion on **Holy Friday, April 14**, following the **10:00 am Royal Hours** service. Thanks to the generosity of our St. John parishioners, the Epitaphion will again reflect our love and devotion to our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you to Ernestine Kachikas who designs and chooses the flowers every year.

At the Agape Picnic, Amalia Dominguez will chair the dessert booth and again your help will be needed to staff the buffet line for an hour or so. It is the best way to say hello to your friends and to help the church. If we all help, then we have plenty of time to enjoy the day.

Lastly thank you to all who helped with the Pan-Orthodox Vespers dinner on March 5, especially to LeeAnn Eliakis for the delicious soup. Thank you to those who donated the salad, the bread rolls, the overflowing fruit trays and the Lenten cakes.

Wishing you all a Blessed Pascha!

Your Sister in Christ, Bernadette Anthony, Philoptochos President

Our Community Registry

Baptized into Christ: Na mas Zisoun!

Eracles (Hayden), son of Cameron and Irene Smith on March 11.
Godparent: Elizabeth Anthony.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord: Eternal Memory!

Kathy Fay Weisman on March 9, 2017. Funeral on March 15.

Michael Mavros on March 18, 2017. Funeral on March 25.

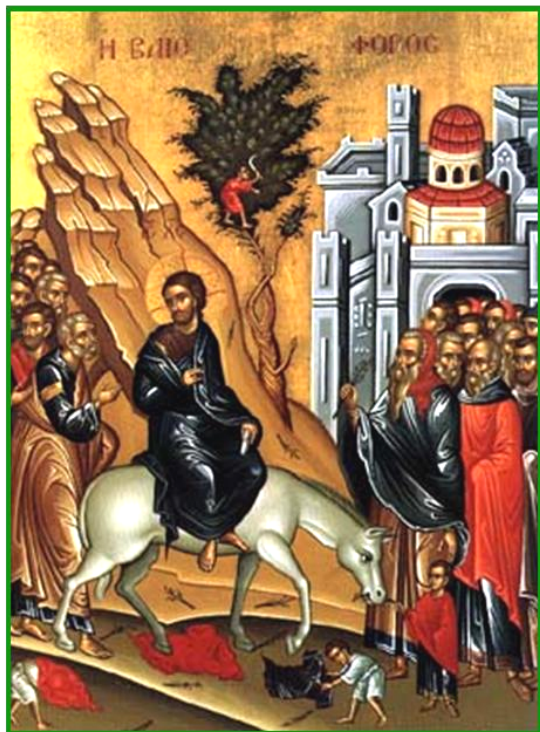
Angeline Morse on March 23, 2017. Funeral on March 29.

HOLY CONFESSION DURING LENT

*Father John is available for
Confession by
appointment only during
the weekdays of Lent.*

*Do not delay, as
Confessions will not be
heard Holy Week.*

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



Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon

Sunday, April 9, 2017

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

Following the Divine Liturgy in Panos Hall

\$15 Per Person

Cash Bar: Beer, Wine and Soda

(Bar proceeds benefit Folk Dance Groups)

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

Luncheon proceeds benefit the Parish Operations



Please join us for our
AGAPE PICNIC

Holy Pascha ♦ Sunday, April 16, 2017

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

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



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

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

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

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



From Father Matthew

The theme of last month's Youth Lenten Retreat was, "Walking with our Lord: A Journey through Holy Week." For Orthodox Christians, Holy Week is a spiritual journey. There are numerous services which guide us to our Lord and to His saving acts, His Crucifixion and Resurrection.

Through the hymns we take part in that final week of Jesus' earthly life: His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, His final meal with the disciples, His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, His betrayal, torture, and death, His destruction of Hades, and His glorious Resurrection. The beauty of the Holy Week services makes it almost impossible to not be affected, when we see Jesus' Cross carried in the Church, when we process around the Church with candles and His Tomb, when we stand in a darkened Church awaiting the light of Christ.

There is a reason for all of this. It is not simply theatrics – like some dramatic reenactment or an Easter play. Holy Week is not an invitation to watch, to be a spectator in the services, merely witnessing the actions unfold; rather *Holy Week is an invitation to participate*, to walk with our Lord. Through His saving actions He paved the path to our salvation – *our* path to salvation. It is a path not only trod by Christ, but one which we must also walk.

Just as Jesus was betrayed by His own disciple, He warns us that, *"brother will betray brother."* (Mark 13:12)

When He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, He asked God the Father's will to be done. Likewise He teaches us to pray, *"Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."* (Matthew 6:10)

Just as He was persecuted and abused by the Roman soldiers, so He says, *"They will lay their hands on you and persecute you."* (Luke 21:12)

Our Lord stood unashamed before Pontius Pilate. So too He admonishes us, *"Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words . . . of him will the Son of man also be ashamed . . ."* (Mark 8:38)

Just as He was hated by the Jewish leaders and the people, so He warns, *"You will be hated by all for My Name's sake."* (Mark 13:13)

As Jesus bore the burden of His heavy Cross, so He tells us, *"If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."* (Mark 8:34)

Just as He was Crucified, he tells us through the Apostle Paul, *"Those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."* (Galatians 5: 24)

The path that Jesus Christ paved for our salvation is the very path which we, as followers of Christ, must follow. Holy Week is a special opportunity for us to take part in this journey. If we listen closely to the hymns that are being sung throughout, we will see our part in this. Let us be emboldened by our Lord's example and take up the same journey – for He will walk with us if we do, He will share our burdens, and He will grant us resurrection and eternal life.

Blessed Pascha – Καλή Ανάσταση!

Father Matthew

Notes from the Choir Loft



The Choir will continue to rehearse the music for Holy Week and Pascha. Please note that we only have four rehearsals to cover all of the music, so your attendance at each rehearsal is very important!

We will sing for the following services: Palm Sunday Hierarchical Liturgy, the Bridegroom Services of Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, Holy Friday Lamentations, and Pascha. Please mark your calendars for the following rehearsals: *Friday, April 7 at 5:45 pm; Monday, April 10 at 6:00 pm; Tuesday, April 11 at 6:00 pm; and Wednesday, April 12 at 6:00 pm.*

Athena Mertes, Director

Youth and Family Ministries

Church School

Kalo Pascha and Kali Anastasi!

Can you believe that it is this wonderful time of year again? Pascha is just around the corner. There are so many beautiful services; we hope to see our youth during the weekly services. We are still collecting for "Mochas for Missions." The collection will *end on Palm Sunday, April 9* (though I will not turn away money for our mission Churches if you come to me later). I will be handing out treats in our classes for the students that bring coins in their cups.

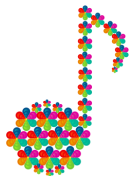
Here are a few important dates and some activities to get involved in: *After the 9:00 am Liturgy on Lazaros Saturday, April 8*, we will have a light Lenten breakfast followed by *Palm Cross Tying*. Every year we tie about 1,500 palms. Please come and help tie palms; it is a great way to get ready for Holy Week. At *5:00 pm* we will have *Vespers for Palm Sunday with Metropolitan Gerasimos*. After Vespers the Metropolitan will have a 20-30 minute chat with the youth. This is a great way for the kids to spend time with His Eminence and learn a few things. Please try to make it to this important event.

The following day is Palm Sunday, when we will have our annual Luncheon following Liturgy. The fish is always delicious; we hope you can attend this event since Metropolitan Gerasimos will be our honored guest. All youth are encouraged to join us on *Holy Friday, April 14 at 3:00 pm* for the annual *Children's Procession with the Epitaphion*. This is a beautiful parish tradition, which includes a special discussion with Father John and Father Matthew at the end of the service. Please also join us for the *Agape Picnic on Pascha Sunday, April 16*, for a lamb dinner followed by our annual *Egg Hunt*. If you would like to donate filled eggs, please drop them off to Karen or to your child's teacher *by Holy Thursday, April 13*. Lastly, save the date: *Commencement is on Sunday, May 21*.

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



Youth Choir News



Thank you to all the singers who chanted the Salutation Services on the Friday evenings of Lent. We had a small but mighty group this year; we also had the opportunity to learn some 'ison' (Byzantine harmony) with some of our hymns!

Our big day is *Holy Saturday, April 15*, when we chant that great "Hymn of the Three Youths" during the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great. PLEASE be in the front right pew NO LATER THAN 8:45 am; our favorite part is in the beginning of the service. If anyone wishes to read anytime during Holy Week, please step forward.

We wish everyone a Kali Anastasi!

With Love, Presvytera Maria

Orthodox Family Fellowship



This month we will once again have the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos' presence for Palm Sunday weekend. He will be meeting with our youth for an informal discussion on *Lazaros Saturday, April 8 after 5:00 pm Vespers*. Please join us!

Also, do not forget that on that morning, following the Divine Liturgy, we will have our annual Palm Cross Tying Party. Come and learn how to tie crosses with us!

In Christ, Amy Khuri and Jelena Boskovic, OFF Advisors



GOYA ~ For Teenagers



Kalo Pascha! What an awesome retreat we had! Thank you to all who helped make it such a success.

This month we will once again have the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos' presence for Palm Sunday weekend. He will be meeting with GOYA for an informal discussion on *Lazaros Saturday, April 8 after 5:00 pm Vespers*. Please join us!

Also do not forget that on that morning, following the Divine Liturgy,

we will have our annual Palm Cross Tying Party. This is a fun event to go to with your GOYA friends!

This year Holy Week falls on the same week as school's spring break. So you will have MANY opportunities to come to Church services during Holy Week. We look forward to seeing you there.

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

Myrrh-Bearers

Hi Everyone! We are looking for girls 6th-12th Grade to be Myrrh-Bearers during Holy Week. This is such a rewarding experience and all the girls that have participated in the past have really enjoyed the experience. The dates are Palm Sunday evening for the first Bridegroom Service, then Holy Thursday, Holy Friday and Holy Saturday night for Great and Holy Pascha. There will be a mandatory meeting for the girls and a parent on *Sunday, April 2 following Church School* in Classroom 5. If you are not able to attend that meeting please reach out to me so I can go over the details.

Eileen Koutsulis (702) 521-6516

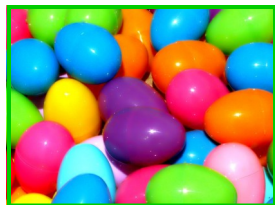
Altar Servers

There is a mandatory Acolyte practice on *Sunday, April 2 at 12:15 pm*. All Altar Servers must attend this practice in preparation for the hierarchical services with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos on Palm Sunday weekend, as well as for Holy Week Services.

Alex and Eric Szukiewicz, Altar Captains

We worship Your Passion, O Christ. Show us now Your glorious Resurrection!

Pascha Egg Hunt



Hi Everyone! I am looking for filled eggs again this year for our annual Egg Hunt for the Agape Picnic. If you do not have time to fill eggs, I am also collecting money, empty plastic eggs and candy. Please have them to me by *Holy Thursday, April 13*. You can bring them to me on Sunday or during the week to Karen. Please call, text or email me with any questions. Thank you so much!

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

Greek Folk Dance

We want to again thank the entire St. John community for all its love and support over the last several months. We truly appreciate the good wishes from all.

The children of the Folk Dance Ministry (and their parents too!) are taking a much needed break during this blessed Lenten season. Greek dancing will resume in August with preparations for the annual Greek Food Festival. Please look for information regarding registration for the 2017-2018 season, starting in late summer. Remember: All children 4 years-old and older are welcome! Kalo Pascha!

With gratitude, Athanasia Dalacas and the Folk Dance Board

Moms & Tots



"If you don't hear crying, the Church is dying!" –Tony Alexiou, on Orthodox Christian Network, 10/23/13.

It is a real blessing to hear these joyous sounds echoing from children during the worship services of our Church, especially during Lent. We all know that children are the future of our Church. They are also our way toward salvation. As Christ said, *"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for such belongs the kingdom of heaven."* (Matthew 19:14) Everything we learn about the Church and through Scripture about Christ's life and His works, points to our children.

As we approach Holy Week, it is truly a beautiful time for our Church as we witness Christ's ministries, His Passion, and His Resurrection. Every year, on *Holy Friday at 3:00 pm*, Christ is removed from the Cross and is laid in the Tomb to rest. The children of our Church are encouraged to participate by processing behind our priests as they carry our Lord to His resting place (the Epitaphion). Each child is given a flower to lay on the Tomb and then take their seats at the base of the soleas to listen to our priest's message about what just took place and what will happen in three days. If you have not come to this service, I highly encourage you and your children to do so. You and your children will leave full of love and anticipation for the days to come!

It is important to have children present in Church. They are our everyday reminders of our connection to God – the sight of them, the sound of them, even the sweetest of hugs from them. Come to Moms & Tots and see our ministry grow with the beautiful sight of our future Church and be reminded how wonderful it is to hear their precious cries, laughs, and giggles.

Next Moms & Tots will be on *Tuesday, April 4, 10:30 am - noon inside Kokkos Hall*. It is always a blessing to have new and current moms attend and to share any special snack ideas they have with the group (although bringing a dish is not required). Please join us for a post-Pascha Moms Night Out at the end of April (date to be determined).

In Christ, Presvytera Annie Swehla and Cassie Bieker

Your Sponsorship is encouraged . . . for a name day, birthday, anniversary or in memory of a loved one: \$100 - The Desert Messenger, \$50 - Weekly Bulletin.

Adult and Young Adult Ministries

Young Adults

Thank you to the Lekars for hosting a huge Young Adults dinner! We had a fun group conversation.

In April our focus is on Christ and on the many services surrounding His Crucifixion and Resurrection. I encourage you to come to as many services as you are able to. On Pascha the Young Adults will have a table at the Agape Picnic. Join us for a fun celebration! Also, your help will be greatly appreciated in serving food at the Agape Picnic, so please offer a hand.

We say "Good-bye" and offer our gratitude to our friend and YA Advisor Anthony Kunard, who will soon be deployed to South Korea. Our prayers are with you!

My final Young Adults dinner will be in May at the Koutsulis home. I look forward to seeing all of you there and to hearing about many future dinners together with the next priest who will serve at St. John Church.

In Christ, Father Matthew

Mr. & Mrs. - A Couples Fellowship



Thank you to John and Marcie Karas for hosting yet another delightful dinner in their home. This month *Bob and Cheryl Fischer* will host the M&Ms dinner on *Sunday, April 30 at 6:00 pm*. Please bring your significant other and a dish to share. RSVP with Father Matthew.

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

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

Great and Holy Pascha is only a few short weeks away! Keeping our focus on Christ, Kali Parea is keeping things simple this month. As a group, we are attending the Lenten retreat on *Saturday, April 1*. The topic is "When you Pray, Pray Like This." Our speaker is our very own Bishop Ilia Katre. Tickets are \$15 per person and includes lunch.

I have reserved a table for Kali Parea both at the Palm Sunday Luncheon and at the Agape Picnic on *Holy Pascha, Sunday, April 16*. Please see me for your tickets so we can sit together.

Demetrious Asim, Kali Parea Advisor

Forerunners - The Seniors of St. John the Baptist

Praying that your journey through Great Lent has been inspiring and fulfilling.

Our March Lenten luncheon was well attended, and a huge success. If you were not able to join us, you really missed a good one. Master Chef Sam and his crew – Harry, Mike and Sava – did a magnificent job with our meal. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all. As the Greek saying goes, we are still licking our fingers.

Since our April luncheon falls during Holy Week, we will make other plans instead: Marie and Gary are planning a movie day after Pascha: The date and time will be announced in the *Weekly Bulletin*.

We will resume with a May Luncheon on *Monday, May 8* at which time, our own Teddy Kaye will entertain us with his beautiful "Frank Sinatra" type voice, singing many favorites. Please mark your calendars.

Our thoughts, prayers and love to all our homebound friends. May this holy season strengthen you in your faith and love.

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

ΚΑΛΟ ΠΑΣΧΑ! ΚΑΛΗ ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΗ!

Stewardship and Community Outreach

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Glory be to God for all things! When the Lord was asked which commandment was the first of all the commandments, He responded, *"The first is, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."* (Mark 12:29-31) During the Lenten season we are called upon to make greater efforts to achieve these two commandments through prayer, fasting, asking for forgiveness, repentance/confession, humbling ourselves and offering alms to those less fortunate of the Lord's children.

Many of us have heard the expression: Actions speak louder than words. St. James the Apostle demonstrates this when he says to us in his epistle, *"I by my works will show my faith."* (James 2:18) His works are actions of love as noted above by the Lord. We too must perform these works of love as part of our life in Christ. Come Judgment Day, when we are facing the Lord and answering for our sins and actions in this life, to determine whether we will be on His right side with the sheep or on His left side with the goats:

- The Lord will not ask us what fancy restaurants we went to; He will ask us how many of His children did we feed.
- The Lord will not ask us what fine wines or expensive beverages we had in our homes; He will ask us how often did we take care of the thirst of His children.
- The Lord will not ask us about the elegant and fashionable clothes we had in our closets; He will ask us how many of His children did we clothe.
- The Lord will not ask us how many friends we had; He will ask us how many of His children we befriended – that is, how many strangers we took in.
- And the Lord will not ask us what medical insurance plan we had or who our defense lawyer was; He will ask us how many of His children did we visit when they were sick, suffering or in captivity.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we hope and pray that each and every one of us will be able to glorify the Lord through our faithful and loving works, to the benefit of His Church and His children. May you be blessed in this Lenten season and attain the joy of His Kingdom. May everything we do be for His Glory.

Χριστός Ανέστη – Christ is Risen! John Karas, Stewardship & Community Outreach Committee



Greek Language Classes

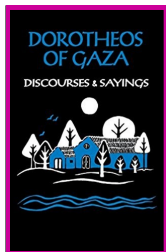


Greek Language Classes continue for both adults and children. The children recited poems and performed the Greek National Anthem on Sunday, March 26 after Liturgy for Greek Independence Day.

There will be no classes on Holy Wednesday, April 12, but we will resume on *Wednesday, April 19.*

Kali Anastasi!
Paula Kelesis,
Greek School Director

Orthodox Bookstore



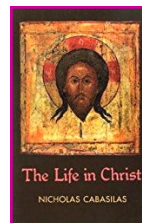
This month's selection is from *Dorotheos of Gaza – Discourses & Sayings*, Chapter V, "On Consultation":

"I have told you all this so that you may know how much rest and tranquility a man may have – and that with all security – by not settling anything by himself, but by casting everything that concerns himself on God and on those who, after God, have the power to guide him."

May you have a Kalo Pascha and I hope to see you in the Bookstore!

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

Thursday Morning
Study with Fr. Matthew
The Life in Christ,
by St. Nicholas
Cabasilas



April 6 & 20 at 10:30 am
in the Library



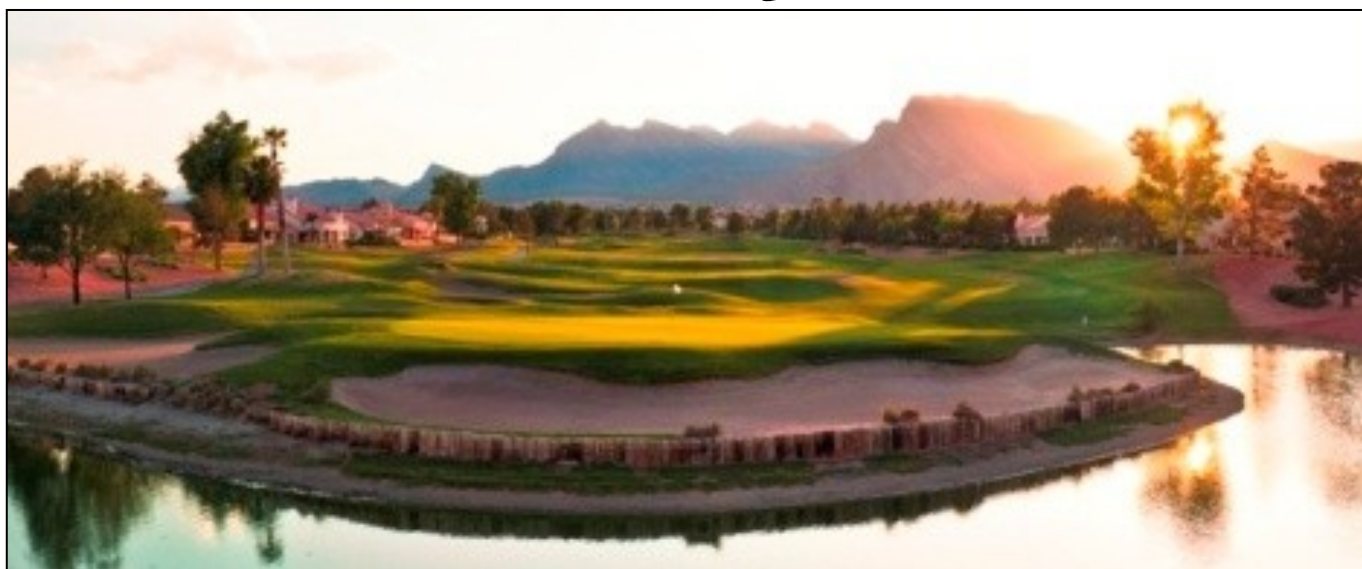
Adult Study with
Father John:
Holy Week Seminar

Holy Saturday & Resurrection

Wednesday, April 5
8:00 - 9:00 pm in Kokkos Hall
(New Study in May)

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

AHEPA CHAPTER 314 GOLF TOURNAMENT SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 24, 2017



*The Tournament will be held at the PALMS in Summerlin.
Golf Package - \$125: Green Fees, Lunch and Ticket for Raffle.
Shotgun Start at 7:30 am.*

*We are also looking for hole sponsors, donations and prizes.
For information on registration, sponsorships and donations please contact:
Jimmy Philippou (734) 260-4643 or Jim Liaos (702) 449-6716.*

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

Adamy, Marina	Crescenti, Stephen and Katherine	Kakavulias, George and Helen	Nicholas, John and Estella
Anastasakis, Mark and Elaine	Crist, Adam and Kanistra	Kambouris, Litsa	Nichols, George and Tereza
Anastasiou, Andrew and Kathleen	Dalacas, Dimitri and Athanasia	Kanis, Constantinos and Katie	Nikitas, Rigas and Aphrodite
Andrews, Catherine	Dalacas, Eugenia +	Kanis, Georgios	Nixon, John and Ellyn
Andrews, Chris and Pamela	Daskalos, George and Carrie	Kaptain, Catherine	Ostis, Sotirios
Andricopoulos, Margo	Daskalos, George and Voula	Karas, John and Marcie	Palivos, Peter and Vicky
Anthony, Stavros and Bernadette	Delalis, Dina	Karris, Mark and Suzanne	Pallis, Paul
Aristides, George and Diana	Demolas, Maria and Nour, Reza	Katopodis, Efstratios	Pandelis, Cheryl
Asim, Demetrious	Demoleas, Stephanie	Katris, Nick	Panos, William and Jeanne
Asim, Nicholas	Demopoulos, Vasiliki	Katsaros, Thomas and Sharon	Papas, Peter and Rita
Austgen, Harold Max	Diamantis, Filippas	Katsikakis, Evangelos	Papas, Christian and Nicole
Balaouras, Panos and Helen	Dominguez, Eric and Amalia	Kelesis, Paula	Pappas, Antonia
Balason, Anna	Doskas, Athanasios and Anastasia	Kiflezgi, Rahel	Pappas, Constantine and Karina
Baldwin, Richard and Vivi	Doukakis, Panagiotis and Chrisi	Kimball, Sarah	Pappas, Spiro and Libby
Balodimas, James	Dounis, Dina	Koliambas, Eleni	Payan, Luis and Eleni
Barbarino, Demetra	Dounis, Georgia	Kostopoulos, Georgia	Pelletier, Michael
Bartzos, Sam and Eugenia	Dounis, Kiki	Kotonias, Patricia	Pendleton, Patricia
Bauck, Jeremy and Amy	Dramitinos, Mary	Kountanis, Pat	Pentogenis, Katherine
Beeler, Mike and Carolyn	Earl, Christine Michaelides	Kourlos, Georgia	Peredera, Maria
Beeman, Karl and Benita	Eliades, Artemisa	Koutsulis, John and Eileen	Petro, Aleko and Georgia
Berendji, Jim and Vivian	Eliades, Harry and Agapi	Koutsulis, Sam and Effie	Petrou, James and Penelopi
Bernier, Micah and Alissa	Eliakis, John	Kratky, Frank and Constance	Pierro, Joe and Rhonda
Berta, Irene	Eliakis, Peter and Glenda	Kunard, Derek	Pierro, Joseph and Christine
Bieker, Adam and Cassie	Eliakis, Varthie and LeeAnn	Kyprianou, Gilbert and Alexis	Plentzas, Spiros + and Ruth
Bieker, Georgea	Exarhos, Sharon	Kyriannis, Justin and Linda	Polimerou, Angeline
Birtas, Helen and Ann	Eyler, John and Elizabeth	Lagomarsino, Victor and Sophia	Politis, Pantelis and Dimitra
Bochanis, George and Enid	Eyler, Fr. Paul and Presv. Ilean	Lakis, Antoinette	Poulos, Christine
Bratta, Georgene	Filios, Spiridon and Eleni	Lamancusa, Lisa	Pouridis, Kouli and Para
Brilis, George and Satoko	Fischer, Bob and Cheryl	Lambros, Kyriakos and Maria	Powers, Russell and Rebecca
Britten, Ronald and Carol	Fitzgerald, Norman and McCullen, Sandra	Latelle, Penny	Prokopis, Ritsa +
Brown, Faye	Flangas, Bill and Marilyn	Lazarakis, John and Panagiota	Pursell, Robert and Mary
Bruninga, Bill and Erin	Flangas, Gus and Tamara	Lekar, Caroline	Raptis, Fr. Dean and Presv. Evonne
Bucy, Brent and Elaine	Fleetwood, Thomas and Melissa	Lekar, Michael and Effie	Rifakes, John
Cahill, Irene	Flores, Michael	Leonis, Tishe	Rigas, Evie
Camel, Joseph	Foster, Kyle and Maria	Leventis, Naomi	Rihani, Gary and Linda
Campbell, Theodore and Cheryl	Frangakis, Constantine	Liaos, Jim and Tina	Robison, Diane and Patricia
Capre, Julio and Betty	Frangakis, John	Liaos, Steve and Francine	Rodis, Dimitri
Carabas, Stephen and Linda	Frangakis, Sophocles	Liaos, William and Irene	Rodis, Sophia
Carabas, Thymios and Sotiroulla	George, Pete and Georgia	Likourinou, Steve and June	Rosenthal, Joseph and Stephanie
Carahalios, John and Jillian	Georgoulakis, Mary Ellen	Litsos, Nicholas and Catherine	Rotas, Beatrice
Caredis, Jon and Marjorie	Gialketsis, Barbara	Lymberopoulos, Mary	Rouvas, John and Keri
Carrico, William and Alexandra	Giouzelis, Anastasia	Maddox, Thomas and Maria	Rudolph, Brandon
Carter, Maria	Goltzos, Andreas and Sofia	Malamatos, Kindina	Ruffner, Skip and Kathy
Cero, Dean	Goodman, Linda	Malpee, Mack and Kalliope	Santamaria, Jennifer
Chachas, Bessie	Gott, C. Thomas and Kitty	Maniatakos, Ted and Maria	Savvas, Savva
Chachas, James	Gousdovas, Nikos	Mansour, Muna	Setian, Gary and Marie
Chagares, Kiki	Grillas, Roula	Manteris, Arthur and Sue	Simpson, Brian and Zacharias, Julie
Chandrinis, Alexia	Gruber, Ernest and Zoe	Margaretis, John and Lucila	Sinclair, Bill
Chanos, George	Gutierrez, Connie	Mavrantonis, Stacy and Kiki	Skalkotos, Nikolas and Georgia
Chanos, Jennifer	Hadzoglon, Christos and Barbara	Mavrantonis, Theofania	Skarlatos, Nick
Chomakos, Dean and Tammy	Hamilton, Mary	Mavroidis, Demetrios and Debra	Smith, Kathleen
Chomakos, George and Nikki	Hamilton, Paul and Brandi	Mavros, Michael+ and Debbie	Snow, Adrienne
Chondrakis, Dimos	Hayes, Tulla	Mavroudis, Frank and Vess, Olga	Snow, Clifford and Christina
Christian, Clair and Chloe	Hetzel, David and Joanne	McClain, Gavin and Jaymee	Snowden, Robert and Niki
Christou, Andreas and Toni	Hoadrea, Jimmy and Monci	McManus, Jeanette	Sparangis, Spyro and Helen
Ciulla, Anthony and Kleri	Hondros, Christina	McKinney, Michael and Mersene	Sparkuhl, Alex and Antoinette
Collins, David	Hondros, Christopher	McSweeney, Farolyn	Staubs, Douglas and Anastasia
Cominos, Ted	Hondros, Fr. John and Presv. Maria	Melton, Donald and Susan	Stavropoulos, Bessie
Conger, William and Alexia	Hoover, Patrick and Pauline	Minas, Arthur and Ewa	Stavropoulos, Terry and Niki
Costacos, John	Houlis, Ila and Debbie	Moffett, Todd and Eliopulos, Tina	Stefanatos, Michael and Tami
Costas, Charles and Louise	Ignadiou, Marios	Monoyudis, Jim and Julie	Stenos, Louis
Costuros, George and Marsha	Iteen, Robert and Sophia	Moore, Brenda	Swehla, Fr. Matthew and Presv. Annie
Cotsilis, Jenny	Kachikis, Paul and Ernestine	Mulopulos, George and Jenny	Szukiewicz, Joseph and Jennia
Coutris, Angela		Neocleous, Plato	Tafoya, Steven and Irene
		Nestlebusch, Marissa	

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

Takas, Andrea
Tasios, Ramona and Pete
Thompson, Maggy
Thompson, Steve and Alik
Touroutoglou, Nikolaos
Tsarouhas, Maria
Tsolis, Panagiot

Tzortzis, Maria
Turman, Lucas and Maria
Vafiadis, Victoria
Vervilos, James and Anna
Wadlow, Nicholas and Pamela
Walter, Vernon and Alice
Waterhouse, David and Aleighzja

Wheeler, Charles and Alyce
Wilcox, Thalia
Wilkerson, Chuck and Kristina
Wilson, Steven and Cleo
Wolfenbarger, Joy
Womack, Karl
Womack, Kimberly

Wood, Nadine
Wronski, Chuck
Xerogianes, Nick and Nikki
Xikis, Victoria
Zaferatos, Ted
Zarkos, Nick and Dina
Zimmerman, Paul and Angela

"I know My own and My own know Me." STEWARDSHIP 2017

2017 Stewardship Report (as of 3/27/17)

Stewardship Gifts Pledged: \$282,957 (\$400,948 total in 2016)

Stewardship Gifts Received: \$120,678

Unfulfilled Pledge Balance: \$162,279

Stewardship Families Pledged: 297 (443 total in 2016)

Average Pledge to Date: \$974 (\$905 in 2016)

Church Account Summaries - February 2017

Nevada State Bank Accounts	January	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	February	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
General Operating Account (GOA)	\$34,258.60	\$41,053.94	\$29,112.05	\$15,019.23	\$37,050.56	\$52,354.80	
Community and Education (C&E)	\$5,009.37	\$3,505.00		\$8,509.37	\$5.00	\$0.00	
Greek Food Festival (GFF)	\$17,710.25		\$100.00		\$109.72	\$17,700.53	
Designated, Restricted & Other (DR&O)	\$343,931.96	\$1,797.00	\$837.00	\$18,086.20	\$3,833.93	\$324,645.83	
Folk Dance Group	\$12,594.50	\$10,433.93	\$123.00	\$11,789.23	\$1,680.46	\$9,681.74	
Mortgage Account	\$41,697.20			\$5,201.14		\$36,496.06	
Designated Funds	January	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	February	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Bookstore	\$3,953.06	\$173.00	\$537.00		\$138.94	\$4,524.12	
Ornaments	\$1,077.41					\$1,077.41	
Restricted Funds	January	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	February	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
ICON	\$276,277.62	\$590.00	\$100.00	\$16,188.20	\$326.14	\$260,453.28	Iconographers Prep. & Travel Expenses
Library Account	\$1,470.77					\$1,470.77	Account owed \$21,000. Funds used to make payroll and pay bills in 2015
Giving Tree	\$1,450.91	\$1,000.00				\$2,450.91	Diana Pachares Donation
Building Fund	\$56,071.26	\$234.00		\$1,898.00	\$3,368.85	\$51,038.41	Operable Wall Repairs; Panos Floors
Youth Choir	\$2,469.82					\$2,469.82	
Church School	\$1,206.37					\$1,206.37	
Misc. D & R Deductions	-\$535.26					-\$535.26	
Altar Servers	\$440.00					\$440.00	
GOYA	\$50.00					\$50.00	
Designated, Restricted, and Other Total	\$343,931.96	\$1,997.00	\$637.00	\$18,086.20	\$3,833.93	\$324,645.83	
Other Funds	January	Deposits	Transfers In	Withdraws/ Checks	Transfers Out	February	Notes
	Ending Balance					Ending Balance	
Kokkos Scholarship Fund	\$55,935.34					\$55,859.07	



APRIL 2017 ~ IN THE YEAR OF THE LORD

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

						1 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Adult Lenten Retreat with Bishop Iliia
2 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:15 pm Altar Server Practice in Church 12:15 pm Myrrh Bearer Meeting in Classroom 5 5:00 pm Lenten Vespers at St. Michael	3 6:00 pm Great Compline	4 10:30 am Moms & Tots in Kokkos Hall 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting in Library	5 4:30 pm Greek Classes 6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy 8:00 pm Adult Study	6 10:30 am Bible Study	7 5:45 pm Adult Choir Practice in Choir Loft	8 Lazaros Saturday 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy <i>Palm Tying & Breakfast</i> 5:00 pm Great Vespers of Palm Sun. 6:00 pm Youth Mtg. with Met. Gerasimos
9 Palm Sunday 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Hierarchical Liturgy w/Met Gerasimos <i>Fish Luncheon</i> 7:00 pm 1st Bridegroom Service	10 Holy Monday 6:00 pm Adult Choir Practice in Choir Loft 7:00 pm 2nd Bridegroom Service	11 Holy Tuesday 6:00 pm Adult Choir Practice in Choir Loft 7:00 pm 3rd Bridegroom Service <i>Hymn of Kassiani</i>	12 Holy Wednesday 9:00 am Presanctified Liturgy 6:00 pm Adult Choir Practice in Choir Loft 7:00 pm Holy Unction <i>Anointing with Holy Oil</i>	13 Holy Thursday 9:00 am Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil 7:00 pm Holy Passion of Our Lord <i>Reading of the 12 Gospels</i>	14 Holy Friday 10:00 am Royal Hours <i>Decorate Kouvouklion</i> 3:00 pm Removal of Christ from the Cross <i>Children's Procession</i> 7:00 pm Lamentations	15 Holy Saturday 9:00 am Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil 11:00 pm Resurrection Vigil
16 Holy Pascha 12:00 am Resurrection Orthros and Divine Liturgy <i>Blessing of Red Eggs</i> 12:00 pm Agape Vespers and Picnic	17	18	19 4:30 pm Greek Classes	20 10:30 am Bible Study	21 Life Giving Spring 8:00 am Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy	22
23 Thomas Sunday St. George 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	24	25	26 4:30 pm Greek Classes	27	28	29 10:00 am Liturgy at Lake Havasu City
30 8:45 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Mr. & Mrs. at Fischer's Home	Metropolis Clergy-Laity & Clergy Retreat at St. Nicholas Ranch					

The Desert Messenger

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

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THE DESERT MESSENGER

The Way of the Lord

*It is the day of Resurrection;
let us then make ourselves
resplendent for the festival
and embrace one another.*

*Let us say, brethren, even to those
who do not love us:*

*“Let all be forgiven in the Resurrection,”
and so exclaim:*

*“Christ is Risen from the dead
by death trampling down upon death
and to those in the tombs
He has granted life.”*

