

# THE FORERUNNER

VOLUME XXIX NUMBER 12 DECEMBER 2013

## WHAT DO I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?

As we approach the holy night of Nativity, comes a time when we ask ourselves the timeless question: what do I want for Christmas? If one looks around, generally electronics are popular with men, jewelry with women, gaming consoles with teens and so on; as we could expect, mostly material things. I have yet to hear one answering: I want the gift of prayer, or of spiritual discernment, or unwavering faith. Most of us, caught up in the mercantile “spirit” of the season, get carried away in wanting more and more things, never enough. I read in the news recently of a man that in desperation [committed suicide](#) after his wife, who refused to finish a 5-hour Christmas shopping marathon, accused him of “being a skinflint and spoiling Christmas”.



Who can we blame at this point? After all, the false gospel of prosperity, spoken loudly throughout the land, even from some pulpits, comes to say that we should count our blessings in the material kind. The more money I have, the more goods I have, the more recognition I have, the more blessed I am. I see however, many famous people who, according to secular standards, have received all one can imagine from life, but yet many of them live miserable and unfulfilled lives. Many of these “fortunate” actually fall into alcohol abuse, drug addiction, some even suicide.

As an old proverb says: money, or material things in our case, do not bring happiness. In fact I have seen people that had nothing, and yet, they were enjoying life more than one

*(Continued on page 3)*

## COUNCIL CAPSULE

I hope everyone enjoyed a safe and Happy Thanksgiving weekend and took time to give thanks to God for our many blessings. I would like to thank all parishioners who stayed for our last General Assembly of the year on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Informative reports by George Vittas and Joe Sullivan, our co-chairs of the Planning Committee, were given as well as reports from all the committees of the Parish. Candidates for election to the Parish Council for 2014-2016 terms were also announced. They are Nicholas Stanosheck, Stacia Dube, Olga Papadopoulou, Kirsten Shah, Olympia Genovezos and Chris Geil. Elections will be held during the coffee hour on Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> with absentee voting on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The council wishes to thank the following board members whose terms are up, for

*(Continued on page 2)*

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *What do I want for Christmas?*
- *New Stewardship page*
- *Stewardship Sunday December 15th*
- *Last Push for Stewardship 2013*
- *Important: Regulations Governing Sacraments and Membership*
- *The History of Byzantine Music*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

COUNCIL CAPSULE	2
NEW STEWARDSHIP PAGE	4
YOUTH MINISTRIES	6
PHILOPTOCHOS	7
MUSIC MINISTRIES	8
CALENDAR	11

## COUNCIL'S CAPSULE

*(Continued from page 1)*



their contribution and dedication during their time in office. They are Larry Leeders, Nancy Medvic, Nina Sullivan and Raj Shah. My term is also up and I wish to thank all those who supported me during my 4 years as your president. It was an honor to be in office during these critical years at St. John's where the dreams of 30 years of planning and hoping finally came to fruition. My thanks also to Fr. Vasile for his love, guidance and support. It has been

a pleasure to work with so many wonderful people and I wish much love to the incoming council.

The Parish wishes to thank Presvtery Mirela and Larry Leeders for their work on the beautiful new railings that are now installed by the steps into the church. They not only serve as a much needed safety feature but add beauty to our church as well.

Look for information in the coming days about our Parish's Nameday celebration in January. We are hoping His

Eminence will once again grace us with his presence and blessings. Once plans are firm, information will be sent via email.

I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy Healthy New Year!

Barbara Vittas

Parish Council President

THE PARISH  
COUNCIL WISHES  
EVERYONE A  
VERY MERRY  
CHRISTMAS AND  
HAPPY HEALTHY  
NEW YEAR!

## THE CHRISTMAS TREE AND ORTHODOX TRADITION

*By Metropolitan Hierotheos Vlachos of Nafpaktos*

I suspect that the custom of decorating a tree at Christmas time is not simply a custom which came to us from the West and which we should replace with other more Orthodox customs. To be sure, I have not gone into the history of the Christmas tree and where it originated, but I think that it is connected with the Christmas feast and its true meaning.

First, it is not unrelated to the prophecy of the Prophet Isaiah: "There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots" (Is. 11:1). St. Cosmas the Poet had this

prophecy in mind when he wrote of Christ as the blossom which rose up out of the Virgin stem from the stump of Jesse. The root is Jesse, David's father, the rod is King David, the flower which came from the root and the rod is the Theotokos. And the fruit which came forth from the flower of the Panagia is Christ. Holy Scripture presents this wonderfully. Thus the Christmas tree can remind us of the genealogical tree of Christ as Man, the love of God, but also the successive purifications of the Forefathers of Christ. At the top is the star which is the God-Man (Theanthropos) Christ.

Then, the Christmas tree reminds us of the tree of knowl-

edge as well as the tree of life, but especially the latter. It underlines clearly the truth that Christ is the tree of life and that we cannot live or fulfill the purpose of our existence unless we taste of this tree, "the producer of life". Christmas cannot be conceived without Holy Communion. And of course as for Holy Communion it is not possible to partake of deification in Christ without having conquered the devil when we found ourselves faced with temptation relative to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, where our freedom is tried. We rejoice and celebrate, because "the Tree of Life blossomed from the Virgin in the cave".



# WHAT DO I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?

*(Continued from page 1)*

with access to everything. Happiness, the universal pursuit of every person, is not a function of how much you could have, but how content you could be with what you already have. Most of the saints barely had any possessions and yet, every minute of their lives was spent in thanksgiving, praising the Lord for all things (1 Thes 5:18).

So is therefore a perfect gift we can ask for at Christmas? We find a clue in the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom where we hear: *“every good and perfect gift is from above, coming from You, the Father of lights”* (Prayer in front of the Ambo). This might come as a bit of a surprise for the contemporary man, immersed into the commercial holiday season but the perfect gift does not come from an overweight and trivialized Santa character, but actually from our Father Who is in heaven. He is *“the source of holiness, the giver of all good things”* (Prayers after Communion).

But what are these “good things”? Can we discern properly what we actually need from what we in fact lust? The Apostle warns us: *“all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify”*. (1 Cor 10:23-24). The things we want many times are not beneficial for us. Most material things are going to enslave us in their net. The more we have

the more we want, is never enough. Even things like health and long life can sometimes be detrimental if we use them for sin and not unto salvation. But God is not an automatic wish giver, and, in His great mercy, He fulfills *only* the prayers that are *“unto salvation”*.

Good or naughty, in the Holy Night of Nativity, we all receive from the Father *“the perfect gift from above”* coming in the form of a Holy Child, Who comes to be born in a humble manger, ready to carry on his little shoulders the entire weight of the sin of the world.

He comes renouncing His godly glory so we can be glorified in Him.

He comes to give up His life so we can be raised from the dead.

He comes on the Earth so we can follow Him in Heaven.

He comes to give me, the first among sinners, the gift of redemption, making me again a citizen of paradise.

The true spirit of Christmas is the Holy Spirit that brings the true presence of Christ in the middle of the Church at the Nativity Liturgy.

The Christmas tree is the tree of the genealogy of Christ leading through his branches to the fruit of the ages, the newborn Jesus.

The true ornaments are the lives of His Saints that shine in

the eyes of God as luminaries, guiding us all to Him.

The real gift of Christmas are the Holy Gifts offered and transformed for the life of the world, giving us eternal joy and the true happiness we actually forgot that we long for.

*Bethlehem has opened Eden. Come, let us see. We have found the hidden delight. Come, let us receive the things of Paradise inside the Cave. There, we shall see an unwatered root that blossomed forgiveness. There, we shall find an undug well, from which David of old desired to drink. There, the Virgin quenched the thirst of both Adam and David, when she gave birth to her baby. So let us go there now, where He was born a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.* (Oikos of the Feast of Nativity)

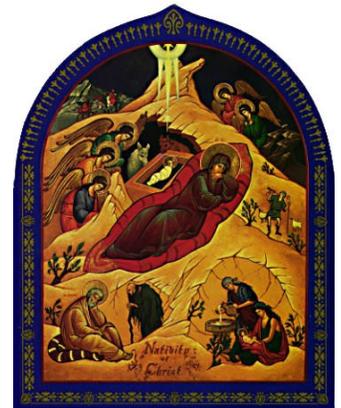
A blessed Nativity to all!

Fr. Vasile



The Nativity of Christ

GOOD OR NAUGHTY, IN THE HOLY NIGHT OF NATIVITY, WE ALL RECEIVE FROM THE FATHER *“THE PERFECT GIFT FROM ABOVE”* COMING IN THE FORM OF A HOLY CHILD,



The rich man is not the one who has much, but one who gives much.



For what he gives away remains his forever.

St. John Chrysostom

STEWARDSHIP

## 2014 STEWARDSHIP - THE EXAMPLE OF THE MAGI

The Gifts of the Magi icon, taken out at every Nativity Service, presents the Wise Men offering gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Christ Child. What a beautiful and meaningful example of stewardship they set for all future generations!

To begin with, the Magi represent a sincere desire to seek after God, searching through science, nature, and their cultural traditions to communicate with their Creator and discover His will for them. Imagine their long, arduous journey, from Persia to Bethlehem, over mountains and deserts, a journey that took many months.

What faith, determination and sacrifice they must have had. They surely faced questions and skepticism at the start. During their journey, unexpected challenges and discouraging setbacks would have been commonplace. Yet they persevered. They overcame the difficult trials and tests of their journey, and persisted in their search for God's truth.

When they finally met the Christ Child, they bowed down in worship. They offered Jesus the most precious of their gifts. Although they were the "wise men" of their day, they didn't allow their ego to interfere with their unexpected discovery. Even when the journey surprisingly took them beyond the king's palace in Jerusalem to the

insignificant village of Bethlehem, they went forward in faith. Everything seemed so astonishing, and yet in humility they approached the Christ Child to worship Him and offer the best of their gifts – gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The Story of the Magi represents central characters who model a path of faith and stewardship worthy of imitation. They offer an example of a sincere search for God using the intellectual gifts they possessed; a willingness to overcome any obstacles or challenging inconveniences in their journey towards God; and the witness of offering the best they had once they encounter the Christ Child.

In connection with this inspiring story, we can also reflect on St. John Chrysostom's words, "*The rich man is not the one who has much, but the one who gives much. For what one gives away, he keeps for all eternity.*" Both the Magi and Chrysostom offer a challenging perspective of Christian Stewardship. We are called to understand that all we have in life - from life itself, to our intellectual abilities and specific talents, as well as to our faith experiences and material possessions – all we have in life is a gift from God, and each of us is called to act as a proper and good steward of these gifts.

St. John Chrysostom highlights that true wealth comes

through sharing what we have first received from God Himself. Ultimately, whatever we have isn't ours! All is God's, and we are simply caretakers of His riches. As we learn to generously give of ourselves, of our time, talents and treasure, we only increase our wealth and make eternal investments.

Christian Stewardship is all about becoming good caretakers of all that God has given us. Think about all that God has given us – our health, our family, our opportunities in life, our intelligence, our talents. God has given each of us special and unique gifts. And through Holy Scripture He teaches us all that we have is a loan. He lends everything to us, and reminds us that one day He will ask us to give a detailed accounting of what we have done with the gifts He has given us. How have we used our time, our talents, and our treasure? Have we used them in a self-centered way or God-glorifying ways? Archbishop Anastasios of Albania has noted that "*we find ourselves by offering ourselves.*" Have we learned the blessedness of generously giving to others of all we have?

Everything we have is temporal. We don't know for how long we have it. The fundamental question, though, is how will we use all that we have for the glory of God?

(Continued on page 5)

STEWARDSHIP  
SUNDAY  
DECEMBER  
15TH



## 2014 STEWARDSHIP - THE EXAMPLE OF THE MAGI

*(Continued from page 4)*

One day, a person complained to his priest that the Church and Christianity is one continual “give, give, give.” To which the priest replied, “Thank you very much for the finest definition of Christianity I have ever heard. Your right, Christianity is all about a constant “give, give, give.” *God giving His only Son to the world* to show His unconditional love. His Son

*Jesus giving His life on the cross* to forgive our sins and destroy death. Then our *Lord’s disciples giving all* they had to make sure God’s Good News of love was preached to all people everywhere. They not only gave away their homes and businesses, but even gave up their lives as martyrs in gratitude to God! And after all that giving of God to the world, yes, God does ask His followers of today to imitate His own generosity

by giving – by offering back from all that He ultimately has given each person! So, yes, the Church and Christianity is one continual “give, give, and give,” but from a good and holy perspective!

The Gifts of the Magi and the words of St. John Chrysostom help clarify our understanding of Christian Stewardship and what it means to act as a faithful follower of Jesus Christ.



## STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 2014—DECEMBER 15TH

We encourage you all to actively participate in our Stewardship Sunday on December 15th by prayerfully considering your contribution in our 2014 stewardship program and beyond.

Our intent is to develop a culture at St. John's that emulates the Kingdom of God, here and now. We want it to be a place populated with

dedicated people, overflowing with joy, peace and love in the Lord, a place where everyone is welcomed. We want everyone to start living now as responsible citizens of the Kingdom; we want you to become active members at St. John's.

The Commitment Card you are asked to bring is a visible sign of the beginning of your

involvement. Before completing it, please give prayerful consideration to the commitment you are making. Giving is not a substitute for commitment - it is an expression of your commitment. The question is not, "How much do I give to say that I am a Steward?" but "*How can I thank God for my many blessings?*"

**“THE RICH MAN IS NOT THE ONE WHO HAS MUCH, BUT THE ONE WHO GIVES MUCH. FOR WHAT ONE GIVES AWAY, HE KEEPS FOR ETERNITY.”**

**ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

## LAST PUSH TO FINISH THE 2013 STEWARDSHIP YEAR

Stewardship is all about giving your first fruits to God. All of us know this but forget sometimes Who we give glory to everyday. Stewardship is not only about supporting the daily operations of our church, but more about being a part of YOUR church and YOUR Parish community. We all want to be a part of St. John the Baptist’s continued growth and the best way to do that is to become a Steward.

The holidays remind us how thankful we are for the many blessings we continue to receive daily. Only through the grace of God are we able to enjoy such a wonderful life. We give thanks to all those generous parishioners who have given this year and gently remind you that all of your pledges must be in no later than December 29, 2013. We urge those who have not completed Stewardship cards to do so – it’s not too late to

give this year. If you need to complete a Stewardship card please contact Hope File ([hope\\_file@hotmail.com](mailto:hope_file@hotmail.com)) or Nina Sullivan ([jbsully@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbsully@sbcglobal.net)). To date we have \$231,741 pledged toward our goal of \$265,000 and 127 total Stewards. Wouldn’t it be glorious if we reached our goal? I have faith we will!

**Stewardship Ministry**  
Nina Sullivan and Hope File





## YOUTH MINISTRIES NEWS

Youth Ministries, which oversees all our youth-related activities, is happy to see the kids in our parish take advantage of the many activities available to them. We had one of our largest groups ever - from age 4 to 20-something - demonstrate their Greek dancing skills during our October festival. About 17 kids participated in our second annual Halloween Hldeaway, organized by Athena Russo. Four of our teens attended the Fall GOYA retreat at Pine Cove Outback Retreat in November. And we now have

a sizable group practicing for the GOYA basketball tournament to be held in January (over MLK weekend). We also have distributed the topics for the 2014 Oratorical Festival and expect to see a number of our Middle School and High School kids write and present essays to the parish towards the end of February (date to be announced). The regional competition will be held March 28-30 at St. Catherine's in Denver.

Financially, Youth Ministries is doing well and recently voted to transfer some of our

umbrella funds to GOYA to help with the tournament, including a generous donation from Philoptochos. Once again, we thank outgoing Parish Council treasurer Nancy Medvic for helping us keep track of our account.

We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and remember to invite the GOYA carolers to your homes on Dec. 8!

God bless.

Harriet Blake

Youth Ministries Coordinator

### PARENTS:

PLEASE REMEMBER  
TO REGISTER  
YOUR CHILDREN  
FOR CHURCH  
SCHOOL, IF YOU  
HAVE NOT YET  
HAD THE  
OPPORTUNITY.

## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

We have been having a terrific year. Thank you for your participation this year.

Please remember to register your children for church school if you have not yet had the opportunity. Each classroom has extra forms and you may also download the registration form and church school calendar from [www.stjohndfw.info](http://www.stjohndfw.info). We use the information on these forms to plan classes and for regular parent communication. We ask for a donation to offset the cost of books and supplies used in class. Your donation will be recorded on the stewardship statements. Families are welcome to register at any time during the year.

If you are currently visiting or spend time with us occasionally, please fill out a registration form and allow your

child to have some time to have fellowship with other children their age and to be exposed to the teaching of our Orthodox faith. We are happy to have children join us, if only for a short time.

Here are some upcoming important dates to mark on your calendar:

**Nov. 24** --Last Sunday to bring items for the Harvest Basket Donation Drive

**December 1**---- No Church School--- Thanksgiving break

**December 14**---- Advent Retreat 10:00 a.m. --- 1:00 p.m.

**December 15**--- Christmas Program

**December 22 and December 29**--- No Church School, Christmas Break

**January 5**--- Church School resumes

Coffee Hour Hosts:

**December 8<sup>th</sup>**---Hope and

Russell File

**January 5<sup>th</sup>**---Edwin and Cristina Korzun

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>**---Andrew and Amanda Bilbo

Thank you to all of the families who have volunteered to host Coffee Hour on the behalf of Church School. We appreciate your kindness.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, you can contact me any time at [veronicefisherps50@gmail.com](mailto:veronicefisherps50@gmail.com)

Thanks again for joining us this year for Church School. We look forward to a fabulous New Year!

Veronica Fisher

Church School Coordinator



## GOYA NEWS

[Goya caroling is postponed for December 15th.](#) There will be a sign up sheet in the Hall for anyone who would like us to come

sing at their home. The GOYA group will have a new and improved repertoire we are sure you will enjoy !

**Let Christmas spirit come into your home next Sunday!**



## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew asks the Philoptochos to post "Green Tips" every quarter. Here are the recommended green tips for this Autumn by way of National Philoptochos President Aphrodite Skeadas and her Environmental Responsibility Committee.

- **When putting away your summer clothing** for the next seasons, check to see if any unwanted items can be donated or used for another purpose. Update your wardrobe by purchasing vintage or recycled clothing.
- **Rake leaves rather than use a blower, this conserves energy!** Raking is also a very good workout!
- **Consider composting your leaves, branches and weeds.** By turning lawn waste into nutrient rich soil, it will be ready for your spring garden. Visit <http://oldworldgardenfarms.com> to learn four simple steps to making great compost.

- **Check the air pressure in your tires.** Cooler temperatures lower tire pressure and that, in turn, lowers fuel efficiency. Make sure your tires are properly inflated.
- **Bring in houseplants that have spent the summer outdoors.** They will help clean the air and brighten the atmosphere in your home.
- **Eat locally, and visit your local fruit and vegetable market for in-season produce.** This will help the environment since the transportation of food from distances is reduced and it also supports local farmers

### December Events and Projects:

Christmas Dinner is Sunday, Dec. 8, at Texas Star Conference Center. See Barbara Vittas or Margaret Chokas for a reservation.

Poinsettias will soon adorn the

altar and narthex lending beauty to this Advent season. Thank you for your support!

Our Christmas Bake Sale order forms are due Dec. 8. We have emailed them through the parish email or have copies in the hall and narthex.

We have supported the Mid-Cities Christmas Providers program for about 20 years. This year we have 3 families that we will provide for. The deadline for bringing gifts in is Sunday, Dec. 15. Please keep them unwrapped.

Our Vasilopita auction will be in early January.

Festival of Tables is on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014 – save the date!

As usual, we thank you for supporting all of our projects and events. For it is in giving that we receive the best of gifts!

Joanie Ruppel, President

**GOYA  
CAROLING  
DECEMBER 15TH!**

**INVITE THE NEW  
BORN CHRIST  
COME INTO  
YOUR HOME!**

## POINSETIAS FOR NATIVITY 2014

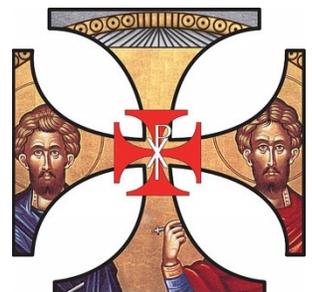
Philoptochos would like to thank all who have contributed for the poinsettias that will soon decorate the church for the Christmas season.

JUST A REMINDER !

Christmas will soon be here. There will be many festivities for you to enjoy. Take notice of decorations when visiting friends and family so you can honor those ideas and their creativity for the Festival of Tables Febru-

ary 22, 2014 at the Marriott on Centrepont Drive.

If you have questions contact:  
Kathy Fox  
[817-975-2095](tel:817-975-2095)  
Connie Rfailedes





St. Isaac the Syrian

## CHOIR MEMBERS FOR OVER 50 YEARS

Michael and Mary Mavias have been faithful and devoted choir members for over 50 years. We met in Cleveland, Ohio, as members of the Sts. Constantine and Helen Cathedral choir under the directorship of John Tsolainos, our beloved mentor, who led us in creating an album entitled "Expressions of Faith and Folklore." Music has always been our inspiration to be able to sing praises to our Lord.

to have Bill Poletes as our director and are extremely proud to be an integral part of a truly outstanding choir that utilizes spiritual music in His Holy Name.

Musically yours,

Michael and Mary Mavias

*"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men" (Luke 2:8-14). We extend to our church family, a joyous and blessed Christmas.*

*St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church Choir*

In 1977 we came to Texas and joined the St. Demetrios Choir in Ft. Worth and later joined St. John the Baptist Choir. We are truly blessed

MUSIC  
MINISTRY,  
CHOIR AND  
CHANTERS  
PAGE

## THE HISTORY OF BYZANTINE MUSIC—PART 4

### Later Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Periods

With the end of creative poetical composition, Byzantine chant entered its final period, devoted largely to the production of more elaborate musical settings of the traditional texts: either embellishments of the earlier simpler melodies, or original music in highly ornamental style.

This was the work of the so-called Maistores, "masters," of whom the most celebrated was St. John Koukouzeles (active c.1300), compared in Byzantine writings to St. John of Damascus himself, as an innovator in the development of chant.

The multiplication of new

settings and elaborations of the old continued in the centuries following the fall of Constantinople, until by the end of the eighteenth century the original musical repertory of the medieval musical manuscripts had been quite replaced by later compositions, and even the basic model system had undergone profound modification.

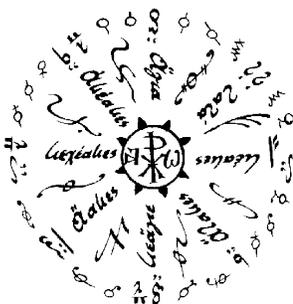
Chrysanthos of Madytos (ca. 1770-46), Gregory the Protopsaltes, and Chourmouziotes the Archivist were responsible for a much needed reform of the notation of Greek ecclesiastical music.

Essentially, this work consisted of a simplification of the Byzantine musical symbols which, by the early 19th

century, had become so complex and technical that only highly skilled chanters were able to interpret them correctly.

Despite some of its shortcomings, the work of the three reformers is a landmark in the history of Greek Church music, since it introduced the system of neo-Byzantine music upon which are based the present-day chants of the Greek Orthodox Church.

Dimitri Conomos, Ph.D.



REGULATIONS GOVERNING SACRAMENTS AND MEMBERSHIP

*At the request of a number of members of our parish we are publishing a few clarifications regarding Sacraments and Membership at our Church. These points have been discussed and voted on at our General Assembly last year. Please direct any questions or concerns to one of the members of the Parish Council.*

The Orthodox Church, in the spirit of “freely you have received, freely you should give”, does not impose fees for sacraments. All members in good standing are entitled to all sacraments and any religious services they may require without charge; however, small fees for use of the facilities have been deemed necessary. Honoraria for clergy and chanters are purely voluntary.

**MEMBERSHIP:** To be a member in good standing you must be baptized and/chrismated in the Eastern Orthodox Faith. A member in good standing must be eighteen years of age or over, be current in his or her stewardship and abide by all the Parish Bylaws and regulations. Stewardship is a free will offering, but should be sufficient to help meet the financial obligations of the Parish.

**IMPORTANT:** Every Parish Organization leader and every organization member must be in good standing with St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church.

**WEDDINGS:** Either the bride or groom and the sponsor must be members in good standing of an Orthodox Church. A letter of confirmation is required from their home parish stating that they are members in good ecclesiastical order. For non-members of St John’s there is a fee of \$500 and for members of at least 6 months, a fee of \$250 is required for use of the church.

**BAPTISMS:** One of the parents must be a member in good standing of an Orthodox Church. The Godparent must be a member in good standing if he or she is over 18 years of age. If under the age of 18, their parent must be a member in good standing of an Orthodox Church. A letter of confirmation is required from their home parish stating that they are members in good ecclesiastical order. For non-members of St. John’s there is a church usage fee of \$200 and for members of at least 6 months, a fee of \$100.

**FUNERALS:** The deceased must have been a member in good standing of an Orthodox Church. A letter of confirmation is required from their home parish stating that they were members in good ecclesiastical order. For non-members of St. John’s there is a fee for use of the church of \$200. There is no fee for members.

**MEMORIALS:** There are no usage fees for memorials, however, if requested, Philoptochos will provide Kollyva for which a fee of \$100 will be charged. Arrangements and payment for Kollyva must be made to the Church office prior to the service.

**PARISH HALL:** For non-members there is a rental fee of \$200 for use of the hall plus a \$250 security deposit, which will be returned if there are no issues. For members of at least 6 months, there is a rental fee for the hall of \$100 plus a \$250 security deposit, which will be returned if there are no issues.

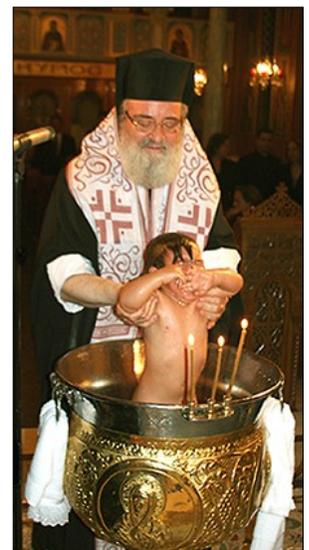
**VOTING:** In order to vote in any General Assembly or Parish Election you must be a member in good standing as described above.

**All arrangements for sacraments, after being cleared by Fr. Vasile, must be made through the church office.**

NOTE: Our church pledges to resolve any special situations so that all have access to the Sacraments of our Church. For any special circumstances (monetary or ecclesiastical) please address Fr. Vasile directly and he will work with you to have your situation resolved.



THE ORTHODOX CHURCH, IN THE SPIRIT OF “FREELY YOU HAVE RECEIVED, FREELY YOU SHOULD GIVE”, DOES NOT IMPOSE FEES FOR SACRAMENTS. HOWEVER, SMALL FEES FOR USE OF THE FACILITIES HAVE BEEN DEEMED NECESSARY.





SACRAMENTS IN THE PAST MONTH

**Weddings :**

Baptisms: Helen Grace Gianullis

Memorial Services: Lenny Gianullis, Chrysostom Geil

GLADSOME LIGHT DIALOGUES

Due to the heavy festal schedule in the month of December **Gladsome Light Dialogues** takes a break until January. Have a blessed nativity and a Happy New year!

AGELESS WONDERS

The Ageless Wonders December Meeting is going to be on Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at 11:30 a.m. at Piccolo Mondo Restaurant, 829 East Lamar Bl'vd, Arlington Tx.

We will meet for lunch and are planning a program of entertainment. More details will follow.

In lieu of a gift exchange we are asking you to donate a \$10 Target gift card {per person} for our Adopt-a-families. These cards can be donated any time between now and December 17.

Hope y'all can take time to join us for a fun afternoon.....Margaret Chokas

*GLADSOME LIGHT DIALOGUES TAKES A BREAK UNTIL JANUARY.*

USHER SCHEDULE (2/21)

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Tim Cline, Jeremy Ellis
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Hope File, Michael Eftimie
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Chris Geil, Larry Leeders
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Nina Sullivan, Raj Shah
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Nancy Medvic, Barbara Vittas
- Fill-in: Harry Karegeannes

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Bennett Kerbow, Jackson Wright, Alex Genovezos, Caleb Ellis, Luca Tudora
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Michael Beebe, John Molhoek, Alex Shah, Chris Eftimie, Joseph Berca
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: James Seals, Alex Genovezos, Caleb Ellis, Luca Tudora, Matei Tudora
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Michael Beebe, John Molhoek, Alex Shah, Chris Eftimie, George Manos
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Michael Beebe, James Seals, Alex Genovezos, Alex Shah, Luca Tudora

COFFEE HOUR HOST

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sun: Sunday School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun: Parish Council
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun: GOYA
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sun: Philoptochos
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sun: Parish Council (if applicable)

COFFEE HOUR DUTIES

**SETUP**

Arrange pastries/food in a desirable manner on the appropriate tables in the parish hall.

You are responsible for making the coffee. Make two pots: one regular, one decaf. Plug in be-

fore going into church. The instructions are in the kitchen.

Prepare a tray with sugar, creamer, sugar substitute, mixing straws, a few spoons. Set with trash bucket.

Put donation basket out with appropriate sign.

**CLEAN UP**

Wash all dishes soiled, including coffee pots.

Return sugar tray to kitchen and replenish it.

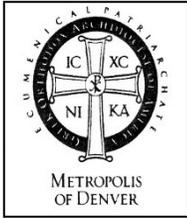
Wash off hall tables and kitchen counters.

Thank-You



**St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church**  
**DECEMBER 2013**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
 <i>14th Sunday of St. Luke</i> Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Absentee Voting for 2014-2016 Parish Council Catechism Class 12pm No Church School		 Vespers 6pm	 Vespers 6pm	 <i>St. Sabbas the Sanctified</i> Divine Liturgy 6am Vespers 6pm	 <i>St. Nicholas</i> Divine Liturgy 6am	 Great Vespers 5pm
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
 <i>10th Sunday of St. Luke</i> Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Bake Sale order forms due	 <i>The Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos</i>		 Paraklesis 6pm Planning Committee 7pm			 Church School Advent Retreat 10am-1pm Great Vespers 5pm
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
 <i>11th Sunday of St. Luke</i> Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Ch Schl Christmas Program Catechism Class 12pm Elections for 2014-2016 Parish Council Bake Sale pickup GOYA Caroling Christmas Providers gifts deadline		 Ageless Wonders 11:30am	 Paraklesis 6pm			 Great Vespers 5pm
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
 <i>Sunday before Nativity</i> Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am No Church School Catechism Class 12 PM		 <i>Nativity Eve</i> Royal Hours 8:30am Christmas Eve Vesperal Liturgy 6pm	 <i>The Holy Nativity</i> Orthros 8:30am Christmas Divine Liturgy 9:30am	 <i>Synaxis of the Theotokos</i> Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am	 <i>St. Stephen</i> Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am	 Great Vespers 5pm
29	30	31	1			
 <i>Sunday after Nativity</i> Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am No Church School		 Vespers 6pm	 <i>Circumcision of the Lord</i> <i>St. Basil the Great</i> Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am	Fasting Symbols: Fast Free  Fish allowed 	Wine/oil allowed  Strict Fast 	



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

303 Cullum Dr.  
Euless, TX 76040  
Tel 817 283-2291

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**THE FORERUNNER**

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The Holy Nativity of  
Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ  
December 25th

