

# THE FORERUNNER

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## WORK HARD, PRAY HARD - CHANGING THE PARADIGM

The slogan “Work hard, play hard” has been in iconic standard for corporate culture for years. It initially meant to be as involved in your daily work as you are in your extra-curricular activities, but was rapidly transformed into a great excuse for irrational and destructive behavior in the after hours like alcohol abuse, recreational drugs, heavy partying etc. More so the idea has infiltrated from the initial corporate environment to our homes rendering even our everyday life into a two dimensional universe of work and play; everything we do falls into one of these two buckets.



The Holy Grail of a happy life becomes therefore finding the balance between career and leisure. A plethora of self-help books exploit this philosophy trying to attain the magic formula that will ensure the perfect harmony of our work and play habits.

A consequence this *modus vivendi* is that the complex experience of life is virtually reduced to a lot of work hours with as much entertainment one can fit in between. Career and social life become the only important things in life.

A father from Mount Athos once commented that people have no time for God because they are too busy playing silly games. This is a very uncomfortable truth today in a society where entertainers of any kind represent one of the highest paid segments of the population. It comes

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## COUNCIL CAPSULE

On Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>, elections were held for 5 open positions on the Parish Council and I'm very pleased to congratulate the following on their appointments: Robert Steffaro,

Hope File, Karen Kinman, Harry Karegeannes and Michael Eftimie. Parish Council officers will be elected after the oath of office is taken. The Parish would like to extend a thank you to George Moutafis, Stacia Leeders, Pete Talleos, Tim Cline, and Larry Leeders who have completed their terms and are leaving the council. We greatly appreciate their time and talents serving St. John's .

I'm happy to announce that the contract for the new church has been signed! Hopefully, by the time you receive this, construction will have begun. This year will be an exciting and monumental one for St. John's. Our dreams are becoming a reality. Now more than ever we all need to pull together as a Parish to nurture our community and encourage its growth. If you

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 2011 Stewardship info
- Work Hard, Pray Hard - Changing the Paradigm
- Gladsome Light Dialogues Temptations of the Youth
- New Church Construction updates
- Middle School Visit to Safe Heaven
- Prayer for One's spouse
- Church Events Calendar
- GOYA News

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## COUNCIL CAPSULE



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have made a pledge to the capital campaign, we thank you and celebrate with you this new venture we are about to embark upon. If you have not yet made a commitment, there is no time like the present to become a part of this exciting time in our parish.

On January 9th, the Parish Council will host a luncheon in

honor of our patron Saint, St. John the Baptist. Details will be available soon.

We are also looking for an individual or group of individuals who would like to chair the 2011 Mid-Cities Greek Food Festival. Anyone interested should contact me for additional information.

The Parish Council wishes everyone a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Barbara Vittas

Parish President

## FINANCIAL REPORT YTD THRU 11/30/10

	2009	2010	Budget
<i>Stewardship</i>	88,700	91,870	118,104
<i>Total Income</i>	112,255	117,539	140,240
<i>Expense</i>	116,151	117,436	118,720
<i>Variance</i>	(3,896)	103	21,520

WE ARE HOPEFUL OTHERS AMONG OUR FELLOW PARISHIONERS WILL ALSO NOW JOIN IN SUPPORTING THIS HISTORIC UNDERTAKING.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE REPORT

The Building Committee headed by Joe Sullivan concluded the contractual agreement with Aston Wynne for construction of the new church and the contract was signed into force by our Parish Council President on December 12, 2010. By about mid-year 2011 the structure and finished exterior of the church will have been completed. Through the commitments of many parishioners, the Capital Campaign Fund contains the cash necessary to complete this first stage of construction. In addition, a contract has been signed and initial payments made for the design and construction of the iconostasis, the painting of icons for the iconostasis and the painting of an iconographic mural on the Altar Apse. These are long lead time items, some

of which must begin design and painting early in 2011 in order to be ready for installation upon completion of the church interior. In particular, the iconostasis will be a stunning work of Orthodox design using hand cut natural limestone with mosaic inlays and the icons installed in wooden panels. Metropolitan Isaiah has approved the iconostasis and iconography concepts which have been developed by Father Vasile in coordination with our iconographer, Vladimir Grygorenko.

Your Capital Campaign Committee is now turning towards the task of raising the balance of funds needed to complete the church interior and related site improvements on our property. Approximately one-half, only, of our parishioners

have committed close to 75% of the funds needed to complete the project and many have already made substantial payments on their commitments. With that record of parish commitment to date, we are hopeful others among our fellow parishioners will also now join in supporting this historic undertaking.

As a Parish, we are on the way to bringing the vision of "Building Our Future" to reality. If you have not yet made your personal or family commitment to the Capital Campaign, now is the time. Please see any member of the CCC for a commitment card... If you have already made your personal or family commitment, please strive to make your payments as timely as possible under the terms you



## WORK HARD, PRAY HARD - CHANGING THE PARADIGM

*(Continued from page 1)*

to reiterate a very superficial attitude toward the real purpose of our limited time on earth.

This comment however does not indicate that the Church refuses the right of relaxation to her faithful, on the contrary. The following story from the life of St. Anthony the Great reflects the very wise and moderate attitude that Church has on this matter:

*A hunter in the desert saw Abba Anthony enjoying himself with the brethren and he was shocked. Wanting to show him that it was necessary sometimes to meet the needs of the brethren, the old man said to him, "Put an arrow in your bow and shoot it." So, he did. The old man said, "Shoot another," and*

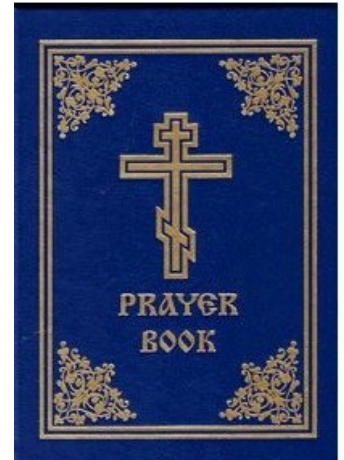
*he did so. Then the old man said, "Shoot yet again," and the hunter replied "If I bend my bow so much I will break it." Then the old man said to him, "It is the same with the work of God. If we stretch the brethren beyond measure they will soon break. Sometimes it is necessary to come down to meet their needs." When he heard these words the hunter was pierced by compunction and, greatly edified by the old man, he went away. As for the brethren, they went home strengthened.*

This story should not be interpreted as a license to "work hard, play hard", but it should be read in context. The people involved in it were monks, most probably hermits, living a very austere life of isolation, self-restraint, manual labor and prayer. The short relaxation

moment that the hunter observed was just a brief break from a day of dedication to the most important goal of their lives: salvation of their souls.

What the "work and play" adopters are missing, and the monks have got right, is the fundamental truth that life goes beyond this world and therefore our focus should not be spent into living a perfectly enjoyable and comfortable earthly life but into assuring a worthy entrance into the Kingdom of Heavens. Without this goal in mind it all starts and ends here. Is this really how one should spend its life? In a short-lived cycle of obtaining the means of survival and spending them fast on ephemeral entertainment? Aren't we supposed to build

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“HERE’S TO AN  
EXCITING 2011 –  
WE ARE FINALLY  
BUILDING OUR  
NEW CHURCH!”

## BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

2010 certainly ended with a joyous occasion – the execution of our Construction Contract with Ashton Wynne, LLC to officially begin construction of our new Church! Although seeing the removal of the Paulos Center was uncomfortable or traumatic for many, it was a necessary and essential step to make way for the new Byzantine-style architecture Church.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to take a moment to thank the entire Building Committee – Presvytera Mirela Tudora, Stacia Leeders, Mitch Chokas, George Moutafis and Harry Karegeannes for their personal commitment and involvement over the last 12 months to complete our

Church design, complete the design and construction of the new Paulos Center Replacement Addition and for supporting the many hours of detailed discussions relative to the design requirements of our Church.

The Building Committee will be communicating construction progress on a regular basis through future Forerunner articles and the weekly bulletin; however, please do not hesitate to ask anyone on our

*(Continued Page 8)*

committee questions pertaining to the Church construction, site development or to raise any concerns. As always in a construction mode, we ask

your continued patience with “less than ideal” site conditions on our property. Please keep safety for you and your family in the forefront of your mind while attending services.

*Here’s to an exciting 2011 – we are finally building our new Church!*

Joe Sullivan – Building Committee Chairman





## STEWARDSHIP NEWS

As of 12/10/10 we have **111 pledges** for a **total of \$149,514** with a **goal of \$185,000**. We ended the year **\$35,500 short** of our budget and have **only received \$126,798** of the amount pledged. That means we have **\$22,716 still outstanding** on our 2010

pledges.

*This Christmas let's all give the church a gift by fulfilling our stewardship commitments before the end of December.*

**REMEMBER:** *If your intention is to be a pledged member of St. John, a new card must be*

*submitted each year. Please submit your 2011 card today!*

## 2010 STEWARDS

Alexander, Leo & Teresa

Anderson, Dr. Anthony

Arlington, Linda

Ballas, Andy & Pat

Ballas, Chris

Began, John

Berca, Sorin & Carmen

Blake, John & Harriett

Blase, Clarisse

Bogdos, George & Sotera

Bogordos, George & Kasandra

Bokoyas, Jim & Kiki

Bond, Tina & George

Brandon, Roberta

Callesen, John

Chokas, Margaret

Clay, Wayne & Aria

Cline, Tim & Angela

Cortinas, Ruben & Laurie

Cramb, Kristina & Kathy

Dempsey, Dr. Margaret

Dempsey, Walt & Dorothy

Dieb, Eleni

DiGiovanni, Greg & Joy

Doughty, Elaine

Eftimie, Michael

Englezakis, Mike

Feichtinger, Pavlina

File, Russ & Hope

Fondulis, Paul

Forcum, Ana

Fox, Mike & Kathy

Geil, Chris & Sandra

Genovezos, George & Olympia

George, Ken & Maggie

Gianulis, Bill & Bertha

Gianulis, Demi

Gigliotta, Leonard

Grumbos, Dr. Peter

Hadjikiriakos, Michael

Henry, Michael & Julie

Hooe, Jane

Howton, Lucille

Ibrahim, Basil & Mary

Johnson, Marshall & Velva

Jones, Daniel & Elise

Kallis, Stephanie

Karegeannes, Harry & Ginny

Katsikas, Constantinos

Kerbow, Joe & Maria

Kinman, Buck & Karen

Klein, Micheline

Koumbarides, Nicos

Laverty, Connie

Leeders, Larry

Leeders, Stacia

Legel, Dr. Kennedy

Leimbacher, Jenny

Maayeh, George & Lily

MacPherson, Doug & Andi

Maistrellis, Katina

Manos, George & Vicki

Manos, Michael & Debbie

Matheson, Trevor & Sherri

Mavias, John

Mavias, Lisa

Mavias, Michael & Mary

Medvic, Allison

Medvic, Nancy

Mihalakeas, Andreas & Laura

Molhoek, Mike & Tina

Morcovescu, Serban & Anca

**IF YOU  
HAVEN'T DONE  
SO YET,  
BECOME A 2011  
STEWARD OF  
CHRIST AT ST.  
JOHN'S.**





## 2010 STEWARDS (CONTINUED)

Moutafis, George & Khanh	Petercsak, Steve & Esther	Steffaro, Bob & Karen
Nahatis, Arthur	Peters, Paun & Lynn	Sullivan, Charles & Ann
Naval, Marc	Plock, Eleni	Sullivan, Joe & Nina
Nazzal, Alfred	Poletes, Bill & Rena	Talleos, Peter
Nicholas, Toni	Poletes, Lea	Tudora, Fr. Vasile & Pres. Mirela
Noulas, Athanasios	Poriotis, Terry & Gail	Villanueva, Junior & Maria
Nugent, Phyllia	Pursley, Peter, & Cynthia	Vittas, George & Barbara
Pachares, Tony & Athena	Rafailedes, Connie	Vloitos, Nick & Rayanna
Papadimitriou, Alex & Linda	Ruppel, John & Joanie	Walker, Jim & Harriet
Papadopoulou, Olga & Theoni	Russo, Joseph & Athena	Wozniak, Jamey
Papalioidis, Georgia	Samaras, Johnny	Wright, Bill & Christine
Papalioidis, Louie	Shah, Raj & Kirsten	Yiantsou, Dr. Chris & Margo
Paulos, Sophie	Skelley, Stephanie	Zingas, Ari & Olga



## BECOMING A STEWARD IN 2011

**On Sunday November 14, 2010 we held our annual stewardship Sunday.** It was for all a moment of reflection about our contribution to the Church for the year to come. Many thanks to all that participated and became stewards of our church.

Of course not everyone had an opportunity to come, but it is not too late! So here is some information on what it means and why is important to become a steward.

You become an Orthodox Christian Steward by giving yourself to Christ, by participating in the Sacramental Life of the church and by giving of your Time, Talent and Treasure; all of which require commitment. A commitment to worship, to attend liturgy and to pray regularly, a commitment to be an active part of your church community giving

of your time and talent, and, yes, a commitment to give back a portion of the treasure God has given you – a financial commitment.

A written statement of your intentions is just one of the things that will help you feel committed to Christ and His Church. If we submit nothing in writing it is easy to just walk away and become a spectator. If, however, we have committed to help support the church, we feel an obligation to do so. That commitment comes by way of our Stewardship Commitment Card.

Filling out a Stewardship Card enables the church to keep a record of the number of parishioners in our congregation, to update addresses and phone numbers that are needed for various purposes and to assess the talents of our parishioners to be utilized when needed.

The card is absolutely necessary to determine expected income for budgetary reasons and to create a list of church members who are eligible to vote, serve on the parish council, hold an office, share their talents etc.

So, please, don't stand on the outside looking in. Become an active part of St. John the Baptist community for 2011.

New cards are available in the pews and in the narthex.

Don't be afraid; the card is not a contract, but a promise of intentions. And remember: If your intention is to be a pledged member of St. John, a new card must be submitted each year.

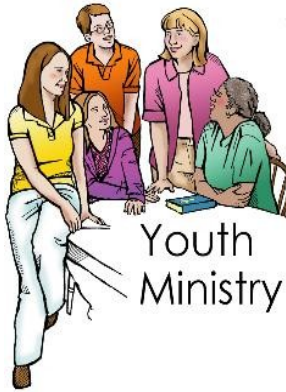
We appreciate everyone's understanding and cooperation in helping to make the stewardship process more meaningful and efficient.

BECOME AN ACTIVE PART OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST COMMUNITY FOR 2011 BY FILLING A STEWARDSHIP CARD



Make your talent grow today

## YOUTH MINISTRIES IS ON THE MOVE (CONT. ON PAGE 9)



Kudos to Maria Tudora for doing such a great job in reviewing the GOYANS trip to the monastery! She made it all come alive for us and eager to personally experience that lovely and spiritual place and people.

What joy we have in observing our children as they present their annual Christmas Pageant. This year was especially heartwarming as they presented an alphabetized Nativity. Within a year or so we will have the acoustics worked out so we don't miss out on a single word! Thanks, teachers for such a happy time for us all.

Later that same day the GOYANS did a fine job of entertaining the large group at the Philoptochos Gathering with traditional Greek and English Christmas carols. Bennett, there is a place for you in the church choir! With their home visitations and the Philoptochos event, their funds are building for the Diocesan Basketball Tournament in January. We understand there will be several teams this year both boys and girls! Hooray!

It has been a very good year for the youth of our parish community and much of the credit

goes to our wonderful priest, church school teachers, GOYA advisors and the parents who encourage their children to stay involved. And yes, to the Youth Ministries Council too! Thanks also to the parents who are so willing to drive the kids to all the activities and often plan entertainment for them in their homes!

We look forward to an even more successful 2011!

Athena Pachares, Y.M. Coordinator

THINK ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN THE ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL THIS YEAR.

## CHURCH SCHOOL STEWARDSHIP

This year the Sunday School teachers decided to begin a stewardship program for our youth. This program was designed to teach our children the value of Christian Stewardship. Much like the adults, the children filled out a pledge card. The intent was to instill a sense

of giving to the church from an early age. Through the end of May, twenty of our children donated a total of \$209. Although only approximately one-third of our students committed this year – it's a start. We look forward to better participation next year. The children

have received their new cards on Stewardship Sunday, November 14. Most of the commitments received this year were from the younger students. We would like to encourage our pre-teen youth and GOYA to also become active members in 2011.

## GOYA NEWS

Hi Everyone!

I hope you all enjoyed your holidays! I just wanted to let you know that we raised a total of \$1,060 from both the turkey raffle and the caroling Great job! Thanks to our advisors for driving and Katie for having the party at her house!

As a reminder, we still need to have one more fundraiser to cover our expenses. In our last meeting, we decided to have a spaghetti lunch on Sunday,

January 30th. Please make sure you are available to help set up, serve or clean up.

This Sunday, Jan 2nd, Elena Bouras will be giving the parents information packets about the tournament. The tournament is around the corner, so it will help to be prepared :)

We will be having an official meeting Sunday, January 9th to discuss final tournament infor-

mation.

After the tournament we will have GOYA elections for 2011 officers!

Thank you!

Philip Sullivan,  
GOYA President



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS (CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

Dear Students and Parents,

I'm sure you've enjoyed this year's Christmas pageant. Every child had an opportunity to shine. It was fun to see our youths' perform. It's heart-warming to see the older children helping younger children with their parts.

On December 5th, the Middle School class went to SafeHaven (a women's shelter). What a wonderful experience to share themselves with those in need! Thank you, Mrs. Blake, for this life long lesson.

I send heartfelt thanks to our Church School teachers for their dedication to our children.

- Pre-K and Kindergarten: Mrs. Maria Kerbow, Ms. Allison Medvic, Mrs. Tina Molhoek
- First and Second grades: Mrs. Theresa Alexander
- Third and Fourth grades: Mrs. Esther Petercsak
- Middle School: Mrs. Harriet Blake
- Teen-age: Ms. Stephanie Kallis

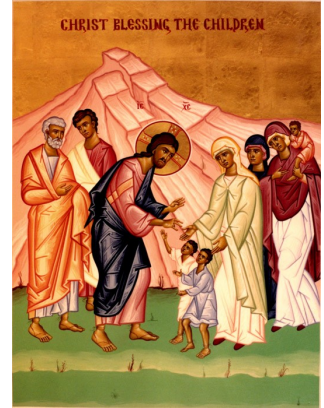
Church school will resume on January 2nd.

Sunday February 13th, our focus will be on giving, in particular giving to our soldiers who are departing for the Middle

East. If you could select a few items from the list we'll send home, provided by the USO website, and bring them to church, that would be great. The website says travel-sized toiletries are needed - shaving cream, deodorant and toothpaste are the "hot ticket items" as well as beef jerky, chewing gum, and chocolate brs. Following church, we will deliver the items to DFW Airport, Terminal B, Gate 15. We ask that you join us at the airport to help distribute goodies to the soldiers as they board the plane. Start collecting now.

May God Bless you and Keep you safe,

Khanh Moutafis



MIDDLE SCHOOL VISIT TO SAFE HEAVEN— BY HARRIET BLAKE

St. John's middle school class served lunch to the women and children at Safe Haven on Dec. 5. The Arlington shelter is a temporary home to women and their children who have experienced domestic violence and need a "safe haven."

In class, we have discussed the need to help others in our community. Ms. Khanh put us in touch with this non profit who appreciated our kids' assistance. We prepared a spaghetti lunch for the residents at church and left after Holy Communion to deliver it. Among the participants were Athena Adaska, Maddie Chokas, Alex Genovezos, Laurie Maayeh, Abbie Molhoek, Katie Moutafis, Demi Pursely, Alex Shah and Maria Tudora.

"The moms and their kids seemed happy," said Maddie, "even though they didn't have a

lot of things." Alex S. agreed. "The people seemed grateful for what we brought." Katie noted that the kids at the shelter didn't seem any different than the kids she knows at school. Maria said her favorite part of the visit was "seeing the smiles on the kids' faces. They seem to appreciate our visit."

"I liked being able to help out," said Alex G. The shelter cook, Kelly, was especially pleased to have the kids' help. She makes lunch and dinner for residents on weekends but enjoys the help. She also complimented our kids, saying they were very well-behaved.

In addition to serving lunch, our kids distributed scarves made by Katie and Ms. Khanh. One woman liked her scarf so much that she even changed her clothes to match the scarf! Demi said she especially en-

joyed handing out the scarves. Following lunch, the kids knocked on the residents' rooms to bring scarves to those who weren't in the dining hall. Everyone agreed it was a nice shelter even though the rooms were small and had to be shared by moms and their children.

We made enough spaghetti for the shelter to have leftovers AND to feed our own kids before heading back to the church.

The middle school will do another community service project in the spring. Meanwhile the entire church school and parents are invited to say farewell to the troops at DFW Airport on Feb. 13. Details to come.

OUR FAVORITE PART OF THE VISIT WAS "SEEING THE SMILES ON THE KIDS' FACES".





## WORK HARD, PRAY HARD - CHANGING THE PARADIGM

(Continued from page 3)

something in our lives other than drowning in huge amounts of alcohol, filling our bellies at the latest restaurants, memorizing the latest sport scores and watching the latest Hollywood movies?

But when to meditate about all

this if we fill all our time with work or play?

Seems to me that we need to change this motto into something more in the lines of **“work hard and pray hard”**: work for our salvation and pray that God will fulfill with His grace our limited and incomplete works and finish

what we started.

I wish you all a New Year full of God’s grace and pray that all your resolutions that lead to salvation be accomplished!

Fr. Vasile Tudora

Parish Priest

“WORK FOR  
YOUR  
SALVATION AND  
PRAY THAT GOD  
WILL FULFILL  
WITH HIS GRACE  
OUR LIMITED  
AND INCOMPLETE  
WORKS ”

## FROM THE DESERT FATHERS—TURN THE OTHER CHEEK

The daughter of a certain rich man in Alexandria was suddenly seized by a wicked spirit and was tormented severely. Her father spent much money in order to make her well. But fruitlessly. The condition of the young girl became worse all the time. Somehow the Father learned that a hermit, who lived alone up on a mountain, had the gift from God to cast out demons. He was told, however, that the hermit was so humble that he would never agree to perform such a cure. So the nobleman had to find some other pretext by which to get him to his home.

One day the hermit went down to the city to sell his baskets. The father of the girl sent a servant to buy

some and to invite the hermit home to be paid. He unsuspectingly went. As soon as he set foot in the door, the demonized girl, who was hidden behind the door, rushed at him and gave him a hard slap across the face. The holy hermit, without losing his calm, turned his other cheek, thus carrying out the commandment of the Lord.

Then this surprising incident took place: the demonized girl began to quiver wildly and to utter despairing cries: "O, hurry! I must leave. I cannot stay any longer. The commandment of Christ is casting me out."

With those words, the tormented creature was set free. The whole family, along with the daughter, who had regained her rational powers, glorified God for the great miracle which they had seen with their own eyes and looked for the holy elder so they could thank him. He, however, fleeing from all human praise, had totally disappeared.

When the Fathers in the desert were informed of these facts, they said among themselves that nothing so puts down the pride of the devil as humility and obedience to the divine commandments.



## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AND BUILDING COMMITTEE (CONT)

your payments as timely as possible under the terms you have set for your commitment, or earlier if possible. We will need to demonstrate dependable cash flow from our committed contributors in order to be able to continue and complete construction.

*All of our parishioners should want to participate in this his-*

*toric endeavor and, when we are done, share in offering glory to God for what we, together, each and every one of us as a Greek Orthodox Community, have accomplished as our legacy and our gift to the future generations of St. John the*

*Baptist here in the Dallas/ Fort Worth Metroplex.*

*Your Capital Campaign Committee -Paun Peters, Dr. Chris Yiant-sou, Nancy Medvic, Louie Palioidis, Margaret Chokas, George Vittas*



## PRAYER FOR ONES' SPOUSE

*Lord Jesus Christ, our God,*

*Who taught us that we should always pray for each other, for thus we fulfill Your law and we are found worthy of your mercy, look with compassion and safeguard my husband (wife), which you have granted me to spend our lives together until the end.*

*Give him (her) health and perfect wisdom to fulfill his (her) duties following your will and commandments.*

*Protect him (her) from the temptations that he (she) may not be able to bear.*

*Strengthen him (her) in the Orthodox faith and in perfect love, so we can work together the good deeds and align our lives to your holy commandments.*

*For Yours is the dominion and the power to the ages. Amen*



## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Ladies,

I pray each and every one of you had a happy holiday season with all of Christ's blessings.

Below is a list of --

### "Philoptochos Dates to Remember"

**January 8, 2010 - Vasilopita Bake Day**

**January 9, 2010 - Vasilopita Auction following Liturgy (Benefiting St. Basil's Academy)**

**January 16, 2010 - Monthly Philoptochos Meeting (with a special guest speaker)**

Our annual Philoptochos Christmas Gathering was held Sunday, December 12, 2010 at Café Italia in Grapevine. What a great time we all had sharing many, many laughs and enjoying our own Youth Christmas Carolers. Thank you to Margaret Chokas and Barbara Vittas for coordinating this annual gathering. Thank you also to Emory and Stacy Huber who

opened their home up to us for a little "Holiday Cheer" prior to our dinner. What gracious hosts you are, we hope to make your home our first stop each year.

Thanks to Joanie Ruppel who once again coordinated the "Adopt a Family" gift program. We had an overwhelming response this year and are so very blessed to see so many supporting hands in our parish.

Special thank you to Rena Poletes for coordinating our Senior/Shut-In Visits this holiday season. We managed to visit several individual s who are unable to get out and about. The looks on their faces when we arrived were beyond "priceless", a lesson for us all to experience not just during the holidays, but year round. This new ministry of ours is available anytime, not just during the holidays. Please, please help us help you, that is the mission of Philoptochos.

Thank you to those that participated in our Christmas Bake Sale. As always, Baklava,

Bread and all our other items make wonderful gifts for family and friends during the holidays. Thank you to the few gracious ladies who gave up their Saturday to prepare all these delicious items. Of course a special thank you to our baking coordinator, Toni Nicholas, who makes it all magically happen.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual ornament exchange was wonderful. Many chose to participate and as a result took home a part of their church family. I hope the participation level grows each and every year as our community grows.

With Christ's Love,

Bertha

*OUR NEW  
MINISTRY  
"VISITING OUR  
SENIORS"  
PROVED A GREAT  
SUCCESS THIS  
CHRISTMAS  
SEASON*



St. Irene The Great Martyr



CHOIR NOTES

It was great fun to participate in the Eules, 2010 Heritage Park Christmas Event on Saturday, December 11th. We sang a nice variety of Christmas songs both in English and Greek. Other Church choirs participated too. It was a day to celebrate an old fashioned Christmas at historic Heritage Park and visit the historical 151-year-old Himes Log House and the Fuller House. Thanks to all who participated in this great afternoon of fun. We extend A Very Happy New Year 2011 to all our Church family. Bill

AGELESS WONDERS

The Ageless Wonders will meet on Tuesday January, 18th, 2011, in the church hall at 11a.m. for our annual planning meeting and potluck luncheon. We are having a guest speaker from the Tarrant County Area Agency on Ageing, Mr. Glen Griffin. Many thanks to Gail Porioles for arranging this program for us. A BIG "THANK YOU" to Paun and Lyn" for hosting our Christmas luncheon at the Petroleum Club. This year in lieu of a gift exchange everyone brought a gift card that was donated to needy families. Looking forward to seeing y'all in January. Call for more details.

Margaret 817-354-7731

GLADSOME LIGHT

Gladsome Light Dialogues will continue in January with a new series dedicated to "The temptations of the youth". We will cover, from a Christian Orthodox Perspective, some of the main topics that affect a young person's life.

Parents and young are all invited

Join us for a fruitful dialogue every Wednesday after Paraklesis.

Don't forget to visit our blog at <http://dialogues.stjohndfw.info>

2011 MID-CITIES  
GREEK FOOD  
FESTIVAL  
CHAIRPERSON  
OR PERSONS  
NEEDED !!



USHER SCHEDULE

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Barbara Vittas, Bob Steffaro
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Hope File, Rag Shah
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Harry Karegeannes, Karen Kinman
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Michael Eftemie, Nancy Medvic
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Allison Medvic, Terry Poriotis

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

- 1st Sunday : Phillip Sullivan, Alex Genevesos, John Molhoek, Bennet Kerbow
- 2nd Sunday : Chris Eftemie, Ovidiu Berca, Phillip Sullivan, Chris File
- 3rd Sunday : Jackson Wright, Alex Shah, Alex Genevezos, Bennett Kerbow
- 4th Sunday : Luca Tudora, Ovi Berca, Alex Genevesos, Alex Shah
- 5th Sunday: John Molhoek, Jackson Wright, Philip Sullivan, Ovi Berca

COFFEE HOUR HOST SCHEDULE

- 1st Sun.: Mr. & Mrs. George Genovesos
- 2nd Sun: Philoptochos
- 3rd Sun: Parish Council
- 4th Sun: Ageless Wonders
- 5th 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**

**January 2011**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
<i>Dates to Remember</i>	<i>Vasilopita Auction January 9th</i>	<i>Names Day Luncheon January 9th</i>				<i>Circumcision of Our Lord Basil The Great Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>Sunday before Epiphany</i>  <i>Orthros 8:30 AM</i>  <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM</i>			✝  <i>Eve of the Theophany Vespertal Liturgy 6:00 PM No Dialogues</i>	<i>Theophany of Our Lord</i>  <i>Liturgy 6:30 AM</i>  <i>Vigil 6:00PM</i>	  <i>Synaxis of St. John the Baptist</i>  <i>Liturgy 6:30 AM</i>	<i>Great Vespers 6:00PM</i>  <i>Vasilopita Baking</i>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<i>Sunday after Epiphany</i>  <i>Orthros 8:30 AM</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM</i> <i>Names Day Luncheon</i>			✝  <i>Paraklesis 6:00PM Gladsome Light Dialogues</i>	<i>Vigil 6:00 PM</i>	  <i>The Holy Fathers slain at Sinai and Raitho Liturgy 6:00 AM</i>	<i>Great Vespers 6:00PM</i>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<i>Orthros 8:30 AM</i>  <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM</i>  <i>Philoptochos Meeting</i>		<i>Ageless Wonders Planning Meeting 11:00 AM</i>  <i>Vespers 6:00 PM</i>	✝  <i>Arsenius of Kerkyra Divine Liturgy 6:00 AM Paraklesis 6:00 PM No Dialogues</i>		✝	<i>Great Vespers 6:00PM</i>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<i>Orthros 8:30 AM</i>  <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM</i>			✝  <i>Paraklesis 6:00PM Evening Film Dialogues</i>		✝	<i>Great Vespers 6:00PM</i>
30	31					
<i>Synaxis of The Three Hierarchs Orthros 8:30 AM</i>  <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM</i>		✝  <i>Strict Fast</i>	  <i>Fish</i>	  <i>Dairy, Eggs, Fish</i>	  <i>Fast Free</i>	  <i>Wine &amp; Oil</i>



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

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

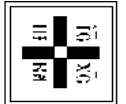
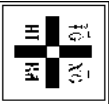
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**THE FORERUNNER**

VOL. XXVII NO. 1—January 2011



January 14th

Synaxis of the Fathers Slain at Sinai and Raithu

