

THE FORERUNNER

VOLUME XXVII NUMBER 9 SEPTEMBER 2011

LOOKING DEATH IN THE FACE OR THE AESTHETICS OF DYING

"Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?" (1 Cor 15:54-55)

As a parish priest one has the privilege to face all aspects of human life from birth until the final departure. In the eyes of a priest, humanity is exposed in its most glorious and most deplorable experiences. Among them one of the most challenging is death. Even writing about it is a difficult task because it is a very unpopular subject. Nobody wants to die and even more so, nobody wants to talk about it, is a taboo, a place where you just don't want to go. Even though we know that eventually we will all die, without escape, when faced with death, people have a hard time coping with it.



Some people bank their hopes of immortality unto science and decide to trade the mundane and way too common graveyard plot for an abode in a cryogenic facility, awaiting there the coming of a technology "savior" that will bring them back to a life of happiness on earth.

(Continued on page 3)

COUNCIL CAPSULE

On August 28, for those of our parishioners who could not attend, we convened a Special General Assembly of the parish membership, with stewards voting to consider a "bridge loan" to finance completion of our new church and site improvements this year. The Capital Campaign Committee made a very positive presentation and recommendation to proceed so that we can start the new year, our 31st as a parish, in the new church rather than await completion of the three year capital campaign. The parishioners responded with a unanimous vote to move forward with the Capital Campaign recommendation.

Father Vasile unveiled the new "Dedications Program" through which parishioners can dedicate iconography and various liturgical and furnishing items for the New Church and the new Paulos Center Addition in permanent memory or honor of their choosing. Information about the dedications program will be posted on the website soon.

Following the Special General Assembly, Fr. Vasile and the Building Committee ushered

(Continued on page 2)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Looking death in the Face or the aesthetics of dying*
- *2011 Stewardship and Capital Campaign info*
- *Construction Status*
- *Festival news*
- *Mount Athos Gerontikon*
- *Quotes from the Desert Fathers*
- *Church Events*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	2
CONSTRUCTION NEWS	3
STEWARDSHIP	4
FESTIVAL NEWS	8
CALENDAR	11

COUNCIL'S CAPSULE



(Continued from page 1)

parishioners through the new church in a tour of progress. All who went on this tour were impressed with what has been accomplished and could now see the spaciousness and dramatic design of the new church interior.

It's hard to believe that summer is coming to close and school has begun. With the

onset of September, our preparations for the Food Festival accelerate into high gear. Baking schedules are posted in the weekly bulletin and baking days usually begin at 9:00am. Please give whatever time you can to help and don't forget to sign up and volunteer during the festival itself. It takes a lot of manpower and hard work to make the festival the success we

know it will be.

Also, don't forget to make your reservations for Taverna Night. Gather your friends and reserve a table of eight. Taverna Night is a wonderful start to the festival and always a time to celebrate good food and fellowship.

Barbara Vittas

Parish Council President

OUR PARISHIONERS RESPONDED WITH A UNANIMOUS VOTE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE NEEDED LOAN TO FINALIZE THE NEW CHURCH THIS YEAR

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE REPORT

The dome structure has been raised, the steel framing structure is complete, the interior and exterior wood framing has been completed and soon the roof will be installed and exterior brick and stone will be placed. Can anyone doubt we are building a new church? The sight of the new church taking shape before our eyes should be an inspiration to all parishioners, both those who have sacrificed to reach this milestone and those who have not yet committed to the Capital Campaign.

Your Capital Campaign Committee has turned to the task of raising the total of commitments and cash funds needed to complete the project. Our goal is to provide a continuous cash flow to enable completion of the project in 2011. Approximately one-half 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 this record of parish commitment to date, we are hopeful others among our fellow parishioners will also now join in supporting this historic undertaking.

We are pursuing various approaches to raising the funds needed to complete the project this year including new commitments from as yet uncommitted parishioners, increased existing commitments, accelerated payments on existing commitments and commitments from outside businesses who have supported the parish in the past and with whom we enjoy mutually beneficial relationships. We will also unveil a program of dedications this

summer. This will include various spaces in the new Paulos Center Addition and the icons and iconographic murals which are in the Stage 1 Iconography. The dedications program will provide opportunities for parishioners to make special contributions in honor or in memory of loved ones, or who simply want to make a donation for a special purpose or part of the church project, even if anonymously.

Finally, as has been stated to the General Assembly on several occasions, we have the option and are now investigating the feasibility of a bank loan. Should the CCC decide a bank loan is feasible and desirable to complete the project this year, we will recommend details of an appropriate loan to the Parish

(Continued on page 5)



LOOKING DEATH IN THE FACE OR THE AESTHETICS OF DYING

(Continued from page 1)

Others, facing the fatality of death, make the decision that at least their bodies should skip the corruption of the ground and keep as much possible the shape in which they dwelt on earth. An entire industry has been developed behind this very popular preservation wishes. Zinc coffins hermetically closed, above the ground resting places, advanced embalming and post-mortem beautifying techniques, are now offered as standard package by the undertakers' guild.

There are finally some, going in the other extreme, which decide to completely destroy their bodies through cremation; an expeditious process that turns God's personal creation into a handful of ashes. Many factors can lead to such a haste decision, but the underlying issue is a blatant misunderstanding of Christian anthropology (namely the bond that the body and soul form in

the wholesomeness of the human person) and, even more importantly, an ignorance of the importance that the bodies play at the General Resurrection.

All these are nothing else but failed attempts to circumvent the reality of being mortal. We want to sweeten the bitter sting of death by removing from it any uncomfortable elements, even though we know this can only be achieved on a very superficial level. It is a mere illusion that man can somehow transcend death, if it's covered in make up.

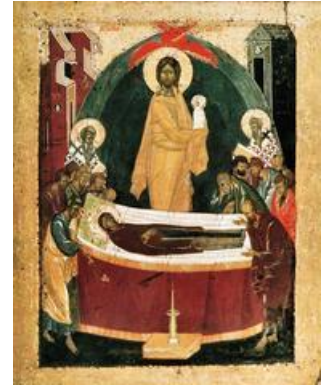
Eastern Orthodox Christianity has a different approach to the reality of our departure from life. Death is regarded as an integral part of life, as birth or growing old is. Of course death is still viewed as an unnatural state of mankind, a consequence of the great fall, but, nevertheless an unavoidable and necessary passage. Nobody runs away from it but embraces

it, when time comes, with the great expectation of the encounter with Christ.

Fr. Gherorghe Calciu Dumitreasa, of blessed memory, was telling that in his old village, when someone would fall on the death bed, all the people, including the children, would go forth and ask for forgiveness from the one who was about to pass. After this forgiveness ritual the dying person would then confess his/her sins for the last time and receive Communion to prepare as much as possible for the inevitable encounter with Christ.

After passing, the body would be washed by members of the family, dressed in an outfit prepared in advance and would be deposited in a simple open coffin inside the house. The priest would come and read the eleven Resurrectional Gospels and the family and friends would keep vigil, reading from

(Continued on page 8)



“CHURCH
CONSTRUCTION
IS CONTINUING
ON SCHEDULE”

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Construction progress is continuing with the new Church. Recent milestones attained include: substantial completion of the exterior framing, installation of the moisture protection (roof membrane and Tyvek on exterior walls) and installation of the air handling units. Mechanical and electrical rough-in will be finishing in August, as well as the ArchTek interior arched ceiling and barrel vault fram-

ing. Roof installation will occur in September along with interior sheetrock of walls and ceilings. Ashton Wynne is also working toward installing the exterior stone and brick façade by our Festival which will have a great visual impact for our patrons.

Joe Sullivan, Chairman



STEWARDSHIP NEWS

What an exciting time for our community with our new church becoming a reality. Along with our beautiful new church building comes the reality of the need to support it. It is our responsibility, as parishioners of St. John, to assist in meeting our financial obligations.

If you have not yet submitted your stewardship commitment card, please do so as soon as possible.

As of 8/13/11 we have 115 pledges for a **total of \$172,594**. We are just **\$2,406 short** of our goal for 2011. A big thank you goes out to those who have al-

ready made their commitment to our church. We appreciate your support. **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!



2011 STEWARDS

2011 Stewards

Aldi, Nicholas & Cindy	Dempsey, Dr. Margaret	Maayeh, Bishara & Mary	Peters, Paun & Lynn
Alexander, Leo & Teresa	Dempsey, Walt & Dorothy	MacPherson, Doug & Andi	Peters, Tommy & Dolly
Anagnostis, Dr. George & Petroula	Doughty, Elaine	Manos, George & Vicki	Plock, Eleni
Anderson, Dr. Anthony	Eftimie, Michael & Tamara	Manos, Michael & Debbie	Poletes, Bill & Rena
Antahades, Dr. Lou & Judith	Feichtinger, Pavlina	Matheson, Trevor & Sherri	Poletes, Lea
Arlington, Linda	File, Russ & Hope	Mavias, John	Poriotis, Michael
Bakintas, Savas & Dimitra	Fondulis, Paul	Mavias, Lisa	Poriotis, Terry & Gail
Ball, David	Forcum, Annie	Mavias, Michael & Mary	Poulakos, Kathy
Ballas, Andy & Pat	Fox, Mike & Kathy	Medvic, Allison	Puddy, Kristopher & Ragan
Ballas, Chris	Gavras, Billie	Medvic, Nancy	Rafailedes, Connie
Beebe, Sharie & Mark	Geil, Chris & Sandra	Mihalakeas, Andreas & Laura	Ruppel, Joanie
Began, John	Genovezos, George & Olympia	Molhoek, Mike & Tina	Russo, Joseph & Athena
Berca, Sorin & Carmen	Gianulis, Adam	Morcovescu, Serban & Anca	Samaras, Johnny
Blake, John & Harriett	Gianulis, Bill & Bertha	Moutafis, George & Khanh	Shah, Raj & Kirsten
Blasé, Clarisse	Gigliotta, Leonard	Nahatis, Arthur	Snegirov, Aleksandr & Oksana
Bogdos, George & Sotera	Grumbos, Dr. Peter & Jan	Naval, Marc & Maria	Steffaro, Bob & Karen
Bogordos, George & Kasandra	Hadjikiriakos, Michael	Nazzal, Alfred & Sylvia	Sullivan, Charles & Ann
Bokoyas, Chris	Henry, Michael & Julie	Nicholas, Toni	Sullivan, Joe & Nina
Bokoyas, Jim & Kiki	Hooe, Jane	Noulas, Athanasios	Talleos, Peter
Bond, Tina & George	Johnson, Marshall & Velva	Nugent, Phyllia	Thomopoulos, Stephanos & Tanya
Brandon, Roberta	Jones, Daniel & Elise	Oliver, Robert & Ashley	Tudora, Fr. Vasile & Pres. Mirela
Callesen, John	Karegeannes, Harry & Ginny	Pachares, Mark & Marie	Vittas, George & Barbara
Chokas, Margaret	Katsikas, Constantinos	Pachares, Tony & Athena	Vloitos, Nick & Rayanna
Clay, Aria & Wayne	Kerbow, Joe & Maria	Papadimitriou, Alex & Linda	Walker, Jim & Harriet
Cline, Tim & Angela	Kinman, Buck & Karen	Papadopoulou, Olga & Theoni	Wozniak, Jamey
Cortinas, Laurie & Ruben	Kithas, Alkiviadis	Papaliodis, Georgia	Wright, Bill & Christine
Cramb, Kristina	Laverty, Connie	Papaliodis, Louie	Yalmaz, Diana
Cramb, Matthew	Leeders, Larry	Paulos, Sophie	Yiantsou, Dr. Chris & Margo
	Leeders, Stacia	Petercsak, Steve & Esther	Zingas, Ari & Olga

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE REPORT

(Continued from page 2)

Council. It is expected there will then be a Special General Assembly called this summer to approve the loan recommendation.

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 perfect time. Please see any member of the CCC for a commit-

ment card. The names of all who have contributed will be prominently and permanently recognized in the narthex of the new church... If you have already made your personal or family commitment, please consider increasing your commitment and/or accelerating your payments, as some parishioners have already done, so that we may reduce the amount of a loan and complete the project this year.

All parishioners should

want to participate in this historic endeavor and share in offering glory to God for what we have accomplished as a lasting legacy and 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 Yiantsou, Nancy Medvic, Louie Papaliadis, Margaret Chokas, Larry Leeders, George Vittas.



BECOMING A STEWARD IN 2011

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 Com-

mitment 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.

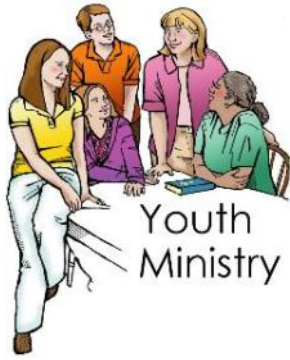
We appreciate everyone's understanding and cooperation in helping to make the stewardship process more meaningful and efficient.

Thank you!

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



Make your talent grow today



YOUTH MINISTRIES ON THE MOVE

YM holds two fundraisers each year – the upcoming Brats, Burgers and Beans Luncheon (Sept. 11) to welcome the new church school year and the Graduation Luncheon (May 6, 2012). Funds raised help support our Camp Emmanuel participants, graduation gifts for high school and college kids, end-of-year gifts for the acolytes and other youth-related expenses. Last year we assisted in the fall mission trip to San Antonio.

Youth Ministries had a productive meeting August 21 that included the 2011-12 church school calendar. Remember

these dates: Advent retreat and Christmas pageant will be early this year – Dec. 10-11; new church blessing and services – Jan. 7-8; GOYA basketball tournament in Dallas Jan. 13-16; End of Year Picnic May 20.

At this time we are unaware of any high school or college graduates – please let us know if we are forgetting anyone.

Our group's mission is to provide religious and fellowship opportunities for our parish children. We are made up of the church school staff headed by Khanh Moutafis, as well as a

GOYA rep and GOYA parent advisor (Peter and Cynthia Pursley), JOY advisor Olympia Genovezos, treasurer Nina Sullivan, dance troupe director Laurie Cortinas, parish council rep (Nancy Medvic), junior choir director Lea Poletes, Camp Emmanuel liaison Rena Poletes, graduation luncheon chair Gail Poriotis, Father Vasile, YM chair Harriet Blake and YM chair "emeritus" Athena Pachares as well as Connie Rafaleides, Tina Nicholas and Athena Russo. New members always welcome!

Harriet Blake, YM Coordinator

CHURCH
SCHOOL CLASSES
WILL BEGIN ON
SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome back to all our students and parents!

We hope you had a wonderful summer. The Youth Ministries staff has worked hard in the last few months to get organized for a new school year.

All Church School classes will begin on **Sunday, September 11.** Church school will begin at **11:15AM** after communion. There will be six classes for ages zero through Teens.

The classes that will be offered and their teachers are:

Pre-K and Kindergarten:

Maria Kerbow, Allison Medvic, Tina Molhoek

First and Second Grades:
Theresa Alexander

Third and Fourth Grades:
Esther Petercsak

Fifth thru Middle school:
Harriet Blake

Teen-age:

Anca Morcovescu and Hilary Walker

There will be a registration table setup for September 4.

Or, you may download a registration form on-line via the church website: <http://www.stjohndfw.info>.

Please complete these forms for all church school children since we use the information in making lesson plans and cele-

brating the children's birthdays. We don't want a child disappointed because they were not recognized!

We did have a budget cut this year and will need your financial assistance to continue providing books, snacks, and the monthly birthday cakes for the children. We used much of our annual budget to provide a wonderfully, successful vacation bible school program this summer.

Once school starts, additional information will be sent home with your children regarding the Achievement Awards Recognition standards and our Stewardship learning units and focus.



Christ blessing children

GOYA NEWS

The Goya has had a busy summer. Many of the Goyans participated in the Vacation Bible School Lock In- lot of fun for all. The Moutafis family was gracious to host a swim party/ barbecue

in July for the Goyans to cool off a bit from the summer heat.

The Goyans also hosted a bake sale and luncheon which raised \$400 which they are donating to local schools for school supplies.

Goya meetings are held the first Sunday of every month- Please join us.

Peter Pursley- Goya President



Christ talking with the young rich man

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

The Philoptochos Executive Board held its summer organizational meeting in late June and set the calendar for the upcoming year of service to our community.

Our first meeting is on Sunday, Sept. 18. Membership cards will be distributed and the 2011/2012 calendar will also be discussed.

We are looking for chairpersons for a few events and hope everyone attends with an open heart and willing hands!

Thank you for your interest in gathering items for our upcoming garage sale. We do not have a

date set yet, but we know it will be shortly after the festival. It is too hot now, and we will have no storage on our campus in September and early October due to the festival. When we have the date we will share it with everyone.

Thank you for your interest and for gathering your items at your homes. Proceeds will go towards our pledge to the capital campaign.

We would like to thank all the high school seniors who applied for the annual St. Irene Philoptochos Scholarship. What a talented group of young adults we send off

on their next journey in life! We congratulate Phillip Sullivan who was this year's award winner.

There is a correction on the titles of our Metropolis and National Board Members.

Barbara Vittas was elected to the position of 1st Vice President of the Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos Board and also sustained her position as a Member of the National Philoptochos Board. Bertha Gianulis was elected a Member of the Metropolis of Denver Philoptochos Board.

FIRST
PHILOPTOCHOS
MEETING IS ON
SUNDAY,
SEPT. 18.

CHOIR NOTES

The Denver Metropolis Church Music Federation Choir Conference in Salt Lake City was a huge success with well over 100 voices singing the Divine Liturgy in the Holy Trinity Cathedral. Austin, Texas has been selected for the 2012 Conference, tentatively the 1st week of August during

the Nameday of the their church Holy Transfiguration. This is much closer for more of our choir and friends to attend.

The federation offers The Frank and Xenia Desby Music Scholarships annually and for those in the choir or chanting are eligible to apply. Lessons can be either in, voice, choral

conducting, chanting, organ and piano. For an application, please see Rena Poletes, Scholarship Committee Member. Completed application must be turned in by our fall meeting in November.

Bill Poletes,



St. John Koukouzelis



St. John preaching in Hades

LOOKING DEATH IN THE FACE OR THE AESTHETICS OF DYING

(Continued from page 3)

the Psalter.

On the day of the funeral the priest would bring the body in procession into the Church where the funeral service would take place. The deceased would lay there, resting in an open casket, in the midst of the community he/she belonged to. In the Orthodox Church the deceased are never considered as leaving the communion with the Church. Death is merely a passing from the Militant Church on Earth unto the Triumphant Church in Heaven. The departed are just temporarily missing physically from among us, but awaiting there, just as we do, the great reunion of Christ's family in the Kingdom to come.

After the service the body would be taken to the grave where would receive its final blessing and would be commit-

ted to the ground, feet facing East, ready to wake at the call of Christ at His second and glorious return.

Such a simple yet profound approach to the end of our lives, looking death in the face with no fear, no cover ups, no drama, accepting it as it is, as part of the human existence. Death is the only way to pass from the ugliness of a life in the slavery of sin into the beauty of the life in the Kingdom. Death begets life as the shameful garments of skin are once and for all destroyed and man can once again be vested in the grace of God.

The only fear a Christian should have is not being adequately prepared. This is why Confession and Communion are such an important part of our last days on Earth. The only problem is that no one knows when one's time is approaching. This fact compels us

to strive more diligently towards making ourselves ready, at any moment, for the encounter with the Righteous Judge and make these sacraments part of our regular life in Christ.

St. Basil the Great teaches therefore that the greatest philosophy is the uninterrupted thought of death. Not in a fatalistic way, but in the spirit of a heightened awareness of our everyday actions and their impact of our state after leaving this life. Instead of being preoccupied on how to hide or make death more bearable by artificial means, we should embrace it and transform it in an element of change in our lives towards a more responsible existence. Thinking about death makes us paradoxically more eager to live, but not just anyhow, but to live according to Christ that has conquered death by death and granted life unto the world.

ST. BASIL THE GREAT TEACHES THAT THE GREATEST PHILOSOPHY IS THE UNINTERRUPTED THOUGHT OF DEATH.

GREEK FESTIVAL NEWS

The festival is only a month and a half away. Baking is beginning this month and supplies are starting the fill the fall.

Hopefully everyone has signed up with Leo Alexander and giving as many hours as they can. Like always, we need help the entire week of the festival.

Leo's cell number is 214-384-3728.

Please contact him after to 5 if you would like to volunteer

hours.

Thank you and I look forward to a successful festival!

Thank you

Cynthia Pursley

Festival Co-Chair

Festival Baking Schedule *(baking begins at 9am)*

Thu Sept 1 (dolmathes)

Mon Sept 12 (koulourakia); Wed Sept 14 (kourambiethes)

Tue Sept 27 (melos / finikia)

Sat Oct 1 (baklava); Sun Oct 2 (packaging)

Mon Oct 3 & Tue Oct 4 (bread)



FROM THE MOUNT ATHOS GERONTIKON

St. Niphon, the Patriarch of Constantinople, before he ascended the episcopal throne, had been a novice at St. Dionysios' holy monastery (on Mt. Athos). After he had directed the Church of Christ for many years, he resigned from the throne and returned to the monastery where he toiled for his repentance, without revealing his identity.

He said that his name was Nicholas and that he desired to be a monk. The hegumen (abbot) warned him first that it was customary in the monastery for every beginner to be assigned the task of caring for the monastery's animals. The saint accepted with joy and stayed outside where the stable was and took care of the mules, feeding, watering, and keeping them clean. He thus demonstrated insur-

mountable patience and humility.

Every night the monks saw a pillar of light rising from the stable to the sky. They told the hegumen about it, and he hegumen in turn prayed to God to reveal to him the meaning of this supernatural happening. And indeed it was revealed immediately to the hegumen that this person whom he had assigned the task of animal care, who also had to carry firewood from the forest, the Niphon the Ecumenical Patriarch who long ago had been one of the brotherhood of the monastery.

On the same night of this revelation to the hegumen, who was overwhelmed by the saint's total humility, he called all the priests and deacons and asked them to vest

and to stand in line with the other monks carrying the liturgical fans, candles and incense, waiting to receive the saint when he returned from the forest leading the animals and carrying firewood. When he arrived wearing his old raso and with dust on his uncombed hair, they all fell on their knees asking for his blessing and saying, "Our Patriarch, your humility is enough! Take your shepherd's staff and lead us all to the pasture of salvation!"

From An Athonite Gerontikon St. Niphon, Patriarch of Constantinople and monk of Mt. Athos, +1460 commemorated 11 August



*"GO, AND FIND
A MAN WHO
FEARS GOD, AND
LIVE NEAR HIM.
HE WILL TEACH
YOU, TOO, TO
FEAR GOD."*

QUOTES FROM THE DESERT FATHERS

One of us asked Abba Sisoës, "What is pilgrimage, Abba?" He answered, "Keep silent; and wherever you go, say, 'I am at peace with all men.' That is pilgrimage."

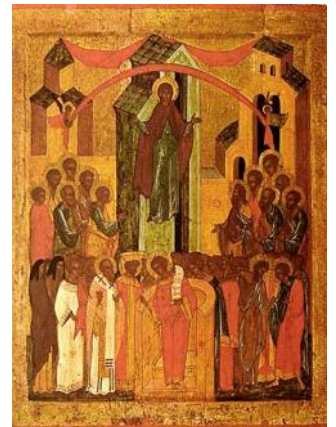
Someone asked Abba Paisius, "What should I do about my soul, because it is insensitive and does not fear God? He said to him,

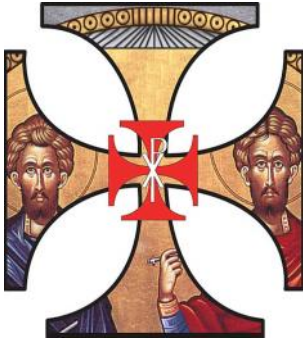
"Go, and find a man who fears God, and live near him. He will teach you, too, to fear God."

A brother said to Abba Serapion, "Give me a word." The old man said to him, "What shall I say to you? You have taken the livelihood of widows and orphans and put it

on your shelves." For he saw that they were full of books.

Like the sun's rays passing through a crack and lighting up the house, show up even the finest dust, the fear of the Lord on entering the heart of a man show up all his sins.





ADVICE OF THE MONTH

Prayer, fasting, vigils, and all other Christian practices, however good they may be in themselves, certainly do not constitute the aim of our Christian life: they are but the indispensable means of attaining that aim. For the true aim of the Christian life is the acquisition of the Holy Spirit of God. As for fasts, vigils, prayer and almsgiving, and other good works done in the name of Christ, they are only the means of acquiring the Holy Spirit of God. Note well that it is only good works done in the name of Christ that bring us the fruits of the Spirit.

—St. Seraphim of Sarov

*2011 MID-CITIES
GREEK FOOD
FESTIVAL
OCTOBER 7, 8, 9
SEE CYNTHIA
PURSLEY OR
MICHAEL
PORIOTIS FOR
INFORMATION*



USHER SCHEDULE

1st Sunday: Barbara Vittas,
Bob Steffaro
2nd Sunday: Hope File,
Terry Poriotis
3rd Sunday: Harry Karegean-
nes, Karen Kinman
4th Sunday: Michael Eftemie,
Raj Shah
5th Sunday: Allison Medvic,
Nancy Medvic

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-



AGELESS WONDERS

The Ageless Wonders will be meeting on Tuesday September 20th 2011 in the church hall for a potluck luncheon and planning meeting at 11:00a.m. Members will be contacted for reservations. Please check the church bulletin for foodfest baking days and plan on helping when you can. More details??....Call Margaret 817-354-7731

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,
Michael Beebe
4th Sunday : Luca Tudora,
James Seals, Alex Genevesos,
Alex Shah
5th Sunday: Michael Beebe,
James Seals, Philip Sullivan, Ovi
Berca

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.

GLADSOME LIGHT DIALOGUES

Gladsome Light Dialogues will start again in September. The new theme is "Beyond liturgy—the importance of the richness of the Liturgical life of the Church for our personal salvation".

In this series we will discuss the importance of services like Vespers, Matins etc, as well as Sacraments like Confession and Holy Unction in the life of every Orthodox Christian.

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

COFFEE HOUR HOST

1st Sun.: Mr. & Mrs. Manolis Arapis (Sept. 4)
2nd Sun: Parish Council
3rd Sun: GOYA
4th Sun: Philoptochos
5th Sun: Parish Council (If Applicable)

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

September 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
				<i>Beginning of Ecclesiastical Year</i>		<i>Great Vespers 6:00 PM</i>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>12th Sunday of St. Matthew</i> <i>Orthros 8:30 AM</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM</i>			 <i>Vigil at 6:00 PM</i> <i>Gladsome Light Dialogues</i>	<i>The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary</i> <i>Liturgy 6:00 AM</i>		<i>Great Vespers 6:00 PM</i>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<i>Sunday before Holy Cross</i> <i>Orthros 8:30 AM</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM</i>		<i>Vigil 6:00 PM</i>	 <i>The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross</i> <i>Liturgy 6:00 AM</i> <i>Paraklesis 6:00 PM</i> <i>Gladsome Light Dialogues</i>			<i>Great Vespers 6:00 PM</i>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<i>Sunday after Holy Cross</i> <i>Orthros 8:30 AM</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM</i>			 <i>Paraklesis 6:00 PM</i> <i>Gladsome Light Dialogues</i>	<i>Vigil 6:00 PM</i>	 <i>The Conception of St. John the Baptist</i> <i>Liturgy 6:00 AM</i>	<i>Great Vespers 6:00 PM</i>
25	26	27	28	29	30	
<i>1st Sunday of St. Luke</i> <i>Orthros 8:30 AM</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM</i>			 <i>Paraklesis 6:00 PM</i> <i>Gladsome Light Dialogues</i>			
		 <i>Strict Fast</i>	 <i>Fish</i>	 <i>Dairy, Eggs, Fish</i>	 <i>Fast Free</i>	 <i>Wine & Oil</i>



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

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

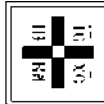
Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT

Sponsorship for This Month's Forerunner

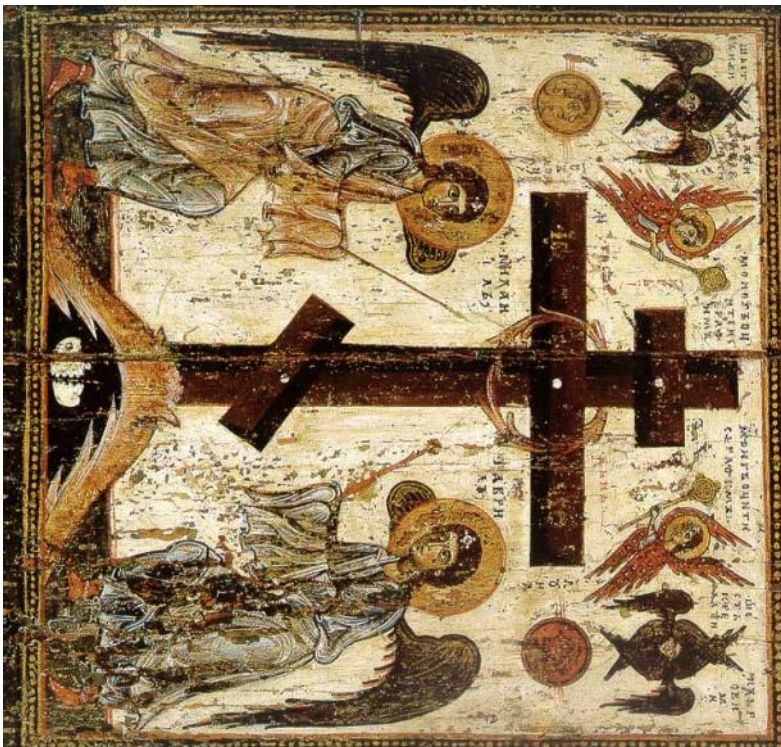


**WE'RE ON THE WEB AT
[HTTP://STJOHNDFW.INFO](http://stjohnndfw.info)**



THE FORERUNNER

Vol. XXVII No. 8 September 2011



The Elevation of the Holy Cross
September 14

