

THE FORERUNNER

VOLUME XXVII NUMBER 10 OCTOBER 2011

DROUGHT AND REDEMPTION – THE LESSONS OF GLOBAL WARMING

“And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.” (Isaiah 58:11)

October 2010 to July 2011 was the driest of any 10-month period on record for Texas. Scorching heat, wildfires, crops destroyed, cattle herds relocated seem to be the new norm for the Lone Star state. But we are not the only ones suffering this, Asia, Africa are also experiencing similar weather patterns, bringing millions to the brink of starvation.



Who is to blame? Some say the global warming, others argue that is a natural variation of the climate, others see in it the wrath of God against a sinful generation. Nobody really knows who's fault it is, but we all suffer greatly from it.

I am sure, based on the testimony of the Fathers, that this is not what God intended for mankind: a world with unpredictable natural calamities that affect the livelihood of billions

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COUNCIL CAPSULE

October is upon us and preparations for our 20th Annual Food Festival are in full swing. I encourage everyone to volunteer even a few hours to make this festival the huge success we know it can be. At the Special General Assembly last month, a loan to complete our new church before the end of the year was approved and proceeds from this year's festival will be used to assist in the repayment of the loan.

I also urge those who have not yet made a commitment to the Capital Campaign to look into your hearts and make a commitment now. You can take three years to pay off your commitment and be a part of this exciting historic endeavor in our church's history. Remember, all those who have made a contribution to the Capital Campaign will be recognized on a plaque in the narthex of our new church.

Reservations for Taverna Night, a precursor to our food festival, are now being taken. This annual kick-off dinner will be held under the tent the evening of Oct. 6th and is always

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Drought and redemption – The Lessons of Global Warming*
- *2011 Stewardship and Capital Campaign info*
- *Construction Status*
- *Festival news*
- *Oxi Day and Panagia*
- *Quotes from the Desert Fathers*
- *Church Events*

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COUNCIL'S CAPSULE



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a celebration of fun and fellowship. Tickets are \$50 per person and tables of 8 can be

reserved for \$400. Contact me at 817 283-4680 to make your reservations before September 25th.

Barbara Vittas, Parish Council President

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE REPORT

On August 28th a Special General Assembly of the Parish unanimously approved acceptance of the terms offered by Worthington National Bank for a \$400,000 bridge loan to complete the construction of our New Church Building and related Site Improvements. Worthington has now begun the loan preparation process and your Capital Campaign Committee with the support of Fr. Vasile, Joe Sullivan - Building Committee Chairman and Ashton Wynne Commercial, under Parish Council oversight, is complying with various requirements and submittals to finalize the loan for closing in mid-October. With offices in Colleyville and Fort Worth, Worthington Bank is expressing eagerness to work with the Parish and we are mutually looking forward to a long term relationship. As expressed at the Special General Assembly, we will work on paying off this loan as quickly as possible, with a goal of no more than three (3) years to retirement of the loan.

In addition to the request for bridge loan approval, the Special General Assembly was introduced to the Ecclesiastical Dedications Program with

the goal of funding all Stage One items including the Iconostasis, Iconostasis Icons and Altar Vault and Apse Iconography and other ecclesiastical items needed for the church: altar items, furniture etc. Approximately \$100,000 of the \$220,000 needed to complete Stage One has already been committed to by members of the Parish in an outpouring of support for the Program, but there are many opportunities remaining for families and individuals to commit to the Dedications Program in honor or memory of loved ones or for any special purpose. In addition to ecclesiastical items, the Dedications Program also includes the offices, classrooms and conference room of the new Paulos Center Addition which will become part of the Community Center after the future completion of Phase IV of the ongoing Capital Development Program. Look for Dedications Program information in church or see Fr. Vasile, George Vittas or any member of the Capital Campaign Committee with your commitment or any questions you may have.

As a Parish, we are confidently on the way to bringing the vision of "Building Our

Future" to reality. Please continue to make your existing Capital Campaign Commitment payments as planned or, 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 commitment card. All parishioners should want to participate in this historic endeavor and share in offering glory to God for what we will 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...

THE
ICONOGRAPHY
AND
ECCLESIASTICAL
ITEMS
DEDICATIONS
PROGRAM
IS OPEN



DROUGHT AND REDEMPTION – THE LESSONS OF GLOBAL WARMING

(Continued from page 1)

of people every day; a world where man cannot control his environment and has to work harder and harder everyday for an elusive piece of bread. God is love and He wants better for us.

God’s true plan for mankind was revealed from the very beginning when He put Adam and Eve in the abundant Paradise and not in a forsaken desert (Gen 2:15). All was given to Man free and with the intention of eternity. Man was crowned the King of the world and all was given in his administration to be used as support towards His union with God.

The change of the entire universe that we are witnessing today is not God’s doing, Man alone is responsible. With the fall of Man came also the fall of the entire cos-

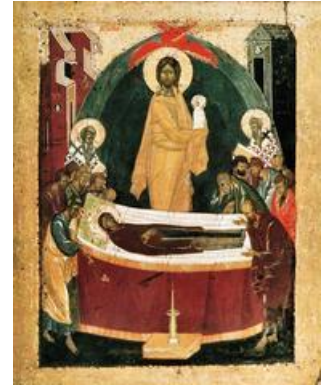
mos: “*cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground*”. (Gen 3:17-19) Man is the one that missed the target of his existence through sin, isolating himself from God, in a meaningless hope that things would get better this way.

What Man failed to understand was that he was never created to be alone, to live independently. This may be difficult to hear in an age where self determination and self worth is embedded in every grain of our beings, but this is the truth. “*Personhood means otherness, difference, but not in isolation, because the full meaning of personhood is found in the communion of persons*” writes the theologian John

Zizioulas. Man was created in the image of God and the image of God is a Trinity of Persons, living in perfect harmony and love. God made Man so he also can participate in this, to share God’s love through Communion, not independence. This terrible illusion, this false dream of grandeur, has had devastating effects on the entire Creation.

As a consequence of this disaster we live in a fallen world, a world that has turned against Man, its formally crowned king. Droughts, hurricanes, tsunamis are part of this changed earth and we cannot blame any of this on God. He gave us free will because He wanted us to voluntarily accept His love; he gave us the possibility to choose, knowing that we can even make the wrong choice.

(Continued on page 8)



“CHURCH CONSTRUCTION IS CONTINUING ON SCHEDULE”

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The installation of the apse roof framing and decking is almost completed. Exterior brick and stone installation will be finishing in October. Scaffolding has been erected and the framing of the walls below the dome has begun. This scaffolding also allows for the installation of the ArchTek interior arched framing across the dome.

Ashton Wynne is finalizing the selection of the roof installation subcontractor. The roof

installation will prove to be a complex phase of the construction project.

Finish selections have progressed including the exterior doors, interior trim, windows, and metal roof. Column capitals and travertine tile flooring will soon be selected as well

Ashton Wynne has coordinated with the Festival Committee to ensure our grounds are ready to support the Festival. Soon after-

ward, Ashton Wynne will be demolishing our parking lot, installing underground utilities, grading the area and pouring the new, larger concrete parking lot.

We ask for your patience and understanding during this time-frame as alternative parking for services will be required for 4-5 weeks while this installation occurs.

Joe Sullivan, Building Committee Chairman



STEWARDSHIP NEWS

WE DID IT!! *For the first time ever, we have met and actually slightly exceeded our stewardship goal. As of 9/12/11 we have 119 stewards committed to contributing a total of \$176,034 against a goal of \$175,000 for 2011.*

As exciting as this is, we cannot rest on our laurels. The need for additional income is apparent with the increasing

cost of energy during the hot weather, church supplies, etc. Church expenses are going up and it is our responsibility, as parishioners of St. John, to assist in meeting our financial obligations. ***Therefore, if you have not yet submitted your 2011 stewardship card, please do so as soon as possible. Also, if you are not current on your pledge, we ask that you make every effort to begin***

fulfilling your commitment.

A big thank you goes out to those who have already 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

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Aldi, Nicholas & Cindy | Callesen, John | Grumbos, Dr. Peter & Jan | Medvic, Allison |
| Alexander, Leo & Teresa | Chokas, Margaret | Hadjikiriakos, Michael | Medvic, Nancy |
| Anagnostis, Dr. George & Petroula | Clay, Aria & Wayne | Henry, Michael & Julie | Mihalakeas, Andreas & Laura |
| Anderson, Dr. Anthony | Cline, Tim & Angela | Johnson, Marshall & Velva | Molhoek, Mike & Tina |
| Antahades, Dr. Lou & Judith | Cortinas, Laurie & Ruben | Jones, Daniel & Elise | Morcovescu, Serban & Anca |
| Arlington, Linda | Cramb, Kristina | Karegeannes, Harry & Ginny | Moutafis, George & Khanh |
| Bakintas, Savas & Dimitra | Cramb, Matthew | Katsikas, Constantinos | Nahatis, Arthur |
| Ball, David | Dempsey, Dr. Margaret | Kerbow, Joe & Maria | Naval, Marc & Maria |
| Ballas, Andy & Pat | Dempsey, Walt & Dorothy | Kinman, Buck & Karen | Nazzal, Alfred & Sylvia |
| Ballas, Chris | Doughty, Elaine | Kithas, Alkiviadis | Nicholas, Toni |
| Beebe, Sharie & Mark | Eftimie, Michael & Tamara | Laverty, Connie | Noulas, Athanasios |
| Began, John | Feichtinger, Pavlina | Leeders, Larry | Nugent, Phyllia |
| Berca, Sorin & Carmen | File, Russ & Hope | Leeders, Stacia | Oliver, Robert & Ashley |
| Blake, John & Harriett | Fondulis, Paul | Leventis, John & Tawnya | Pachares, Mark & Marie |
| Blasé, Clarisse | Forcum, Annie | Maayeh, Bishara & Mary | Pachares, Tony & Athena |
| Bogdos, George & Sotera | Fox, Mike & Kathy | MacPherson, Doug & Andi | Papadimitriou, Alex & Linda |
| Bogordos, George & Kassandra | Gavras, Billie | Manos, George & Vicki | Papadopoulou, Olga & Theoni |
| Bokoyas, Chris | Geil, Chris & Sandra | Manos, Michael & Debbie | Papaliodis, Georgia |
| Bokoyas, Jim & Kiki | Genovezos, George & Olympia | Marx, Angela | Papaliodis, Louie |
| Bond, Tina & George | Gianulis, Adam | Matheson, Trevor & Sherri | Paulos, Sophie |
| Brandon, Roberta | Gianulis, Bill & Bertha | Mavias, John | Pendleton, James & Deborah |
| | Gigliotta, Leonard | Mavias, Lisa | Petercsak, Steve & Esther |
| | | Mavias, Michael & Mary | |

STEWARDSHIP NEW (CONT)

(Continued from page 4)

| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Peters, Paun & Lynn | Ruppel, Joanie | Tudora, Fr. Vasile & Pres. Mirela |
| Peters, Tommy & Dolly | Russo, Joseph & Athena | Vittas, George & Barbara |
| Plock, Eleni | Samaras, Johnny | Vloitos, Nick & Rayanna |
| Poletes, Bill & Rena | Shah, Raj & Kirsten | Walker, David & Hilary |
| Poletes, Lea | Snegirov, Aleksandr & Oksana | Walker, Jim & Harriet |
| Poriotis, Michael | Steffaro, Bob & Karen | Wozniak, Jamey |
| Poriotis, Terry & Gail | Sullivan, Charles & Ann | Wright, Bill & Christine |
| Poulakos, Kathy | Sullivan, Joe & Nina | Yalmaz, Diana |
| Puddy, Kristopher & Ragan | Talleos, Peter | Yiantsou, Dr. Chris & Margo |
| Rafailedes, Connie | Thomopoulos, Stephanos & Tanya | Zingas, Ari & Olga |



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 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.

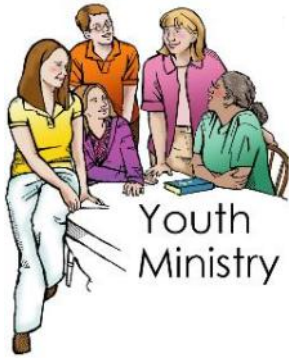
We appreciate everyone's understanding and cooperation in helping to make the stewardship process more meaningful and efficient.

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

Youth Ministries had a great turnout for its Brats, Burgers and Beans Luncheon. It was wonderful to see all our kids back at church. As Fr. Vasile said, "Where have you all

been?!" Many thanks to Larry Leeders for heading up the grill, and to Athena Pachares and Connie Rafaleides for setting up. We also appreci-

ate all the sidedishes and beverages provided by our teachers and YM members.

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 meet-

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

Peter Pursley- Goya President

PLEASE REMEMBER TO REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN FOR CHURCH SCHOOL. THERE ARE EXTRA REGISTRATION FORMS IN THE CHURCH HALL IN THE CHURCH SCHOOL MAIL SLOT.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Church school started with a rousing success. How exciting! Our children need your support and encouragement to have a great church school year.

starting October 26th. Please send something with your children so that they may contribute to the basket themselves.

always be found on the church website. There may be modifications to the schedule due to speaker availability throughout the year. Below is the teen class meeting schedule for October:

Please remember to register your children for church school. There are extra registration forms in the church hall in the Church School mail slot. Also, you can download the registration form and church school calendar from www.stjohndfw.info. We use the information on these forms to plan classes and for the monthly birthday cakes. 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.

Oct.23 - Begin the Thanksgiving Food Basket Program - bring a canned vegetable (can of corn, green beans, yams)

Oct.16 - Keeping the faith after high school

Oct.30 - Bring flour, stuffing mix or drink.

GOYA Advisors: Michael, Elena, Chris

Nov.6—Bring a canned fruit (cranberry sauce, fruit pie filling)

Oct.30 - War, Morality and the Bible

Godparent's Sunday and Open House is November 13th. Invite your children's Godparents to visit so that your children can show them off to their classmates as well as share what they've learned in Church School.

Harry Karegeannes (introduce Oratorical topics)

If you have any comments and/or suggestions, you can contact me any time at 817-741-4324 or moutafis@verizon.net.

We will participate in the Thanksgiving Food Basket Program organized by the Philoptohos. Church School will collect items

This year the teen class is meeting on specific Sundays with guest speakers. The teen schedule can



Christ blessing children

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

St. Irene Philoptochos held its first meeting in the new ecclesiastic year on Sept 18.

Thank you's went out to those who have supported the weekly coffee hour and to individuals for specific tasks.

We received two special notes from the students as South Euless Elementary thanking us for the school supplies. GOYA hosted the luncheon to provide the funds and Philoptochos shopped and delivered the goods – a great team effort! Thank **YOU** for supporting the GOYA luncheon that made this possible.

OCT: Support the annual Mid-Cities Greekfest and sell DVD's & cookbooks

NOV: Hold a garage sale on November 5 in the parish hall to fund our pledge payment for the Capital Campaign. We are working on securing a storage space and when that is firm, we will send an email blast to the parish to start collecting goods to sell.

NOV: Team up with Church School to donate to the annual Thanksgiving Basket Program. We are looking for a chairperson for this project.

Barbara Vittas and Bertha Gianulis attended the Metropolis Board Meeting Sept 16-18 and we look forward to the information they bring back to share.

Joanee Ruppel

St. Irene Philoptochos President



NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY

Each year, on the first Sunday in October (on or after the Feast of St. Romanos the Melodist, the patron saint of church musicians), parishes across the Archdiocese of America celebrate NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY. This commemoration was inaugurated by His Eminence, Archbishop Iakovos of North and South America in 1982, and has been re-affirmed by His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of America.

NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY is a day we set aside particularly to honor the contributions of local choir members, psaltai, and music educators who serve their churches through the hymnology of our Orthodox Church.

In addition, it is a day when we recognize the work of the diocesan choir federations as well as the National Forum of Greek

Orthodox Church Musicians, who through their music ministry, strive to enhance the development of church choirs, church musicians, and liturgical music at diocesan and archdiocesan levels.

To these ends, the National Forum of Greek Orthodox Church Musicians uses NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY to recognize the contributions of church musicians at three levels each year:

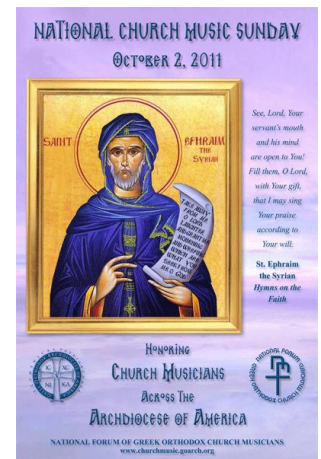
- To honor your LOCAL CHURCH MUSICIANS: your choir director and choir members, your chanters, and other church musicians for their service to the parish;
- To reaffirm your support of your METROPOLIS CHOIR FEDERATION and participate in its activities;

and

- To support your national church ministry, the work of the NATIONAL FORUM OF GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH MUSICIANS by becoming a [Steward of the National Forum](#) and making a contribution to its Annual Church Music Fund Drive held during October.

Many thanks to our dedicated choir director, choir member, chanters and all that are involved in music ministry and contribute so greatly to the wholesomeness and beauty of our Orthodox Services in our parish!

NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY
OCTOBER 2, 2011





DROUGHT AND REDEMPTION – THE LESSONS OF GLOBAL WARMING

(Continued from page 3)

We shouldn't understand this in a mechanical way however: I sin and I get sick, I do the right thing and I receive an immediate reward. It is not that simplistic. All we do however has consequences. As global warming may have an effect on the environment so our irrational cooling from God will have an influence on our climate, both physical and spiritual.

Man was not made immortal, but was given the possibility to partake in the eternal existence of God. Only through his willful participation Man

can achieve a life free of the turmoil of this fallen world. God's initial intention was made even clearer through the incarnation of Christ. In Him all was renewed; the Adam of old was replaced by the New Adam that made the right choice for us, not isolated in a distant heaven, but by being one of us in the flesh.

Christ showed that this fallen nature is only temporary and though it is corrupted and filled with suffering and pain it is not all that is; it is not the goal, it is not the end. He showed that although we may die we can still live if we are

in Communion with Him. He died and rose from the dead to show us how we can also rise from the fallenness of our nature and be not what we are now, but what God always intended us to be.

We live in a world that is not what it was supposed to be and periodically we suffer its mood swings. It is up to us to make the best out of it and work for our salvation in spite of the harshness of our environment. We are called to follow Christ and by our transformation in Him to change the entire cosmos. This time for better and for ever.

"WE ARE CALLED TO FOLLOW CHRIST AND BY OUR TRANSFORMATION IN HIM TO CHANGE THE ENTIRE COSMOS."

FROM THE DESERT FATHERS ON JUDGING OTHERS

A brother who had sinned was turned out of the church by the priest. Abba Bessarion got up and went out with him, saying, "I, too, am a sinner."

One day Abba Isaac went to a monastery. He saw a brother committing a sin and he condemned him. When he re-

turned to the desert, an angel of the Lord came and stood in front of the door of his cell, and said, "I will not let you enter." But he persisted saying, "What is the matter?" And the angel replied, "God has sent me to ask you where you want to throw the

guilty brother whom you have condemned." Immediately he repented and said, "I have sinned, forgive me." Then the angel said, "Get up, God has forgiven you. But from now on, be careful not to judge someone before God has done so."

GREEK FESTIVAL NEWS



As everyone knows, the festival is here. We need everyone's participation. Saturday, October 1 we start building the stage, and Monday, the 3rd the tent arrives. If you have a few hours to spare on Tuesday please show up to help with laying out the tables and chairs. The weekend of the festival is a lot of work the

fun outweighs the work.

My cell number is 817-991-2179- please do not hesitate to call with any questions.

The profits from the festival go toward our beautiful new Church- what better way to spend a weekend. Hope to

see everyone there.

Thank you, Cynthia Pursley-Co Chairperson

Festival Baking Schedule
(baking begins at 9am)

Mon Oct 3 & Tue Oct 4 (bread)

OHI (OXI) DAY: THE VIRGIN MARY AND WORLD WAR 2

On the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos or Agia Skepi (October 28) we implore the defense and assistance of the Queen of Heaven, *"Remember us in your prayers, O Lady Virgin Mother of God, that we not perish by the increase of our sins. Protect us from every evil and from grievous woes, for in you do we hope, and venerating the Feast of your Protection, we magnify you."*

Though celebrated outside of Greece on October 1, the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos was transferred to October 28th after World War 2 with the annual commemoration of Ohi Day. This was done to commemorate the great help and protection of the Theotokos to the Greek nation throughout its history, and especially during World War II during which many miracles are reported.

It was precisely on August 15, 1940, off the eastern coast of Greece near the Aegean island of Tinos, an island especially dedicated to the Holy Virgin more than any other, that a great tragedy struck. As thousands upon thousands of pilgrims were celebrating the joyous Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, the crew of a Greek light cruiser called Elli was also participating in the festivities off shore. Suddenly the ship was torpedoed and sunk by an Italian submarine. The wharf of Tinos was also torpedoed amongst the festivities. This initiated the beginning of Greece's involvement in World War II.

Greece officially entered the war on October 28, 1940. This is celebrated annually as Ohi Day (No Day) commemorating dictator Ioannis Metaxas' (1936-1941) refusal of the Italian ultimatum. The ultimatum demanded of Greece to allow Axis forces to enter Greek territory and occupy certain unspecified "strategic locations" or otherwise face war. Upon his declaration it is reported that thousands of Greeks stormed the streets and began shouting "Ohi" to the Italian ultimatum. On April 6, 1941, Hitler attacked Greece for the first time and united his German forces with those of the Italians.

The role of faith in the Virgin Mary in Greece is also outstanding during World War 2. Her role was catalytic not only because she constituted the basis of the people's faith, but also because, with her miraculous interventions, she proved to have been the greatest ally of the Greek army.

The account given by Vassiliki Bouris, niece of Spyridon Houliaras, who fought at the borders, is characteristic. According to her, Spyridon Houliaras used to narrate incidents of the war to his relatives before he died. The one that affected him the most, however, was a miracle of the Virgin Mary. While the soldiers were fighting under really adverse conditions, the Panagia appeared in front of them and as a protector "covered" them with her mantle and led them towards their enemy, ready to confront them.

This miracle is also corroborated by the accounts of other soldiers of that time who fought on the mountains of Pindus. At the front, Greek soldiers saw the same vision everywhere: at nights, they could see a tall, slim female figure walking with her kerchief resting on her shoulders. For the soldiers she was none other than the Virgin Mary, the defender and general of the Greeks.

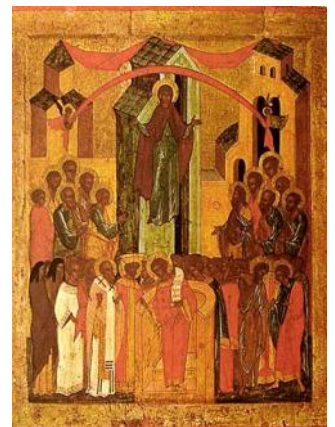
It was also characteristic that on the military identification cards, right next to the personal details, there was a picture of the Panagia. And just moments before they attacked, they would pray, shouting "Panagia mou!" (my Virgin!) three times, and dash forth.

The importance of the Virgin Mary's miraculous interventions was acknowledged by the Greek state right after the end of the Second World War. For this reason, the celebration of Agia Skepi, which in 626 A.D., by the Virgin's miraculous intervention, saved Constantinople from the Avaroi (Turkish-Mongolian Nomads), which was officially established to be celebrated on October 1st, was transferred in 1952 to the 28th of October to remind them of her miraculous intervention during the most difficult period for the Greek people.

Adapted from <http://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/>



“THE IMPORTANCE OF THE VIRGIN MARY’S MIRACULOUS INTERVENTIONS WAS ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE GREEK STATE RIGHT AFTER THE END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR.





ADVICE OF THE MONTH

Someone asked Abba Anthony, "What must one do in order to please God?" The old man replied, "Pay attention to what I tell you: Whoever you may be, always have God before your eyes. Whatever you do, do it according to the testimony of the Holy Scriptures. In whatever place you live, do not easily leave it. Keep these three precepts and you will be saved."

—St. Anthony the Great

*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 Karegeannes, 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 meet on Tuesday, October 18, 2011 to have lunch and a movie. Details will follow. Please save some time to come and help the cleanup after the festival.

Questions???

Margaret 817-354-7731

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

- 1st Sunday : Caleb Ellis, Alex Genevesos, John Molhoek, Ben- net Kerbow
- 2nd Sunday : Chris Eftemie, Ovidiu Berca, Luca Tudora, 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, John Molhoek, Ovi Berca

GLADSOME LIGHT DIALOGUES

Gladsome Light Dialogues will continue in October with our new theme "*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 Christians

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: Philotochos
- 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

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.

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church September 2011

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|--------------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | ✠ | Great Vespers 6:00 PM |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| <i>2nd Sunday of Luke</i> Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM | | | ✠ Paraklesis 6:00 PM | | ✠ | Great Vespers 6:00 PM |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| <i>3rd Sunday of Luke</i> Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM | | | ✠ Paraklesis 6:00 PM Gladsome Light Dialogues | | ✠ | Great Vespers 6:00 PM |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| <i>Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Fathers</i> Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM | Vespers 6:00 PM | <i>Luke the Evangelist</i> Divine Liturgy 6:00 AM | ✠ Paraklesis 6:00 PM Gladsome Light Dialogues | | ✠ | Great Vespers 6:00 PM |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| <i>6th Sunday of Luke</i> Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM | | Vespers 6:00 PM |  <i>St. Demetrios</i> Divine Liturgy 6:00 AM | | ✠ | Great Vespers 6:00 PM |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |
| <i>5th Sunday of Luke</i> Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM | | ✠ Strict Fast |  Fish |  Dairy, Eggs, Fish |  Fast Free |  Wine & Oil |



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

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

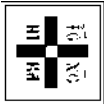
Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT

Sponsorship for This Month's Forerunner



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



Holy Martyr. Demetrios of Thessaloniki
October 25

Vol. XXVII No. 10 October 2011

THE FORERUNNER

