

THE FORERUNNER

VOLUME XXVII NUMBER 11 NOVEMBER 2011

THE FREEDOM OF MORALITY AND THE IMMORALITY OF FREEDOM

The recent overthrowing of the authoritarian governments from the Middle East countries has brought up again the importance of freedom as an essential human value. The notion of freedom however is not as easy to define as one would think. In general we understand that freedom means the capacity to act without any outside restraint. As J. Rufus Fears, professor of Classics and chair in History of Liberty at the University of Oklahoma, [asserts](#), this concept can be applied to a nation for example that is free from any outside domination, can be applied to a political system, meaning that one can elect its own choice of government, but most importantly can be applied to the individual that is free to live by any values as long as it does not harm others.



These three levels of liberty may not coexist at the same time, some may have political liberty but be subject to a greater multi-national power, others may have national freedom but have their individual liberties restricted and so on. In America we are blessed with all three, we live in an independent nation, we thrive in political democracy and we also enjoy individual freedom to live our lives as we please.

Unlike in the Middle East for instance, where individual freedom is severely restricted, for us

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COUNCIL CAPSULE

Another great accomplishment has been achieved with our 20th Annual Food Festival behind us. Each year we have trepidations on how our small group will be able to undertake this huge task and yet we make it through with hard work and pride in our heritage.

All the volunteers who put in many hours, and you know who you are need to give themselves a pat on the back. Without their countless hours of hard work and dedication, none of this would be possible. Many thanks to our chairs, Michael Poriotis and Cynthia Pursley who stepped up and accepted the challenge of chairing this year's festival. Also thanks go to Larry Leeders who along with myself hosted a very successful Taverna Night.

Final figures on our festival will be announced at our General Assembly, which will be held on Sunday, Nov. 13 after liturgy. This is our last General Assembly of the year at which a vote for our 2012 budget will be held and nominations for the 2012-2014 council members will be announced. Please plan on staying for this important meeting. We will have updates from Joe Sullivan on the progress of our new church and George Vitas on our Capital Campaign and dedication programs as well as reports from all the committee heads. Remember, in order to vote at the General Assem-

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *The freedom of morality and the immorality of freedom*
- *2012 Stewardship and Stewardship Sunday*
- *Construction Status*
- *Festival news*
- *Holy Martyr Katherine*
- *The desert Fathers on vengeance*
- *Church Events*

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COUNCIL'S CAPSULE



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Barbara Vittas

Parish Council President

bly, you must have filled out a stewardship card and made payments toward your pledge.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE REPORT

The loan preparation process was virtually complete as of the third week of October with closing of the loan expected before end of October. By the time you read this we should have the additional \$400,000 available to complete the New Church project, which is Phase III of the capital development program (CDP). As expressed at the Special General Assembly, we will work on paying off this loan as quickly as possible with the goal of no more than three (3) years to retirement of the loan... We are fortunate to have Worthington Bank as our financing partner for the remainder of the CDP. With offices in Colleyville and Fort Worth, Worthington Bank is eager to work with the Parish to support our capital needs and we are looking forward to a long term beneficial relationship.

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, Ico-

nostasis Icons and Altar Vault and Apse Iconography. About one-half 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 Cam-

paign 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. The names of all who have contributed will be prominently and permanently recognized in the narthex of the new church. 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



THE FREEDOM OF MORALITY AND THE IMMORALITY OF FREEDOM

(Continued from page 1)

liberty is such a commonplace concept that many times it is perverted into a straightforward libertarian attitude: *I can do whatever I want, whenever I want, with whomever I want.* Any attempt to fall back to any type of morality system is seen today by more and more people as retrograde and severely limiting the capacity of expression of the individual. Therefore even in a Church context the necessity to consistently abide to a guiding principle of morality makes many people uncomfortable.

The root of this anxiety may lie within the cultural acceptance of morality through the prism of Western theology that defines sin in very legalistic terms. Sin is a breaking of the divine law, consequently alienating the sinner from a God offended by the lack of obedience. This type of morality is but a code of law that man is obligated to follow or severe

consequences will dawn upon him. The capacity of man to act as a free agent is severely restricted, as he has no choice but to obey for fear of punishment. How does this line up however with the concept of free will that was gifted to man from his creation? Does free will actually mean “obey or else”?

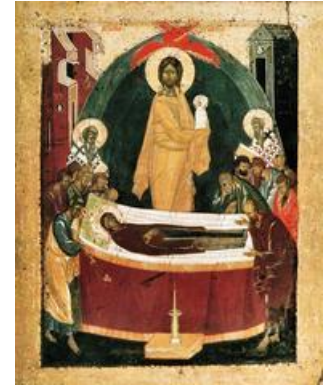
The Fathers of the Church have a different approach to the concepts of sin and free will. In their understanding every man was created with free will and with a distinctive existence, but not created to live independently, following one’s individualistic goals, but to live in communion with God and his fellow men. This is the mystery of the person. A person cannot be defined in isolation, but only in communion with others, following the model of the three persons of the Trinity.

Communion with God however means also that man’s will should be aligned with God’s will in a perfect synergy lead-

ing to eternal union with Him. But this existential necessity does not in any way restrict the freedom of man, he is not coerced into an arranged marriage with God, but is called to choose this relationship out of free will. By accepting this reality man acknowledges in fact that his existence is relational, and that his purpose as a person is only fulfilled by being together with God. Man has the free will to ignore this reality, of course, but bearing the existential repercussions of the renunciation of the very purpose of his being.

Love is what ultimately explains everything. God loves man and awaits that man would freely love Him back, does not force man to love him, otherwise this could not be called love. Sin therefore is not just a dry breaking of a law externally imposed, but is in fact a rebellion against what we actually are, a deliberate rejection of the purpose of our creation, a

(Continued on page 8)



“CHURCH
CONSTRUCTION
IS CONTINUING
ON SCHEDULE”

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Progress is continuing with the framing work around the main dome which has been quite a challenge for Ashton Wynne due to its intricate form and elevation. The interior scaffolding system has proven to be a great benefit to the contractors in performing their work over 50 feet above the foundation.

We are working with Ashton Wynne to have them create an updated project schedule all the way to project completion and issuance of our Certificate of

Occupancy. Once completed, we will make it available for all parishioners to view.

A Building Committee meeting is scheduled with the roof installation firm to review their installation strategy for constructing the domes, apses and eyebrow trim around the high windows. Travertine tile finish selection has occurred, as well as the decorative lighting. November will be a busy month for selecting many of the other finish items and equipment for the

project including door hardware, tile, carpet, wood flooring, interior and parking lighting, monument signage, etc.

Our thanks to Ashton Wynne for preparing the grounds for the 2011 Festival. It was quite an endeavor to host our Greek Food Festival around a construction site but well worth the end result.

Finally, look for upcoming announcements on the planned demolition of our parking lot in preparation for the new, larger concrete parking lot.

Joe Sullivan, Building Committee Chair

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Join us on *Stewardship Sunday, November 13 2011*

As of 10/14/11 we have 118 stewards committed to contributing a total of **\$176,034** against a goal of \$175,000 for 2011.

The total committed is wonderful, however, we now need to keep our promise and ensure we are current in our contributions. If you

are not current on your pledge, we ask that you make every effort to fulfill your commitment.

As parishioners of St. John, we need your assistance in meeting our financial obligations.

It's not too late!! If you have not yet submitted your stewardship card, please do so as soon as possible.

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.*



2011 STEWARDS

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

STEWARDSHIP NEW (CONT)

(Continued from page 4)

Sullivan, Charles & Ann	Tudora, Fr. Vasile & Pres. Mirela	Wozniak, Jamey
Sullivan, Joe & Nina	Vittas, George & Barbara	Wright, Bill & Christine
Talleos, Peter	Vloitos, Nick & Rayanna	Yalmaz, Diana
Thomopoulos, Stephanos & Tanya	Walker, David & Hilary	Yiantsou, Dr. Chris & Margo
	Walker, Jim & Harriet	Zingas, Ari & Olga



ABIDE IN ME BY BEARING FRUITS—STEWARDSHIP 2012

We are Called to Bear Fruit

At the Last Supper, Jesus instructed His disciples, “*I Am the Vine; you are the branches*” explaining that we abide in him by bearing fruits for God in the world. “*By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit...*” (John 15:8). Just as the vine bears fruit only through its branches, so Jesus has chosen to work in the world through us. We are the members of His Body. We are the branches through which the True Vine must bear fruit. We bear fruit when we serve and support God and His Church.

Do We Abide in Jesus?

We abide in Jesus Christ when we follow His example and love, serve and support the Church which is His Body. When we abide in Christ, we express this through generosity and devotion, especially in our financial stewardship and acts of personal generosity. Bearing fruit in the world is the visible result of our abiding in Christ.

We Are the Branches of Christ’s Vine

Our task as branches of the True Vine is to see Stewardship as a way of life, and to help others to better understand its true meaning. Jesus Christ took on human flesh in

order to reunify us to Him and to each other. Our true nature is “we” not “I.” We are parts of a far greater whole. This is why we were created. This is why Jesus came into the world. This is why we unite ourselves to each other in the Church. This is why we give ourselves to Christ and to each other through the Eucharist. This is “who we are”. “We” are the branches of the True Vine.

Stewardship Sunday 2011

Join us on *Stewardship Sunday, November 13 2011* to show forth our abiding in Him by sharing the fruits He already offered us so generously.

WE BEAR FRUIT
WHEN WE SERVE
AND SUPPORT
GOD AND HIS
CHURCH.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I become a member of the parish?

Membership in the Orthodox Church begins at Baptism (Chrismation for some) and continues throughout our life. We are united with Christ through the sacraments and through our faithful offering of our lives to Christ. We have to distinguish however between voting members and non-voting members. A voting member is over 18 years old and has turned in a signed

stewardship commitment card (for time, talent and treasure). The Archdiocese also requires the voting member to remain current through the year on their commitments. Overall true membership in the Body of Christ, involves living daily according to His word and within His Church.

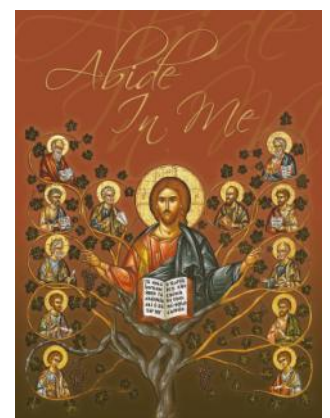
Why must I commit to give a specific amount?

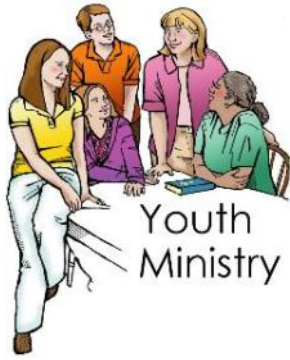
Knowing the amount of your monetary participation helps

our parish plan the activities throughout the year. Your monetary stewardship is kept in the strictest of confidence.

What if I cannot fulfill my stewardship commitment?

During the course of a year, people’s circumstances change. Your stewardship is valued because it is made out of your love for God and His Church. Please do not be concerned if you are unable to meet your stewardship commitment – we are glad you are a part of this parish.





YOUTH MINISTRIES ON THE MOVE

It was so great to see so many of our parish kids participating at the Festival - whether you danced, worked the food line, assisted in the children's center or helped sell OPA T-shirts and Greek fisherman hats -- all of you made a contribution and that's what St. John's is all about.

The "premier" dance group, as Joanie Ruppel described them, were as amazing as ever. But watch out, Asteria dancers, the Olympians are right on your heels - this younger group, made up of primarily Middle Schoolers even know many of the senior group's dances. It was fun to watch them mimic the older kids' steps offstage. The mostly female Young Athenians performed terrifically - I am sure Luca Tudora wouldn't mind a few more boys joining this group! And, as always, the Opa dancers were adorable. Thank you to all the dance teachers, starting with Laurie Poulakos Cortinas, who announced her "retirement" during the last performance. Her dedication to our kids has

been inspiring but we understand young Niko needs her time, too. Kudos to all our teachers: Christine Wright, Sherri Matheson, Elena Bouras, Gina Poulakos and Allison Medvic.

During the month of November, as we give thanks for all that we have, we will also be sharing our gifts with Habitat for Humanity. Kids ages 12 and up will be participating in a Landscape Day on Saturday, Nov. 19, from 8am to 11:30 am. We will be completing the landscape of a new house in Fort Worth. There is a maximum of 20 volunteers for the project - we will also need several adults. The high school class and older middle school students have received details. Our younger students, ages 8-11 will be making "Welcome Home" signs for 16 of Habitat's local families. We are being provided with each family's name and profile and students can design a poster board sign based on that information.

For those unfamiliar with Habitat, the organization was started in 1976. It is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry that seeks to eliminate poverty housing and make decent shelter a matter of conscience. For more information, see their website: <http://www.habitat.org/how/default.aspx>. Habitat is a very worthwhile cause and a good way to give back to our community.

Also this month, the high school and middle school will be selecting a topic for the Oratorical Festival. The topics were introduced in October. We would love to have as many of our students participate as possible. Public speaking is not everyone's favorite activity - but let's see if we can get our kids to not only write a short essay but deliver it before the parish. Athena Pachares and Connie Rafeiledes are more than happy to coach them. Parents, your encouragement is crucial!

In Christ, Harriet Blake

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



Christ blessing children

GOYA NEWS

Thank you Goyans for your help at the Festival, from dancing, picking up recycling items, and selling 130 Greek Fisherman hats!!!

From our last luncheon we will be donating \$75 to a local

animal shelter- thank you everyone for participating, and thank you everyone who donated.

Our next Goya meeting is November 6- we have alot to discuss, including the upcoming

ing basketball tournament and our need to start practicing!!!

Save the date: Dec 11 for GOYA caroling.

Thank you,
Peter Pursley III

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Thank you to Athena Pachares and her committee for revising the procedure for a Makaria. All parishioners should know that the Philoptochos will serve you in several ways in the event you should need a **Makaria** after the death of a loved one. Father Vasile will present you with a Here For You packet and from there, you can contact either Athena Pachares or Margaret Chokas for assistance from the entire committee.

We will be hosting a **“Garage Sale” on Saturday, Nov. 5** and welcome all gently used items and clothing for the sale.

The proceeds will go towards our Capital Campaign Fund pledge. Please bring your items up until that day and put them against the south wall of the parish hall. Thank you for your support! Any garage sale junkies are asked to assist us in set up on Friday, Nov. 3 and the day of the sale.

We will be **honoring our veterans** this year on Sunday, Nov. 13. If you are a veteran, please email Joanie Ruppel @ jruppel@mac.com with your name, rank and where you served. Spread the word!

On Nov. 6, there will be **a**

tray collection for Sts. Cosmas & Damianos, the patron saints of Philoptochos. Funds collected will benefit the philanthropic programs and charities of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Please remember we have a constant collection of items for the Arlington womens shelter Safe Haven. The tub is located near the bookstore. See Kathy Fox for items of need.

Blessings to all in this season of fall!

Joanie Ruppel, President



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Students and Parents,

These next couple of months will be a busy time for us all with the chaotic schedules we keep during the holidays. As we begin planning our festivities, please remind our children the focus of the holidays is our Lord.

We are participating in the Thanksgiving Food Basket Program organized by the Philoptochos. Church School has started collecting items. Please send something with your children so that they may contribute to the basket themselves. This is a valuable lesson for our children to learn as they prepare these baskets.

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.

The high school class, led by Hilary Walker and Anca Morcovescu, is meeting approximately every other week. So far the kids have heard from Pete Talleos on the subject of the media and religion; and from the GOYA advisors on how to keep the faith following high school. Upcoming dates and topics:

- Oct. 30 Byzantine architecture – Presbytera Mirela
- Nov. 13 Morality and War – Harry Karegeannes
- Nov. 20 Converting to Orthodoxy – Joe Sullivan

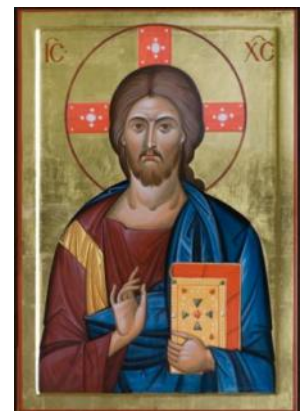
Don’t forget to register your children for church school. There are extra registration

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.

There will NO church school on November 27th due to Thanksgiving Break.

Thank you and God Bless,
Khanh Moutafis

NO CHURCH
SCHOOL ON
NOVEMBER 27TH
DUE TO
THANKSGIVING
BREAK.





THE FREEDOM OF MORALITY AND THE IMMORALITY OF FREEDOM

(Continued from page 3)

critical existential failure. Abiding to morality, is not blindly obeying a set of laws that are arbitrarily enforced to mankind; morality is the deep realization of who we are and what is the very goal of our existence.

The result of the rigidity of Western theological thought is the current indiscriminate rejection of morality all together. A [recent study](#) among the youth revealed that they are unwilling to follow any type of morality, Christian or not, and their decision-making process is guided mostly by the ephemeral emotional impulses of the moment. Their rejection of

morality lies in a fundamental misunderstanding of their own existence that in the contemporary secular context has been delinked from its divine purpose and constrained within the walls of the material world. Without a higher spiritual purpose life becomes a random event they have to make the best of, and freedom means having no rules and boundaries, just doing what “feels” right, without any outlook to the consequences: in other words an immoral freedom.

From the perspective of the Fathers freedom is to willfully acknowledge who we are and act according to the purpose of our creation, not against it.

The Church is guiding its members not toward her own ambitions but is trying to help them discover who they are and help them grow into what God meant them to be. To stay within the boundaries of the Christian morality is to have the freedom to be who we actually are, unconstrained by the requirements of a perverted society that is trying to say we are somebody else. We are free only in God, only when we fulfill our potential as persons, when we follow the path of *theosis* toward union with Him.

*“TO STAY WITHIN
THE BOUNDARIES
OF THE
CHRISTIAN
MORALITY IS TO
HAVE THE
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WHO WE
ACTUALLY ARE*

FROM THE DESERT FATHERS ON VENGEANCE

One of the brethren that had been insulted by another, came to Abbot Sisoe and told him the scorn that had been put upon him, and said, “I am set to revenge myself, Father.” And the old abbot began to entreat him to leave vengeance to God. But he said, “I shall not

rest till I stoutly avenge myself.” So the abbot said to him, “Since thou hast made up thy mind once for all, now let us pray,” and rising, the abbot began to pray in these words: “God, Thou art no longer necessary to us that Thou needst be anxious for us: for we our-

selves, as this brother hath said, are able to avenge ourselves.” But when the brother heard it, he fell at the abbot’s feet seeking his pardon, and promised that he would contend no more with the man against whom he was angered.

GREEK FESTIVAL NEWS



Thank you again to the entire Parish for your support and hard work this festival. We are still calculating the final sales and bills trickling in, so we do not have the exact numbers, but the event brought in over \$110,000 (even with rain). We will have the final numbers at the next General Assembly.

This was a challenging festival but

like always the Parish pulled together. We had a successful festival, not only financially, but also because we had the opportunity to share our faith with the community.

Thank you,

Cynthia Pursley, Michael Poriotis

2011 Festival Co-Chairs

SAINT KATHERINE THE GREAT MARTYR AND ALL-WISE

By St. Nikolai Velimirovic

Katherine was the daughter of King Constus. After the death of her father, she lived with her mother in Alexandria. Her mother was secretly a Christian who, through her spiritual father, brought Katherine to the Christian Faith.

In a vision, St. Katherine received a ring from the Lord Jesus Himself as a sign of her betrothal to Him. This ring remains on her finger even today.

Katherine was greatly gifted by God and was well educated in Greek philosophy, medicine, rhetoric and logic. In addition to that, she was of unusual physical beauty.

When the iniquitous Emperor Maxentius offered sacrifices to the idols and ordered others to do the same, Katherine boldly confronted the emperor and denounced his idolatrous errors. The emperor, seeing that she was greater than he in wisdom and knowledge, summoned fifty of his wisest men to debate with her on matters of faith and to put her to shame. Catherine outwitted and shamed them. In a rage, the emperor ordered all fifty of those men burned. By St. Katherine's prayers, all fifty confessed the name of Christ and declared themselves Christians before their execution.

After Katherine had been put in prison, she converted the emperor's commander, Porphyrius, and two hundred soldiers to the true Faith, as well as Empress Augusta-Vasilissa herself. They all suffered for Christ.

During the torture of St. Katherine,

an angel of God came to her and destroyed the wheel on which the holy virgin was being tortured. Afterward, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself appeared to her and comforted her.

After many tortures, Katherine was beheaded at the age of eighteen, on November 24, 310. Milk, instead of blood, flowed from her body. Her miracle-working relics repose on Mount Sinai.

At the requests of the Church and Monastery of Sinai, the feast of St. Katherine, their patron, is now celebrated on November 25th so it might be celebrated more festively together with the leave-taking of the Presentation of the Theotokos.

HYMN OF PRAISE: The Holy Great-Martyr Katherine

The wise Katherine, an earthly princess,
Became a martyr for Christ the Savior.

Foolish Maxentius offered her life:

If she would consent to become his wife!

The holy Katherine, pure as gold,

Replied to the emperor thus:

"My betrothed is the Risen Christ,

And I desire not the love of a corrupt man.

You seek my body: the rotten seeks corruption,

Even as the incorrupt spirit seeks immortality.

The physical covering must wither away,

The true man takes care for his immortal soul.

Do what you wish, and torture

me -

Burn me in the fire, turn me on a wheel;

I cannot renounce my own soul,
Nor worship any but Christ as God.

Remember, O Emperor, soon you will die,
And worms will erupt from your corpse -

Worms will glorify you, worms will eat you,
A curse will accompany you, and a curse will meet you:

For you dare wage war against Christ, Who is mightier than death.

You stand under the Rock, and He will crush you."

Holy Katherine, Christ's virgin,
You despised the throne for eternal truth's sake;

And thus now reign in the Kingdom without end,
And sing with the angels, in the midst of sweet Paradise.

Apolytikion in the Plagal of the First Tone

Let us praise the most auspicious bride of Christ, the divine Katherine, protectress of Sinai, our aid and our help. For, she brilliantly silenced the eloquence of the impious by the sword of the spirit, and now, crowned as a martyr, she asks great mercy for all.

Kontakion in the Second Tone

O friends of martyrs, now divinely raise up a renewed chorus, praising the all-wise Katherine. For, she proclaimed Christ in the arena, trampled on the serpent, and spat upon the knowledge of the orators.



“LET US PRAISE
THE MOST
AUSPICIOUS
BRIDE OF
CHRIST, THE
DIVINE
KATHERINE,
PROTECTRESS OF
SINAI, OUR AID
AND OUR HELP.”





ADVICE OF THE MONTH

Repentance is the renewal of baptism. Repentance is a contract with God for a second life. A penitent is a buyer of humility. Repentance is constant distrust of bodily comfort. Repentance is self-condemning reflection, and carefree self-care. Repentance is the daughter of hope and the renunciation of despair. Repentance is reconciliation with the Lord by the practice of good deeds contrary to the sins. Repentance is the voluntary endurance of all afflictions. Repentance is a mighty persecution of the stomach, and a striking of the soul into vigorous awareness.

St. John Climacus

AGELESS WONDERS

It's that time of the year when the New Beaujolais Wine is coming out !!! and the Ageless Wonders will be stepping out for a Wine and Food pairing on Saturday, November 19, at 5:30 p.m. We are being hosted by Dr. Lou and Judith Antahades at their clubhouse in Grand Prairie. We have done this in the past and had a great time. It's a wonderful opportunity for folks who can't come to our daytime meetings to join us. I'll be calling everyone for reservations, so save the date !!!!

Margaret 817-354-7731

GLADSOME LIGHT DIALOGUES

Gladsome Light Dialogues will continue in November 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](http://dialogues.stjohndfw.info)

GLADSOME LIGHT DIALOGUES WILL CONTINUE IN NOVEMBER WITH OUR NEW THEME "*BEYOND LITURGY*"

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

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

- 1st Sunday : Caleb Ellis, Alex Genevesos, John Molhoek, Benet 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, Alex Shah

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)

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

November 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
						<i>Philoptochos Garage Sale 8:00 AM</i> <i>Great Vespers 6:00 PM</i>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>7th Sunday of Luke</i> <i>Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM</i>	<i>Vespers 6:00 PM</i>	 <i>Synaxis of the Holy Archangels Michael and Gabriel</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 6:00 AM</i> <i>Vespers 6:00PM</i>	 <i>St. Nektarios</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 6:00 AM</i>	<i>Vespers 6:00PM</i>	 <i>Holy Martyr Menas of Egypt</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 6:00 AM</i>	<i>Great Vespers 6:00 PM</i>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<i>8th Sunday of Luke</i> <i>Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM</i> <i>Stewardship Sunday</i>		 <i>Nativity Fast Begins</i> <i>Vespers 6:00 PM</i>	 <i>Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mathew</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 6:00 AM</i>			 <i>Great Vespers 6:00 PM</i>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
 <i>9th Sunday of Luke</i> <i>Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM</i> <i>Vigil 6:00 PM</i>	 <i>Entrance of the Theotokos</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 6:00 AM</i>		 <i>Paraklesis 6:00 PM</i> <i>Gladsome Light Dialogues</i>	 <i>Vespers 6:00 PM</i>	 <i>Katherine the Great Martyr</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 6:00 AM</i>	 <i>Great Vespers 6:00 PM</i>
27	28	29	30			
 <i>13th Sunday of Luke</i> <i>Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM</i> <i>Damianos Peters Memorial Service</i>		 <i>Vespers 6:00 PM</i>	 <i>Holy Apostle Andrew the First Called</i> <i>Divine Liturgy 6:00 AM</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://stjohndfw.info)**



Holy Great Martyr. Katherine of Alexandria
November 25

Vol. XXVII No. 11 November 2011

THE FORERUNNER

