

THE FORERUNNER

VOLUME XXVII NUMBER 12 D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 1

PARKING IN THE PRIEST'S SPOT OR WHAT DO WE DO WHEN NO ONE IS WATCHING?

Most parishes in the United States have a designated parking spot for their priest, usually somewhere close to the Church's entrance. The reasons are understandably practical. In reality this space proves to be an apple of discord and a stepping-stone for many that dream to park just inches away from the building. Nobody dares however to park there if they know the priest might be stopping by. But as soon as the danger of being caught ebbs away there will always be someone that will take up that spot.



You might already be asking yourself at this point, is it I that Father is complaining about? Guilty or not, this article is not about my frustration of finding out that my spot was taken. I don't care about my spot, the only reason I park there is so the people would know I am in church. Rather this article is about how we act when an enforcing authority is not present. To further illustrate my point I will use another story. In a remote Village in Romania there lived a man that every night was going out in his neighbor's field and steal his crops. He was very careful not to get caught and was very vigilant. One night however, due to some unforeseen circumstances, he had to take his innocent daughter along with

(Continued on page 3)

COUNCIL CAPSULE

I hope everyone enjoyed a safe and happy Thanksgiving weekend. We have much to be thankful for in our lives...our health, the blessings of our families and our beautiful new Church, which in a few months will be completed and ready for us to celebrate Easter services in. As we progress with the construction, we will continue to give you updates and more information on the official opening celebration of our Church. His Eminence, Metropolitan Isaiah will be joining us on January 8th to help us celebrate our church's Name Day. Make plans to stay after liturgy for our Name Day luncheon and participate in Philoptochos Annual Vasilopita Auction. The proceeds from this traditional New Year's bread, as always, benefits St. Basil's Academy.

On November 13th we held our fall General Assembly where the budget for 2012 was unanimously approved. This upcoming year's budget was especially difficult with a lot of unknowns in regard to the expenses of the new church. I need to thank Nancy Medvic and Bob Steffaro for the hours they dedicated to this endeavor. The candidates for election to the parish council were also announced. They are Larry Leeders, Chris Geil, Nina Sullivan, Nancy Medvic, George Genovezos, Raj Shah and myself. There are 6 positions open with elections being held on Dec. 11th. It has been a pleasure to

(Continued on page 2)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Parking in the priest's spot or what do we do when no one is watching?*
- *2012 Stewardship*
- *Construction Status*
- *The Magi Gifts on the Holy Mount Athos*
- *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)

serve as your parish council president these past two years and I would like to thank the entire parish council for their dedication and support during my presidency.

Stewardship Sunday was also held on November 13th, which kicked off St. John's Stewardship Campaign for 2012. Giving stewardship is an opportunity to participate in the work of God and a time to examine our priorities and values. I urge every-

one to fill out a stewardship card for 2012 and also to fulfill his or her 2011 pledge. Stewardship is not a substitute to commitment - it is an expression of our commitment.

Barbara Vittas, Parish Council President

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE REPORT

THE
ICONOGRAPHY
AND
ECCLESIASTICAL
ITEMS
DEDICATIONS
PROGRAM
IS OPEN

The loan preparation process is virtually complete with closing of the loan expected in the following weeks. This loan will give us 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 fund-

ing all Stage One items including the Iconostasis, Iconostasis 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 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. The names of all who have contributed will be prominently and permanently recognized in 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.



PARKING IN THE PRIEST’S SPOT OR WHAT DO WE DO WHEN NO ONE IS WATCHING?

(Continued from page 1)

him. So they woke up a tad after midnight and off they went to steal the crops. When they approached the field, the father looked to the right, to the left, in front and behind them to make sure no one is following them. As he was getting ready to start loading his cart with stolen goods, his daughter taped him on the shoulder saying: Dad, you forgot to look in one direction. Which one? Asked the ever-careful dad. Up, where God is! Said the daughter.

With Church attendance the way it is the majority of Christians only come to Church on Sundays and others even less than that. This leaves us with a lot of time where the perceptible enforcement authority of the Church

cannot reach us. We are on our own, free; able to do anything we want. It is under this freedom that we commit most of our trespassing acts. It is out of this false sense of independence that we stray away from the path of salvation.

As good Christians however, we should never doubt the fact that an ever-watchful God is always present. There is no hiding from Him. *“If I say, ‘Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,’ even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.”* (Ps 139:11-12). He sees in the innermost of our souls and knows all the demons that torture us in our most concealed moments.

The omnipresence of God

should be our first layer of defense against the temptation of sin. Knowing that God sees everything should increase our watchfulness and lead us toward safer ground. *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and they who live by it grow in understanding.”* (Ps 111:10) The fear of condemnation should not be our ultimate motivator, however.

Jackson Brown, Jr, a contemporary motivational writer, is quoted to have said: *“Our character is what we do when we think no one is looking”*. We tend to wear a social mask in the presence of others: a pious mask at Church, a friendly mask at work, a smiling face while dealing with clients. We want people to perceive us better than we are. Though I understand the

(Continued on page 8)



“THE PARKING LOT WILL BE UNAVAILABLE FOR THE NEXT 5-6 WEEKS WHILE THE NEW ONE IS BUILT.”

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

A revised project schedule has been issued by Ashton Wynne all the way to project completion and issuance of our Certificate of Occupancy March 16, 2012. Weather permitting, we will be doing everything possible to ensure the new Church is completed in time for Holy Week next year.

Within the project schedule, Ashton Wynne will be closing and demolishing our parking lot for a 5-6 week period beginning the week of November 28th. In the meantime, parishioners are requested to park at the Ruth Millican Center a short walk north of our Church or on the

south property while the ground is dry. The City of Euless has allowed us to use this space temporarily while we install our new concrete parking lot. We strongly recommend that parishioners use caution when parking on the street and please **do not park in areas with No Parking signs.** You will be at risk of being cited if you park outside of the proper designated areas.

Brick and stone work, exterior stone columns and roofing continue to define the exterior of the facility. We are happy to report that Ashton Wynne has successfully fit into the project budget the installation of copper

on the roof of the main dome and bell tower dome. The balance of the main roof will be bronze sheet metal. Interior work continues with the installation of the fire sprinkler system and insulation. We have also retained the services of Kent Farrar, landscape architect, to design our overall landscaping plan to compliment the new Church and hope to have a completed design by month’s end.

Joe Sullivan, Building Committee Chairman



STEWARDSHIP NEWS

As of 11/20/11 we have **119** stewards committed to contributing a total of **\$177,234** against a goal of \$175,000 for 2011.

How wonderful would it be to now collect the total amount committed?

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

gations. In order to meet our obligations, we need the full amount of our commitments to be paid.

Let's show our support of and dedication to our church by fully satisfying our total commitment.

If you are not current on your pledge, we ask that you make every

effort to fulfill your commitment before the end of December.

REMEMBER: *If your intention is to be a pledged member of St. John, a new card must be submitted each year. The new 2012 cards are available in the narthex. Please submit yours today!!*



2011 STEWARDS

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

2011 STEWARDS (CONT)

(Continued from page 4)

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



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.

Join us by filling a Stewardship card for 2012 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.

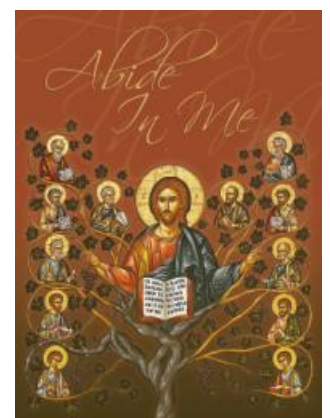
Why must I commit to give a specific amount?

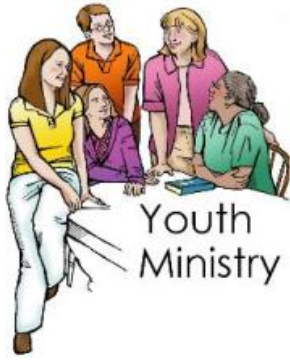
Knowing the amount of your monetary participation helps

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

We are happy to see how active our youth groups have been this fall. Following the festival, the kids have been busy with church school as well as contributing to the Thanksgiving basket program, a tour of the church with Presbyteria Mirela for the older kids, a community outreach with Habitat for Humanity, the annual GOYA turkey raffle, practice for the GOYA basketball tournament in January and selection of essay topics for the 2012 Oratorical Festival.

The middle school and high school class got a big treat on Nov. 6 when we received a personal tour of the new church with Presbyteria. It was exciting to see the interior and hear from our resident architect the reasoning behind the design. On Saturday, Nov. 19, St. John's partnered

with Habitat for Humanity for a morning of landscaping for one of the organization's future homeowners, Maria Duron. Maria joined us as 17 of us helped landscape her house starting with prepping the very hard clay dirt for flower beds, bushes, a tree and finally, grass sod. Participating students included Maria Tudora, Katie Moutafis, Alex Genovezos, Zoe Crawford, Laurie Maayeh, Bennett Kerbow, Nick Ruppel, John and Abbie Molhoek. We also got some help from GOYA advisors Chris and Becky Blake, as well as Father Vasile, Presbyteria Mirela, Olympia Genovezos and Khanh and George Moutafis. We thank all for their hard work - it took a lot of muscle!

In addition, students ages 11 and under who couldn't do the landscaping project, made posters for 16 Habitat families who will be moving into new homes in 2012 - our creative team included Penelopi Yiant-sou, Luca Tudora, Caleb and Elizabeth File.

Mark Dec. 11th on your calenders when our students in grades K-8 perform in this year's **Christmas pageant**. Later that afternoon, the GOYANs will serenade parishioner homes with **Christmas carols** - sign up for their visit!

God bless.

Harriet Blake

"PLEASE REMEMBER DEC. 11TH FOR THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT. ALSO SIGN UP FOR THE GOYA CHRISTMAS CAROLING"



Christ blessing children

GOYA NEWS

Thank you , everyone, for participating in the Turkey Raffle — GOYA made \$150 !!

We've started practicing for the Basketball Tournament, which will be held in Dallas in

January. We hope everyone will be able to watch us play and cheer us on !

We will be having two more fundraisers for the Tourney: a Brunch in early December and our traditional Christmas

Caroling. Thank you for all your support.

Peter Pursley, III

GOYA President

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

A BIG thank you to all who helped make the *garage sale* is complete success! We made our goal of \$1500 that will go towards the Capital Campaign.

The food collected by the Church School classes was delivered to a local food pantry and distributed almost as quickly! We also made a monetary donation to the *Thanksgiving Basket Program* of Tarrant County.

Last year's high school seniors were contacted and their college address info was submitted to the *OCF* (Orthodox Christian Fellowship) in hopes

of continuing contact with them during their college experience.

The church school children made cards for our *Veterans* as we honored them on Nov. 13. Thank you ,Vets, for the service you gave to our country!

December will be a busy month with *Poinsettia sales*, the *Christmas Bake Sale* and our annual *Christmas Dinner*. Please see Margaret Chokas or Barbara Vittas if you would like to attend the Christmas dinner.

Most important for December

is our *Mid-Cities Christmas Providers Program*. You will be receiving this information through a parish email blast.

And mark down January 8 on your calendar as we will have our annual Vasilopita auction on that day during our Name Day luncheon.

May the blessings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be in your homes and in your hearts this wonderful time of the year.

Joanie Ruppel, President



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Dear Students and Parents,
Thank you all for the donations to the Thanksgiving Food Basket Program. We have learned to be giving to others and to be thankful for what we have.

December is a busy month with all the holiday festivities. Sometimes we get so busy that we overlook the reason for these celebrations. Church School will have the Advent Retreat on

December 10 from 10AM – 1PM. We'll learn why we celebrate Christmas, have a session with Father Vasile as well as rehearse for our Christmas program. We'll provide lunch and do a craft for the holidays. We will have final preparations for the Christmas Program after Holy Communion on December 11th.

Every year, the church school children have provided a Christmas program.

This year's program is a musical presentation. Join us on the 11th for this wonderful pageant.

The teen class is meeting on the following dates in December:

December 4th: Converts

December 18th: Monastery architecture

May God Bless you and Keep you safe,

Khanh Moutafis

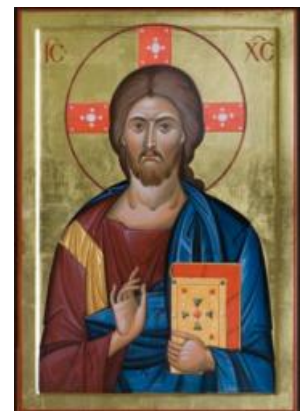
NO CHURCH SCHOOL ON DECEMBER 18 AND 25TH DUE TO THE WINTER BREAK.

CHOIR NOTES

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men" (Luke 2:8-14).

The choir extends to all our community a very

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.





PARKING IN THE PRIEST'S SPOT OR WHAT DO WE DO WHEN NO ONE IS WATCHING?

(Continued from page 3)

social need of being nice to the people around, wearing a mask may also hide a rather not so pleasant self: *"The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long.*

(Matthew 23:1-7).

Looking good does not equate with actually being good. Even when no one is looking, and when no one is there to enforce a moral code, we are still Christians, called to take up our crosses and follow Christ on His ascent to heavens; called to give up the vengeance for a lost eye and turn the other cheek; called to forgive our debtors and lend with out interest, and, most importantly, called to love all people, including our enemies, in the same way as Christ has loved us and has

sacrificed Himself for us.

It is this sacrifice of love that should make us follow Him, even when we feel that we might unnoticeably skip a commandment or two. The fear of God is only the beginning of wisdom; the fullness of wisdom is to strive every day to achieve true Christian character, to reach *"the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"*. (Ephesians 4:13). Only then we will finally become our true selves, masks aside, open to be united with Him, as He intended from the beginning of the world.

"THE FEAR OF GOD IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM; THE FULLNESS OF WISDOM IS TO STRIVE EVERY DAY TO ACHIEVE TRUE CHRISTIAN CHARACTER"

FROM THE DESERT FATHERS ON COMMANDMENTS

The roof of any house stands upon the foundations and the rest of the structure. The foundations themselves are laid in order to carry the roof.

This is both useful and necessary, for the roof cannot stand without the foundations and the foundations are absolutely

useless without the roof - no help to any living creature. In the same way the grace of God is preserved by the practice of the commandments, and the observance of these commandments is laid down like foundations through the gift of God.

The grace of the Spirit cannot

remain with us without the practice of the commandments, but the practice of the commandments is of no help or advantage to us without the grace of God.

St. Symeon the New Theologian

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

THE THREE GIFTS OF THE MAGI ON MOUNT ATHOS

Among the various treasures and very precious relics which are preserved with much piety in the Holy Monastery of St. Paul on the Holy Mountain, without a doubt among the foremost are the Precious Gifts which the Three Magi from the East offered to the incarnate Lord as an infant. These gifts, as is known, were gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gold is in the form of 28 pieces of carefully engraved coins, with various shapes (rectangular, trapezoidal, polygonal, etc.) and measuring about 5 X 7 centimeters. Each coin has a different design of different and complex artistry. The frankincense and myrrh take the form of mixtures in the form of 62 roughly spherical beads the size of a small olive.

Because the spiritual (foremost) and physical, historical and archaeological worth of the Precious Gifts is incalculable, they are preserved with extreme care in the treasury of the Holy Monastery of St. Paul. For security reasons they are distributed in various reliquaries; only a part of them are presented for veneration in the Holy Monastery and are brought outside of the Holy Mountain as a blessing to various Metropolises.

The Evangelist Luke writes of the Panagia that she *"kept all these words in her heart"* (Luke 2:19, 51). It is believed from theological studies that a large part of these "words", the words and happenings in other words of the life of the Lord, the Theotokos revealed to the Holy Apostle Luke, who in-

cluded them in his Gospel. It's without any doubt that among the holy "words" of the Lord, the Most-Holy Theotokos "kept" everything dealing with the earthly life of the Lord, but also naturally the Precious Gifts.

Along with our historical-religious tradition, before the Dormition of the All-Holy Mother of the Lord, she delivered them together with the Holy Swaddling Clothes of Christ and her Precious Robe and Holy Belt to the Church of Jerusalem, where they remained until 400 AD. In that year the emperor Arkadios brought them to Constantinople for sanctification of the faithful and protection and promotion of the Queen City. There they remained until the sack of the city by the Latins in 1204 AD. Then they were brought because of safety along with the other holy relics to Nicaea in Bithynias, the temporary capital of Byzantium, where they remained for about 60 years. With the departure of the Crusaders under Emperor Michael Paleologos they were returned to Constantinople until the enslavement by the Turks in 1453 AD.

After the Sack of Constantinople the most-pious Empress Maro [Kyra-Maros or Mara], the Christian wife of Sultan Murat II (1421-1451) and stepmother of Muhammad II of Porthetou, brought them in person to the Holy Monastery of St. Paul of the Holy Mountain. This Monastery was known to her father George Brankovic, prince of

Serbia, who built the Katholikon of the Monastery in honor of the Holy Great Martyr George the Trophy-bearer.

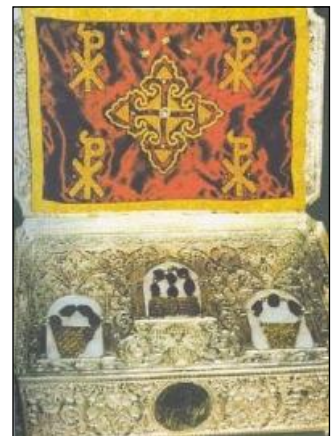
According to Athonite tradition, as Empress Maro approached from the port of the Monastery, the Lady Theotokos prevented her in a supernatural way from reaching the Monastery and thus preserving the non-entrance of females on the Holy Mountain. This she obeyed and humbly delivered the Precious Gifts to the pious monks and fathers, who erected in that place where the Theotokos appeared a cross that remains to this day and is called the "Cross of the Queen". The document from the Sultan with the relevant information surrounding the delivery of the Precious Gifts is preserved in the library of the Monastery of St. Paul.

The authenticity of the Precious Gifts is based in part on oral tradition and the rest on history. But what strongly confirms the authenticity of the Precious gifts is the indescribable aroma which is given off sometimes continuously and sometimes occasionally, and the rich healing and miraculous grace which pours forth even to our days.

From <http://johnsanidopoulos.com>



"THRICE-
BOASTED GIFTS
THE MAGI, THE
RULERS FROM
PERSIA GAVE TO
YOU - GOLD,
FRANKINCENSE,
AND MYRRH -
UPON SEEING
YOU AS A BABE
O CHRIST"





ADVICE OF THE MONTH

A young monk said to Abba Sisoës: “Abba, what should I do? I fell.” The elder answered: “Get up!” The monk said: “I got up and I fell again!” The elder replied: “Get up again!” But the young monk asked: “For how long should I get up when I fall?” “Until your death,” answered Abba Sisoës. “For a man heads to his judgment either fallen or getting back up again.”

Abba Sisoës the Great

AGELESS WONDERS

The Ageless Wonder's will be meeting on Tuesday, December 20th for our annual Christmas Buffet Luncheon at 11:00 a.m. at the Fort Worth Petroleum Club. In lieu of a gift exchange we will once again bring a \$10 gift card from Wal-Mart { per person} so we can help make the day for our adopt a family. I would like to thank Paun and Lynn Peters for sponsoring us at the Club. Contact me for more details.....Margaret (817) 354-7731

GLADSOME LIGHT DIALOGUES

Gladsome Light Dialogues will continue in December with our 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>

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 Eftimie, Raj Shah
- 5th Sunday: Allison Medvic, Nancy Medvic

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

- 1st Sunday : Caleb Ellis, Alex Genovezos, John Molhoek, Bennet Kerbow
- 2nd Sunday : Chris Eftimie, Ovidiu Berca, Luca Tudora, Chris File
- 3rd Sunday : Jackson Wright, Alex Shah, Alex Genovezos, Michael Beebe
- 4th Sunday : Luca Tudora, James Seals, Alex Genovezos, Alex Shah
- 5th Sunday: Michael Beebe, James Seals, John Molhoek, Ovi Berca

COFFEE HOUR HOST

- 1st Sun.: Mr. & Mrs. Alex Papadimitriou (Dec. 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
December 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
						 John & Jackie Poletes Wedding 1:00 PM Great Vespers 6:00 PM
4	5	5	7	8	9	10
 10th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM	 Vespers 6:00 PM	 St. Nicholas the Wonderworker Divine Liturgy 6:00 AM	 Paraklesis 6:00 PM Gladsome Light Dialogues 7:00 PM			 Advent Retreat 10 AM Great Vespers 5:00 PM <i>(at Holy Trinity)</i> Adam & Elizabeth Gianulis Wedding 6:00 PM <i>(at Holy Trinity)</i>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
 11th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM Parish Council Elections Christmas Program & Pageant GOYA Christmas Caroling			 Paraklesis 6:00 PM Gladsome Light Dialogues 7:00 PM		 GOYA Monastery Retreat	 GOYA Monastery Retreat Great Vespers 6:00 PM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
 Sunday before Nativity Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM No Church School		 Ageless Wonders 11:00 AM	 Paraklesis 6:00 PM Gladsome Light Dialogues		 Royal Hours 6:00 PM	 Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM Great Vespers & Artoklasia 6:00 PM
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
 HOLY NATIVITY Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM No Church School		 St. Stephen, Archdeacon & First Martyr Orthros 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy 9:00 AM				 Great Vespers 6:00 PM
	 Strict Fast	 Wine and Oil	 Fish	 Dairy, Eggs, Fish	 Fast Free	



**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



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[HTTP://STJOHNDFW.INFO](http://stjohndfw.info)**



The Nativity of Our Lord
December 25

Vol. XXVII No. 12 December 2011

THE FORERUNNER

