

THE FORERUNNER

VOLUME XXIX NUMBER 4 APRIL 2013

THE LAST TEMPTATION

Coming back home from spring break was always a joy in my childhood. Somehow over the break the nature was magically starting to come back to life. White blooming cherry trees, budding branches with baby leaves, the green starting to fill the dried lawns were all signs that the dominion of winter is past and the rule of spring has begun. In some years however, in the midst of this resurrection of nature, winter was sending its last unexpected snowfall over the land. The tragedy was that any trees caught in bloom were doomed to a fruitless season, as the unmerciful cold destroyed their delicate flowers. It was the last temptation of winter, sweeping away any impatient tree, too eager to show off its petals before the time was right.



In his insightful book "About Spiritual Deception" St. Ignaty Branchianinov retells this story from the Prologues. There was once a young monk that had the burning desire to become a recluse, in spite of the good advice of his abbot. At the persistence of the young monk, the abbot finally accepted to allow him to be locked in a small cell found in a cave high above the ground. The young monk started there his isolated ascetic life with prayers and fasting, receiving only little food through the means of a basket. One day the devil showed himself to him in the form of an angel and told him that some thieves have stolen the goods of a man and the loot is hidden in a place close by. Next day the man who suffered the loss

(Continued on page 3)

COUNCIL CAPSULE

Thank you to everyone who attended the Spring General Assembly on March 17th. The General Assemblies are a great opportunity to hear what is happening with every organization in the church. George Vittas also reported on the newly established Planning Committee which is co-chaired by Joe Sullivan. One of their goals for 2013 will be to prepare a Master Development Plan, which will include Phase IV of our current program. Fr. Vasile is also currently working on a Survey of Parish Needs, which will incorporate the wishes and needs of every organization in the church and will be used to develop strategic plans for the progress and growth of our Parish.

(Continued on page 2)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *The last temptation*
- *Stewardship program for 2013 is on going, join today!*
- *Gladsome Light Dialogues is back!*
- *GOYA Upcoming Events*
- *Music Ministry Page*
- *Philoptochos couples retreat*
- *A Japanese Woman Who Followed Her Heart to Orthodoxy*
- *Church Events*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

COUNCIL CAPSULE	2
PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS NEWS	2
STEWARDSHIP	4
YOUTH MINISTRIES	6
MUSIC MINISTRIES	8
CALENDAR	11

COUNCIL'S CAPSULE



(Continued from page 1)

Once again the Master Chefs in our Parish will begin preparations for our Annual Agape Dinner. Plans to roast a baby lamb on an outdoor spit are in the works. With Pascha being May 5th this year, we are expecting a beautiful day and large turn-

out. Tickets will once again be \$25 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and under and reservations will be taken beginning in April. Make plans now to celebrate Easter Sunday with your church family.

We are still in need of a chairperson or persons for the 2013 festival. The dates are

October 11, 12 & 13. Please see any council member if you are interested. The food festival is our biggest fundraiser of the year and a great opportunity to get to know each other and our heritage.

Barbara Vittas

Parish Council President

APRIL 6 COUPLES RETREAT:

A RETREAT FOR
MARRIED
COUPLES
POSITIONED
DURING LENT
TO ENRICH
YOUR LENTEN
JOURNEY.

PHILOPTOCHOS HOSTS COUPLES RETREAT

Saint Irene Philoptochos will be hosting many activities now through the end of May.

Lenten Soup Suppers – March 22, April 5, April 19 – After Akathist service

Couples Retreat – A retreat for married couples positioned during Lent to enrich your Lenten journey. Presented in the Holy Orthodox Tradition, the curriculum is poised to help you take an inner look at relationships and life style issues. The cost is only \$50 a couple and includes lunch. The retreat is on Saturday, April 6 from 9:30-4:30pm with Vespers following. Fr. David Eckley

and Presbytera Vasiliki are the retreat masters of The Holy Meeting of Joachim and Anna Apostolia Ministry.

Easter Bake Sale – Order by April 21 for pick up on April 28

Tray Collection for Easter Flowers – 3 weeks in a row prior to Holy Pascha

Scholarship Presentation – See Harriet Blake for applications

Mother's Day Project – more information coming soon

We are currently running our **membership drive** that is

open to all women of the parish. We operate on a one-time stewardship pledge system. Please see any member of Philoptochos to answer your questions about St. Irene Philoptochos.

Joanie Ruppel

President

A JAPANESE WOMAN WHO FOLLOWED HER HEART TO ORTHODOXY

How far is Tokyo from Larissa? By kilometers the distance is undoubtedly very great. The then 29 year old Yuko took this journey thirteen years ago, to the Holy Church of Saint Nicholas in the center of Tokyo, the only Orthodox church in the bustling capital of the rising sun. This excursion was decisive for the rest of her

life, because it changed her completely.

It made her choose the living testimony of Orthodoxy, to change Christian doctrines. To leave her homeland and family and come to Greece determined to become a monastic, devoting the rest of her life to the service of God.

Her visit to the Church of Saint Nicholas in Tokyo, where she followed the Divine Liturgy, and her acquaintance with the Professor of Theology at the University of Athens, Stergios Papadopoulos, were the two key events that changed her life.

(Continued on page 8)



THE LAST TEMPTATION (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

showed up at his cave and the monk told him were his goods were. Happy for the recovery of his things the man told others of the miracle and soon the monk started to be sought out by many people. Many people would come to ask him for counsel and he would prophesize to them with knowledge imparted to him by the deceiving angel. After a while the devil came again as an angel and told him that God has elected him to be taken to heavens and that he will come for him the next day. The ecstatic young monk called immediately for his abbot to told him the news, but the abbot, recognizing the deceit, asked to be with him that night and pray together before his departure. During the night a host of deceiving angels came to take the young monk and fly away with him, but the abbot held him fast in his arms praying fervently to God for help so the fake angels were only able to get his *mantyia* (a sleeveless cape that fastens at the neck and the feet worn by the monks during services) and flew away with it. The *mantyia* was lifted up in the sky and fro there the dark angels let it fall all the way to the ground. At that moment the abbot told the young monk: "See where your impatience and pride has taken you? The devil would have done the same with you as he did with the *mantyia*, lifting you up so it could drop you to your death. Come now with me, back to the

monastery and resume your life with the other brothers." And so the young monk repented and spent the rest of his life in the monastery working on achieving the great virtues of obedience and humbleness.

The young monk's story is not singular. There are many other similar accounts from the collections of the lives of the monks, retold by the elders to their spiritual children as warning signs for those who, too eagerly and too soon, desire to reach the measure of the saints.

These stories however are not only for monks because, in a way, each of us is that young monk. The great deceiver, the devil, likes to work like this in all our lives, sending temptations our way that cater to our inner aspirations and desires. He tries to catch those who are insufficiently prepared spiritually, those who too early declare themselves as victors over sin, steering them on a slippery slope that ends into dire consequences.

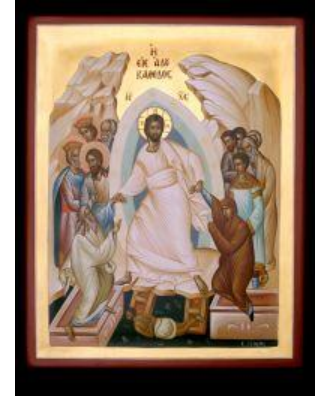
Truth is that we often prematurely declare ourselves satisfied with our spiritual lives and lower our guard. We loose sight of the real state of our spiritual being and start thinking we have made it. Many Christians, once they enter in the basic discipline of church attendance, fasting, daily prayer, Confession, Communion, start thinking *within themselves*: "That's it,

heaven is within reach!" The story of the young monk tells us however that we should always keep a reference point *outside* of ourselves that can objectively alert us when we are straying from the path. We cannot be our own moral compass, our own spiritual guide.

Asked to give a word unto salvation to a group of nuns in Jerusalem, elder Arsenie Papacioc from Romania answered "*Humility, only humility*". This is the real key to the Kingdom because the humble man does not trust in himself, but constantly checks with others, considering them better than him, therefore always learning, always ready to change his ways to please the Lord more and more. The humble man realizes the need for a guide, for an unmoving spiritual reference point, that can guide him, safely, through the complicated path of the life in Christ.

As we fast forward through Great Lent to Holy Week we should recall the unfortunate story of Judas who, led by his own self-righteousness and greed, falls from his stature as disciple of Christ to the lowest level of a traitor and ultimately to perdition through suicide. We should also recall the contrasting moment when, in the Garden of Gethsimani, we see Christ reaching out in fervent prayer to His Heavenly Father asking for guidance before His holy

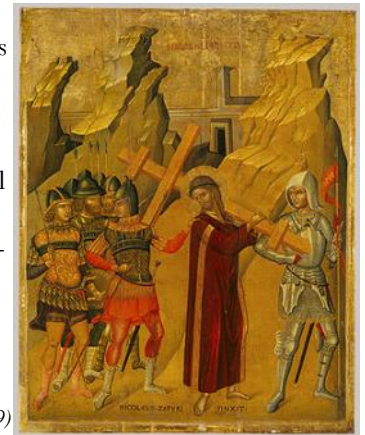
(Continued on page 9)



The Resurrection

"*HUMILITY, ONLY
HUMILITY*"

ELDER ARSENIE
PAPACIOC



LET STEWARDSHIP BE A WAY OF LIFE



WE'RE CLOSE,
BUT NOT NEAR
OUR GOAL YET.
PLEASE – WE
NEED ALL
PARISHIONERS
TO COMPLETE A
STEWARDSHIP
CARD AND
BECOME ACTIVE
MEMBERS OF THE
CHURCH.

I've been researching and studying about Great Lent. There is much written, and few would argue that the four most important aspects involve fasting, praying, charity and repentance. I know I've got work to do, as most of us will confess. I am trying to change my focus from deprivation or all that I "won't have or do" during lent, to what I can really do to strengthen my union with Christ during this period. Our foundation as Orthodox Christians is steeped in tradition, and Great Lent is an awakening each year of our most beloved time to prayerfully look at our circumstances and life and reflect on

what we can change.

I hope that you will all pray about what you can give to support OUR wonderful church. Those parishioners that have not completed stewardship cards for 2013 must do so. We must continue to ask because so many have not completed their cards indicating their time, talent and treasure that they will commit to in supporting our beautiful and sacred church.

During this time, pray, ask God if you are doing all that you can to contribute. Nina and I are committed to reaching our goal of \$265,000 this

year. To date we have 89 stewards and \$193,870 in pledges. We're close, but not near our goal yet. Please – we need all parishioners to complete a stewardship card and become active members of the church.

Hope File

Nina Sullivan

Stewardship Ministry

Chosen and Appointed by God to Go and Bear Fruit. John 15:5

UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Can we now build a definition for stewardship? How might we describe "stewardship in action?"

The following list is adapted from one prepared by Ron Nicola:

1. Stewardship is our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.
2. Stewardship is caring for the needs of others.
3. Stewardship is offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.
4. Stewardship is what a person does after saying "I Believe . . .", as proof of that belief.
5. Stewardship is learning how to be a responsible and

concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

6. Stewardship is devotion and service to God and his Church as persons, as families, as metropolises, as national Churches, and as the Church universal. (Ron Nicola, "Stewardship - A Set of Basic Principles," The Word, November 1982,4.)

Perhaps we could summarize the points just mentioned this way: Christian stewardship is a life in service to God and His Church motivated by our thankfulness for His love to us . . . in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." It is the wise and proper use of all the gifts

God has entrusted to our care. (See Romans 5:8) What **then are the essential** elements of stewardship?

THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

1. Acceptance of the belief that all life and life itself is a gift from God.
2. Freedom to choose not to sin and freedom from the constraints, pressures and temptations of the world that smother the expression of this belief.
3. Life in the Spirit which is characterized by behavior that uses and nurtures the time, talents, and treasure entrusted to us by God.

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.



CHOSEN AND APPOINTED BY GOD TO GO AND BEAR FRUIT

Our theme for 2013 is **Chosen and Appointed by God to Go and Bear Fruit** from chapter 15 of the Gospel of John. At the Last Supper, as we read in Chapter 15 of the Gospel of John, Jesus instructed His disciples, "I Am the Vine; you are the branches."

He was telling us that the purpose of our abiding in Him is to bear fruit for God in the world. "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit..." Just as the vine bears fruit 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.

Stewardship

Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability,

reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith.

Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed.

The Steward

An Orthodox Christian Steward is an active participant in the life of the Church. The Parish encourages all who accept the Orthodox Faith to become practicing Stewards.

Each year the Steward is expected to carefully review his or her personal circumstances and make a commitment of

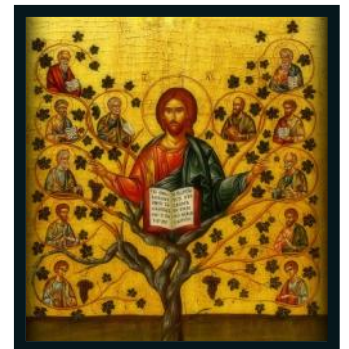
time, talent, and treasure to support the Parish and her Ministries, which in turn also support the National Ministries of our Archdiocese, Metropolises, and institutions.

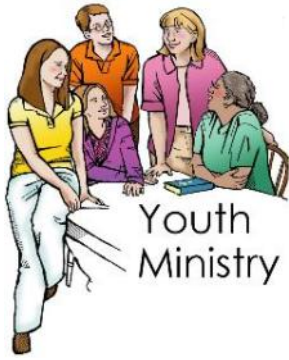
Stewardship is not about paying the bills.

The goal of stewardship is not to pay the bills of the church; the goal of stewardship is to fulfill the purpose of our lives by participating in and enabling the good works of the Church in our Community.

Stewardship is how we should live everyday of our lives, fully engaged and responsible about our life in Him. Stewardship is a practice that can re-shape our world and ourselves in such a way that we can experience God's grace, love and communion in the present. Stewardship is not about survival of the parish, is about personal and communitarian growth in Christ.

STEWARDSHIP IS HOW WE SHOULD LIVE EVERYDAY OF OUR LIVES, FULLY ENGAGED AND RESPONSIBLE ABOUT OUR LIFE IN HIM





YOUTH MINISTRIES ON THE MOVE

We were very pleased to have six of our students give their speeches in front of the congregation last month. They were Alex Genovezos, Alex Shah and Maria Tudora in the Junior Division; and Katerina Genovezos, Luca Tudora and Penelopi Yiantsou in the "pre-junior" division. Alex Shah won the contest and will represent St. John's at the Metropolitan Oratorical Festival next month in Albuquerque. Bravo to Alex and to all of our contestants! And many thanks to our judges: Aaron Barnes, Olga Papadopoulou and Pete Talleos; our time-keeper, Larry Leeders; and our coaches, Connie Rafaile-

des and Karen Steffaro.

The GOYA Lenten Retreat takes place April 19-21 at Sky Ranch in Van, Texas (about two hours away in East Texas). Kids, ages 11-18, are invited. So far, we have three students attending. Online registration closes at midnight April 5. See website for details: <http://youth.denver.goarch.org/events/2013-events/2013-southern-region-lenten-retreat>

Camp Emmanuel, our Metropolitan's summer camp, takes place June 9-15 for the junior division (ages 11-14) and June

16-22 for the senior division (ages 15-18). It is held at the Manzano Mountain Retreat in Torreon, NM. Early registration is April 5; final deadline to register is May 10. See website for details: <http://youth.denver.goarch.org/events/2013-events/2013-camp-emmanuel>

One of our two annual fundraisers - the Graduation Luncheon - takes place in May (date to be determined). We will prepare a meat-free meal and honor all parish graduates.

God Bless.
Harriet L. Blake

NOTE TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS:

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CARRY YOUR **PASCHA PASSPORT** WHEN ATTENDING ANY SERVICE, .



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Church School Parents and Students

I hope that everyone had a lovely Spring Break!

Now we can embark on our Special Journey to Pascha. Father Vasile introduced this exciting program through which we are learning about the traditions and the beauty of Pascha. The students have been practicing prayers and continue to focus on the traditions of our Orthodox faith. Through the Special Journey to Pascha, all the Church School students will be learning and taking part in more of the beautiful and history-rich services of the Great Lent.

Students, please remember to carry your passport when attending any service, an

adult will always be available to place a stamp in your booklet.

Thank you to the Geil Family for hosting Coffee Hour in March.

Mr. and Mrs. James Pendleton have kindly volunteered to host Coffee Hour on April 7th.

Some upcoming, important dates for your calendar are:

April 27th Lenten Retreat - 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

May 19th End of Year Picnic and Awards

If you are new to the church, your child is welcome to join us for Church School. Students and Teachers are dismissed by Father Vasile fol-

lowing communion and we go as a group to the classrooms. Classes are 45 minutes in duration, and teachers walk younger students to the hall to meet their parents. Middle School and High School students are dismissed from the classrooms. You may fill out a registration form following Divine Liturgy. Also, if your child has been attending class, but you have not had an opportunity to register, it is never too late.

Veronica Fisher

GOYA EVENTS - RETREATS AND CAMPS

1. Congrats to the junior boys team who won first place in the annual GOYA Basketball Tournament. The team consisted of Sandro Zingas, Alex Genovezos, Alex Shah and Luca Tudora from St. John's; as well as boys from the Oklahoma City and Kansas City churches. In addition, the junior girls won 4th place; and the senior boys won 3rd place in their respective brackets. This was one of the best showings

that St. John's has ever had in the tournament. Bravo!

2. There is a GOYA spring retreat scheduled for the weekend of April 19-21 at Sky Ranch in Van, Texas (about 1 1/2 hours away outside Tyler, TX) Kids ages 11-18 are invited. See this link for details: <http://youth.denver.goarch.org/events/2013-events/2013-southern-region-lenten-retreat>

3. Ionian Village summer camp in Greece is open to teenagers who have completed grades 8 through 12.

There are two sessions: June 23-July 12; and July 20-Aug. 8. Fr. Evagoras (Evans) Constantinides (the son of Holy Trinity's priest, Fr. Chris) is the program director. For deadlines and fees, see

<http://www.ionianvillage.org/>



GOYA NEWS

At our last meeting we elected new officers. They are Katie Moutafis: President, John Molhoek: Vice President, Alex Shah: treasurer and Maria Tudora: secretary. Many thanks to our previous officers: John Molhoek, President; Jackson Wright, Vice President; Alex Shah, treasurer and Maria Tudora, secretary, for a great year last year!

We are having a fundraiser at

Tex's Star Grill (6101 Rufe Snow Dr, Watauga) on May 7th from 6-9pm. It's after lent, so it will be a great place to get a gyro! Please come and support! A percentage of the sales will be donated to Goya. You can eat in or drive through. Just make sure to say you are with Saint Johns Goya.

Another event is a Lenten retreat at sky ranch on April 19th -21st. We are trying to get as

many goyans as we can to go! Registration is at www.youth.denver.goarch.org

As always, we welcome new members! If you are currently in 6th grade or 12 years old we would love if you would join us at our next meeting on April 7th after Divine Liturgy. Katie Moutafis, GOYA President

DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR GOYA CAMPS AND RETREATS

PASCHA PASSPORTS PROGRAM

You have probably seen by now the passports that your child has received in the first Sunday of lent in Sunday School. What is all this about?

Pascha Passports are intended to help your child along his/her journey to Pascha. They are used as a means of enrichment and education about the Lenten season.

The Pascha Passport contains pages where our children can journey through the

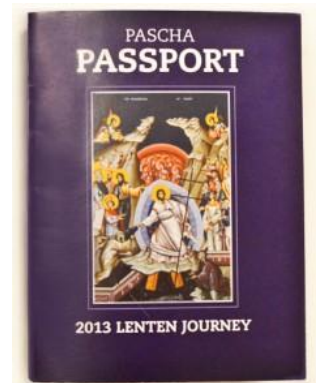
"destinations" of Lent and Holy Week and receive a stamp for those attended.

The passport includes sections on the Triodion; the Five Sundays of Lent; a Daily Journal for prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and scripture reading; a Special Weekly Services section, Holy Week and the Paschal Vigil. There is also space for additional destinations that might vary from parish to parish; a space for one's notes and

reflections; and a place for the voyager to claim the journey as their own and have their Passport sealed with the church seal.

Please support your child in this endeavor by bringing them to as many services possible and taking always the passport with you.

Thank you!





St. Isaac the Syrian

CHOIR NOTES

As we enter into another Lenten season, I am constantly reminded of how important our praises to God affect the vigor of our souls. Standing amongst several dedicated musicians each Sunday and the great feast days that lie ahead, are not only humbling for me, but inspire me to sing as one voice so that we as Orthodox

Christians will be heard by our heavenly angels. Our congregation passionately recites many things together as families do; we as a choir try to emulate that same experience in the music we sing. Throughout our various liturgies, whether we stand in a pew, choir loft, narthex or cry room, we should rejoice in singing praises; for me, this

is another form of prayer. It is truly a privilege for me to be a member of St. John's choir and to stand amongst individuals whose dedication in singing provides spiritual fragrance for my soul and the souls of our church family.

*Yours in Christ,
Bertha Gianulis*

THE SPACE BETWEEN US: THE INTERVALLIC RELATIONSHIPS IN THE HISTORY OF ORTHODOX MUSIC (3)

Over the past months, we have delved into some historical and musicological systems regarding tuning. We must remember that even Bach somewhat struggled with the challenge of intonation and that it differs from *equal temperament*. Equal temperament means that every single note is the same distance from each other. While that seems logical to even an untrained musician, for years before the 20th century, how even brilliant minds experienced intonation, both theoretically and practically, was quite different from today.

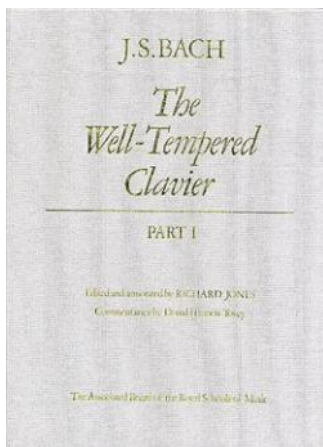
Finally, we can get down to this whole business of Byzantine

chant. The simple fact is that its tuning system does not correspond to the equal temperament system. The different modes (like a scale) that are sung cannot be fully replicated on a modern keyboard or organ. For example, the soft chromatic mode, which is used for many apolytikia/troparia, just like our patron saint's troparion, is based off of G on a piano. However, the next note, which is typically written as Ab in western transcriptions, is not Ab. It is slightly sharper than Ab, and thus not able to be played on a keyboard. The next note, typically written as B natural, is not B but a slightly flatter B. Yet, it is

not B-flat.

In Byzantine chant, the correct note may not be found on a piano, and because of this, it is most difficult to express the true essence of this purest of Christian musical systems. It takes years to develop this skill, and many more to perfect it. It is not learned or taught overnight, or understood intrinsically. Much like the journey of Lent, or a lifetime of drawing nearer to the Creator, we must accept the journey to mastery of Byzantine chant with patience and love.

MUSIC
MINISTRY,
CHOIR AND
CHANTERS
PAGE



A JAPANESE WOMAN WHO FOLLOWED HER HEART TO ORTHODOXY

(Continued from page 2)

We met her as she wove baskets at an outdoor festival dedicated to nature in the heart of Paranesti, a few kilometers from the village of Mesochoritos in the region of Drama. Listening to her story, you feel that the 42

year old, today known as Sister Sophia, was destined for this very purpose: to be a monastic, devoting her life to the pursuit of God's truth.

She Renounced Protestantism Fascinated by Orthodox Christian worship, the Services of the Orthodox Church, and

under the guidance of Professor Stergios Papadopoulos, she decided to renounce Protestantism, to leave her employment as a catechist in the Protestant Church, and be baptized Orthodox Christian. She took the name Sophia and made the

(Continued on page 9)

THE LAST TEMPTATION (CONT)

(Continued from page 3)

passions "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me: nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt" (Mathew 26:39); not seeking His own will, His own righteousness, but the guidance and the counsel of His Father.

Christ was tempted in his human nature just as Judas did, Christ by fear the other by greed. Each faced a last temptation before their final act, but their actions led to so contrasting results: one to death and eternal damnation for himself, the Other One to salvation and life everlasting for the entire world.

Everyone has to choose one of these two pathways in their spiritual lives: the path of pride and self-sufficiency or the path of humility and discipleship. Knowing the fruits of both now it is up to us to make the good choice.



Christ praying in Gethsemani

Icon by Aidan Hart

A JAPANESE WOMAN WHO FOLLOWED HER HEART TO ORTHODOXY

(Continued from page 8)

huge decision to come to Greece, as she claims: "Only here could I find the fulfillment of my great desire to dedicate myself to God."

Sister Sophia confesses that she came to Greece because there she would not feel like a minority, since "Orthodoxy and faith are predominant and alive in everyday life." Moreover, she was tired of the busy Tokyo life. From the Professor she heard about the Sacred Monastery of the Honorable Forerunner which is 3.5 kilometers west of the village Anatoli, at a height of 1100 m. in the mountains of Kissavos.

The Monastery was built in 1550 by St. Damianos of Kissavos, who organized a coenobitic monastic brotherhood and lived as an ascetic in a nearby ravine. The Monastery flourished until World War 2, but then was abandoned. In 1980, near the original Post-Byzantine complex, Athonite fathers began to build a new wing, which was abandoned after 1983. Since July of 2000 the Monastery be-

gan its restoration by a team of Orthodox monastics from various countries. These same nuns are also from the Hermitage of Saint Paul in Lavrion. It is worth noting that this monastic community understands the multinational character of the Monastery as an international mission, affirming the fact that in Orthodoxy there is no distinction between nation, tribe or tongue.

She Has Served As A Monastic For 13 Years Sister Sophia was drawn to the Monastery of the Honorable Forerunner. She has served as a monastic there for thirteen years. Years that have been closer to God, but very far from her family - her parents and her sister. She still remembers how much they resisted her decision to change Christian doctrines and leave Japan. However, she says that she prays to God to give them strength, and she communicates with them regularly through writing. She learned Greek, which she considers a difficult language, and learned to weave baskets at the urging of the abbess since she had to fulfill some obedience. "The basket", says

Sister Sophia, "is inextricably tied to the Christian story, since the desert fathers were involved in basket making both for all purposes but also to ensure their livelihood."

In her highly skillful hands, the flexible rods of laton (a Chinese plant from which the basket is made), formed a handmade basket without using any other technical means (glue, stapler, etc.). She very patiently explained this to all those interested who approached her during the 10th Pan-Hellenic Festival Local Exchange about the art of basketry.

It is already noon and several women have gathered around Sister Sophia to hear about the beauty of basketry, and so we leave Sister Sophia. We hold on to her words however. Instructive words that reveal that every desire leads us on a path to reality, if we believe in our abilities. We all as people have the potential to follow the path of our hearts.

From <http://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/>

CHRIST WAS TEMPTED IN HIS HUMAN NATURE JUST AS JUDAS DID, CHRIST BY FEAR THE OTHER BY GREED. EACH FACED A LAST TEMPTATION BEFORE THEIR FINAL ACT, BUT THEIR ACTIONS LED TO SO CONTRASTING RESULTS





SACRAMENTS IN THE PAST MONTH

Baptisms: Sophia Shishkova

Chrismations: Peter Pursley

GLADSOME LIGHT DIALOGUES

On Wednesday March 13 we started a new Series of Gladsome Light Dialogues entitled "A Journey through the Holy Lent"

We will continue to meet after Presanctified in the bridal room in the Church

Stay tuned for more information. In the meantime please visit us for the latest articles on the web at [Glad- some Light Dialogues Blog](#)

AGELESS WONDERS

The Ageless Wonders will meet on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, at the church hall for a Lenten potluck luncheon and program TBA !! ... Those of you who missed our March gathering should make it a point to go see the movie "Quartet" it was wonderful !! I'll be talking to you soon.....Margaret

GLADSOME LIGHT DIALOGUES "JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY LENT" CONTINUES EACH WEDNESDAY AFTER PRE-SANCTIFIED

USHER SCHEDULE (2/21)

1st Sunday: Tim Cline, Jeremy Ellis

2nd Sunday: Hope File, Michael Eftimie

3rd Sunday: Chris Geil, Larry Leeders

4th Sunday: Nina Sullivan, Raj Shah

5th Sunday: Nancy Medvic, Barbara Vittas

Fill-in: Harry Karegeannes

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

1st Sunday: Bennett Kerbow, Jackson Wright, Alex Genovezos, Caleb Ellis, Luca Tudora

2nd Sunday: Michael Beebe, John Molhoek, Alex Shah, Chris Eftimie, Joseph Berca

3rd Sunday: James Seals, Alex Genovezos, Caleb Ellis, Luca Tudora, Matei Tudora

4th Sunday: Michael Beebe, John Molhoek, Alex Shah, Chris Eftimie, George Manos

5th Sunday: Michael Beebe, James Seals, Alex Genovezos, Alex Shah, Luca Tudora

COFFEE HOUR HOST

1st Sun: (Apr — Mr. & Mrs James Pendelton

Thank you to the Geil Family for hosting Coffee Hour in March.

2nd Sun: Parish Council

3rd Sun: GOYA

4th Sun: Philoptochos

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

A P R I L 2 0 1 3

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Fasting symbols: Strict fast: Wine/oil allowed: Fish allowed:					 <i>GOYA Lenten Retreat Registr.deadline</i>	 <i>Couples Retreat 9:30AM—4:30PM</i>
		<i>Great Compline 6:00 PM</i>	<i>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 PM</i>		<i>Akathist Hymn 6:00 PM Lenten Soup Supper</i>	<i>Great Vespers 5:00 PM</i>
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
 <i>Sunday of the Holy Cross</i>						
<i>Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30AM Pan-Orthodox Vespers 6:00 PM (St. John's)</i>	<i>Great Compline 6:00 PM</i>	<i>Ageless Wonders Lenten Potluck</i>	<i>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 PM</i>		<i>Akathist Hymn 6:00 PM</i>	<i>Great Vespers 5:00 PM</i>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
 <i>Sunday of St. John Climacus</i>						
<i>Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM Easter Flower Collection Pan-Orthodox Vespers 6:00 PM (St. De- metrios)</i>	<i>Great Compline 6:00 PM</i>		<i>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 PM</i>	<i>Small Compline with Canon of St. Andrew 6:00 PM</i>	<i>GOYA Lenten Retreat Akathist Hymn 6:00 PM Lenten Soup Supper</i>	<i>GOYA Lenten Retreat Great Vespers 5:00 PM</i>
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
 <i>Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt</i>						
<i>Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM Easter Bake Order Deadline Philoptochos Meeting GOYA Lenten Retreat Pan-Orthodox Vespers 6:00 PM (St. Sera- phim)</i>	<i>Great Compline 6:00 PM</i>		<i>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 PM</i>		<i>Small Compline w/Canon of St. Lazarus 6:00 PM</i>	<i>Orthros 8:30 AM Philoptochos Baking 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30AM Lazarus Saturday Children Lenten Retreat 10:00AM—1:00 PM Great Vespers 5:00 PM</i>
28	29	30	May 1	May 2	May 3	May 4
 PALM SUNDAY	 HOLY MONDAY	 HOLY TUESDAY	 HOLY WEDNESDAY	 HOLY THURSDAY	 HOLY FRIDAY	 HOLY SATURDAY
<i>Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM Easter Bake Pickup School presentations Bridegroom Service 7:00 pm</i>	<i>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 AM Bridegroom Service 7:00 PM</i>	<i>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 AM Bridegroom Service 7:00 PM</i>	<i>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 AM Holy Unction 6:00 PM Holy Thursday Matins 7:00 PM</i>	<i>Vesperal Liturgy 10:00 AM Washing of the Feet Service 11:30 AM Passion Service 7:00 PM</i>	<i>Royal Hours 10:00 AM Apokathelosis Service 3:00 PM Lamentations Service 7:00 PM</i>	<i>Chrismations/Baptisms 9:00AM Pre-Resurrection Liturgy 10:00 AM GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA SERVICE 11:30 PM</i>



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

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

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT

Sponsorship for This Month's Forerunner



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



Palm Sunday
April 28

Vol. XXIX No. 4 April, 2013

THE FORERUNNER

