

THE FORERUNNER

VOLUME XXIX NUMBER 9 SEPTEMBER 2013

THE FEAST OF INDICATION—ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On this Feast of the Indiction we gather in worship of Almighty God on a day and in a time of beginnings. The first day of this new month commemorates the beginning of the ecclesiastical year and our cycle of celebrations and observances that connect our past, present and future as Orthodox Christians and offer a witness of the saving grace and power of God through our faith in Jesus Christ. In addition, this time of year has past and current connections with the agrarian cycle of plowing, planting and harvesting, and it is also the beginning of the school year. Many are returning from breaks and vacations to begin a new year of learning, activities, and opportunities.

This sense of beginning that we share in many aspects of our lives is essential to our relationship with God and how we live our Orthodox faith each and every day. Just as we begin a new ecclesiastical year in anticipation of the blessings to come through our worship and service, we are also called to begin each day in faith and with expectations of what God will accomplish in and through our lives.

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COUNCIL CAPSULE

It's hard to believe that summer is coming to a close and school has begun. With the onset of September, our preparations for the Food Festival accelerate into high gear. Baking schedules are posted in the weekly bulletin and usually begin at 9:00am. Please give whatever time you can to help, and don't forget to sign up to volunteer during the festival. Leo Alexander is in the hall each week signing up volunteers. With everyone's help, we can make this festival a huge success.

As you may have noticed, the air conditioning in the hall had not been functioning properly. This is just one of the issues the parish council has been dealing with this summer. By the time you receive this issue of the Forerunner, the air conditioning will have been repaired in the hall as well as the conference room. We have also had troubles with the phone system and dumpster placement.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *The Feast of Indiction—Archbishop Demetrios*
- *Last Push for Stewardship 2013*
- *September 1: The Ecclesiastical New Year*
- *Church School meet the Teacher September 8*
- *Festival Baking Schedule*
- *Catechism Classes begin September 1st*
- *Gladsome Light Dialogues restart on September 11*
- *The Saints on The Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos*

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COUNCIL'S CAPSULE



(Continued from page 1)

There are also some items in the new church that still need to be completed. By now you have all seen the new runner, which not only adds to the beauty of our church but also helps with the sound. We are now working on improving the sound system itself.

Also on our agenda is a recognition plaque to be installed in the church narthex acknowledging all those who have contributed to building our magnificent church. If you did not have the opportunity to donate during the period of our Capital Campaign, there will be other opportunities coming up to donate and be recognized on the plaque.

Barbara Vittas

Parish Council President

THE
PARISHIONERS
OF ST. JOHN
THE BAPTIST
ARE THE
LIFEBLOOD OF
THE FESTIVAL,
IT CAN'T BE
DONE
WITHOUT
YOU!

FOODFEST 2013 PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY!

Friday October 11th through Sunday October 13th.

Preparations for the 2013 Festival are well underway. This year, we are using a new management approach whereby responsibility for planning, organizing and operating the various venues and activities are distributed among individual Chairpersons, as follows:

Procurement - Lawrence Leeders, responsible for all material and foodstuff purchases leading up to and during the festival.

Facilities - Jeremy Ellis, responsible for site planning, site services (trash, electrical power, etc.), set-up and breakdown, automobile parking. As always, Jeremy will be ably assisted by Tony Pachares, Mike and Nick Mourton, Harry Karegeannes and others.

Food Services - Raj Shah, responsible for preparing and serving all foods including the Dinner Line, Gyros and other

Grill items, Saganaki and of course all kitchen/salad/rice operations.

Beverages - Joe Sullivan, responsible for the Bar and also Coffee, Loukoumathes and Baklava Sundaes (CLBS). This year we will try to combine Pastries with CLBS to create a Café area to the left of the stage called the Parthenon.

Retail Services - Margaret Chokas, responsible for Pastries, the Marketplace and Vendors.

Entertainment - Joanie Ruppel, responsible for planning and organizing the entire program of entertainment including the sound system and DJ, bands and our youth Dance Troupe under Gina Poulakos. We look forward as always to Joanie's lively announcements, introductions and commentary as our "master of ceremonies".

Overall FoodFest Coordination, Publicity and General Administration - George Vittas, responsible

for coordination of the various Chairperson organizing and operations activities, ably assisted by:

Harriet Blake and Debbie Manos who once again will be applying their considerable talents and energies to advanced publicity and advertising, and the FoodFest booklet.

Bob Steffaro, responsible for staffing and operating bank operations including cash flow accounting, bank deposits and reporting of daily and final results. Bob will be supported by Barbara Chokas and also joined this year by George Moutafis.

Leo Alexander, responsible for recruiting parishioner support and coordinating volunteer worker assignments.

The Festival Baking Schedule is published in the weekly bulletins. Please join your fellow parishioners in these fun baking activities. You'll learn something new and we

(Continued on page 3)



THE FEAST OF INDICTION—ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

We see the manner in which we should begin this ecclesiastical year, the school year, and each and every day to come. First, we must pray and commune with God. We are called to a daily life of prayer, as prayer leads us to our Creator, guides us in truth, and nurtures our hope in an abundant and eternal life. In addition, we must enter this year and greet each new day seeking and receiving the grace of God. In His mercy He forgives us, and in His loving-kindness He cares for us and heals our souls. Finally, we must begin this time offering our praise to God for His provision and seeking to do His will. For

each new day He will give us all that we need, and our hearts and minds should be open, prepared, and willing to do His will as it is revealed to us.

It has also been our tradition as Orthodox Christians through the spiritual guidance of our Ecumenical Patriarchate, to observe September 1 as the Day for the Protection of our Natural Environment. This is very appropriate on this day, as the natural order shows us over and over again the process of renewal and new beginnings. In both minute and lengthy processes, we see the handiwork of our Creator. We are constantly reminded through the beauty, complexity, and even the struggles and suffering of our

natural environment that we are called to be faithful stewards of all that He has made. We are also shown through the passing of time, the changing of the seasons, and the beginning of each new day the priority of our relationship with God.

As we begin this new ecclesiastical year, I pray that the abundant blessings of our Lord may be upon you through your worship, service, and daily prayer as you live in the grace of God and seek His will.

With paternal love in Christ,
†DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America



The Resurrection

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FOODFEST 2013 PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY! (CONT)

(Continued from page 2)

will become closer as a community. Men are gladly welcomed to participate in the various baking and pastry making activities (especially since men tend to consume most of the pastries J); our ladies will be most appreciative of the help. This year, Larry Leeders has also volunteered to be in charge of the Dolmathes session. . .

Please make it a point to see or contact Leo Alexander (LeoAlexander@MHD.com), Father Vasile, George Vittas and/or any of the above Chairpersons to express your

willingness to assist in any of the organizing activities and during the festival. . .

The parishioners of St. John the Baptist are the lifeblood of the festival, it can't be done without you!



LET STEWARDSHIP BE A WAY OF LIFE



In recent months the Stewardship Committee has impressed upon parishioners the importance of becoming active members in the church and completing their stewardship commitment cards. In no way have Nina and I ever intended to make anyone uncomfortable or put pressure to contribute to the church. All of our encouragement and motivation grows out of love and compassion and speaks to our firm belief that a grateful heart wants to give back to God a portion of what he has given us; in reality, what is already His. James 1:17 says that every good and perfect gift is from above..., so we have an

opportunity through Stewardship to tangibly show God He is the owner of our finances by giving back to Him the first of what He gives us. Again in Matthew it says, at 6:21 that "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

We are truly blessed as a parish. We are only 11% away from our goal of \$265,000. Thank you to those who have generously completed their Stewardship cards. Please take this time to ensure that you are current with your pledges. To date we have 122 Stewards and \$236,501 pledged.

Nina Sullivan and I will be available with cards and information following Divine Liturgy. You can also see any of the Parish Council if you have any questions or would like more information on Stewardship.

It is an honor to serve St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church. I hope that we continue to thrive as a parish, helping others while growing closer to God. Please do accept my apology if in any way I've made anyone uncomfortable or feel pressure in support of our Stewardship Ministry.

Hope File

WE ARE ONLY
11% SHY OF
OUR \$265,000
ANNUAL GOAL.

**LET'S MAKE IT
HAPPEN
TOGETHER!!**

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

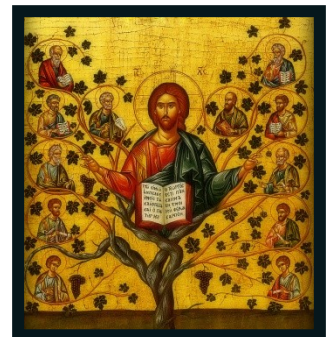
time, talent, and treasure to support the Parish and her Ministries, which in turn also support the National Ministries of our Archdiocese, Metropolises, and institutions.

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.

AN ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN
STEWARD IS AN
ACTIVE
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THE LIFE OF THE
CHURCH.





YOUTH MINISTRIES NEWS

Youth Ministries will sponsor the Back to School "Brats, Burgers & Beans" Luncheon on Sunday, Sept. 8 to celebrate the new Church School year. Please join us at this annual fundraiser for YM. Money raised goes towards all of St. John's youth activities including retreats, Camp Emmanuel and the Oratorical Festival.

GOYA is looking for a location for basketball practice. South Eules Elementary may not be available this year. We are looking into Mid-Cities Recreation Center, off of Eules-Main, but they changed their rules in recent years, saying they only serve kids who are residents of Eules. Any and all suggestions are welcome. See any of the GOYA officers if you have an idea: Katie Moutafis, John

Molhoek, Alex Shah or Maria Tudora.

Oratorical Festival topics are in. We will be sharing them with the Middle School and High School classes this fall with the hopes we can at least get more of our middle school and high school students to write something. And if they would like to present to the parish in the spring, even better!

Our summer programs had a great turnout this year. VBS for the younger kids (ages 11 and under) and Camp Emmanuel (ages 12 and up) were both big successes. Veronica Fisher headed up VBS with the help of our teachers, other adults from the parish and several GOYAns (thank you, Katie Moutafis and Demi Pursley!). We had 24 chil-

dren who participated and learned about the lives of several saints, made related crafts, as well as played team games, learned a little Greek dancing and some new songs. Fr. Vasile took seven kids to Camp Emmanuel and says it was a special spiritual week for the kids. We were happy to be able to pay the registration fees for all campers. Depending on the numbers next year, we may or may not be able to do the entire amount, but with some strong fundraising, we will try.

We will hold our second annual Halloween Hideaway on Thursday, Oct. 31. We are pleased to announce that Athena Russo will head up this event with help from the GOYAns. We will have

(Continued on page 7)

PARENTS:

"CHURCH SCHOOL MEET THE TEACHER" DAY ON SEPTEMBER THE 8TH.

DON'T MISS IT!

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Church School Parents and Students,

I hope everyone had a terrific summer. We will be getting back to Church School on September the 8th. If you have not yet had the opportunity to fill out a registration form, you can fill one out that day. We are excited to announce that we will have a "Meet the Teacher" day on September the 8th. After Communion, Father Vasile will excuse the children with their parents to the classrooms. At that time, the

teachers will welcome each student into the classrooms and again, you will have a chance to fill out a form and ask questions you may have. We look forward to the opportunity to make contact with all parents and also meet all of the children that we will spend time with this year.

I will also have a sign-up sheet for Coffee Hour hosts. We have had many wonderful hosts over the years and greatly appreciate everyone's time and support each month. I thank you in advance to

agreeing to host one of the Coffee Hours this upcoming year.

Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Hodges for hosting Coffee Hour on Sept. the 1st. The Hadjikirokos family has graciously agreed to host Coffee Hour in Oct., on Sunday the 6th.

Please remember you may always contact me if you have any questions.

Veronica Fisher, Church School Coordinator



CAMP EMANUEL VOICES

Vivian Geil: We were organized into cabin groups named for all the major feast days with kids our own age. My cabin included Kat (Genovezos) and girls from California, Utah, Kansas, Denver and Fort Worth.

First thing in the morning was church which was held outside but there were still icons and an altar. We got to see what happens behind the iconostasis. On Thursday we celebrated the feast day. After Liturgy we had breakfast and then divided up for lessons with one of the priests or deacons. During that time we

studied passages from the Bible and for some of them we tried to find ways the passages still apply for us today. By the time camp was over we had a lesson with all of the priests and deacons.

When we were not learning lessons there were more than a few activities to choose from. The activities included swimming in the pool, sports at the poolside field or in the gym and arts and crafts. I liked making the Prospora and tie-dying shirts. Later in the week there was also a music group for singing.

Caleb Ellis: Camp Emmanuel is an amazing beautiful place in New Mexico where you are guided in a path to grow closer to God. While being taught in a fun way you also have amazing food and do fun activities, such as art and crafts, sports, swimming, and fun field games. It's also a time where you get to pray personally to God and do confession more than you normally would. This year when I got home from Camp Emmanuel I was constantly praying and couldn't stop thinking about God.



YOUTH MINISTRIES NEWS (CONT.)

(Continued from page 6)

pumpkin carving, games and pizza. More info to come in the October Forerunner.

Festival Dance practice is underway, headed by Gina Poulakos. The troupe is organized into these groups:

Opa Dancers - ages 4-8 - taught by Allison Medvic

Youth Athenia Dancers - ages 9-11 - taught by Gina

Hellenic Dancers, ages 12 and up - Gina

Olympian Dancers, ages vary - Gina

We are looking for a couple of parents who would like to head our JOY program - this is the fellowship group for third to fifth graders. We would like to see the group meet once a month to do a nearby outing, make a holiday craft or do a simple commu-

nity service project - such as snack supplies for our troops. Please contact Harriet if interested (hlblake@aol.com; 214-995-4290)

Parents, please note: Youth Ministries has a limited number of Church Bags which are available to parents of children 4 yrs. and under. A letter enclosed in each bag suggests how they may be used while in church to help occupy the little ones and still be aware of the "sights and sounds" of our Liturgy. **ONLY ONE BAG IS AVAILABLE FOR EACH FAMILY.** If you are interested, please see Athena Pachares or email: pachares2@gmail.com

At our August planning meeting, the committee came up with several good ideas we want to share with the parish.

--We will be holding a "Meet the Teacher" session during our first Church School Sun-

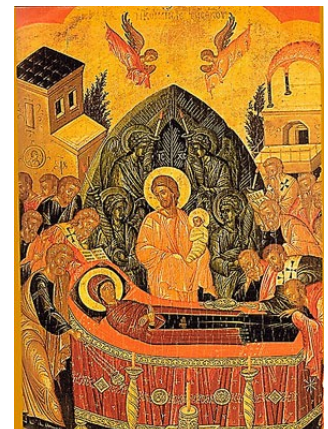
day, Sept. 8. This will give parents and teachers an opportunity to visit, share contact info and hear about the curriculum for the upcoming school year including some community service projects for the older classes.

--We also will be sending out a letter to parents regarding reasonable prerequisites for participating in the GOYA basketball tournament. We would like to see the kids more involved in the life of the parish - such as good attendance for Church School, altar boy and myrrhophores service, retreats, youth choir, Oratorical essays (need not present, but need to write), community service projects. Details to come.

God bless and welcome back to the new school year!

Harriet Blake, Youth Ministries coordinator

WE WILL BE
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REGARDING
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THE GOYA
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TOURNAMENT.
DETAILS TO COME





St. Isaac the Syrian

MUSIC
MINISTRY,
CHOIR AND
CHANTERS
PAGE

CHOIR NOTES

The Elevation of the Holy Cross

The Feast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross is celebrated each year on September 14. The Feast commemorates the finding of the True Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine.

These hymns are sung during this Feast Day:

Apolytikion (First Tone)

Save, O Lord, save Your people

and bless Your inheritance; grant victory to the faithful over their adversaries and protect Your commonwealth, by the power of Your Cross.

Kontakion (Fourth Tone)

You who were lifted upon the Cross of Your own will, O Christ our God, bestow Your compassions upon the commonwealth that bears Your Name. By Your power, gladden our faithful rulers, giving them victory over their adversaries. May your alliance be for them a weapon for peace, an invincible standard.

@Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

THE HISTORY OF BYZANTINE MUSIC—PART 1

Strictly speaking, Byzantine music is the sacred chant of Christian Churches following the Orthodox rite. This tradition, encompassing the Greek-speaking world, developed in Byzantium from the establishment of its capital, Constantinople, in 330 until its fall in 1453. It is undeniably of composite origin, drawing on the artistic and technical productions of the classical age, on Jewish music, and inspired by the monophonic vocal music that evolved in the early Christian cities of Alexandria, Antioch and Ephesus.

Early Christian Period

Byzantine chant manuscripts date from the ninth century, while lectionaries of biblical readings in Ekphonic Notation (a primitive graphic sys-

tem designed to indicate the manner of reciting lessons from Scripture) begin about a century earlier and continue in use until the twelfth or thirteenth century. Our knowledge of the older period is derived from Church service books *Typika*, patristic writings and medieval histories. Scattered examples of hymn texts from the early centuries of Greek Christianity still exist. Some of these employ the metrical schemes of classical Greek poetry; but the change of pronunciation had rendered those meters largely meaningless, and, except when classical forms were imitated, Byzantine hymns of the following centuries are prose-poetry, unrhymed verses of irregular length and accentual patterns.

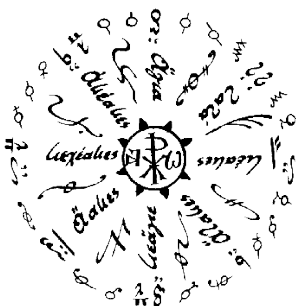
The common term for a short hymn of one stanza, or

one of a series of stanzas, is *troparion* (this may carry the further connotation of a hymn interpolated between psalm verses). A famous example, whose existence is attested as early as the fourth century, is the Vesper hymn, *Phos Hilaron*, "Gladsome Light"; another, *O Monogenes Yios*, "Only Begotten Son," ascribed to Justinian I (527-565), figures in the introductory portion of the Divine Liturgy. Perhaps the earliest set of *troparia* of known authorship are those of the monk Auxentios (first half of the fifth century), attested in his biography but not preserved in any later Byzantine order of service.

To be continued...

Dimitri Conomos, Ph.D.

www.ecclesia.gr



THE SAINTS ON THE NATIVITY OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

St. Nikolai Velimirovic

The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father, and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest.

Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac.

The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all their most beautiful dreams. For He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. He illumined them not only with temporal joy, but with eternal joy as well.

God gave them just one daughter, and she would later give them just one grandson-but what a daughter and what a Grandson! Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, the Fount of virginity and purity-this was the daughter given by God to Joachim and Anna. She was born in Nazareth, and at

the age of three, was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem.

In her young womanhood she returned again to Nazareth, and shortly thereafter heard the Annunciation of the Holy Archangel Gabriel concerning the birth of the Son of God, the Savior of the world, from her most-pure virgin body.

St. Photios the Great

The present feast honoring the birth of the Virgin Mother of God easily carries off the glittering prize of seniority against every competitor...for without the Virgin's feast none of those that sprang out would appear...The Virgin's feast, in fulfilling the function of the root, the source, the foundation...takes on with good reason the ornament of all those other feasts, and it is conspicuous with many great boons, and is recognized as the day of universal salvation.

After God had bestowed on man the enjoyment and mastery over everything in the Garden, it was meet for him who was entrusted with so great authority to be disciplined and trained with some command. However, after transgressing this command, the Creator did not overlook His creatures though they had plunged themselves into such great error. It was needful, therefore, that one Person of the Trinity become man, to make it manifest that the recreation too, like the creation, was their own work. Incarnation entailed a pregnancy and a mother. So it was needful that a mother should be prepared down below for the Creator,

for the recreation of shattered humanity. She was to be a virgin, just as the first man had been formed of virgin earth; so the recreation too should be carried out through a virgin womb, and that no transitory pleasure, even lawful, should be as much as imagined in the Creator's birth; for the Lord suffered to be born for the deliverance of him who was a captive of pleasure.

Who then was worthy? Clearly it was she who this day strangely issued from Joachim and Anna, the barren root. It was needful, yea needful, that she who from the very cradle had by a superior reason preserved her body pure, her soul pure, her thoughts pure, should be marked out to be the Creator's Mother.

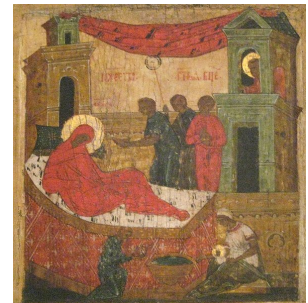
It was needful that she who had been brought to the temple as an infant, who had trodden the untrodden places, should appear as a living temple for Him Who gave her life. It was needful that she who had been born in a wondrous manner from a sterile womb, and had removed her parents' reproach, should also make good the failure of her forefathers; for she, the descendent, was able to repair the ancestral defeat, who brought forth the Savior of our race by a husbandless birth, and molded His body.

* The Lord's throne (Mary) is being prepared on earth, earthly things are sanctified, the heavenly hosts are mingled with us, and the wicked one, who first deceived us, has his power crushed, as his wiles and devices rot away.



St. Nikolai Velimirovic

THE LORD'S
THRONE
(MARY) IS
BEING
PREPARED ON
EARTH



The Nativity of the
Theotokos

GREEK FESTIVAL



SACRAMENTS IN THE PAST MONTH

Baptisms: Theodora Forcum

FESTIVAL BAKING DATES

- Sat. 9/14—dolmathes
- Sat. 9/21—koulourakia / kourambiethes
- Wed. 10/2—melomakaronas
- Sat. 10/5—baklava
- Sun. 10/6—packaging pastries

GLADSOME LIGHT DIALOGUES

Gladsome Light Dialogues will resume on September 11:

“The forgotten Tradition: regaining our piety in a secular world”

Also we will re-start our **Evening Film Dialogues** on the last Wednesday of Every Month

In the meantime please visit us for the latest articles on the web at [Gladsome Light Dialogues Blog](#)

AGELESS WONDERS

The Ageless Wonders will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2013, at 11a.m. at the church hall for a potluck luncheon and meeting. We will discuss our plans for the coming year, so think of some new and exciting things for us to do!!!!

Please come and support the cooking and baking days for our festival. We need all the help we can get. The ageless wonders are doing the greeting again at the festival and helping the Senior Guests at Friday’s lunch. I’ll be calling you!!! Margaret

OUR YEARLY FOOD FESTIVAL IS SCHEDULED OCTOBER 11, 12 AND 13, 2013... VOLUNTEER TODAY!

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: Sunday School
- 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.

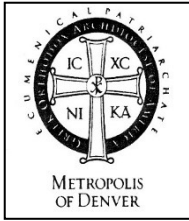
Return sugar tray to kitchen and replenish it.

Wash off hall tables and kitchen counters.

Thank-You

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
SEPTEMBER 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year</i> Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Catechism Class 12pm	<i>Labor Day</i>		 Paraklesis 6pm Parish Council Meeting			Great Vespers 5pm
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<i>Nativity of the Theotokos</i> <i>Sunday before Holy Cross</i> Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Church School begins, w/Meet the Teacher Catechism Class 12pm Back to School Luncheon		Ageless Wonders 11am	 Paraklesis 6pm Gladsome Light Dialogues 7pm		 Vespers 6pm	 <i>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i> Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Preparation of Domathes Great Vespers 5pm GOYA rock-climbing 6pm
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<i>Sunday after Holy Cross</i> Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Catechism Class 12pm			 Paraklesis 6pm Gladsome Light Dialogues 7pm			Preparation of Kourourakia & Kourambiethes Great Vespers 5pm
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<i>1st Sunday of St. Luke</i> Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy 9:30am Catechism Class 12pm Vespers 6pm	<i>Conception of St. John the Baptist</i> Divine Liturgy 6am		 Paraklesis 6pm Evening Film Dialogues 7pm			Great Vespers 5pm
29	30	OCT. 1				
<i>2nd Sunday of St. Luke</i> Orthros 8:30 AM Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM Catechism Class 12pm	Vigil 6pm	<i>Holy Protection of the Theotokos</i> Divine Liturgy 6am			Fasting Symbols:  Fast Free  Fish allowed	 Wine/oil allowe  Strict Fast



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

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

Return Service Requested

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



The Ecclesiastical New Year
September 1st



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THE FORERUNNER

