



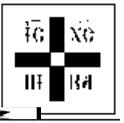
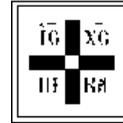
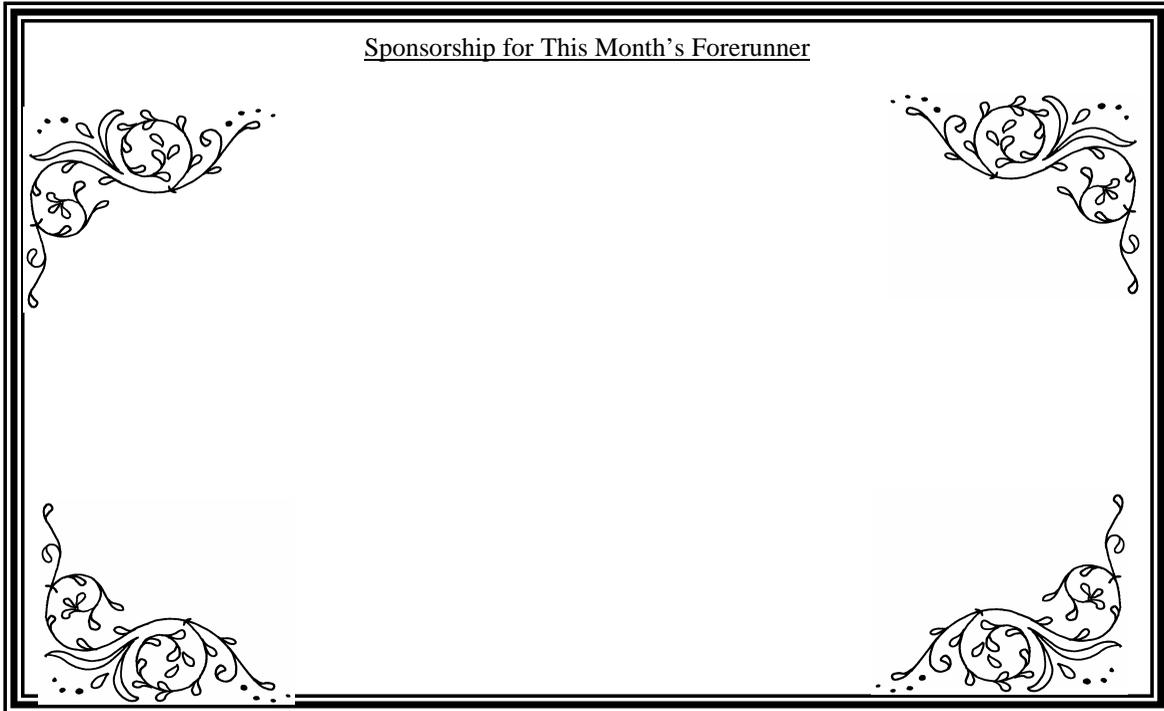
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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
303 Cullum Drive  
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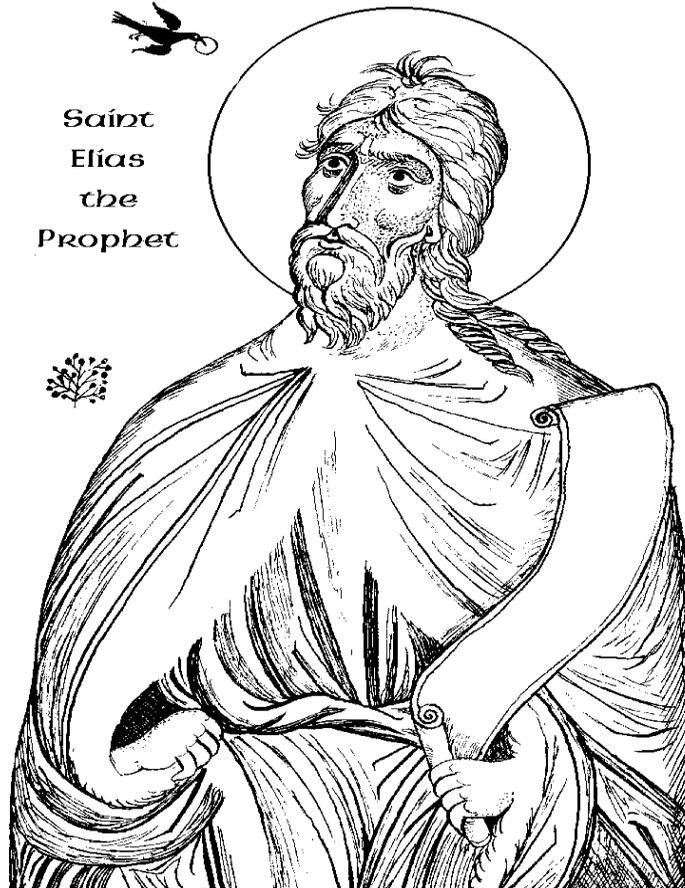
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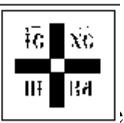
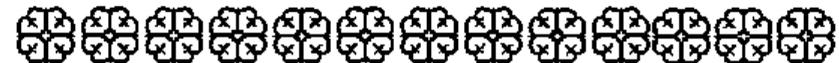
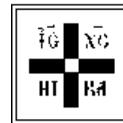
# THE FORERUNNER

VOL. XXIV NO. 7

July 2008



Saint  
Elias  
the  
Prophet





# THE FORERUNNER

Monthly Bulletin of  
St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church  
303 Cullum Drive ▪ Euless, TX 76040-4625  
Church (817) 283-2291 or (817) 545-9644 ▪ Fax (817) 545-0302  
Web Site: www.stjohndfw.info ▪ E-mail: parish@stjohn.tx.goarch.org  
Volume XXIV ▪ Number 7

*July 2008*

## *Schedule of Services at St. John's*

- ❖ Sunday, July 6: Holy Liturgy, 9 A.M.
- ❖ Sunday, July 13: Holy Liturgy, 9 A.M.
- ❖ Sunday, June 20: Holy Liturgy, 9 A.M.
- ❖ Sunday, June 27: Holy Liturgy, 9 A.M.

## *Orthodox Calendar*

*See enclosed calendar for dates, times, and places for the Special services and other events this month.*

## Council Capsule

My Fellow Parishioners,

I wanted to express my appreciation to all who attended the General Assembly on 15 June. I believe that you will agree this was an important meeting, and that St. Johns has some exciting new and challenging goals and objectives to accomplish.

The proposed new church and renovated hall will bless and benefit everyone of our members, their children, and future generations of Orthodox Christians.

If you did not attend the General Assembly, you should immediately go to our Web site and review the presentation that was given. Several key charts also are posted in the church hall.

Joe Sullivan will be succeeding me as Chairman of the Planning Committee.

In addition to being an outstanding leader, Joe is a seasoned Mechanical Engineer. His experience in design and construction will greatly benefit our planning for a new church and renovation of the current church into a hall and class room configuration.

We will transition from the previous missions of the Planning Committee which were to research and examine alternatives such as relocation to a new site.

A new direction will be necessary for the Planning Committee that will support our efforts to achieve our new goals and objectives.

This may require a reorganization and redirection to better support the planning for finances and refinement of the church design and construction. Joe and the Planning Committee will decide these

matters.

I know that Joe can count on your support as we move forward toward our vision of a new and wonderful Byzantine Church.

Harry G. Karegeannes  
Council President

## Father Vasile's Message

### *The body lovers*

At the dawn of Christianity, when the pagan religions were still dominating the world, the few Christians that were living in the Roman Empire were called sometimes with the pejorative "body lovers". The reason was not the fact that they were indulging in the pleasures of the body, on the contrary, but simply the fact of taking good care of the bodies of the loved ones that have passed away. The cult for the deceased was already developed in the first centuries and the cemeteries had a great prominence. The care was not expressed just in the funerary rituals but mainly in the fact that they were committing the bodies to earth, instead of using the more common means of disposing of the bodies at the times: cremation, the burning of the bodies.

This theme is of outmost importance nowadays because cremation gets more and more acceptance even among Christian denominations. For the sake of a quick profit funerary companies openly advertise cremation as a quick and affordable procedure. Highway billboards reading "Total cremation: 995\$" are part of the daily commute. We cannot stop but wonder what a partial cremation would be!

If I have to agree with one thing, funerals today are not a cheap endeavor; however money should not be the reason why people should choose cremation over traditional burial. Especially since the Church recommends only proper care and a modest funerals, nothing

extravagant and out of the ordinary. The burial of the bodies recommended by the Orthodox Church is not just a caprice but an expression of our belief in Christ and Resurrection with deep theological roots.

At the beginning Man was shaped in God's image through a special act of creation. "God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (Gen 2:7). All the other creatures were brought into existence with a simple "let there be", but God took the time to fashion man with His own hands into what St. Apostle Paul calls "the temple of the Holy Spirit" (1Co 6:19. Man is created at once, body and soul, as a dual unity, material and spiritual. St. Gregory of Nazianz says: "God mixed earth with spirit and created a being which is visible and invisible being, ephemeral and everlasting, earthly and heavenly in the same time".

To further emphasize the importance of the body Christ Himself, the Son of God, chose to show Himself to us as a Man, not as a spirit, being born in the world from a woman, like every one of us. Christ also rose from the dead not as a spirit, but again with the same body that was crucified and put into a tomb. His resurrected body was real, although spiritualized, showing all the marks of the wounds that St. Thomas touched with this own hands.

Following Christ's example our bodies are important even after our souls have departed them. Committing them into the ground is to let God decide what is going to happen to them. Some will be corrupted and will decay returning into the earth from which they came, others, chosen by God, the saints, will go into incorruption. The miracle working relics of the saints are the proof of the link between our bodies and our souls. In the grace of God the bodies of the saints remain in a mystical bond with their souls being able to continue to perform miracles even after they have departed from this life.

If we believe in the second coming of Christ, the bodies are of utmost importance.

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Our bodies laid in the ground face the East waiting to respond promptly to the calling of Christ, the Sun of righteousness, at His second glorious coming. They wait to be reunited with their souls so as complete men again, body and soul, they will enter into the Kingdom of heaven.

Today's society however, has a different agenda. Corrupted by atheism and pagan beliefs, a significant part of the population has stopped believing in a personal God. A recent national survey published in Dallas Morning News (June 24<sup>th</sup> 2008) reveals that 30 percent of the interviewed population, including many Christians, believe in an impersonal God, an energy, a force, anything but a person. Many people today also don't believe in afterlife, so for them death is the end of the line, a point of no return. Bodies are therefore just a useless reminiscence of what once man was, nothing more. Cremation therefore comes just as a practical way of disposing of dead and useless organic matter.

For us, Orthodox Christians however, death is not the end but is a new beginning. In all funeral Orthodox services we never use the term dead, but rather *passed unto the Lord*. All the saints are commemorated not on their birth date, but on the date of their death, the moment when their earthly endeavors are accepted into the kingdom of heaven. If we die with Christ, we believe we will be resurrected with Him, so death does not frighten us.

Our bodies are decomposing by the natural process of decaying, but this is only to destroy the corrupted nature of our bodies, so they can rise again into incorruptibility. "So also the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body." (1Co 15:42-44).

Cremation is nothing else but a willful desecration of God's creation, a falling from grace, a rejection of a personal God that Himself took the same human body we are so quick to

destroy. This is why the Church refuses a proper burial and memorial services to the people that have chosen to be cremated. It is not a punishment, but a sad recognition of a person cutting his or her ties with the Body of Christ.

Committing the bodies to the ground according to our tradition is in itself a declaration of faith. It is a belief in an incarnate God, it is belief in the Resurrection and in the Kingdom to come. Amen.

## Summer Schedule for Services

We will continue *the summer schedule for Sunday Services*. We'll start **Orthros at 8:00AM and the Holy Liturgy at 9:00** AM. This we'll allow us to avoid the midday summer heat and to better accommodate the holiday activities. We'll resume our normal schedule on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Stewardship News

As of 6/15/08 we have 110 stewards for a total of \$130,445 or 93% of our goal.

*We are almost there* so, please, if you have not turned in your pledge card as yet, consider doing so as soon as possible. We need your help to support our church and meet our expenses!

Our sincere thanks to those who have already become stewards and who are faithfully making their contributions.

## 2008 Stewards

Alexander, Leo & Teresa  
Antahades, Dr. Lou & Judyth  
Arlington, Linda  
Ball, David  
Ballas, Andy & Pat  
Basiliadis, Nick & Dr. Margaret  
Began, John  
Berca, Sorin & Carmen

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Bitner, Carol  
Blasé, Clarisse  
Bogdos, George & Soterra  
Bogordos, George & Kasandra  
Bokoyas, Chris  
Bokoyas, Jim & Kiki  
Bouras, Andreas & Ann  
Brandon, Roberta  
Callesen, John & Kathleen  
Chokas, Margaret  
Chokas, Mitch & Maretta  
Clay, Wayne & Aria  
Cline, Tim & Angela  
Cramb, Kristina  
Dempsey, Walt & Dorothy  
DiGiovanni, Greg & Joy  
Eftimie, Michael & Tamara  
Feichtinger, Pavlina  
File, Russell & Hope  
Fondulis, Paul  
Fox, Mike & Kathy  
Geil, Christopher & Sandra  
Genovezos, George  
Gianulis, Bill & Bertha  
Hadjikiriakos, Michael & Persa  
Harrison, Daniel & Dena  
Henderson, Ecaterina  
Henry, Mike & Julie  
Hooe, Jane  
Howton, Lucille  
Huber, Dr. Emery & Stacey  
Johnson, Marshall & Velva  
Jones, Daniel  
Karegeannes, Harry & Ginny  
Karidis, George & Delia  
Kastalanych, Randy  
Katsikas, Constantinos  
Kerbow, Joe & Maria  
Kindlinger, Phyllis  
Kinman, Buck & Karen  
Kypreos, Nick & Cindy  
Laverty, Connie  
Leeders, Stacia  
Leeders, Larry  
Leimbacher, Jenny  
Maayeh, Bishara & Mary

Manos, George & Vicki  
Manos, Michael & Debbie  
Matheson, Trevor & Sherri  
Mavias, John  
Mavias, Michael & Mary  
McKinnon, Allan  
Medvic, Allison  
Medvic, Nancy  
Mihalakeas, Andreas & Laura  
Molhoek, Mike & Tina  
Moutafis, George & Khanh  
Nahatis, Arthur  
Nazzaï, Alfred & Sylvia  
Nicholas, Tina  
Nicholas, Toni  
Noulas, Athanasios  
Pachares, Tony & Athena  
Papadimitriou, Alex & Linda  
Papadopoulou, Olga & Theoni  
Papaliadis, Georgia  
Papaliadis, Louie  
Paulos, Angela  
Paulos, Sophie  
Petercsak, Steve & Esther  
Peters, Elpis  
Peters, Paun & Lynn  
Peters, Tina  
Peters, Tommy & Dolly  
Plock, Eleni  
Poletes, John  
Poletes, Bill & Rena  
Poriotis, Terry & Gail  
Poulakos, Kathy  
Poulakos, Laurie  
Pursley, Peter & Cynthia  
Rafaïledes, Connie  
Ruppel, John & Joanie  
Russo, Athena  
Samaras, Johnny  
Seals, Lyle & Connie  
Sofokidis, Hristaki & Jan  
Stancu, Rodica  
Stoycos, Ted & Mary Helen  
Sullivan, Joe & Nina  
Talleos, Peter  
Tudora, Fr. Vasile &  
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Presvytera Mirela  
Villanueva, Junior & Maria  
Vittas, George & Barbara  
Vittas, John  
Vittas, Stephanie  
Vloitos, Nick & Rayanna  
Walenty, Tony & Lisa  
Wozniak, Matt & Jamie  
Wright, Bill & Christine  
Yiantsou, Dr. Chris & Margo  
Zingas, Aristides & Olga

## Philoptochos News

Dear Sisters in Christ,

There will be no articles for the summer months.  
Have a blessed summer and safe travels to all.

Yours, in Christ

Bertha

## Youth Ministries On the Move

**SPIRIT WEAR:** There have been requests for more of the attractive T-shirts and the Hoodies. Khanh has put up a sign-up sheet on the church bulleting board in the fellowship hall. The t-shirts are \$8 and the hoodies are \$21. **WE WILL NEED 25 REQUESTS TO PLACE THE ORDER.**

**DANCE TROUPE:** Practices are starting and we remind everyone to honor their commitment and be at the practices!

**NURSERY:** We still need one more person to volunteer to help in the nursery 1 Sunday per month starting this Fall. **NO ATTENDANTS ARE SCHEDULED DURING THE SUMMER** so we ask parents whose children are using the

nursery to please check to see that all items are put away and the room is cleaned up. Thanks so much for attending to this.

**THANKS** to Mary Maayah, Olympia Genovezos and Margo Yiantsou for offering to help with the Easter Egg Hunt and the End of the Year Picnic for our children next year! We still need two more couples to help plan these fun events.

**REMINDER: PLANNING MEETING ON JULY 20** following Liturgy.

In His Service,

Athena Pachares, Y.M. Coordinator

Yours in Christ,  
Athena Pachares, Y.M. Coordinator  
([pachares@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pachares@sbcglobal.net))

## GOYA

*Now News or Article to report for July*

Nick Papadimitriou  
Vice President

## Gladsome Light Dialogues

The Gladsome light Dialogues will take a break until September. We would like to thank all of you for the great participation in this program and we're looking forward to seeing you all again in the fall.

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## 2008 Foodfest and Golf Tournament Update

Our 2008 Greek Fest Dinner Dance has been moved to Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6PM.

Come join us to experience a taste of the Festival including food, wines, live music, and dancing! This event is for all Parishioners! See you there!

The 2008 St. John the Baptist Golf Tournament has been rescheduled to Monday, August the 18<sup>th</sup>, with an 8:00 AM Shotgun start. We need just a few more teams to have a complete field for the first time ever! Please sign people up as soon as you can. We also need some additional Silent Auction items as well. We will serve a breakfast before we start, and will follow the event with a BBQ Lunch! Please join us for some great fun and competition! Please see Khanh Moutafis or Bill Wright for details

## Choir Notes

During the Church's summer hours, our choir will be singing starting at 9 a.m.

Have a great and safe summer.

Bill Poletes  
Choir Director

## Church School News

We had a successful Vacation Bible School for both St. John and St. Demetrios churches hosted at St. Demetrios. Mrs. Khara Payblas did a wonderful job planning the week. St. John will be hosting next year's VBS.

Church School will begin again on September 7, 2008. Have a safe and wonderful summer. We're searching for a church school teacher for the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade classroom. There are curriculum materials as defined by the Department of Religious Education. Please contact Khanh @ 817-741-4324 or [moutafis@verizon.net](mailto:moutafis@verizon.net) if you have any questions or interest.

Khanh Moutafis

### Ageless Wonders

We will not have a formal meeting this month, but I want to encourage y'all to support the Food fest Kick off dinner and party on Saturday, July 12th, so mark your calendars and check the forerunner for more details. Those of us who went to the horse races on the 14th of June had a great time. Esther and Steve Petercsak were our big winners!!!! We will be meeting in August, probably for a potluck luncheon. Check the August forerunner for date, time etc. As a reminder, Ageless Wonders has coffee hour at church the 4th Sunday of every month. Toni Nicholas and Lucille Howton are hosting July 27th. Thank you ladies!!! Hope everyone has a wonderful summer!!!! .....Margaret

### Websites

The new Parish Website is ready at <http://stjohndfw.info> with improved design and functionality. Also our Greek Fest site is up at <http://midcitiesgreekfest.info>. The sites will be continuously updated with news and information.

Your's in Christ,  
Sorin Berca  
Website Administrator

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### Usher Schedule

June 1: George Moutafis, Cynthia Pursley  
June 8: Peter Talleos Harry Karegeannes  
June 15: Bill Wright, Nancy Medvic  
June 22: Barbara Vittas, Larry Leeders  
June 29: George Moutafis, Cynthia Pursley

### Nursery Attendants Schedule

The Nursery will be closed for the summer. The Nursery will open again September 7Th.

It is great to see new faces and meet new Parishioners. New Parishioners bring more wonderful babies and toddlers. As our Nursery gains new jewels we have a need for more Nursery Attendants. Please thoughtfully consider becoming a Nursery Attendant. It is a great opportunity to get to know the children while the parents focus on the Holy Liturgy.

Have a safe summer and see you in September.

Blessings,  
Marsha Arapis

### 2008 Golf Tournament Sponsored By



August 18, 2008

at



Great Southwest Golf Club  
612 East Avenue J • Grand Prairie  
972-647-0114

**Benefiting**  
St. John the Baptist  
Greek Orthodox Church

**Schedule of Events:**  
7:00 am–8:00 AM Registration & Breakfast  
7:00AM – 8:00 AM Putting Contest  
8:00 AM Shotgun Start  
12:00 pm Award Lunch and Silent Auction  
Team of four: \$400 Individual Play: \$125

Register on-line using the church website:  
[stjohndfw.info](http://stjohndfw.info)

### Acolyte Schedule

June 1 : Patrick Sullivan, Phillip Sullivan,  
Peter Pursley, John Molhoek  
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June 8: James Seals, Ovidiu Berca, Patrick Sullivan, Philip Sullivan  
June 15: Jackson Wright, Joey Basiliadis, Nick Chrestopoulos, Danny Peters  
June 22: Bennett Kerbow, Ovi Berca, James Seals, Danny Peters  
June 29 : Patrick Sullivan, Phillip Sullivan, Peter Pursley, John Molhoek

### Coffee Hour Schedule

June 1: Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kerbow  
June 8: Philoptochos  
June 15: Ageless Wonders  
June 22: Parish Council  
June 29: Parish Council

### Duties For Hosts of Coffee Hour

#### 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 before 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.
- Donation money will be collected by the Parish Council.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH.**

## **Deadline for The Forerunner and Weekly Bulletin**

The deadline for information for the Forerunner is the 18<sup>th</sup> of each month, and Thursday for the Weekly Bulletin. To defray the cost of the printing and postage of *The Forerunner* we are looking for monthly sponsors. We currently mail *The Forerunner* to 240+ families throughout the Metroplex. This would be a good way to expose your business to our families. If you have a special event you would like to commemorate (i.e., birthday, anniversary, name day, memorial, etc.) let us know through the bulletin. Please contact Greg DiGiovanni (mrdigio@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested in sponsoring one month. The cost is \$150.00 and the sponsorship will be acknowledged on the back cover.

## **Practical Faith**

### ***The meaning of the Orthodox Church's memorial services***

#### *Boiled wheat (kolyva)*

The boiled wheat is offered because man is also a seed and like a fruit from the earth. Like a seed he is placed in the earth now, and he will be raised up and blossom forth again by God's power.

#### *Third Day Service*

The third day service is celebrated for the reason that the reposed one received his being through the Trinity, and having been translated, he hopes to be changed back to the ancient beauty in which man was first made before the fall, or one better [at the resurrection].

#### *Ninth Day Service*

The ninth day service is celebrated that his spirit may dwell together with the holy spirits, the angels, since it is immaterial as is their nature.

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They are ranked according to nine orders, and in three trinities they proclaim and praise God in Trinity.

#### *40th Day Service*

The 40th day service is celebrated in the memory of the Savior's Ascension 40 days after His Resurrection and that the reposed one, when he is resurrected, may be taken up in the clouds to meet the Judge, our Savior and Master, and thus be with Him forever (1Thes. 4:17).

#### *3rd, 6th, 9th, and 12 Month Services*

Now the third, sixth, and ninth months are also celebrated--to proclaim the Trinity, the God of all and His glory, and on behalf of the deceased. For by the Trinity a man is fashioned, and when he is loosed from the body he returns to Him, and by the Trinity he hopes for the resurrection. And thus we also perform memorials at the end of the [first] year because we proclaim the Trinity, and the [12-month-] year is divided into four trinities. Additionally, the end of the year is celebrated because it is the consummation, and our God the Trinity is the Life of all and the cause of being, and He shall be the restoration of all and the renewal of human nature.

#### *Annual Memorial Services For The Dead*

Each year [thereafter] the relatives observe the memorial of the departed to demonstrate that he lives and is immortal of soul and he shall be restored when the Creator raises up his body. And the offering of Boiled Wheat (Kolyva) bears witness that, as Christ died according to the flesh and was raised up and lives, thus, we too, as St. Paul says, "shall be raised up and live in Him." (Excerpts from *On The End of Our Life*, by St. Symeon of Thessaloniki) Translated by George S. Gabriel)