

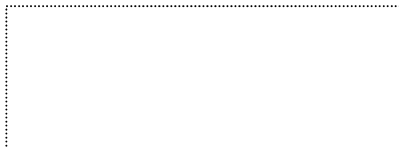


ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

303 Cullum Drive  
Euless, TX 76040-4625

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Sponsorship for This Month's Forerunner

**This is the day which the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad therein!**

**Have a blessed Pascha!**

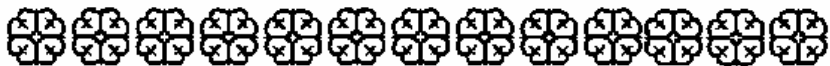
*In Loving Memory  
Of Our Parents  
Louis & Anna Bogdos  
Mike & Stella Props*

George & Sotera Bogdos



# THE FORERUNNER

VOL. XXV NO. 4  
April 2009





# 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](http://www.stjohndfw.info) ▪ E-mail: [parish@stjohn.tx.goarch.org](mailto:parish@stjohn.tx.goarch.org)  
Volume XXV ▪ Number 4

*April 2009*

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

- v Sunday, April 5: Holy Liturgy, 10 A.M.
- v Sunday, April 12: Holy Liturgy, 10 A.M.
- v Sunday, April 19: Holy Pascha (*See Calendar*)
- v Sunday, April 26: Holy Liturgy, 10 A.M.

## *Orthodox Calendar*

*See enclosed calendar for dates, times, and places for special services and events this month.*

## Council Capsule

Our Church family hosted the Metropolis of Denver Oratorical Festival the last weekend in March. The festival was an outstanding success as a result of the hard work and dedication of all involved. A real vote of thanks goes to Barbara Vittas and Athena Pachares who co-chaired the three day event.

On a more somber note, we continue to experience budget shortfalls each month. If we do not resolve this issue soon, the council will be forced to take drastic action which may include discontinuing support to some of our programs and charitable events. We cannot operate the church without adequate income!

Our weekly expenditures run about \$3,500, but we are only averaging approximately \$2,250 per week. In order to get our budget viable again we need to either increase our average monthly receipts to \$15,000 or reduce our expenditures.

The council is currently considering ways to rectify this challenging situation, however, our options are limited. Needless to say, we need every parishioners help. If you enjoy attending services at St. John's, please begin to support the church financially. We are appealing to those of you who have not made a commitment as yet to do so as soon as possible. Your church needs you!

We were all deeply saddened by the passing of our dear friend and fellow Orthodox Christian, Allan McKinnon. Allan fell asleep in the Lord on March 23. He was a long time member of our church and he will be sorely missed. May his memory be eternal.

Harry Karegeannes  
Council President

## Father Vasile's Message

### *Love in times of recession*

*"The LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loved you."*  
(Deu 23:5)

What makes our Christian religion unique is our concept of salvation. As Christians we have a Savior that loves us and in His love He comes down on Earth and saves us by becoming one of us, by entering in a relationship of love with us; love that culminates in His sacrifice on the Cross. He did not come to change a political regime, or to rule as a dictator, but He came to love us, to be our older Brother making us in turn adopted children of the Trinity.

He saves us by His love for us and this is what makes the biggest difference, because love means communication, interaction, sacrifice. In the Christian understanding of salvation man enjoys a higher state of being by entering in an eternal relationship with His Creator, is united with Him, but without confusion.

This in detail is what makes Christianity different than the pagan religions of the Far-East that teach salvation as an annihilation of one's self and a plummeting in an undefined essence or energy. I may be out of my circle of suffering and incarnations when I reach nirvana but how can I enjoy my salvation if I cease to exist? How can I enjoy something that I am not aware of since I am no more?

The secular philosophers are also trying to find the goal of the human existence by trying to understand the essence of humanity and from there, by discovering the simple laws that govern everything, they hope to explain life. But what do I care if the essence of humanity is saved? I care about myself being saved, about my wife being saved, about my children being saved, about my brother being saved; mankind in general doesn't move me in any way! Mankind makes sense to me only when is full of people that I know and I relate to, hopefully in love.

This is important because we are not just essence, we are not just nature, we are not just

“men“ in general but we are first of all John, Mary or George. We identify ourselves as “whom” we are not “what” we are. All men share humanity as nature but what makes any man unique as a person is only revealed as reflected in the others, by seeing ourselves interacting with others. Only then, through comparison, we can be taller, shorter, more or less beautiful etc. All these differences are deemed meaningless if the others would not exist. If only I exist then I have no terms of comparison and my existence is solitary and miserable.

St. Athanasius the Great wrote that Christ died on the Cross with His arms spread apart so He can gather at His loving chest in a final embrace all mankind, bringing them together with Him and through Him with each other. Christ surely died on the Cross, but this vision of His, to bring all people together, did not die with Him, but through His Resurrection is fulfilled and given substance. Christ has suffered death not just to pay a debt to God, but to allow us to see His true feelings for us, His unfading care for a humanity that has betrayed Him so many times. In His sacrifice and through His Resurrection everything is made new, the past is forgotten and the way to the Kingdom is open again to man.

In the Resurrected Christ we don't just have an earthly Friend, but we have a Brother Man in heavens Who relates with us for eternity. In Him everything we do among us on earth is reflected above: *“Truly I say to you, Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you have done it to Me.”* (Mat 25:40). With Christ Incarnate, Crucified and Resurrected relationships become again the basis of our salvation. The New Adam, Christ, restores in potentiality our link with God: if we follow Christ on the path that leads from death to life we are with Him forever, partaking in the life of the Holy Trinity.

The relationship that God wants us to have with Him and with one another is not any type of relationship but a unique one, one that is based on the application of one commandment in our lives: *“that you love one another as I have loved you.”* (Joh 15:12). And He loved us so much that

He went as far as to sacrifice His own live for us, despite our rejection. He was our friend and we have treated him like our enemy. Yet He did not stop from His salvific mission but rather said: *“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”* (Luk 23:34)

This should be the kind of relationships that should govern our lives, not our daily egoistical endeavors in which we seek only our pleasure and, once we don't get anything out of a relationship, we runaway to the next one. We should be as faithful in our relationships as God is faithful in His love for mankind. We should look at ways to be together, not to be divided by our own selfish personal interests.

Without accomplishing this commandment we cannot achieve our salvation, we cannot be united with God if we separate ourselves from our brothers and sisters. Because *“those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.”* (1Jn 4:20-21)

Our love for God is primarily fulfilled by loving our brothers and our enemies altogether without limitations. Through our fellow man I reach God, because by loving my brother I recognize and I respect the image of God that is in him, and in the same time this image becomes more prominent in me.

Let us therefore as we approach again His Passion and His resurrection meditate upon new ways to serve God through our brothers, fulfilling the commandment of love because *“love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”* (1Co 13:7) Christ has endured all for us, but through His suffering hope comes into the world as the light of the Resurrection shines upon us.

# *Financial Report*

## *YTD thru 2/28/09*

	2008	2009	Budget
<i>Stewardship</i>	26,950	19,612	29,170
<i>Total Income</i>	31,113	23,904	34,947
<i>Expense</i>	31,808	29,498	30,476
<i>Variance</i>	(695)	(5,594)	4,471

As you can see, our income from Stewardship is seriously lacking this year. This in turn has affected the overall financial well being of our parish. Please make every effort to make your contributions regularly and to bring your pledge current.

Larry Leeders, Treasurer

## **Building Committee**

By now I hope everyone has had the chance to view the new Church renderings developed by Mirela Tudora that are on display in the Church Hall. Based upon feedback received from parishioners and His Eminence Metropolitan Isaiah, Mirela has incorporated several distinct design elements to create a more efficient Church design, reduce construction costs and allow for better traffic flow in and around the Church.

The Building Committee hosted its Detailed Design Kick-Off Meeting with the Ashton Wynne-managed design team on March 23rd after executing their detailed design contract. The overall design plans and specifications will be developed and based upon the newly revised Church renderings.

Once the design process is underway, we will provide two opportunities for the congregation to review the plans and make comments on the design details. The Building Committee will filter these comments and make recommendations to the Parish Council for proceeding with any changes based upon building functionality, cost and/or theological relevance to the Church.

Joe Sullivan  
Building Committee Chairman

## **Stewardship News**

As of 3/17/09 we have **86 pledges** for a **total of \$125,930 or 72%** of our goal. We still have a long way to go.

Many of last year's stewards still have not pledged and some of those who have pledged are not current. ***We really need your help!*** Please take a moment to complete your pledge card today and/or bring your pledge contributions up to date.

A big thank you to those of you who have already become stewards and to the many who have increased their pledge.

### **2009 Stewards**

Alexander, Leo & Teresa  
Anderson, Anthony  
Antahades, Dr. Lou & Judyth  
Arapis, Minoli & Marsha  
Ball, David  
Ballas, Andy & Pat  
Berca, Sorin & Carmen  
Bitner, Carol  
Blake, John & Harriett  
Bogdos, George & Sotera  
Bogordos, George & Kasandra  
Boutris, Haralambos  
Brandon, Roberta  
Callesen, John  
Chokas, Margaret  
Chokas, Mitch  
Clay, Aria & Wayne  
Cline, Tim & Angela  
Demetriades, Gus & Andi  
Dempsey, Margaret  
Dempsey, Walt & Dorothy  
Englezakis, Mike  
Feichtinger, Pavlina

Fondulis, Paul  
 Fox, Mike & Kathy  
 Geil, Christopher & Sandra  
 Genovezos, George & Olympia  
 Gigliotta, Leonard  
 Hooe, Jane  
 Ibrahim, Basil  
 Ioannou, Kyriakos  
 Johnson, Marshall & Velva  
 Karegeannes, Harry & Ginny  
 Katsikas, Constantinos  
 Kerbow, Joe & Maria  
 Kinman, Buck & Karen  
 Laverty, Connie  
 Leeders, Larry  
 Leeders, Stacia  
 Maayeh, Bishara & Mary  
 MacPherson, Doug & Andi  
 Manos, George & Vicki  
 Manos, Michael & Debbie  
 Matheson, Trevor & Sherri  
 Mavias, Michael & Mary  
 Medvic, Allison  
 Medvic, Nancy  
 Molhoek, Mike & Tina  
 Morcovescu, Serban & Anca  
 Moutafis, George & Khanh  
 Nahatis, Arthur  
 Nicholas, Toni  
 Noulas, Athanasios  
 Pachares, Tony & Athena  
 Papadimitriou, Alex & Linda  
 Papadopoulou, Olga & Theoni  
 Papaliodis, Georgia  
 Paulos, Sophie  
 Petercsak, Steve & Esther  
 Peters, Elise  
 Peters, Paun & Lynn  
 Plock, Eleni  
 Poletes, Bill & Rena  
 Poletes, John  
 Poriotis, Terry & Gail  
 Pursley, Peter & Cynthia  
 Rfailedes, Connie  
 Ruppel, John & Joanie  
 Russo, Joseph & Athena  
 Ryan, Joanne & Chad  
 Samaras, Johnny

Sardos, George & Janet  
 Shah, Raj & Kirsten  
 Skelley, Stephanie & Brad  
 Steffaro, Robert & Karen  
 Stoycos, Ted & Mary Helen  
 Sullivan, Joe & Nina  
 Talleos, Peter  
 Tudora, Fr. Vasile &  
     Presvytera Mirela  
 Vittas, George & Barbara  
 Vittas, Johnny & Mel  
 Vloitos, Nick & Rayanna  
 Walker, Jim & Harriett  
 Wright, Bill & Christine  
 Yiantsou, Dr. Chris & Margo  
 Zingas, Ari & Olga

## Philoptochos News

Dear Sisters in Christ,  
 Below is a list of --

### “Philoptochos Dates to Remember”

- **April 3, 2009 – 3rd Lenten Soup Supper (See Kathy Fox for Details)**
- **April 5, 2009 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for Easter Flowers**  
**Deadline for Pre-Ordered Easter Bake Sale**
- **April 11, 2009 – Baking for Easter and Philoptochos Monthly Meeting (Concurrent)**
- **April 12, 2009 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Collection for Easter Flowers**  
**Pick-up Pre-Ordered Easter Bake Sale**
- **April 19, 2009 – HOLY PASCHA (Reception following Resurrection Service)**

Thank you to Angela Cline and Connie Rfailedes for coordinating our Annual Membership Tea . We so dearly appreciate all our new members and our existing members. We have several members that have not renewed yet so please, please set some time aside to fill

in your stewardship forms, our mission is not complete without everyone's participation. Our Lenten Soup Suppers are scheduled above, we hope to see you all there, Kathy Fox will be contacting those interested in assisting with the meals.

We have a very busy April ahead of us and pray that you all are having an enriched Lenten season. We expect to have a good attendance during holy week, from dying Easter eggs to decorating the "Kouvekleon". Please review the dates above knowing that your participation is important for the ongoing ministry that we share. Also, we ask for your support in our annual Easter Bake Sale. This is a worthwhile cause and as you all know, the bread and koulourakia are delicious. Philoptochos will be hosting the reception following the Resurrection service of Holy Pascha, please join us in the Parish Hall for a light meal.

Lastly, let us all keep in our prayers the family of Allan and Christine McKinnon. Christine was a faithful servant of Philoptochos for many years and upon the recent passing of her husband Alan, we are now entrusted with the compassionate care of their lovely daughters, Angelique and Melina. Let us nurture them in the spirit that our Lady Theotokos nurtures us.

With the Blessings of this Holy Lenten Season,  
In Christ's Love,  
Bertha

## Youth Ministries Is On the Move

A review of our March meeting: Few people are utilizing the NURSERY so it was decided that until that age population grows, Marcia Arapis will be "on call" in church should anyone need assistance. Just tell a Parish Council member and she will be notified.

CHURCH SCHOOL REPORT IS  
IN WRITTEN UP IN THE FOREUNNER.

The EASTER EGG HUNT will be chaired by Athena Russo and Tina Nicholas. If you would like to help please speak with them. It will follow the Agape service on April 19th. GRADUATION CELEBRATION will be held on May 3 after Liturgy and chaired by Lynn Peters and Connie Rafeiledes. We have 5 high school grads and one college grad this year!

We look forward to having the joint VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL with St. Demetrios this year ;it will be held at St. John from June 8-12. The GOYA will be having a "Got Jesus?" Lock-in on June 5 and are planning a community service project at the Presbyterian Night Shelter.

Approval was given to pay the registration for our 2 parish participants to the Diocesan Oratorical Festival and for the parish Oratorical gifts for the judges, our participants and the winners of the scavenger hunt at the Cowgirl Hall of Fame that week-end.

Our local Oratorical Festival was exciting! Many comments were heard regarding the quality of the speeches presented by our youth; the Senior Division, the Junior Division and the Elementary Division. We wish our finalists many blessings as Adrianna Chrestopoulos and Bennett Kerbow participate in the Diocesan Festival on March 28. WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!

Next meeting TBA

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

## Church School News

Dear Students and Parents,



At the end of Lent, we will collect the Mission Coin Boxes and will celebrate the amounts collected by our children. Please help reinforce the importance of missions to other countries.

The Lenten Retreat will be on April 11 10AM – 1PM. We will start in church with a short service on Lazarus. Also, we'll learn to create the palm crosses for Palm Sunday. We'll have activities and lunch together.

On Good Friday, April 17th, there will be a 3PM service commemorating Christ's death on the cross. Many of the families who attended this service last year were very pleased with how much their child learned. Through the church school classes, we will send a note from the church to excuse your child for this service. Or, you may pick up a copy from the Church School mailbox in the Paulos Center.

Our Easter Egg Hunt will be on Pascha Sunday after the Agape Vespers and before the Agape Luncheon. Donations for the egg hunt are requested (i.e. prizes, non-chocolate candy, etc...). There is a box labeled for egg hunt donations in the church hall for your convenience. Please come and join the fun. It's wonderful to see our young ones so carefree.

Vacation Bible School will be held at St. John the Baptist during the week of June 8 – 12 from 9AM – 12AM. Additional information and registration forms will be sent home via your children and can be downloaded from our church website.

Additionally, we will hold a GOT JESUS? Lock-in on Friday night, June 5th. This is a lock-in VBS for GOYA aged children and will be held jointly with St. Demetrios.

Praising Him,  
Khanh Moutafis

## GOYA

Maggie Molhoek – President  
Philip Sullivan – Vice President  
Nina Papadimitriou – Secretary  
Mallory Chokas – Treasurer

We welcome students who are 12-18 years old to join! If you are interested, please contact one of the officers.

## Ageless Wonders

The Ageless Wonders will not have a formal meeting in April. There is so much going on with all the services for Easter etc. Please support the Lenten soup supper on April 3rd and the Agape Luncheon on April 19th. Also, Please volunteer to help with the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday coffee hour. We are hoping to make a trip to the Monastery in Kendalia, Texas in May. So stay tuned for further bulletins.  
Margaret.....817-354-7731

## Gladsome Light Dialogues

Gladsome Light Dialogues discussion topics for March: We will continue the Cycle: *The Christian Virtues (illustrated though the life of the Saints)*

A humble and contrite heart 4/1/2009  
Meditating upon death, a philosophy of life 4/8/2009  
No Dialogues 4/15/2009 (Holy Week)  
Evening Film Dialogues 4/22/2009  
Hope and the meaning of suffering 4/29/2009

Don't forget to visit our blog at  
<http://dialogues.stjohndfw.info>

## 2009 Foodfest

Our new Festival Chairs are George and Olympia Genovezos, along with Chris Geil! Congratulations to them, and let's help them out by signing up for your area on the

board in the Hall. We would like to have all Chairs filled in by March 15<sup>th</sup>. The Greekfest this year is October 9,10, and 11.

## 2009 Golf Tournament

This year's golf tournament will be held on June 8, 2009 at Great Southwest Golf club in Grand Prairie. It is time to begin assembling your teams for this year's event. All proceeds will go toward our building fund, so please come out and support our Parish and plans for our new Church. Non monetary donations are being accepted for the raffle. If you have any ideas or contacts to support the raffle, please contact Angela Cline.

Thank You  
Golf Committee

## Practical Faith

### *Pascha and the Family Basket*

by Fr. Gregory Wigenbach

*"Do not turn aside too readily from the ancient traditions you have received from the elders, which they in turn learned at their forefathers' feet...(for) they may still prove profitable to you and yours in your times of need."* (Wisdom of Sirach.)

If you adopt a new homeland and assimilate its ways and culture into your own, it can certainly be a positive religious and cultural experience. St. Paul's apostolate among the Greeks, as well as the Byzantine-Greek Christians' mission among the Slavic people amply illustrates this. An even richer synthesis of cultures can result, helping the Church to witness - that much more effectively - to the Word of God among the native people. However, there is also a "negative assimilation," which tends to throw aside elements of prime value from the original heritage. Catastrophes in history can do this. The fall of the Byzantine Christian Commonwealth to the conquering Moslem Turks was one such catastrophe whose crippling effects are still with

us. Many significant religious traditions were lost or their meanings distorted by "paramythia" [stories or tales].

A very ancient custom which "fell by the wayside" among the Greeks as a result of the 400 years of Turkish rule, was the custom of "blessing the family baskets" of Paschal food at Easter. It is still widespread among the Slavic nations who inherited the Orthodox Christian faith and culture from the Byzantine Greeks. Though during my graduate pastoral internship over a dozen years ago, in northern Greece and in the Peloponnesos region, I did come across the custom in two Greek village communities. I also heard mention of it from a few of my fellow priest-classmates at the University of Thessaloniki.

The custom has its Christian origins from the early Church's Apostolic and sub-apostolic communities. In those days the faithful, as a matter of course, gathered together as an interdependent "family of families," sharing all the fruits of their labor as gifts of God to be offered and blessed on the high holydays. The blessing of the grapes and fruits on the Feast of the Transfiguration still survives among some Greek communities.

The early Christians - whatever their ethnic identity - received the tradition from their Jewish spiritual ancestors. Even the ancient name of "Pascha" was translated directly from the Hebrew "Pesach", meaning "to pass-over". Hence, the English name among both Jews and Christians of traditional observance is "The Pasch," or "The Passover".

According to the ancient tradition the mother and father of the family would carefully set aside the best of certain basic foods and drink, or symbolic portions thereof, during Holy Week. These were foods which the family would deny themselves during the whole of the Great Paschal Fast. In certain communities the local basket-maker would make a large, new basket for each of the parish families, as new an offering as the foods and the "spring cleaning" that took place amidst hymn-singing.

The new basket, finally put together on Holy Saturday morning after the Liturgy of

Anticipation [Vesper-Liturgy of St. Basil], normally included the following: (1) The Easter, or Pascha, loaf of bread; (2) A bottle of red wine; (3) Meats and meat products, including lamb, sausages, and ham; (4) dairy products, such as butter, cheese, and eggs; (5) oil and seasonings; and (6) salt, to represent Christians as Christ Himself described them - "the salt that gives the earth its savor." Depending on the particular region, the eggs would be prepared and dyed "Resurrection red," and even perhaps marked with a cross, either on Holy Thursday or Holy Saturday morning.

When all was in readiness, while all of the family were gathered in front of the "home altar" and its icons, the mother - her head covered by a seamless or embroidered white, tasseled veil - would reverently place each foodstuff in the basket. Her husband, the father of the household, led all in the chanting of hymns and the Lord's Prayer. An embroidered, or specially dyed, cloth emblazoned with the Cross of Christ and the symbol "IC XC/NIKA" (Jesus Christ Conquers) was then placed over the whole [basket]. Just before leaving for the Church the oldest child would place a newly-made candle in the basket to be the family's own Resurrection "lampada" [candle] in readiness for the triumphal "Passing of the Light of Life" at the Midnight Services in the village church.

Arriving at the Church the family took the basket to the foot of the Iconostasis. After the Liturgy and all had received holy Communion, the priest or bishop blessed the many baskets and the communal apportionment of the Easter/[Pascha] eggs. Leaving the Church, the whole of the parish or groups of families would gather to share their Easter [Pascha] eggs, soup, breads and cheese. The remainder of the Paschal basket foodstuffs were eaten by the family, usually together with a whole roasted lamb on Easter Sunday and during the "Bright Week" following.

We can easily see that the blessing of the Paschal/Easter food baskets has a deep liturgical, spiritual and familial meaning. It is indeed a pity that such a profound tradition as this has largely "fallen by the wayside" among many segments

of Orthodox Christians. Perhaps the time has come, during this period of time dedicated to the Christian Family, for us to begin reclaiming this and other wonderful traditions that are, after all, our very own!

*This article first appeared in The Orthodox Observer, April 8, 1987. At that time Fr. Gregory was the national director of the Greek Archdiocese Department of Church and Family Life.*

## **Agape Dinner Information**

Our Agape Dinner will be held on Easter Sunday, April 19 immediately following Services. The ticket costs for adults is \$25.00 and for the children \$10.00. The menu will consist of salad, rolls, Greek chicken, lamb shanks, vegetables, roasted potatoes, desert, and soft drinks. There will be a cash bar. Please see a council member for additional information.

## **Usher Schedule**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: George Moutafis, Cynthia Pursley  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Peter Talleos,, Harry Karageannes  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Bill Wright, Tim Cline  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Barbara Vittas, Larry Leeders  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Nancy Medvic, Harry Karageannes

## **Nursery Attendants Schedule**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Marsha Arapis  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Elizabeth Popescu  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Marsha Arapis  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Marsha Arapis  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Marsha Arapis

Thanks,  
Marsha

## **Acolyte Schedule**

**1st Sunday :** Patrick Sullivan, Phillip Sullivan, Peter Pursley, John Molhoek  
**2nd Sunday :** James Seals, Ovidiu Berca, Patrick Sullivan, Philip Sullivan  
**3rd Sunday :** Jackson Wright, Joey Basiliadis, Ovi Berca, Alex Shah

**4th Sunday :** Bennett Kerbow, Ovi Berca,  
James Seals, Alex Shah

**5th Sunday:** Patrick Sullivan, Phillip Sullivan,  
Jackson Wright, Ovi Berca

## Coffee Hour Schedule

- 1st Sun.: Mr. & Mrs. Ari Zingas
- 2nd Sun: Philoptochos
- 3rd Sun: Parish Council
- 4th Sun: Ageless Wonders
- 5th Sun: Parish Council (If Applicable)

## 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.

## 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. 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.

## Myrophores (Myrrh-Bearers) Girls

During Holy Week we will be continuing the tradition involving all parish girls grades 1-6. The girls, Myrophores, will be representing the myrrh-bearing women during the Friday Lamentations service at 7pm.

The girls need to dress in white clothes and each will hold a basket of rose petals (provided). The Myrophores will sit in the front pew and when Father Vasili motions to them, they will walk around the Epitaphios three times. During the procession of the Epitaphios outside the church, they process with the altar boys.

This is a beautiful tradition and we look forward to getting our young girls involved during Holy Week. If your daughter would like to participate, please let me know by April 13th so that I can prepare her basket.

Have a blessed Pascha,  
Linda Papadimitriou



# St. Irene Philoptochos Easter Bake Sale 2009

- ❖ All Orders Must Be Prepaid
- ❖ Check Must Accompany Order Payable to St. Irene Philoptochos
- ❖ Mail Order Form and Checks To:  
St. John the Baptist GOC  
303 Cullum Drive  
Euless, TX 76040-4625
- ❖ Orders Must be Placed By **April 5, 2009**
- ❖ Pick Up On between 12-2 PM on **April 12, 2009**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY-STATE-ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
_____	Round Easter Greek Bread Traditional Greek Sweet Bread	\$5.00 _____
_____	Baklava -6 pcs. Greek Pastry made with delicate layers of flaky filo dough and nuts.	\$8.00 _____
_____	Baklava Pan - 55-60 pcs	\$70 _____
_____	Koulourakia - 12 pcs. Traditional Greek Butter Cookies	\$5.00 _____
	<b>TOTAL DUE:</b>	_____

# Καλό Πάσχα

## Church School – Easter Events

On Saturday, April 11, (10am to 1pm), the Church School will have its annual Lenten Retreat. Kids of all ages are invited. We will begin with Divine Liturgy at 9am, followed by a cross-making session, in which we learn (or re-learn) the art of folding a palm into a cross. Father needs all the palms folded to hand out the next day, Palm Sunday. We will also have lunch, make an Easter craft as well as play games. We will have a refresher session on singing “Christos Anesti.” Older children are welcome to attend to help the younger ones with their craft. Parents are also welcome to help fold the palms.



During this time Fr. Vasile will also hear Confessions for the young and older children in the Church Hall.

On Good Friday, April 17, there will be a 3p.m. service commemorating Christ's death on the cross. If you need a note from the church to excuse your child, we are attaching one here. Many of the families who attended this service last year were very pleased with how much their child learned.



On Sunday, April 19, the Church School will hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt, just prior to the Pascha Luncheon. Donations of plastic eggs and candy are welcome. We will have two levels for the hunt: kids, ages 4 and under; and kids, ages 12 and under.

Questions?

Call Khanh Moutafis at 817-741-4324 or email [moutafis@verizon.net](mailto:moutafis@verizon.net).