



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

303 Cullum Drive
Euless, TX 76040-4625

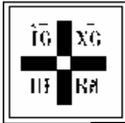
NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EULESS, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 18

Return Service Requested



Sponsorship for This Month's Forerunner

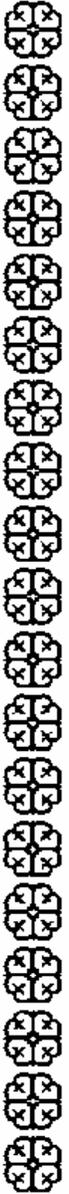
**Andy and I would like to announce that on July 20th,
We will be celebrating our 57th Wedding Anniversary
We want to thank everyone for caring
and you friendliness
Love, Andy and Pat**



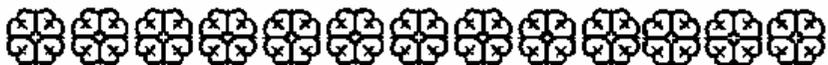
THE FORERUNNER

VOL. XXV NO. 7

July 2009



Vo





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 XXV ▪ Number 7

July 2009

Schedule of Regular Services at St. John's Summer Schedule

v Sunday, July 5:	Holy Liturgy,	9 A.M.
v Sunday, July 12:	Holy Liturgy,	9 A.M.
v Sunday, July 19:	Holy Liturgy,	9 A.M.
v Sunday, July 26:	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,

We are indeed blessed to have the facilities we enjoy here at our Church.

One of the wonderful aspects is that you can make arrangements to use the Church or the Hall for approved occasions such as weddings, graduations, and parties and activities.

There are some rules that you must follow in order to use the Church facilities:

1. For non-stewards there is a charge of \$200 to rent the Church or Church Hall -- \$350 if you rent both the Church and the Hall. In addition, a security deposit of \$250 will be collected in advance and returned if there are no issues.
2. Stewards who wish to rent either the Church or the Hall will not be charged any rental fees but will be asked to pay an advanced security deposit of \$250 which will be returned if there are no issues.
3. You must contact Greg Digiovanni in our Administrative Office to reserve any of the facilities. Once you have reserved the facility, Greg will post that information on the Master Calendar in his office to insure there is not a conflicting reservation.

We recently had a situation where we had reservations for a graduation party and a youth activity for the same evening and only one was posted on the calendar. Thanks to the understanding of those involved we were able to compromise and get this resolved.

So take advantage of our beautiful grounds and the facilities during the summer for your activities and outings.

Harry Karegeannes
Council President

Volume XXV No.7

Father Vasile's Message

The virtual re-creation of the world

Reflections on technology and communion

My name is Vasile, I am addicted to technology and I am not the only one. So it can start a group therapy session at Technology Addiction Anonymous. And this is no fiction because technology penetrates our daily lives with an unstoppable force pushing us in a place where only the toughest survive. If you don't have an iPhone, you don't use Facebook or Twitter you are not just old school but "seriously", you do not exist! If your friends don't know where you are and what you're doing every other minute then how can you go on with your life?

The social networking technology reinvents the world and the communication between people. Our grandparents, less than a century ago had to wait weeks or months at a time to receive news from a friend on the other side of the world. Today doesn't matter if you are in Japan and you talk with someone in America or Europe, it is all instant, broad band communication.

The recent Iranian election conflict is a perfect example of social networking at its best with reporters, banned to use cameras or computers, sending real-time news to the world via Twitter on their cell phones. Thing went so far that even the U.S. State Department had to contact the social networking service to urge it to delay a planned upgrade that would have cut daytime service to Iranians using Twitter to send reports to the outside. Pretty cool isn't it?

Along with the boom of social networking the virtualization of our lives takes also worrisome proportions. One can live today in a virtual world as a mighty warrior in World of Warcraft, an astute penguin on Penguin.com or a fuzzy pet on Webkinz.com. In corporate training there are now educational games where you can actually play a virtual character performing,

guess what: precisely your real job! Moreover there exist now virtual religious communities, where people reinvent themselves as pious characters attending regularly an internet church that offers customized, computer generated, private “just for you” services that supposedly fit your needs. Just “google” it and you’ll see I’m not making things up.

The internet and all the new communication technologies were designed initially with the aspiration to bring people together, to enhance human interactions. Technically this goal was achieved with more and more people being connected to each other via informational hubs. However, along with this concentration on virtual encounters, the genuine face to face relationships continue to suffer. Many times people find themselves isolated in a dark room with a computer on, in contact with the virtual world but disconnected from one another. They are skilled citizens of their favorite fictional world where they are courageous, smart, attractive, even possessing super-powers; but many of them are clueless on how to use their God given gifts in the real world.

Of course for some this is the reason why they escape in the virtual realm in the first place, because they find it difficult to integrate in the real world. This is particularly true during teenage years when assimilation into society hits the young people. Evading from your problems however, in a fantasy world really does not solve the problem: you are still going to be the same in the real world. On the contrary wasting your time trying to be a skilled “virtual-you” will only decrease your chances of becoming a better “real-you”.

To live in the real world takes courage but isn’t Jesus Christ that said: *“In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!”*(Joh 16:33)? We cannot recreate the world, but we can make it a better place by staying connected with Christ. We cannot change other people, we cannot eliminate poverty, suffering and death, but we can start by initiating transformation within ourselves.

Volume XXV No.7

Working diligently on achieving the likeness of God will ensure our integration in the greatest reality: the reality of the Kingdom.

Life is not a game, we don’t get to try three times, we don’t get bonus points, but as hard as reality may seem, we have access to a lot of help; all we have to do is ask. As Christians we don’t live isolated, but together, in unity: face to face, shoulder to shoulder, soul to soul, connected to the only port that can power us with what we long for, eternal life. The Church brings us all together in a community greater than anything man could imagine: the body of Christ. Is the community of the Angels, the community of the Saints, it is the everlasting happiness of being with the Creator, partaking into what was prepared for us from the beginning of the world.

Without paying monthly membership fees for “full gaming experience” in the authentic experience of the Divine Liturgy we can actually see the kingdom of God, hear the choir of the angels, smell the fragrance of salvation, share a brotherly kiss and fill our mouths with the taste of Christ. One does not need special computer skills to do so, no broadband or fast processors, only will to engage in communion.

Don’t let me be misunderstood; technology is good but only for as long as it is used as a tool. It cannot replace ourselves; it cannot reinvent who we are, it only helps us do things better and faster. I am certain that the Fathers of the Church would have sent their epistles by e-mail if they had it available; they would have used a text editor to write their treatises, but I doubt they would have abandoned this world to live in a fairy tale, or trade communion for social networking and salvation for an extra virtual life.

This is why, in the end, the peril does not lie in technology itself, but rather in the inability of Man to perceive the purpose of creation. Man was given the gift of technology to free time for salvation not to waste even more time on technology and ignore salvation.

In his quest for the next technological breakthrough Man is missing the ontological truth that lies deep inside him, under layers and

layers of self sufficiency. The truth that Man already knows, but refuses to accept: the truth that God does exist and Man's existence is fundamentally linked with His. By understanding just this simple fact our future is reset and opens up to possibilities beyond imagination.

Special General Assembly July 12th

There will be a special General Assembly(GA) held following Church services on 12 July. The purpose of the GA is to inform all of you of the progress and the status of the design efforts for our new Church.

Joe Sullivan will lead the discussion concerning the design and some cost estimates for our new Church.

Following Joe's update, George Vittas will bring us up to date on the efforts of the Capital Campaign Committee and their projected plans. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Financial Report YTD thru 4/30/2009

	2008	2009	Budget
<i>Stewardship</i>	58,886	61,816	72,920
<i>Total Income</i>	76,098	82,191	87,368
<i>Expense</i>	86,345	75,356	75,774
<i>Variance</i>	(10,247)	(6,835)	11,594

Stewardship News

As of **6/14/09** we have **105 pledges** for a **total of \$137,290**. As you know, our goal is \$175,000

and as you can see, we are currently \$37,000 short of the goal.

We seem to be stuck in the mud and we need everyone's help to get out. If you consider this *your* church, please help support it by filling out a pledge card today.

To those of you who have already become stewards and to the many who increased their pledge, we thank you.

2009 Stewards

Alexander, Leo & Teresa
 Anderson, Anthony
 Antahades, Dr. Lou & Judyth
 Arapis, Minoli & Marsha
 Ball, David
 Ballas, Andy & Pat
 Basiliadis, Nick & Dr. Marge
 Began, John
 Berca, Sorin & Carmen
 Bitner, Carol
 Blake, John & Harriett
 Bogdos, George & Sotera
 Bogordos, George & Kasandra
 Boutris, Haralambos
 Brandon, Roberta
 Cain, Michael & Melina
 Callesen, John
 Chokas, Margaret
 Chokas, Mitch
 Clay, Aria & Wayne
 Cline, Tim & Angela
 Demetriades, Gus & Andi
 Dempsey, Margaret
 Dempsey, Walt & Dorothy
 Eftimie, Michael & Tamara
 Englezakis, Mike
 Feichtinger, Pavlina
 Fondulis, Paul
 Fox, Mike & Kathy
 Geil, Christopher & Sandra
 Genovezos, George & Olympia
 Gianulis, Bill & Bertha

Gigliotta, Leonard
Grumbos, Dr. Peter
Henderson, Ecaterina
Henry, Michael & Julie
Hooe, Jane
Ibrahim, Basil & Mary
Ioannou, Kyriakos
Johnson, Marshall & Velva
Jones, Daniel
Karegeannes, Harry & Ginny
Katsikas, Constantinos
Kerbow, Joe & Maria
Kinman, Buck & Karen
Koumbarides, Nicos
Laverty, Connie
Leeders, Larry
Leeders, Stacia
Maayeh, Bishara & Mary
MacPherson, Doug & Andi
Manos, George & Vicki
Manos, Michael & Debbie
Matheson, Trevor & Sherri
Mavias, John
Mavias, Michael & Mary
Medvic, Allison
Medvic, Nancy
Mihalakeas, Andreas
Molhoek, Mike & Tina
Morcovescu, Serban & Anca
Moutafis, George & Khanh
Nahatis, Arthur
Naval, Marc
Nazzal, Alfred
Nicholas, Toni
Noulas, Athanasios
Pachares, Tony & Athena
Papadimitriou, Alex & Linda
Papadopoulou, Olga & Theoni
Papalioidis, Georgia
Papalioidis, Louie
Paulos, Sophie
Petercsak, Steve & Esther
Peters, Elise
Peters, Paun & Lynn
Plock, Eleni
Poletes, Bill & Rena

Volume XXV No.7

Poletes, John
Poriotis, Terry & Gail
Pursley, Peter & Cynthia
Rafailedes, 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, Charles & Ann
Sullivan, Joe & Nina
Talleos, Peter
Tudora, Fr. Vasile &
Presvytera Mirela
Vittas, George & Barbara
Vittas, Johnny & Mel
Vloitos, Nick & Rayanna
Walenty, Tony & Lisa
Walker, Jim & Harriett
Wozniak, Matthew
Wright, Bill & Christine
Yalmaz, Diana
Yiantsou, Dr. Chris & Margo
Zingas, Ari & Olga

Summer Schedule of Services

During the Summer month we switched again to the Summer schedule which means regular services on Sunday morning will start one hour earlier. **Orthros** will start at **8:00AM** and **Divine Liturgy** at **9:00AM**. We will resume regular schedule on September 13th. Also **all Vespers services** during the summer will take place **at St. Johns** at 6:00PM Saturday.

Philoptochos News

Have a wonderful summer !
Yours, in Christ
Bertha

Youth Ministries on the Move

Our parish youth brought tons of promise to our parish these last few weeks....was there anything more touching than seeing the very young JOY members at their colorful table selling small items as a kick-off for our BUILDING DRIVE? They were over "JOYed" at having earned \$200 the first two weeks! (Also very nice was the encouragement our parishioners gave them.)

Tina Molhoek who beautifully handled the VBS in Khanh's absence reports that the 18 children really enjoyed learning about COURAGE to know, believe in, follow, and trust the Lord. St. Demetrios joined us in this fun week. The driving rain did not dampen the attendance nor the spirit those 5 days! Fathers Michael from St. D. and our Father Vasile were there teaching and answering some very interesting questions from the kids. Related crafts, singing, dancing and making new friends provided more memories. Friday concluded with a picnic and water slide. Tina says this was definitely a team effort with many thanks going to Maggie and John Molhoek, Becky Blake (our GOYANS) friends Adriane and Kamile, Theresa Alexander and Harriet Blake and to Ms. Andrea from St.D. who lead the spirited singing...and of course to Khanh who planned everything so well before she left for Greece.

Tina related that it was so gratifying to work with our church's future leaders, who are obviously in line to be entrepreneurs, comedians, natural athletes, creative problem solvers, singers, actors, debaters, artists and proud Orthodox Christians!

If you would like to be a part of our planning for our parish young people please consider joining our Youth Ministries Council which only meets

Volume XXV No.7

3-4 times per year. Our PLANNING MEETING FOR THE NEXT YEAR IS ON SUNDAY, JULY 19TH in the Paulos Center after Liturgy. We could use your help!

Athena Pachares, Y.M. Coordinator
pachares@sbcglobal.net

GOYA

The GOYA kicked off their summer and VBS by volunteering at the Presbyterian Night Shelter, followed by activities at Incredible Pizza and a lock-in. Several also volunteered for VBS during the week.

If you are between the ages of 12 and 18 and would like to be a member of GOYA, please contact one of the officers.

Maggie Mohloek, President
Philip Sullivan, Vice President
Mallory Chokas, Treasurer
Nina Papadamitriou, Secretary

Philip Sullivan
Vice-President

Orthodox Observer

We have recently learned that there are several parishioners that have not been receiving the Orthodox Observer. If you wish to receive this publication, you can contact them at 212- 570-3555 or go to www.observer.goarch.org

Gladsome Light Dialogues

Gladsome Light Dialogues is taking a break for the summer. We will meet you back in the fall with new topics regarding the Christian faith as we live it every day.

During this time don't forget to keep in touch with us on the web at <http://dialogues.stjohndfw.info>.

2009 Foodfest Update

We have had great response for committee sign ups; thank you one and all. As of today, the following KEY Chairs are still open and need a volunteer quickly:

Tent set up and take down
Coffee/market
Children area
Grill
Insurance
Baking coordinator
Kourambiethes
Melomacarona
Dolmathes
Rizogalo

We also need several co-coordinators. As we're all aware the food festival cannot happen without everybody's help. Your help and dedication is greatly appreciated. The signup sheet is located in the Hall, or please see George or Olympia Genovezos or Chris Geil

2009 Greek Fest Kick Off Dinner

Please join us at the Hall on Saturday, July 18, after Vespers (6:00 pm) for our Greek Fest kick off dinner. Food and fun for all and some great treats, seeing which wines will be served at the Festival, and dancing to wonderful music. We will hold a short meeting to be sure everyone is up to speed on the Festival, but this is a fellowship event for all Parishioners! Come enjoy a relaxing evening of food, drink, dancing, and fellowship!

Thank You, George and Olympia Genovezos and Chris Geil

Practical Faith

To an educated man who has reached the conclusion that there is something out there

By St. Nikolai (Velimirovic)

You write to me that, in the end, there must be something there. You say you read a book about stars written by some great astronomer, and what he claimed caught your eyes, "Without God, nothing in the world can be understood or explained." Hence, you also reached the conclusion that there is something "there". Say it, O son of Lazar - "There is God", and be joyful! There is something - thus speak many educated people. But if you stick to "something" (*nesta* in Serbian) for the rest of your life then your life will amount to "nothing" (*nista* in Serbian).

A momentary premonition that there is a great, mysterious force of the invisible world is not even by far that life-giving and fruit-bearing faith which illumines our path and points out our aim. Just saying that there is something, does not mean reaching the light of day. It barely means that the traveler has passed the darkness of midnight and is now making out a spot of light in the east through his dilated pupils. And the path from there to standing under the sun is still very long. If you were only to say, "There is a Someone," the light would dawn over your life.

Know your Creator, my dear brother. That is more important than knowing His creatures. Do not keep company with those of whom the Apostle says, "*They honored and served the creation more than the Creator.*" (Rom. 1: 25) Behold, the most-high Artist creates the art. You are gazing too much at His artistic creations which open the eyes temporarily but then blind them. Why don't you approach the Artist and meet Him - introduce yourself? This is why Christ came to earth, to stretch out His hand to

The Ashton Wynne-managed Design Team will be busy over the next several months developing Construction Documents and working with the Building Committee to select materials of construction for all aspects of the Church interior and exterior. We will be offering a second opportunity for design review and comment to our parishioners at the 75% Construction Document progress phase.

Joe Sullivan
Building Committee Chairman

Capital Campaign Committee

The CCC looks forward to the Special General Assembly on 12 July at which time the Capital Campaign Committee members will report activities to date and will present the capital campaign implementation plan for approval of the General Assembly.

George Vittas

817 874-6128

George.vittas@aecom.com

Websites

Don't forget pay us an often visit at our parish websites <http://stjohndfw.info> and <http://dialogues.stjohndfw.info>. The sites are continuously updated with news and information about our faith. Also our Greek Fest site is up at <http://midcitiesgreekfest.info>.

Your's in Christ,
Sorin Berca, Website Administrator

Usher Schedule

Volume XXV No.7

1st Sunday: George Moutafis, Cynthia Pursley
2nd Sunday: Peter Talleos,, Raj Shah
3rd Sunday: Bill Wright, Tim Cline
4th Sunday: Barbara Vittas, Larry Leeders
5th Sunday: Nancy Medvic, Allyson Medvic

Nursery Attendants Schedule

The Nursery will be closed during the summer months. We will open in September. If you like to clap, sing, play, read and hold babies contact me. Our babies would love to smile at you!

Have a Blessed Summer.
Marsha Arapis marshaarapis@yahoo.com

Acolyte Schedule

1st Sunday : Patrick Sullivan, Phillip Sullivan, Peter Pursley, John Molhoek
2nd Sunday : Alex Shah, Ovidiu Berca, Patrick Sullivan, Philip Sullivan
3rd Sunday : Jackson Wright, Joey Basiliadis, Alex Genevezos, James Seals
4th Sunday : Bennett Kerbow, Ovi Berca, James Seals, Alex Shah
5th Sunday: Patrick Sullivan, Phillip Sullivan, Jackson Wright, Ovi Berca

Acolyte Search

To all Parishioners:

We are looking for our young boys to join the ranks of our outstanding Acolytes for this coming Fall. If you boy is interested, please see either Father Vasile, or Bill Wright. The commitment is typically one Sunday a month. We would welcome their service to the Church and to Father!

Coffee Hour Schedule

- 1st Sun.: Mr. & Mrs. Bishara Maayeh
- 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.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Deadline for The Forerunner and Weekly Bulletin

The deadline for information for the Forerunner is the 18th 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.

Volume XXV No.7

