

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

303 Cullum Drive  
Euless, TX 76040-4625

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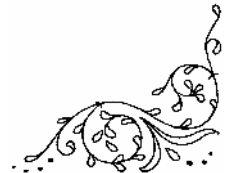
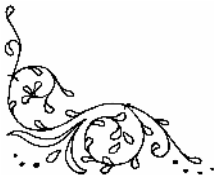


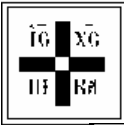
Sponsorship for This Month's Forerunner



*In Memory Of  
George & Katherine Karegeannes*

*Harry & Virginia Karegeannes*





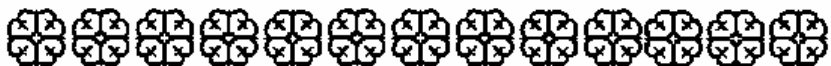
# THE FORERUNNER

VOL. XXV NO. 6

June 2009



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# 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  
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Volume XXV ▪ Number 6

*June 2009*

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

v Sunday, June 7:	Holy Liturgy,	9 A.M.
v Sunday, June 14:	Holy Liturgy,	9 A.M.
v Sunday, June 21:	Holy Liturgy,	9 A.M.
v Sunday, June 28:	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 all understand no church can succeed without the dedicated support of every member of the congregation. However, I wanted to use this month's Forerunner to explain the involvement of the Council and some of the functions it performs for all of us.

I believe you all know about the concerted effort that the Council has undertaken in regards to our plans for building our new Church. The Council, the Building Committee under Joe Sullivan, and the Capital Campaign Committee led by George Vittas are fully engaged in this important effort.

While our focus is on this mission, none of us should forget that the day- to-day operations of the Church must continue.

In that regard I wanted to review the Council responsibilities with you.

Fr. Vasile is a Council member but like me he has no vote on the Council. He is our spiritual leader and guides our actions in keeping with the direction and rules of the Church Hierarchy along with the needs of the Parish.

The remainder of the Council is responsible the many functions required to keep the Church operating smoothly.

The current members of the Council are:

- 1.Myself as President.
- 2.Bill Wright as Vice President
- 3.Larry Leeders as Treasurer.
- 4.George Moutafis as Secretary.
- 5.Barbara Vittas in charge of Fundraising.
- 6.Nancy Medvic, Stewardship.
- 7.Allison Medvic, Stewardship.

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8.Cynthia Pursley, Communications.

9.Tim Cline, Maintenance.

10.Peter Talleos, Grounds.

11.Raj Shah, Special Projects.

Some of the routine functions that we accomplish include the budget, appointment of the committees, conducting Council meetings, General Assemblies, elections, payment of the bills, maintaining the facilities and grounds, keeping records, supporting the many activities and various groups such as Philoptichos, GOYA, Youth Ministries, and the numerous fund raisers, charitable events, lunches, dinners, and whatever else is needed to keep our Church and parishioners moving ahead. Oh yes, we also support the Food Fest!

All of this in addition to the weekly usher and other duties that keep our Church viable.

The term of service on the Council is two years following your election and official "*affirmation of office*".

We alternate the two years of service so that we generally elect half of the Council each year. This insures the smooth transition of new members and allows us to continue our work without disruption.

I have found the privilege of serving to be very gratifying and strongly encourage each of you to step up to the plate and volunteer to serve on your Church Council when the time comes.

You will find it rewarding and worth your while to contribute your time and efforts in support of our Church. We could not continue as the wonderful Greek Orthodox Church we are without such unselfish and important commitment by our members.

Harry Karegeannes  
Council President

## Father Vasile's Message

### *Vacationing away from God*

Everybody loves vacation. We all dream laying on a beach in the Mediterranean, or enjoying a majestic sunrise in a small hut lost in the mountains, or even savoring a week of just doing nothing but sipping a cold drink on the porch. So as soon as the school is off and people go out of town we start seeing more and more empty pews in church every Sunday.

Although this is normal occurrence, glancing at the unfilled seats brings a question to mind: can we also take vacation from God? Can we say one morning: for a week or a month I am not going to say my prayers, I will not fast nor attend Church services until I come back from holidays; I've prayed the whole year, let others pray for me during this time?

Looking into the Scripture for an answer we discover the words of St. Apostle Paul who recommends to "*pray without ceasing*" (1Th 5:17). We also find that Jesus Christ Himself urges that we "*ought always to pray, and not to faint*" (Lu18:1). The Bible is full of such advice and there is really no place that advocates taking a spiritual "break". There is however enough evidence to say that every time man wanted to "break-away" from the relationship with God it eventually ended up in being sorry for it.

So how do we marry the two: resting our tired bodies and minds but also keeping intact our spiritual connection with God?

If we look closely at this quandary we realize that is actually a false one since we don't have to flee from God to find rest. On the contrary by remaining in close contact with Him we are also in contact with the One that says: "*Come to me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*" (Mat 11:128). Who can comfort better our hurting souls and minds but the one that is the source of peace? Who can give us the love we miss in the harsh

and insensitive work places, but our loving Father? Who can soothe the fear of failure than He Who achieved all we could ever hope for, our salvation. "*For I satisfy the weary soul, and I fill every sorrowful soul.*" (Jer 31:25)

Many people have the illusion that if they get far enough from their problems once they come back they will go away. They try to change the crude reality numbing themselves with parties and drinks, hoping for a different outcome when they get home. But this is more often false than true, and coming back proves harder than it was before. Escalating our tolerance to sin and putting our conscience to sleep is not the answer.

Vacation time would be put to better use if, instead of trying to get away from our problems by hiding in a vacation resort, like the ostridge in the sand, we would rather use it to seek resolution of our uncertainties in God, by enhancing our prayer life. In vacation we have a tremendous opportunity to enhance our spiritual life. Now that we finally are not linked to a demanding work schedule anymore, we can allow more time to prayer, more bonding time with our greatest Friend, wherever we may choose to be. God is everywhere, from the mountains to the sea; there is not a place where God is not and our prayers are not heard.

We need this especially in our dedicated time for rest because the only true place of rest is with God: "*For he who has entered into His rest, he also has ceased from his own works*" (Heb 4:10). By taking our problems to God we find out that in Him all the worries are gone, vanished, all the troubles that seem so impossible to pass cease to exist because in His presence we realize that our lives have a greater purpose than just being corporation slaves. We realize that we do not live to work but we work to live, as the saying goes. In Him our priorities are shifted toward what really matters in this life and into eternity.

So as you start making your vacation plans make sure you pack a prayer book along with the beach sandals. Maybe beside the list of

museums you will also make arrangements to attend the closest Orthodox Church to your destination, or make a detour at a monastery to get spiritual advice from one of the elders. And even if any of these suggestions won't work, for some reason, you can always take with you a short prayer that can be said wherever you are: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me!" This short prayer, repeated whenever you will have some idle time, will be your best travel companion because it will guide you toward the only direction you won't find on any tourist map: upwards, where worries end and peace lasts forever.

### ***Financial Report YTD thru 4/30/2009***

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<i>Stewardship</i>	49,493	46,655	58,330
<i>Total Income</i>	65,406	60,747	69,894
<i>Expense</i>	66,104	61,404	60,619
<i>Variance</i>	( 698 )	( 657 )	9,275

### ***Stewardship News***

**Please Help !!!** We are **\$38,560 short** of our stewardship goal. As of **5/12/09** we have **103 pledges** for a **total of \$136,440**.

We need everyone's help to meet the needs of our church. We have 27 families who were stewards last year, but have not yet pledged for 2009. Several of you are making contributions, but have not filled out a pledge card. Others have filled out a card, but are not making contributions. We ask that you take a moment to complete and submit your pledge card today. If you are behind on your pledge, please make every effort to bring it current.

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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  
Lavery, 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  
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  
Poletes, John  
Poriotis, Terry & Gail  
Pursley, Peter & Cynthia  
Rafailedes, Connie  
Ruppel, John & Joanie  
Russo, Joseph & Athena  
Ryan, Joanne & Chad  
Samaras, Johnny

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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 will again switch 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**. First Liturgy with the new schedule: June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Also **all Vespers services** during the summer will take place **at St. Johns** at 6:00PM Saturday. We will resume regular schedule on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Philoptochos News

Have a wonderful summer !

Yours, in Christ

Bertha

## **Youth Ministries on the Move**

Youth ministries Wishes all parishioners to have a great and safe summer.

Athena Pachares, Coordinator  
Youth Ministries

## **GOYA**

GOYA would like to wish everyone a great and safe summer.

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.observor.goarch.org](http://www.observor.goarch.org)

## **Gladsome Light Dialogues**

Gladsome Light Dialogues will take 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

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Coffee/market  
Children area  
Grill  
Insurance  
Baking coordinator  
Kourambietes  
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 Olympina Genovezos or Chris Geil

## **2009 Greek Fest Kick Off Dinner**

Please join us at the Hall on Saturday, June 20th, 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**

*An answer to a tradesman that stopped going to Confession because his friends mocked him for doing it*

**By St. Nikolai (Velimirovic)**

You wanted to know if Confession was really necessary. You used to go to Confession often, but then someone mocked you for it so you



stopped. You should not have stopped. Whom have people not mocked? You know what the Seer said, "Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep."

Aside from your trade, you say you have a vineyard which yields well because you take good care of it. If someone would abandon their own vineyard and mocked you for cultivating yours, would you also give up on caring for it? Surely not. So how could you waver about cultivating your soul which is more important than any vineyard on earth? Because when you die, you will keep your soul but leave the vineyard behind.

Of all cultivation, the cultivation of the soul is the most important. And of all the labors that man engages in on earth, labor for the soul is the most important. So, go back to your previous work on your soul and go to confession again. This is what the Apostle James says, "*Confess your sins to one another.*" Sins grow and multiply in the dark, but as soon as they are out in the light, they wither and dry up.

Do not say, "I am not a sinner!" Read what the righteous one says in the Psalter, "I was conceived in iniquities and in sins did my mother bear me."

And do not say that you confess your sins directly to God and have no need of confession before men. Who was more righteous than the Apostle Paul? And that Paul had a sin before his Apostleship, as Saul, and he confessed that sin publicly, not once but multiple times, and not just before the faithful but also before the godless. He says to the baptized Galatians, "*You have heard how I greatly persecuted the church of God and wreaked havoc upon it.*" He says the same thing before the un-baptized king Agrippa

(Acts 26).

And if Saint Paul acted this way, why would you keep the wounds of your soul hidden? Why would you leave snakes to multiply in your bosom? Just because someone mocked you? If he mocked you once, will he mock you forever? Pray for that person in secret. He might even repent and wash away his sin with tears. What is more wavering than a man's thoughts? How many people repent in the evening over the words they uttered during the day!

So, when it comes to your soul, do not listen to every passing comment, but listen to what God's Church says. Talk to elders who confess people, and they will tell you of the great relief found by the many who confessed sincerely. It is no imaginary tale but the hard truth that many dying people being in a long agony could only repose once they confessed their sins before a priest. I could tell you of such examples myself, having witnessed them.

Our God is the God of mercy and goodness, and He wishes for all to be saved. But how can one be saved if he does not clearly understand the distinction between sin and God's righteousness, renounce the sin and embrace the righteousness of God? One goes to the Judgment with whatever he carries on his soul at the moment of death. If it is sin, then with sin. If it is righteousness, then with righteousness.

God awaits repentance of every mortal, and repentance implies the confession of one's sins. And since the Angel of death can appear at any moment to take our soul, this is why the Church recommends to its faithful to confess often and repent even

## Choir Notes

Our choir wishes to congratulate Carol and Tex on their marriage on May 2nd. We wish them many long and happy years and an abundance of God's Blessings.

Bill Poletes  
Choir Director

## Church School News

We had a wonderful End of the Year celebration. We send many thanks to all the parents who provided for the picnic, especially to those who have attended all year round. Without parents' involvement, we cannot have a successful church school program. Thank you Olympia Genevezos and Margo Yiantsou for organizing this fun end of the year picnic.

The Got Jesus? VBS Lock-in will be held at St. John on June 5<sup>th</sup> for GOYA aged children (12-17 years). We will serve dinner at the Presbyterian Night Shelter, go to the Incredible Pizza Company for dinner and fun, and complete the spiritual retreat with Father Vasile.

A joint Vacation Bible School will be held at St. John during the week of June 8-12 from 9AM – 12PM. Trek north to Arctic Edge as kids test their limits in the challenges of the vast Arctic wilderness, they will learn that God is always with them and find the courage required to follow Jesus in the everyday challenges of their lives.

Additional information and registration forms for both VBS sessions above will be sent home via your children and/or can be downloaded from our church website.

Have a safe and wonderful summer. Church School will begin again on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

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May He keep you and Bless you.  
Khanh Moutafis

## Ageless Wonders

The Ageless Wonders will meet on Tuesday, June 30th for lunch and a movie. The movie we will see is "My Life in Ruins". The new film by Nia Vardalos of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" fame. By then we will be able to use our star-telegram press passes.

We will carpool from the church. So save the day! More details will be forth coming. All are welcome to join us. Margaret....817-354-7731

## Building Committee

The Design Development submission from the Ashton Wynne Design Team is ready for the congregation to review. The Building Committee is proposing to have two Parish Open House's (June 22 and June 29, 6:00pm in the Hall) so that any interested parishioners may come and review the drawings face-to-face with members of the Building Committee to help answer any questions they may have on the design of the Church Building and site plan.

Additionally, these initial design drawings will also be posted on St. John's website. During the two week review period, the Building Committee will collect all comments on the design. At the conclusion of the review process, we will filter these comments and make a recommendation to the Parish Council on those comments to be incorporated into the construction documents. Comments may be submitted up to June 30th to [joe.sullivan@alconlabs.com](mailto:joe.sullivan@alconlabs.com).

Joe Sullivan  
Building Committee Chairman

## Capital Campaign Committee

The CCC members have met as a committee 5 times and are very near to defining the capital campaign milestones schedule for the remainder of this year. We have had a joint meeting with the Parish Council to discuss our findings and recommendations and these will be presented to the Parish after approval of the Council.

Any parishioner who would like to participate in implementing the capital campaign to raise the necessary funds for our new church building is welcome to join the CCC. We need participation of a small cross-section of parishioners from among those who, in particular, will not be heavily involved in preparations for the annual Festival. You will not be asked to individually solicit fellow parishioners, that is not what the capital campaign will be about. You will participate with other CCC members in teams to prepare informational material and plan campaign events. We need parishioners with imagination, initiative, organizing, writing and speaking abilities, but mostly we need parishioners who understand the critical importance of this capital campaign to the future of our parish.

Please call me at 817 874-6128 or see me on Sundays.

George  
CCC Chairman

Vittas

## 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  
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## 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

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](mailto: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!



# Vacation Bible School

When: June 8 - 12  
Where: St. John the Baptist  
Time: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Cost: Snack donations  
RSVP: (817) 741-4324

All children ages 4 to adult are invited to attend.  
To guarantee a shirt, register by **June 5<sup>th</sup>**!

St. John is having a joint VBS program with St. Demetrios. This year it's hosted by St. John's. There will be a lesson each day with a corresponding craft within a theme for the week. Typically, Friday is a fun play day with various games.

If you would like to volunteer your time in helping with this program, please call Khanh Moutafis at 817-741-4324 or email at [moutafis@verizon.net](mailto:moutafis@verizon.net).

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## GOT JESUS? LOCK-IN

Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup>  
3:00PM - 9:00AM  
Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>  
Cost: \$25

Includes pizza, unlimited games and soda at



Open to all children ages 12 -17  
To guarantee a shirt, register by **May 29<sup>th</sup>**!

**Got Jesus?**

***2009 Golf Tournament  
Sponsored By***



**WESTERN PRODUCTION**  
ENERGY PRODUCER

**June 8, 2009  
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:**

11:00 am - 1:00 pm Registration & Lunch

11:00 am - 12:45 pm Putting Contest

1:00 pm Shotgun Start

6:00 pm Award Dinner and Silent Auction

Team of four: \$400 Individual Play: \$125

Lunch \$10.00 Non-Golfers

Dinner \$20.00 Non-Golfers

*(All are welcomed to attend lunch and/or dinner)*

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