



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

303 Cullum Drive
Eules, TX 76040-4625

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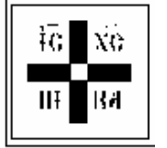
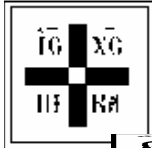


Sponsorship for This Month's Forerunner

Happy Birthday Joe

With much love,

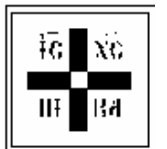
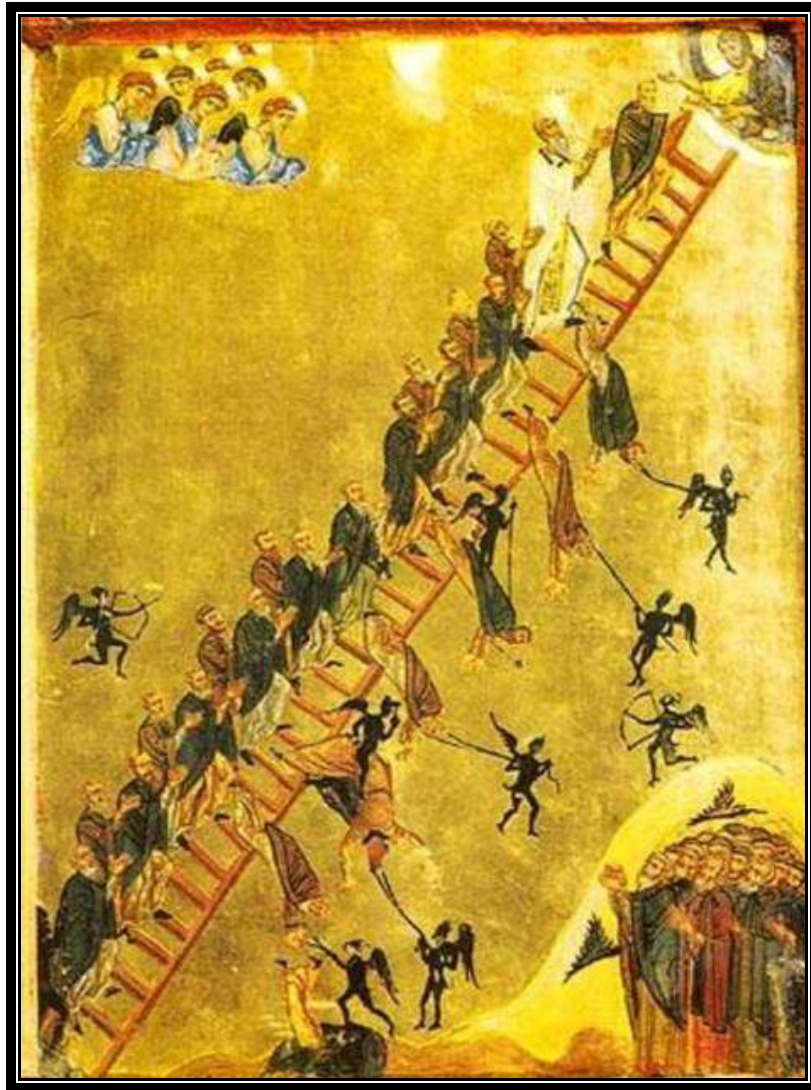
Nina, Patrick and Philip



THE FORERUNNER

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March 2010





THE FORERUNNER

Monthly Bulletin of
St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
303 Cullum Drive ▪ Euless, TX 76040-4625
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Web Site: www.stjohndfw.info ▪ E-mail: parish@stjohn.tx.goarch.org
Volume XXVI ▪ Number 3

March 2010

Schedule of Regular Services at St. John's

Sunday, March	7:	Holy Liturgy,	9:30 A.M.
Sunday, March	14:	Holy Liturgy,	9:30 A.M.
Sunday, March	21:	Holy Liturgy,	9:30 A.M.
Sunday, March	28:	Holy Liturgy,	9:30 A.M.

Orthodox Calendar

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

Council Capsule

On Sunday, February 21, a general assembly was held and approval of the Building Committee's recommendation was unanimous.

The recommendation was as follows:

Design a 25 x 100 ft. external addition to the Hall/Church building to relocate classrooms, offices and meeting space from the existing Paulos Center as Phase I of the Capital Development Program. Construct Phase 1 – Paulos Center Replacement Addition and Phase 2 – Demolition of the Existing (old) Paulos Center using liquidated Building Fund assets not to exceed \$170,000.

Defer planning, design and construction of Phase 4 Expansion of the Hall and Paulos Center Addition until after the new Church is occupied at the completion of Phase 3 of the Capital Development Program. Expansion of the Paulos Center Addition to be fully self-contained with all offices, bookstore/library, classrooms and meeting room needed for growth external to the original 50 x 100 ft. Hall/Church building without encroaching into future Hall expansion space.

We are very excited to begin this next step toward our ultimate goal of a new Church building and we thank Joe Sullivan and the Building Committee for their hard work and dedication. Construction will begin soon after the parish council has approved detailed design and estimates

and final approval from the city is received.

As we enter Great Lent let us prepare for Pascha with prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Great Lent is also a time of sacrifice and commitment. With plans well underway for our future church building, we must remember not only to make our commitment to the Capital Campaign, but to make our pledge of stewardship. Living as a steward is not expressed in a single action or even in a number of actions, but in an entire way of life. If you have filled out a 2010 Stewardship Card we thank you, if not, please take a moment to do so now. We need your support.

Plans for our annual Agape Dinner are underway. Tickets will once again be \$25 and will be available for purchase soon. Also, the Sunday school will be hosting their annual East Egg Hunt for the children. Make plans now to join your church family in celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord.

Barbara Vittas
President

Encyclical of Archbishop Demetrios for Holy and Great Lent 2010

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We begin this holy season of the year in anticipation of the great spiritual blessings that we will receive through a deeper

commitment to God and through our repentance and humility as we live each day in His divine presence. Great and Holy Lent is a very treasured period, filled with moments in which we can focus our hearts and minds on the grace of God. Through daily prayer, fasting, worship, and offering for the needs of others, and by the grace of God our lives will continue to be transformed by Him and our souls will be drawn closer to our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the primary goal of the Lenten season and of all the disciplines of our Orthodox faith – to lead us to Christ. In Holy Scripture we read that prayer, fasting, and service to people were a part of our Lord's sacred ministry. Through His example we are presented with a manner of living that focuses on communion with God and on the Gospel message of truth and life. This is also the focus of Great Lent.

First, Great and Holy Lent leads us to Christ through prayer. This season is an excellent opportunity for prayer. It is a period when we are called to renew our commitment to daily prayer and to devote more time to it. We make more time each day for personal and family prayer. All of this directs our hearts and minds to the presence and power of Christ. Our Lord is in our midst, ready to guide those who seek Him, assure those who are struggling, and lead us all through the power of God's grace to real life.

Second, the Lenten season leads us to Christ through worship. Over the coming weeks the parishes of our Holy Archdiocese will have frequent services, opportunities to gather together in praise of God and to renew our strength through

prayer and participation in the Holy Eucharist. The services of Lent are beautiful and solemn, leading us to examine our hearts within the sacred space of our sanctuaries and in communion with God and our brothers and sisters in the faith. In the holy atmosphere of worship, through the hymns, petitions, readings, and Holy Sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Repentance and Confession of sins, we are presented above all with the One who offers liberation from sin and guilt and brings salvation. Through worship we affirm the truth of what Christ has accomplished, we acknowledge His presence, and we respond in repentance and faith to His call to come and see all the blessings that God has for us.

Third, Great Lent leads us to Christ through fasting. This is a very special discipline of our faith that helps diminish our attachment to the material things of this world and deepens our dependence on God. It directs our hearts and minds toward the spiritual needs of our lives through a reorientation of our will. Through abstinence from various types of foods and limitations on the time we spend procuring and preparing food, we can devote more time to prayer, and we can discipline our entire being to be more attentive to the presence and will of God. As children of a heavenly kingdom, the purpose and goal of our lives is not tied to the treasures of this earth, but to the condition of our souls and to our faith in God. Fasting contributes to an awareness of this.

Finally, Lent leads us to Christ through offering for the needs of others. Our Lord is our example of offering, even through

sacrifice. Through giving of our time and resources to others, we imitate Christ, or rather we offer Christ. We experience the joys and blessings of securing the well-being of others, and we also realize that the true meaning of life is found and fulfilled not only in what we receive from God, but in what we can give back to Him by giving to others.

At the beginning of this blessed time, may we have hearts and minds that are seeking Christ. The way to Him through Great Lent is the true way of life; it is the journey of this season toward Holy Week and the celebration of the Feast of Feasts, Holy Pascha. May we, by the grace of Christ, and through genuine repentance make this Lent a time of transformation of our existence and a renewal of our souls and minds.

With paternal love in Christ,

†DEMETRIOS
Archbishop of America

2010 Food Festival

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

We are already gearing up for the 2010 Greek Fest. For some, it has just past, for others it's still far off into the future. For me, it's like it never finished. Though we had poor weather last year, we still had a great Greek fest. It was a wonderful opportunity to share our food, customs, and culture with our American brethren, but more importantly our, children, friends

and family. Thanks to everybody who made this happen.

After the food festival, as always, we had a lessons learned meeting. As such, a small committee is reviewing the findings and helping implement changes that will streamline some of the processes. A few of the changes include a new volunteer list. This should hopefully clear up what needs to be done, when, and how people can help before, during and after the festival.

We have also made changes to the chair positions, and as such eliminated the position of volunteer chairperson and co-chair and have replaced it with the team leader position. Team leads are now expected to, well, to lead. And as such would be responsible for their position, working with other team leads, creating and supporting their team and interfacing with any of the chair or purchasing representatives. We hope this new simplified position will attract new volunteers as they are gravely needed.

As everyone is well aware, we are in the process of building a new church and we expect ground breaking this year, the question arose "will we have enough volunteers?" Therefore, this year, we would like everybody to volunteer early. In fact, we need you to volunteer VERY early. We need the leader positions filled by March 31st, and the volunteer positions filled by May 16th. Please remember, this is the #1 revenue generating program we have for building our new church. But it

cannot happen without you and your friends and family.

Thank you,

George Genovesos

Financial Report

Financial Report Thru 12/31/2009

Stewardship Pledge		\$140,090.00
Stewardship Received		\$134,606.00
Total Net Income including Doanations & Fundraisers		

Year	2008	2009
	\$170,560.00	\$164,102.00

Total Net Expenses		
Year	2008	2009
	\$188,160.00	\$171,034.00

Total Net Income		
Year	2008	2009
	(\$17,600.00)	(\$6,932.00)

2010 Stewardship News

Our church needs your HELP!! If you consider St. John to be your church, please

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help us pay the bills. We are two months into the year and only 53% of last year's stewards have made commitments for 2010.

As of 2/14/10 we have 63 pledges for a total of \$112,144. This amount covers only a little more than half of our expenses. Therefore, if you have not already pledged, we ask that you seriously and prayerfully consider doing so. We have all received many blessings from God and we are required to willingly give back. St. John is a wonderful church community and it is up to us to support it. Please, fill out your pledge card today!! We want to thank those of you who have already become stewards and those who have graciously increased their pledge.

2010 Stewards

Alexander, Leo & Teresa
 Arlington, Linda
 Ballas, Andy & Pat
 Berca, Sorin & Carmen
 Blake, John & Harriett
 Bogdos, George & Sotera
 Bogordos, George & Kasandra
 Brandon, Roberta
 Cline, Tim & Angela
 Dempsey, Walt & Dorothy
 Feichtinger, PavlinaFile, Russ & Hope
 Fondulis, Paul
 Forcum, Ana
 Fox, Mike & Kathy
 Geil, Chris & Sandra
 Genovezos, George & Olympia
 George, Ken & Maggie
 Gigliotta, Leonard
 Hooe, Jane
 Ibrahim, Basil & Mary

Jones, Daniel
Karegeannes, Harry & Ginny
Kerbow, Joe & Maria
Koumbarides, Nicos
Leeders, Larry
Leeders, Stacia
Maayeh, George & Lily
MacPherson, Doug & Andi
Manos, George & Vicki
Mavias, Michael & Mary
Medvic, Allison
Medvic, Nancy
Molhoek, Mike & Tina
Morcovescu, Serban & Anca
Nahatis, Arthur
Naval, Marc
Nicholas, Toni
Noulas, Athanasios
Nugent, Phillipa
Pachares, Tony & Athena
Papadopoulou, Olga & Theoni
Papalioidis, Louie
Paulos, Sophie
Petercsak, Steve & Esther
Peters, Paun & Lynn
Plock, Eleni
Poletes, Bill & Rena
Poriotis, Terry & Gail
Rafailedes, Connie
Ruppel, John & Joanie
Russo, Joseph & Athena
Samaras, Johnny
Shah, Raj & Kirsten
Steffaro, Bob & Karen
Sullivan, Joe & Nina
Talleos, Peter
Tudora, Fr. Vasile & Pres. Mirela
Vittas, George & Barbara
Walker, Jim & Harriet
Wright, Bill & Christine
Yiantsou, Dr. Chris & Margo
Zingas, Ari & Olga

Philoptochos News

Kali Sarakosti,

Firstly, let me thank the entire St. John's chapter for hosting such a lovely Pan-Orthodox Vesper Service on February 28th. What a nice representation we had during the holiest of seasons.

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for Saturday March 20, 2010 concurrently with our baking for Pascha; we hope to see you all there. Order forms are available in the Parish Hall, please support our efforts. We will again be discussing our upcoming Festival of Tables slated for April 24, 2010. We have an exciting and well known guest speaker, Iron Chef, Michael Symon scheduled to speak that day as well as a book signing. I encourage you all to consider hosting a table. We are joining our sister chapter in Dallas for this so let us all show our sisterly love and support. A formal invitation will be sent shortly.

Just a reminder that Kathy Fox works so diligently at recruiting individuals to participate in our Lenten Soup Suppers, this year we have had a marginal response from the community. I encourage you all to consider signing up to bring a Lenten dish. We only host 3 suppers and all proceeds are forwarded to Holy Cross School of Theology. Kathy is also going to continue her quest for "Shoes for the Soul". We have a donation box in the Parish Hall, so while you are out shopping, consider picking up an extra pair of shoes to contribute. The cost is

minimal and the reward is plentiful. See Kathy for details.

Due to the diligent efforts of several individuals we now have our Chapter's dates, times, forms and information on our Philoptochos page at:

<http://www.stjohndfw.info/philoptochos.html> .

Please reference this page for any and all information regarding dates, events, meetings, calendars and of course we welcome your comments as well.

Lastly, we continually hold close to our hearts the Ruppel family. The tragic loss of John has left us numb, we however pray that the journey lying ahead for them is part of the joy of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior which we are all promised.

With Christ's Love,
Bertha

Philoptochos Scholarship

The Philoptochos Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for their annual \$1000 Scholarship awarded to eligible high school seniors.

The Timeline is as follows:

- Applications will be available for distribution the first Sunday in February.
- Applications are due in to the Scholarship Chairperson no later than the last Sunday in March.
- Selection process begins first week of April
- Notification of the award will be the last Sunday in April

Any questions please contact: Tina Molhoek at tina.molhoek@kellerisd.net

Youth Ministries on the Move

We had a very productive meeting on Jan. 31st. These are a few of the results.

CHURCH SCHOOL under the effective leadership of Khanh has a full schedule coming up. Her report is elsewhere in this paper. We are fortunate to have excellent teachers who work hard to prepare lessons for our children....have you thanked them lately? At this writing we do not know if any of our teens have decided to present speeches for our Parish Oratorical Festival. We are hoping though!

The Genovezos' have donated a large heater for the garage Church School room. Just think....next year we won't have to worry about the comfort of our kids!

The METROPOLIS GOYA RETREAT (Albuquerque) is in the works and Rena Poletes has been kind enough to get information for us and start the planning.. We truly want our teens to go this year because we know of the benefits they will derive. We hope to raise money to help cover the expenses and will keep you posted.

Olympia Genovezos has started the JOY program even with her very busy school and family schedule. Please offer to help

her with this program for 3rd-5th grade students and of course, bring your kids to the events.

The NURSERY remains closed until we become aware of a need to start up again.

The EASTER EGG HUNT is being planned by Athena Russo and Tina Nicholas. This year it is the same date as Western Easter (April 4). So be on the look-out for good buys on candy! The END OF THE YEAR PICNIC which we all enjoy along with the students is scheduled for May 16th and planned by Olympia and Margo Yiantsou. The GRADUATION CELEBRATION date has been changed to May 23 and this will be hosted by the Y.M. Council. This is one of two yearly fund raisers for our group and as always the cost is a free-will offering.

We are purchasing and ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (OCF) DVD to be shown to our teen classes to encourage spiritual activity when they enter college. We are alarmed by the large number of college students who no longer go to church then and beyond.

The type of ACOLYTE gifts were discussed and decided upon.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE AUGUST 29TH .

Athena Pachares, Coordinator.

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GOYA

The new officers are:

Philip Sullivan, President
Maggie Molhoek, Vice President
Ovi Berca, Secretary
Peter Pursley, Treasurer

Thanks,
Philip Sullivan, GOYA 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 continue in March with the series of dialogues concentrating on monasticism. We will continue to explore the way of the monastics trying to find in their lifelong dedication to Christ powerful models of behavior that we can follow in our own lives.

Don't forget to visit our redesigned blog for additional info, materials and reflection at:
<http://dialogues.stjohndfw.info>

Practical Faith

Proper Confession

Before confession one should attempt to recall all the sins which one has committed voluntarily or involuntarily. One must attentively reexamine one's life in order to recall not only those sins committed since the last confession, but also those which have not been confessed through forgetfulness. Then, with compunction and a contrite heart, approach the Father Confessor and begin the confession of your sins.

1. Confess your sins honestly, remembering that you open them not to a man, but to God Himself. God knows your sins already and only wants your admission of them. You should not be embarrassed before your spiritual father: he is a person just as you are. He knows human shortcomings well, man's tendency towards sin. For this reason your spiritual father cannot be your terrible judge at confession. Is the reason that you are embarrassed before your spiritual father that you are afraid to lose his good opinion of you? On the contrary, your spiritual father will have all the more love for you when he sees your open, honest confession. Furthermore, if you are afraid to reveal your sins before just one person, your spiritual father, how will you overcome your embarrassment when you appear at God's Last Judgment? There, all your sins which you have not confessed will be opened before God Himself, the Angels and all the people.

2. Be specific when you confess, listing all your sins separately. St. John Chrysostom says: "One must not only say: I have sinned, or I am sinful, but one must declare each type of sin." *"The revelation of sins,"* says St. Basil the Great, *"is subject to the same law as the declaration of physical ills..."* The sinner is spiritually ill, and the spiritual father is the physician. It stands to reason that one must confess or tell about one's sins in the same way as one who is physically ill describes the symptoms of his illness to a physician from whom he expects to receive healing.

3. Do not mention anyone else during confession, i.e. do not complain about anyone - what sort of confession is this? It is not confession, but judgment and a new sin.

4. Do not attempt to justify yourself in any way during confession: blaming weakness, custom, etc. The more one justifies himself during confession, the less one is justified by God. The more one denounces, judges and accuses oneself, the more one is justified in the eyes of God.

5. Unless asked by your spiritual father, do not list the sins you have not committed or things you have not done. Doing this, you liken yourself to the Pharisee of the Gospel. You do not confess your sins, but boast, thereby increasing your judgment.

6. We must confess with sorrow and a contrite heart the sins by which we have grieved our Lord God. It is not good that

many tell of their sins matter-of-factly, without any remorse. They speak as though they are engaged in some casual conversation. What is worse, some even allow themselves to laugh during confession. These are all signs of unrepentedness. Confessing in this manner, we do not cleanse ourselves of our sins, but rather increase them.

7. Finally, confess your sins with faith in Jesus Christ, with hope in His mercy. Only with faith in Jesus Christ and hope in Him can we receive forgiveness of our sins. Without faith, we cannot receive remission. An example of this is Judas the traitor—who was remorseful of what he did, but did not have faith in Jesus, no hope in His mercy, and thus ended his own life.

This then, is how we must confess in order to receive remission of our sins from our Lord God. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (I John 1:9)

(Adapted from a pamphlet prepared by the Orthodox Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Washington, DC)

Choir Notes

Our choir wishes to express its most profound and heartfelt sympathy to our dear friend and organist, Joanie Ruppel, for the loss her beloved husband John. John was truly a special person defined by his devotion to God and an

uncompromising love of his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with Joanie and her children, Chris, Elizabeth, Dave, Katie, Nick, Zoe.

"Joanie's grace and strength has been an inspiration to us all."

Bill Poletes, Choir Director

Church School News

Dear Students and Parents,

What a successful event "sending-off" our soldiers on Valentine's Day! I want to send many thanks to our teachers and parents who transported the children to the airport. Thank you to those of you who brought goodies for distribution. We had approximately 20 children who distributed goodies and cheered for the soldiers. It was beautiful to see the huge smiles on the children and the soldiers as they hi-five each other.

Due to Spring Break, we'll not have church school on March 14th.

This month we will focus on the season of Lent and Easter. Our children will learn why we observe this Holy event.

The Lenten Retreat will be on March 27 10AM – 1PM. We will start in church with a short service on Lazarus, we'll learn to create the palm crosses for Palm Sunday and the children will also have the opportunity to take the Sacrament of Holy

Confession. We'll have activities and lunch together.

With His Blessing,

Khanh Moutafis

Other Dates:

March 14 – NO church
school due to Spring
Break
March 27 – Lenten
Retreat 10AM – 1PM

Ageless Wonders

The Ageless Wonders will meet on Tuesday March 9th at 11:00 A.M. in the Paulos Center for a potluck luncheon. We hopefully will get to see Taki's DVD on their trip to Viet Nam and Cambodia.. Call for more details!!!

Margaret Chokas

Building Committee

Building Committee Update:

Ashton Wynne is in the process of finalizing City of Euless review of our Church plans. By approval of the plans, we will be "officially" ready to implement the project pending outcome of the successful Capital Campaign.

The Phase 1 Paulos Center Replacement Addition and Phase 2 Demolition of the existing Paulos Center are projected to

begin prior to the new Church being built. These phases will require approximately 4 months to execute after contract approval with Ashton Wynne serving as our Construction Manager. The intent to create a cost effective replacement of the functionality of the Paulos Center (i.e. classrooms, conference room, and offices) in a southern expansion of the existing Church/Hall building.

If you have any questions regarding these initial phases, please do not hesitate to ask me or any members of the Building Committee.

Joe Sullivan
Building Committee Chairman

Capital Campaign Committee

The Capital Campaign Committee is excited to be able to report the following status of the Campaign as of February 21, 2010.

Total Commitments - \$1,578,283
Capital Campaign Fund Account
Balance - \$438,484

A motion to approve the concept drawing of the Paulos Center Replacement Addition at a cost not to exceed \$170,000 was approved at the General Assembly held on February 21. This means we will move forward with a detailed design and construction in early spring. Once the Paulos Center Replacement Addition is complete and occupied, we will demolish

the existing Paulos Center. This will take-up approximately the first half of the year during which time we hope our uncommitted parishioners will be able to make their commitments to the Capital Campaign Fund according to their abilities. **As we have said in the past, we need everyone's help to "Build Our Future" no matter the size of commitment. The important thing is to have everyone be a part of this exciting time in the life of our church.**

A financially secure Capital Campaign Fund Account has been opened at a local bank and arrangements have also been made for acceptance of non-cash contributions in payment of commitments for those who desire to transfer securities to the CCFA. Please contact the Council Treasurer or any member of the CCC for further information and directions as to the steps to take when transferring securities.

George Vittas, Chairman, Dr. Chris Yiantsou, Vice Chairman, Paun Peters, Nancy Medvic, Louis Papaliadis and Margaret Chokas

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 visit us on our new Capital Campaign website at <http://buildingourfuture.stjohndfw.info/>

Yours in Christ,

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Sorin Berca, Website Administrator

Usher Schedule

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

Acolyte Schedule

1st Sunday : Phillip Sullivan, Alex Genevesos, John Molhoek, Bennet Kerbow
2nd Sunday : Chris Eftemie, Ovidiu Berca, Phillip Sullivan, Chris File
3rd Sunday : Jackson Wright, Joey Basiliadis, Alex Genevezos, James Seals
4th Sunday : Luca Tudora, Ovi Berca, James Seals, Alex Shah
5th Sunday: Phillip Sullivan, Jackson Wright, Ovi Berca, James Seals

Coffee Hour Schedule

1st Sun.: Mr. & Mrs. Trevor Matheson
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