SYNAXARION: Cosmas and Damian the Holy Unmercenaries of Asia, and their mother Theodota; David the Righteous of Evia

Resurrectional Apolytikion (4th Mode): When the tidings of the Resurrection from the angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples, and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the apostles, with boasting did they proclaim: that death is vanquished evermore and Christ our God is risen from the dead, granting to the world His great mercy.

Apolytikion For The Unmercenaries: O Holy Unmercenaries and Wonderworkers, visit our infirmities. Freely you received; freely give to us.

Apolytikion of St. John the Baptist: The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you O Forerunner the witness of the Lord is sufficient. You have proved to be truly more venerable than the prophets. Since you were granted to baptize in the river, the One Whom they proclaimed. Therefore, you strove for truth, proclaiming with joy the Good News, even to those in Hades: that God was manifested in the flesh, and takes away the sins of the world, and grants to us His great mercy.

Kontakion: A protection of Christians unshameable, intercessor to our Holy Maker unwavering, reject not, the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us for you are good, your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you. Hasten to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all time, Theotokos for those who honor you.
Brethren, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazaros, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazaros in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazaros to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazaros in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses, and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to them, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.'"

At the end of the liturgy we will have Artoklasia for the health and well-being of our country during the election.

Answer these thought provoking questions about today’s Gospel Reading in the adult and teen Sunday school lesson. Click HERE.

Click here to Download this Week’s Children’s Word from MyOCN.

Happy Birthday!

This month we will begin publishing those who are celebrating their birthdays. We will continue to do this every month. If you want to make sure we have your birthdate on file, please call the office.

Leah Celin - November 1
Steve Reisyn - November 1
Gregory Hartung - November 2
Amy Voykin - November 3
Elena Gonatos - November 4
Brian Kelly - November 4
David Clipp - November 5
Nicholas Cummings - November 5
John Abramis - November 6
Sophia Meadows - November 6
Maria Zabetakis - November 6
Angelina Krinos - November 7
James Michael Strahan - November 7
**Upcoming Services & Events**

| Sunday, November 1 | Sts. Cosmas and Damian
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orthros 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Assembly—After Divine Liturgy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Daylight Savings End</strong></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday, November 2</th>
<th>Bible Study 6:30 p.m.</th>
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| Tuesday, November 3 | Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m. \n| Paraklesis 6:00 p.m. |
|---------------------|------------------------|

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday, November 5</th>
<th>Griefshare 6:30 p.m.</th>
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| Saturday, November 7 | Saturday of the 7th Week
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<tr>
<td>Orthros 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday School In Person Class (Toddlers, Pre-K, Kindergarten)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Young At Heart 11:30 a.m. (in person at the church)</td>
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| Sunday, November 8 | Feasts of the Archangels, Michael & Gabriel
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<tr>
<td>Orthros 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>GOYA 5:00 p.m.</td>
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| Monday, November 9 | St Nectarios
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<tr>
<td>Orthros 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Father Stavros will anoint the faithful with oil from the tomb of St. Nektarios after Liturgy</td>
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**In Person Sunday School each Saturday for a few classes**

We will have an in person Sunday School class for a couple grades of our Sunday School on the Saturdays of November. Kids and parents of each grade are encouraged to sign up for Liturgy that Saturday, and then there will be a short lesson after the Divine Liturgy, in church.

For November, the schedule will be as follows:

- Saturday, November 7: Toddlers--Pre-K Kindergarten
- Saturday, November 14: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade
- Saturday, November 21: 4th, 5th, and 6th grade

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**Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project**

**November 1-7**

*I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all Thy wonderful deeds.* Psalm 9:1

The weekly Bible verses for this month will focus on the theme of thanksgiving and gratitude. This week is going to be very emotionally charged for many people, as the Presidential Election takes place. There will be a temptation to be overly angry or overly jubilant, depending on the outcome you are hoping for. This verse reminds us to be overly thankful, to give not just some token thanks to God but to thank Him with our whole heart. Many of us will spend hours on the phone this week talking about current events. Here is a challenge. Talk to someone about God this week. Most of us will spend time talking about politics. How about talking about faith?!
Update and Announcements

Sunday School continues — Please do this with your children. There will be a video presentation for pre-school through sixth grade. There is a sheet of questions for teens and adults.

Click here for the video presentation!

Click here for the lesson and challenge for today!

Sts. Cosmas and Damian, the Unmercenary Healers (Nov 1) — Sts. Cosmas and Damian are the Patron Saints of the Philoptochos, as they went from place to place to help sick people and not taking any money for their services. Sts. Cosmas and Damian (called the Agii Anargyri) are also saints we pray to for intercession when we are sick, and are also patron saints of doctors (in addition to St. Luke).

Parish Assembly to be held on November 1 after Divine Liturgy — Our Fall Parish Assembly will be held on this Sunday, November 1, following the Divine Liturgy, beginning at approximately 12:30 p.m. We will be offering the meeting both in person and via Zoom. For those who come to worship with us on Sunday, November 1, you are more than welcome to join us in the Kourmolis Center. For those who would like to participate from home, a Zoom link will be mailed with the Parish Assembly Notice as well as emailed only to those who are eligible to attend the meeting. Please call the office if you have a question about your eligibility. The agenda for the assembly as well as the 2021 Proposed Budget will be mailed out with the Notice. The principle agenda item for this meeting is the 2021 Budget. As you have heard, Parish Council Elections for 2020 are suspended, and everyone currently serving will have one extra year added to their term, as well as to their term limit.

Monday Night Bible Study — will continue via Zoom. The Monday night Bible study with Charlie will be held October 19 and 26 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. If you are not currently part of the Monday night Bible study and would like to join in, please contact Charlie at chambos@stjohnpta.org and he will add you.

Women’s Bible Study — We will meet on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. If you would like to join our women’s Bible study group, please contact Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com and he will add you. Also, each participant will receive a link to purchase a book for this year. We will be studying the Epistle of James.

GriefShare continues — GriefShare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Each GriefShare session has three distinct elements: Video seminar with experts, support group discussion with focus and personal study and reflection. For more information please contact Donna Hambos at 813-843-8412 or dhambos@msn.com. Books for the program will be provided. Donation for the book suggested but not required. Open to all family and friends. Griefshare remains open enrollment with support towards healing and hope. You can begin at any time. If you attended last semester and missed a day or two, you can come for those days or repeat the whole thing.

Young At Heart — will be meeting Saturday November 7th at 11:30 a.m. following Divine Liturgy. We invite members of the Young At Heart to register and attend Saturday’s Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. and then will offer coffee and donuts to be enjoyed in the hall while socially distanced. Those who cannot physically attend can still participate via the Zoom link sent out by Mike Trimmis.

GOYA Meeting Next Sunday — On Sunday November 7th, we will have another GOYA meet, and return to our old format of eating together, icebreakers, break out discussions, and prayer. Please join us promptly at 5:00 p.m. Parents are welcome to join.

St. Nectarios (Nov 9) — St. Nectarios is a “modern day” saint, a saint of the 20th Century, (Died in 1920, Canonized as a Saint in 1960), who was a bishop in Greece. St. Nectarios is the patron saint of cancer patients and is considered one of our “healing” saints, meaning that we invoke his intercessions when we are praying for those who are sick. Cancer sufferers and survivors are urged to attend this Divine Liturgy in order to pray for continued healing through the Intercessions of St. Nectarios. Father Stavros has oil from the tomb of St. Nectarios in Aegina, Greece, with which he will anoint the faithful in attendance at the con

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Kathy & Andrew Bouzinekis; Anastasia; Amanda, Andrew, Colton, Miranda, Charlotte Elizabeth, Nuha, Nabeel, Michael, Amal, John, Elaine, Olga, Virginia Georgiou, Ron Myer, Toula Tsaros, Fr. Pat Legato, Nellie Pringle, Robert Calbi, Yolanda Webb, Angela Bougas, Tony Ekonomou, Ron, Jason Vickers, Rex Garrison, Tina Chakonas, Ann Demas, Alex Martinez, Adriana Martinez, Aaron Martinez, Christina Noel Komez Houch, Evangeline Xeroteres, Nichole Ross, Daniel Ross, Daniella Ross, Ashley Henderson, Natalie Henderson, Chris, Debbie, James, Avery, Lily, Jacob, Jesse, Ann, Rosario, Antonia Caffentzis, Alissa, John, Angela, Joey, Christine Scourtes, Steven, Matthew & Family, Phyllis, John Zelatis, Reagan, Peter Zaharis, Alexandra Ferrarolisi, Leon & Despina Botham, Cindy Xenick, Mary Ellen Evdemon, Marie Sofia Panagopoulos, Maria Hursey, Chris Vamvakias, John Myer, Mike Trimmis, Robert and Alice Stoccardo, John Alexander, Michael Romero, George Hambos, Dean Kondilis and Family, Bill and Nancy Manikas, Patricia Costello, Anastasia Smyrnakis, Ekaterina & Anna Shushaalykova, Dora Koudouna, Ana Mourer, Debbie Phelps, Mary Voykin, David Voykin, Anne Sakellaris, Denise Badrane, Sia Blankenship, Don Payne, Zhanie Temelkova, Stanisla Verzienova, James, Jude and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.
Update and Announcements Continued...

As we approach the season of Advent, I wanted to share with you a book I have written called, *Let All Creation Rejoice: Reflections for Advent, the Nativity and Epiphany*. The book is approximately 230 pages long. It contains a reflection to be read daily during the period of the Nativity Fast (November 15) through January 7. From November 15 through December 24, one verse of the Gospel accounts of the Nativity is examined in detail each day. It is practical inspiration written to be understood by the average Greek Orthodox Christian.

+Fr. Stavros

Although this book is written in an easy to read style - the concepts and application are very thought provoking! My husband and I have been reading it at meal time, as our Advent meditation. Each day's readings help me turn my mind to what's really going on and important this time of year - helping me refocus, and reflect on the events surrounding the Nativity, and what they mean for me! Today's reading, for example, reflected on the angel telling the shepherds, "Don't be afraid," and following reflections on fear in my own life. Excellent book, and now that I am enjoying this one so much, I will be ordering the Lenten reflections, too. -Amazon Customer

*A must read for any Christian wishing to renew their spiritual life during the Christmas season.* -Amazon Customer

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**Philoptochos Spanakopita and Tiropita Sale**

Available for purchase after Liturgy on December 6, 13 and 20

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<tr>
<th>Spanakopita or Tiropita 28 piece tray</th>
<th>Spanakopita 2 pound tray</th>
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<tr>
<td>Appetizer size</td>
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<td>$30.00</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
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There will be a limited number of pitas ordered because of the pandemic and our inability to gauge the demand.

**We will also be selling Vasilopita on Dec. 20 & 27 for $10**

For questions and concerns please contact: Jeanie Nenos @ (813) 451-9116 or Lisa Alsina @ (813) 728-1094.

**Taking This Year Off from Greek Festival**

As you know, we had to cancel the Greek Festival this year because of the pandemic. It is not smart or safe to offer it at this time. We look forward to having this again in 2021. With this in mind, obviously, we are not going to get a big piece of income that we receive from the Festival each year. We are encouraging parishioners to give whatever you can to help offset this loss of income. As a suggestion, consider giving what you would have spent at the Festival had you attended this year (what you would have spent on food or a raffle ticket, etc.) and we will use this money to make up for the shortfall.

**Community Outreach—Holiday Tent**

The MetroMin Holiday Tent will be serving 40,000 families this year with an increased need because of Covid-19. This year clients will stay in their car and everyone (clients & volunteers) will follow CDC guidelines (limited occupancy, masks, hand washing stations, etc).

Tuesday, November 24, 3:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m. (25 Volunteers)
Monday, December 21, 3:30 p.m.—6:30 p.m. (25 Volunteers)
Saturday, November 21, 8:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m. (Matthew 25 Community Outreach)

Click here to sign up