4th Sunday of Matthew  
Sunday, July 5, 2020  
St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

SYNAXARION:  Athanasius of Mount Athos; Righteous Father Lampadus the Wonderworker; Kyprianos the New Martyr of Koutloumousiou Monastery; Uncovering of the Holy Relics of Our Righteous Father Sergius of Radonezh; Holy New Martyrs Elizabeth the Grand Duchess and the Novice Barbara

Resurrectional Apolytikon (3rd Tone): Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and first born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great mercy.

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.
Epistle Reading is from Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Gospel Reading is from Matthew 8:5-13

At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.

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

July 5 - 11

Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord, keep watch over the door of my lips! Psalm 141:3

We are currently being encouraged to wear masks in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Hopefully we won’t be doing this for very long. A priest joked with me recently that when I put on my mask to distribute Holy Communion, it is like an extra vestment, and should we offer a prayer, as we do when we put each of our vestments on? If there was a prayer to be said when we put our masks on, whether in church or in public, it should be this verse from Psalm 141:3: “Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord, keep watch over the door of my lips!” Much have been made of the covid-19 pandemic. But this is not the only pandemic from which we are suffering. There is a pandemic of gossip and now one of anger that permeate our entire world. A mask helps prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Watching what comes from our lips is the only way to cure gossip and the best way to cure anger.
Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, July 5  
4th Sunday of Matthew  
Orthros 8:45 a.m.  Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday, July 6  
Bible Study  6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 8  
Paraklesis Service of Supplication to the Virgin Mary  10:00 a.m.

Saturday, July 11  
St. Euphemia  
Orthros 9:00 a.m.  Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, July 12  
5th Sunday of Matthew  
Orthros 8:45 a.m.  Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & LITURGICAL NOTES

Livestreaming - As a reminder, all of our services are live-streamed. If you cannot attend in person, we invite you to worship virtually with us.

Attending Church - Anyone may attend any weekday service they wish, just please sign up on SignUpGenius. We ask that people attend on Sundays every other week. However, if at noon on Friday, you see that we have not reached the maximum capacity for the upcoming Sunday, anyone may attend.

Divine Liturgy on all the Saturdays of July—In order to facilitate people being able to worship on a weekly basis, we will celebrate Divine Liturgy on all the Saturdays of July. We ask that people only sign up for every other Sunday, so that people have the opportunity to worship on at least 1-2 Sundays of July. Anyone can sign up to worship on the Saturdays.

Paraklesis to be celebrated every Wednesday—We will continue to celebrate Paraklesis every until the end of this crisis, at which point a Holy Unction service will be offered to mark the end of this crisis. On July 1, Paraklesis will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. On July 8, 15, 22 and 29, Paraklesis will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m.

**Should the restrictions change in July and allow for all of us to worship together, the Saturday and Wednesday services will be discontinued.

July 11 - St. Euphemia - St. Euphemia was martyred for her Christian faith in the year 303. At the 4th Ecumenical Council in the year 451 in Chalcedon, there was a dispute over the two natures of Christ. The bishops at the council argued over two doctrines about Christ. They then put each doctrine on a scroll and opening the tomb of St. Euphemia, placed both scrolls in her hands. After three days, the tomb was opened and the scroll of the correct teaching of the two natures of Christ was in her right hand, while the scroll about Christ having only one nature was at her feet.
Wise and Foolish Builders is the topic for the adult and teen Sunday School lesson this week. Click HERE.

Community Outreach - Saturday, July 18
We Want You to Serve with Us!

To Volunteer: Go to our Sign Up Genius, see URL below or can the QR CODE and sign up.

Place: First Presbyterian Church @ 412 Zack Street East, downtown Tampa. The entrance for volunteers is on the Polk Street side of building.

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Here is the URL for the Sign Up Genius for every upcoming 3rd Saturday of Month. Find the dates that work for you and sign up.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f48a5a62da3f49-community

Please don’t hesitate to ask any questions. Thank you and God Bless

Greg Melton 813-967-2074 gmelt12@gmail.com

Take Advantage of the Parish Assistance Program (PAP)

Since May 1, St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church has partnered with BayCare Behavioral Health to offer a Parish Assistance Program. The PAP program will provide our parishioners access to free and confidential counseling services - offering additional support when life’s challenges become overwhelming. The PAP utilizes a network of faith-based providers and are sensitive to the values and beliefs of those they serve and provide compassionate care to children, adults, parents, and seniors. Parishioners can contact BayCare to request up to three free and confidential counseling sessions from a licensed mental health professional. The BayCare helpline, 800-878-5470, is answered 24/7 by mental health professionals. Many BayCare therapists are also offering telephonic and virtual counseling sessions to help parishioners maintain their emotional wellbeing during these trying times.

Up to three free and confidential counseling sessions.

Call 1-800-878-5470

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: George and Toula Tzaros, 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 Kouzes Houck, Evangeline Xeroteres, Nichole Ross, Daniel Ross, Daniella Ross, Ashley Henderson, Natalie Henderson, Chris, Debbie, James, Avery, Lily, Jacob, Jesse, Ann, Rosario, Alexandra Ferrarolis, Leon & Despina Botham, Cindy Xenick, Mary Ellen Evdemon, Maria Panagopoulos, Maria Hursey, Chris Vamvakias, John Myer, Mike Trims, Robert and Alice Stoccardo, John Alexander, Michael Romero, George Hamros, Dean Kondilis and Family, Bill and Nancy Manikas, Patricia Costello, Anastasia Smyrnakis, Ekatserina & Anna Shushaalykova, Dora Koudouna, Ana Mourn, Debbie Phelps, Mary Voykin, David Voykin, Anna Sakellaris, Denise Badrane, Sia Blankenship, Don Payne, Zhana Temelkova, Stanislava Terzieva, James, Jude and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.