

5th Sunday of Matthew

Sunday, July 12, 2020

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



SYNAXARION: Holy Martyrs Proclus and Hilary; Our Devout Father Michael Maleinus, the spiritual father of St. Athanasius of Athos; Holy Martyr Serapion; Holy Martyrs Andrew the Commander, Heraclius, Faustus, Menas, and their company; Holy Martyr Mamas; St. Veronica; Our devout father Paisios the New of the Holy Mountain Athos, who reposed in peace in the year 1994.

Resurrectional Apolytikon (4th Tone): 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 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.

Readings for 5th Sunday of Matthew

Epistle Reading is from Romans 10:1-10

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

Gospel Reading is from Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

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

July 12-18

God exalted Him at His right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sin. Acts 5:31

This week's verse was requested by a parishioner (If you have a verse you'd like me to write on, please feel free to submit it). It is from the story of Robinson Crusoe, a man marooned by himself on an island, who finds a Bible and opens it to this chapter. Imagine finding yourself on a deserted island. For some of us, we've experienced that with the covid-19 quarantine. We've felt deserted and cut off from much of life. There are two takeaways from this verse. First, God exalts each of us, since we are created in His image. Whether we work in the public eye or live rather anonymously, it doesn't matter. God exalts all those who love Him. Secondly, the main work of our life is supposed to be repentance. Again, it doesn't matter if you live in the public eye or not, our job is to live in a state of repentance, which means focusing ever closer on the Lord and on salvation, on doing works of charity and love, of loving God and loving others.

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, July 12	5th Sunday of Matthew Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday, July 13	Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Summer Reset 2020 Live-chat at 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, July 14	Summer Reset 2020 Live-chat at 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, July 15	Paraklesis Service of Supplication to the Virgin Mary 10:00 a.m. Summer Reset 2020 Live-chat at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 16	Summer Reset 2020 Live-chat at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 18	Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Community Outreach 8:00 a.m.
Sunday, July 19	Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday, July 20	Prophet Elias (Evening Liturgy) Orthros 5:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m. GOYA Discussion in church after Divine Liturgy

ANNOUNCEMENTS & LITURGICAL NOTES

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

GriefShare to start September 1 Online—Thank you to Donna Hambos for finishing our second semester of GriefShare, our small group ministry dedicated to people who have lost loved ones. This group will resume on September 1 online with another 13-week program. We know that there have been several people this spring who have lost loved ones. Please keep this very beneficial program in mind over the summer so that you can participate in the fall.

Summer Reset Virtual Experience—The Metropolis of Atlanta is sponsoring a “summer reset virtual experience” in lieu of St. Stephen’s Camp which was cancelled for this summer. This experience will be from July 13-17.

Answer these thought provoking questions about today's Gospel Reading in the adult and teen Sunday school lesson. 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 scan 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 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 Kouzes Houck, Evangeline Xeroteris, 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 Ferrarolis, Leon & Despina Botham, Cindy Xenick, Mary Ellen Evdemon, Marie Sofia Panagopoulos, Maria Hursey, Chris Vamvakias, John Myer, Mike Trimis, 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, Zhana Temelkova, Stanislava Terzieva, James, Jude and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.