

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

February 14, 2021 - Sunday of the Canaanite Woman

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)
Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)
Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)



(Above, Icon of Jesus and the Canaanite Woman)

SYNAXARION: Holy Father Auxentius of the Mountain; Cyril, Equal-to-the-Apostles & Teacher of the Slavs; Nicholas the New Martyr of Corinth; Abraham, Bishop of Carrhes in Mesopotamia

Resurrectional Apolytikion (3rd Mode): 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.

For The Devout Man (1st Mode): As a citizen of the desert and an angel incarnate * and a wonder-worker you shone forth, O Afxentios, our God-bearing father. * Since you received the spiritual gifts * by fasting and vigilance and prayer, * you can cure those who are ailing and heal the souls * of those who run to you with faith. * Glory to Him who gave His might to you; * glory to Him who placed a crown on you; * glory to Him who operates through you, providing cures to all.

Apolytikion of St. John the Baptist: The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you O Fore-runner 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 unshamable, 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 Sunday of the Canaanite Woman

Epistle Reading is from 2 Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Gospel Reading is from Matthew 15:21-28

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Answer these thought provoking questions about to-day'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 and Happy Nameday!

If you want to make sure we have your birthdate on file, please call the office.

Birthdays

Wren Robinson

-Feb 15

Lambros Papaeconomou

-Feb 18

Charles Katsaros

-Feb 19

Vickie Peckham

-Feb 20

Namedays

Chloe, Valentini - Feb 14

Efsevios - Feb 15

Pamfillie, Pamfillos, Selefkos -
Feb 16

Theodoros - Feb 17

Agapitos, Leon - Feb 18

Filothei - Feb 19

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, February 14	WEAR RED SUNDAY Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday, February 15	Orthodoxy 101 - Part TWO Bible Study	6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 16	Women's Bible Study Suffering Book Study	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 17	Paraklesis	6:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 18	Griefshare	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 20	Orthros 9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, February 21	Beginning of Triodion - Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee Orthros 8:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday, February 22	Evening Liturgy for St. Polycarp - Orthodoxy 101 Part III Orthros Teaching Divine Liturgy	5:45 p.m. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Stewardship 2021 Update

As of Thursday, February 11, we have received 219 stewardship forms, with a pledged amount of \$366,063.00 for 2021.

Don't forget to fill out your form and send it into the office!

Orthodoxy 101 Class has started

Fr. Stavros offers this class two times per year, in the spring and in the fall. This will be a Four-week course of study on Monday nights to make people aware of the basics of being an Orthodox Christian. The classes will be part lecture, part discussion, with lots of time for questions and answers.

The four sessions will be done as follows:

Monday February 15 - Orthodox Spirituality, Introduction to Sacraments
Monday, February 22 - The Divine Liturgy, A Teaching Liturgy
Monday, March 1 - Orthodox Traditions

Sunday School Continues In Person!

We are continuing IN PERSON Sunday School for our Toddler 2's—6th Grade. These classes will be conducted AFTER Holy Communion, every Sunday, for the remainder of the School Year! We will also continue to send out our VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL lessons every week. Students and teachers will wear masks in their classrooms and we will do the best we can to social distance. We will have hand sanitizers in each room and the rooms will be cleaned regularly. We will not have classes for our Middle and High Schoolers, but we do expect them to attend church in person or virtually, complete the weekly lesson on the Gospel Reading provided by Fr. Stavros, and attend GOYA meetings.

The classes will be broken up as follows:

Class	Teacher	Location
Toddler 2's, Pre-K3, and Pre-K4	Alexis Scarfoliero and Denise Panos	Pre-School Classroom (on the right as you exit Church Side Doors)
Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd Graders	Debbie Nicklow and her daughters	Sunday School classroom in the Old Administration Building
3rd through 6th Graders	Vickie Peckham and other teachers	Zahairas/Music Room

Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project **February 14-20**

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Matthew 5:8

A successful garden starts with good soil. In looking over the dirt in which we want to plant, we have to first remove the rocks. We begin with the largest rocks that are easy to see. Then we go over the dirt again with a more discerning eye, and remove the smaller stones. And then we go over the dirt yet again, removing even the smallest of rocks, so that we can have dirt that is smooth, unpolluted with rocks, and ready to receive whatever seeds we are going to plant. We then plant the seeds, water them in, keep them in the sunlight, and make sure there is fertilizer to help them grow. A pure heart works in much the same way. In order to see God, one needs a pure and clean heart. This starts by removing the things that are obvious that keep us from God. This includes habitual sins and other bad habits. Then we move to the smaller things, forming good habits, guarding our mouths, taking time to pray and worship. Then we move to even more special things, like charity and generosity. The journey to the pure heart starts with eliminating the bad, then embracing the good intrinsically and then moving away from ourselves to love and serve those around us. If we want to have a pure heart, so that we can see God, not only for ever-lasting life but in this life, then we need to remove our habitual sins and bad habits. Then we need to commit ourselves to the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, Scripture reading and worship. And finally we need to commit ourselves to helping one another, serving one another. These habits will help us see God in this life and for eternal life.

Update and Announcements

Sunday School Continues — Sunday School continues in person and online! We will continue to offer virtual Sunday School in addition for those unable to participate in person, and encourage to work with the provided materials in each bulletin.

[Click here for the lesson for today!](#)

Wear Red Sunday — We encourage all parishioners to wear Red on **Sunday, February 14**, to celebrate healthy heart month.

Looking for Ushers — We are looking for more ushers to help at the Divine Services of our church. If you are interested, please email Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com.

Monday Night Bible Study — with Charlie will be held on Mondays from 6:45-8:15 p.m. Bible study is held via Zoom. If you are not part of the Monday night Bible study and would like to join in, please contact Charlie at chambos@stjohntpa.org and he will add you.

Women's Bible Study on Tuesdays @ 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. — We are studying the Epistle of St. James. We meet via ZOOM. Fr. Stavros leads this group. 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 to the Zoom link. At some point, we will be resuming in person, however when we do, there will continue to be a zoom option.

When God Is Not There, a Book Study on Suffering, Continues — The Tuesday Night Book Study continues on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Contact Alex Limberatos for any questions and be sure to keep up with the readings!

Paraklesis Services are held each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. — We offer Paraklesis each Wednesday from 6:00-7:15 p.m. We will continue to pray for each person in our community by name.

GriefShare Ministry Continues — It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend, you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions. "Going to GriefShare feels like having warm arms wrapped around you when you're shivering." 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. **We continue to offer hybrid meetings both in person in the Administration Building and via Zoom from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays, ending on Thursday, April 22. If you are interested, please contact either the church office (813-876-8830 or office@stjohntpa.org) or Donna Hambos (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.***

Monday, February 22, Teaching Liturgy in the Evening — As part of the Orthodoxy 101 Class, we will have a teaching Divine Liturgy from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Monday, February 22. The service will be interrupted frequently for explanations and questions. Anyone is welcome to attend the Divine Liturgy, even if you are not taking the Orthodoxy 101 class.

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Dora Kallas, Gilda Parascandola, Kathy & Andrew Bouzinekis; Anastasia; Amanda, Andrew, Colton, Miranda, Charlotte Elizabeth, Nuha, Nabeel, Michael, Amal, John, Elaine, Olga, Virginia Georgiou, Ron Myer, Toulia Tsaros, Fr. Pat Legato, Nellie Pringle, 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 Xerotes, 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.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25
12, NOON, ET



DIMITRIS KOKORIS
ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI

THE 1821 REVOLUTION OF INDEPENDENCE
IN MODERN GREEK POETRY

TUESDAY, MARCH 23
12, NOON, ET

SERGIOS PASCHALIS
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

EURIPIDES IN HAVANA: JOSÉ TRIANA'S
MEDEA IN THE MIRROR (1960)

THURSDAY, APRIL 1
5.00 PM, ET



ONLINE FORMAT

All lectures will be online, via zoom. The zoom details below are valid for all lectures

Zoom Link:

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99528129666?pwd=ZXVBZEthQm5oTHJhUHN4UjlySXFUUT09>

Meeting ID: 995 2812 9666

Passcode: 248349

AHEPA Mother Lodge Chapter No. 1 Educational Fund, Inc.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE for Academic Year 2021-22

Scholarships range from \$1000 to \$3000

APPLY ONLINE at www.ahepaatl scholarship.org

Application deadline—11:59 p.m., EST, March 31, 2021

ACADEMIC and ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 out of 4.0 or 83 out of 100 and be planning to be enrolled full-time at an accredited college or university for the 2021-22 academic year to be eligible.

AREA OF CONSIDERATION and RESIDENCY / OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Note that students attending college in the designated areas listed below but who are not from these locations are considered “out of area” and are ONLY eligible to apply for the Johnny N. Economy Scholarship which has no residency requirement.

- Three scholarships are available for students attending Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology.
Applicants must reside in the geographical area within the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta and plan to attend Holy Cross School of Theology.
- The Johnny N. Economy Scholarship is available to all students.
Applicants must submit an additional essay on a topic of their choosing regarding Hellenism. This scholarship has no residency requirement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: applications@ahempaATLscholarship.org

The mission of the Mother Lodge Chapter No. 1 Educational Fund, Inc. is to provide both scholastic achievement and financial need scholarships to students pursuing post high school education. In addition, the Fund strives to strengthen community and country by promoting education through the development and implementation of various comprehensive programs.

*The Foundation is a tax-exempt Charitable Foundation established in Atlanta, Georgia in 1986 to promote, encourage and advance education at the college, university, and graduate and professional school levels. It serves the Cultural and Educational Programs of AHEPA Chapter 1, DOP Chapter 53 & AHEPA Chapter 519. **

*** AHEPA: American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association; DOP: Daughters Of Penelope**