

Sunday of All Saints

Sunday, June 14, 2020

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



SYNAXARION: All Saints; The Holy Prophet Elisseus (Elisha); Methodius the Confessor, Patriarch of Constantinople; Cyril, Bishop of Gortyna; The Holy Hieromartyrs of Estonia: Basil the Protopresbyter, John, John, and Artemios; The Holy Martyrs Martha the Presvytera, John, Theodore and Anna.

Resurrectional Apolytikion: From Above did You descend O Christ our God. For us did You endure three days in the tomb, that we may be relieved from passions in this world. You who are our Resurrection and our Life: Glory to You, O Lord.

Apolytikion of All Saints: Your Church having bedecked herself, with the blood of all Your Martyrs in the world, as with the finest linen and purple robe, through them cries out to You, O Christ our God: Send down Your compassion upon Your people, grant peace to Your community, and to our souls Your 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: Unto You, O Lord, the Author of Creation, the universe does offer the God-bearing Martyrs as the first-fruits of nature. By whose prayers, through the Theotokos, do You preserve in profound peace Your Church, O most Merciful One.

Readings for Sunday of All Saints

Epistle Reading is from Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2

Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Gospel Reading is from Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30

The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

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

June 14-20

More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. Romans 5:3-5

I once read a book written by a former major league baseball pitcher who suddenly lost his ability to throw a strike and quickly lost his job and a lucrative career playing baseball. There was a quote from that book which I will paraphrase, which said something akin to "There is the life we want and the life we have." Character is built in how we handle that gap. These days of the covid-19 crisis have put a gap in every life, between the life we want—going to school, going to the beach, going on vacation, or even just safely going to the grocery store, or going out without wearing a mask—to the life we have—being overly cautious, social distancing, watching our finances take a hit, losing jobs, anxiety, etc. How we deal with this gap reflects our character as people and also reflects the character of our relationship with God. We know that in our sufferings, we will gain endurance. Endurance produces character. And in building our character, we will find purpose, which ultimately leads us to hope. When that hope is placed in God, then we will not be disappointed.

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, June 14

All Saints

(via Live-stream, and via reservation with Sign-up genius)

Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Men's Group 5:00 p.m.

Monday, June 15

Bible Study (via Zoom) 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 20

(via Live-stream, and via reservation with Sign-up genius)

Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 21

2nd Sunday of Matthew

(via Live-stream, and via reservation with Sign-up genius)

Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fr. Stavros to be out of town—Fr. Stavros will be out of town this week at the Diakonia Retreat Center, preparing for the “summer reset” virtual camp experience. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Charlie Hambos.

Thank you John Kokenis - John Kokenis, one of our pastoral assistants, will be leaving us on June 15 to move back closer to family in Chicago. We thank John for his service to our parish this year. Though he was only with us ten months, he contributed a lot to the life of our parish, particularly to our youth. He did a great job chanting, with technology, made some significant upgrades to our website, did a great job with our publications and we were definitely blessed to have him with us, even for a short time. We wish John and his wife Dina well in their new ventures.

SignUpGenius for the rest of the June services. The remaining scheduled services for June are available on our website. Please be looking out for that. We ask that those who wish to worship on Sunday only sign up for one of the two remaining Sundays of June—June 21 or June 28. You may sign up for as many of the weekday services as possible. Divine Liturgy will be held each Saturday and on some weekdays to afford people who wish to worship more often to do so. If you are able to worship not on Sundays, we encourage you not to come on Sundays. However, our goal is to have as many as 75 worshippers at every service, so if you see on a Saturday or even a Sunday morning that that liturgy is not full, please feel free to add your name at the last minute. If you see that the Liturgy for a Sunday is not filled by Friday afternoon, anyone may add their name to the Sunday list.

Youth Liturgy—Saturday, June 27—We are encouraging all of our Sunday school students and parents of our elementary school students, pre-school students and toddlers to sign up to attend the Divine Liturgy on Saturday, June 27. Fr. Stavros will offer a children's sermon at the end of the liturgy. And with this liturgy geared toward our young people, there will be no need to worry about if they are fidgety.

GOYA Liturgy—Tuesday, June 30—Honoring our Seniors—On Tuesday, June 30, Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 6:00 p.m. We are encouraging our GOYAnS and parents to attend this Liturgy. Following Liturgy, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. we will have a GOYA meeting in the church. We will honor our senior GOYAnS who have now graduated from high school. They will all be invited to address a few words to our younger GOYAnS as we do each year at the last GOYA meeting.

Paypal project—Let's raise \$2,000

to feed the hungry this week. The character of our generosity is reflected not in times of abundance but in times of scarcity. While there may be concerns about the financial well-being of our community and of our own families, it makes an important statement to show generosity, right now. With this in mind, I would like to ask our community, those who can afford it, to donate \$5 by Monday, June 15. This donation will go directly to Matthew 25, our Community Outreach partner and will allow them to purchase food for those who have no food to eat in our city. We have 430 families that call our church home.

I challenge us to raise \$2,000 to send away from our community to those in need. So that as we celebrate our return to worship, and as we seek to keep our own parish afloat, along with our own homes, that we remember the others, our neighbors, who are less fortunate. Please join me in donating \$5 to this charitable cause today. ***CLICK [HERE](#) OR USE THE QR CODE TO DONATE.***



To read our “**Joyful Coming Back to Church**” protocol, please go **[HERE](#)**.

To watch a helpful video about things to expect on your return to church, please go **[HERE](#)**.

*The Sunday school lesson for adults and teens is **[HERE](#)**.*

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.