SYNAXARION: Translation of the Image of Our Lord and God and Savior, Jesus Christ; Diomedes the Physician & Martyr of Tarsus; Nicodemus the New Martyr of Meteora; Timothy of Eurepos, founder of the Monastery of Pentele; Gerasimus of Cephalonia; Holy Monk Penteles; Afterfeast of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary; The Six Martyrs Dorotheos, Sarantis, Jacob, Seraphim, Demetrios and Basil who contested in Megara; Manuel and John the New Martyrs; Stamatios the Martyr; Apostolos the New-Martyr

Resurrectional Apolytikon (1st tone) can be found on page 20 of the Divine Liturgy book.

Apolytikon for the Holy Napkin: We venerate Your immaculate icon, O good Lord, and entreat You to forgive our offences, O Christ our God. By Your own choice you were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, to deliver us, whom You created, from our slavery to the foe. Therefore we cry to You with gratitude: You have filled all things with joy, O our Savior, by coming to save the world.

Apolytikon of the Dormition of the Theotokos: You gave birth yet preserved your virginity. You fell asleep in death yet did not desert the world, O Theotokos. You were transported to life, as you are Mother of Life and, by virtue of your intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

Apolytikon of St. John the Baptist can be found on page 24 of the Divine Liturgy book.

Kontakion of the Dormition of the Theotokos: The Theotokos who is incessant in her intercessions, and an immovable hope in her protection, the tomb and the state of death could not hold; for being the Mother of Life, to the Life He carried, He who dwelled in a womb ever-virgin.

Readings for the 10th Sunday of Matthew

Epistle Reading is from 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

Gospel Reading is from Matthew 17:14-23

At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day."

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.
### Upcoming Services & Events

**Sunday, August 16**
- **10th Sunday of Matthew**
  - Orthros 8:45 a.m.
  - Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
  - Prayer for School Students at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy

**Monday, August 17**
- Meeting of Ministry Heads 6:30 p.m.
- No Bible Study

**Wednesday, August 19**
- Paraklesis Service of Supplication to the Virgin Mary 6:00 p.m.

**Saturday, August 22**
- Orthros 9:00 a.m.
- Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday, August 23**
- Orthros 8:45 a.m.
- Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
- **Parish Assembly Meeting 12:15 p.m.**
- **Men’s Group 3:00 p.m. (NOTICE EARLIER START TIME)**

### Date Changes for August

**Sunday, August 30**
- GOYA 5:00 p.m.

**Thursday, September 3**
- Griefshare will be held on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, September 13**
- Virtual Sunday School classes begin

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

**August 16-22**

*For Ezra had set his heart to study the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach his statutes and ordinances in Israel. Ezra 7:10*

School is going to begin in some form or fashion as we reach the end of August. We will again get into the school routine. What the “routine” will look like no one knows. Will it be in person school or on-line school? No one knows. We do know that going to start school and that this will change the routine. No one wants their student to miss a year of study. I don’t think anyone is advocating for summer to last forever. Students have to get back to studying because that’s what they do. The small, obscure and often overlooked Old Testament book of Ezra provides our Bible quote for this week. Ezra was a good student, in that he set his heart on studying the Law of the Lord and teaching it to others. While our children focus on learning as they return to school, we and they have to remember that there is a need to study Christianity, right along with reading, writing and arithmetic. We’re not just talking about the basic tenets of Christianity, but how to live a life of faith, and how to share that faith with others. As we begin a new routine for the school year, encourage your students to read the Bible daily, to pray as a family, to attend Sunday school, however that is going to be offered, so that as they learn more about worldly things, they also learn about spiritual things, so that as they prepare to do their life’s work, they are also preparing themselves for eternal life. And if you don’t have students in your house, this verse still applies to you. We are all life-long students of something. We are all still constantly learning and improving. Make spiritual growth part of your learning plan this fall and beyond.
Update and Announcements

Prayer for Students and Teachers Today - Father Stavros will offer a prayer for our School Students and Teachers at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

College student addresses—If you have college students or are a college student, please send your school address, phone number and email to the church office by the end of August.

Adopt a college student—We started an adopt a college student program last year. We will be contacting all those who had college students they “adopted” last year and making sure you want to continue, as well as reorganizing which students are still in college, who is new to college, who has graduated college, etc. If you would like to participate and adopt a college student, please send your name to Father Stavros and Charlie by August 15. If you were part of this program last year, you don’t have to contact us, we will be contacting you.

Parish Assembly—Sunday, August 23—The Messenger was incorrect - Notices were mailed only to those eligible to participate with the Zoom information. If you believe you did not receive one in error, please call the church office. If you have any questions regarding your pledge payments or membership status, please contact the church office. All members in good standing shall have the right to participate and vote at meeting if they are current in pledge payment 30 days prior to the date of the parish assembly. This is the rescheduled meeting from the spring one that was postponed due to Covid-19. We will set this up via Zoom, and members in good standing will receive a zoom invite prior to August 23. We will also broadcast the meeting live on our Facebook page.

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: 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 Economou, 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, Antonia Caffentzis, Alissa, John, Angela, Joey, Christine Scourtes, Steven, Matthew & Family, Phyllis, John Zealitis, Reagan, Peter Zaharis, Alexandra Ferrarolis, Leon & Despina Botham, Cindy Xenic, Mary Ellen Evdemon, Marie Sofia Panagopoulos, Maria Hursey, Chris Vamvaktas, 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.