3rd Sunday of Matthew  
Sunday, June 28, 2020  
St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

**SYNAXARION:** Finding of the Relics of Cyrus and John the Unmercenaries; Pappias the Martyr; Righteous Fathers Sergius and Herman, Founders of Valaam Monastery; Synaxis of the Icon of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos; Paul the Physician of Corinth; Sergios the Magister

**Resurrectional Apolytikon (2nd Tone):** When you descended to the realm of death, You as Life immortal, rendered to Hades a mortal blow, through Your Divine Radiance. And when You, from the depths of Hades and the darkness below, did raise the dead all the powers of heaven did proclaim and cry out: O life-giving Christ and our God we give glory.

**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 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.
Epistle Reading is from Romans 5:1-10

Brethren, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 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. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

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

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.'"

Memorial Service: Rev. Fr. Stanley Harakas, John Castas (40 days), Elias Bouboutis (3 years), Despina Makris (2 years), Andreas Koudouna (8 years), Anna Karavouniari (1 year), Athanasia Keenon (1 year), Diamond “Diamantis” Papadopoulos (40 days), Carolyn Sue Stephens (40 days), James Stephens (5 years), Efrosini Christ (2 years), Barbara Labatos (11 years), Dionisios Labatos (17 years), Calvin “Nicholas” Wiel (6 years)

Stress & Anxiety is the topic for the adult and teen Sunday school lesson this week. Click HERE.
Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, June 28
Third Sunday of Matthew
Orthros 8:45 a.m.    Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Young Adult Meeting via Zoom 6:00 p.m.

Monday, June 29
Sts. Peter and Paul
Orthros 9:00 a.m.    Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Funeral for Alena Frey    Noon

Tuesday, June 30
Holy Apostles
Orthros 5:00 p.m.    Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m.
(GOYAns and Parents are requested to sign up for the Liturgy)

Saturday, July 4
Orthros 9:00 a.m.    Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

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 Kozzes 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 Scoturtes, 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 Trimi, 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.

To read our “Joyful Coming Back to Church” protocol, please go HERE.
To watch a helpful video about returning to church, please go HERE.

The Sunday School lesson for Toddlers - 5th Grade is HERE.

Check out EngageOrthodoxy.net
Engage Orthodoxy (EO) is a Pan-Orthodox Christian community seeking to foster communion among all people. EO serves as a home for resources for orthodox and non-orthodox christians alike as we collectively pursue and inquire after the ancient faith. “Engage Orthodoxy” is not only the name of this new site, but it is also the name of a movement away from division and towards unity. Engage Orthodoxy is a movement towards community, involvement, Orthodox friendships, and relationships. EO seeks to bring the the faithful, the curious, the lost, and the searching TOWARDS their faith and Christ and in turn, towards each other. Engage Orthodoxy is a movement forward into the future of the faith. Join us as we move toward Christ, toward each other, and toward the church.

Youth Worker Registration Begins in July
Attention all youth workers and ministry leaders. July begins the registration period for fall volunteers who wish to work with a children’s ministry or participate in certain leadership positions. Many of you already complied with the new GOA guidelines this past fall and will only have to complete online training and reregister. Others will need to register, undergo a background check and complete the online training. The Youth Protection Committee will e-mail all existing youth workers of their current status and requirements, including the registration form. Within a week or so afterwards, you will receive emails from Praesidium (aka:Armatus Learn to Protect) with links to complete the requirements. Please do so within ten days or the links expire. Thank you, Catherine Mitseas!


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Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, “Who do men say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matthew 16: 13-16

Normally for these Bible verses, I choose one verse that will be easy to memorize. The actual verse to memorize is in bold, but the other verses are necessary to give this one context. Jesus asked His disciples who did they say He is. They gave answers about what “others” were saying about Jesus. Then Jesus made it personal—who do YOU say that I am. This question is very pointed and very personal. There is no “let’s say what is popular or what we should say.” Simon Peter confessed Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God.

How do YOU answer this question? Who is Jesus Christ to you? If we are honest, for many of us He is an insurance policy, only called upon in times of trouble. For others, He is a crutch when we are unsure. For others, He is something to do, something to belong to. For others, He is a good role model for children. For others, He is a moral authority. He is our Lord and Savior, our guide, our purpose, our destination, our present, our future, our everything. At least, that is who He is supposed to be for us. He is these things, the question is, is He these things for you? Answer these questions, “Who do YOU say that He is?” and “who is He for you?”

Father Stavros has authored four books that are available both in the bookstore and on-line. They are entitled:

**Let All Creation Rejoice: Reflections on Advent, the Nativity and Epiphany**

**The Road Back to Christ: Reflections on Lent, Holy Week and the Resurrection**

**Blessed is the Kingdom, Now and Forever: Reflections on the Divine Liturgy**

**Let us Be Attentive: Reflections on the Sunday and Feastday Scripture**

**Readings of the Orthodox Church**