

Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Sunday, May 31, 2020

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



SYNAXARION: Fathers of the 1st Council; Hermias the Martyr at Comana; Eusebius and Haralambos the Monk-martyrs; Eustathios, Patriarch of Constantinople

Ressurrectional Apolytikion: When the angelic powers appeared at the tomb and soldiers guarding You became as though dead and standing by Your sepulchre was Mary seeking Your pure and sacred Body. For You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the virgin woman bestowing the gift of Life. O You who rose from the dead, Lord, we give glory to You.

Apolytikion of the Ascension: You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, cheering up the Disciples, by the promise of the Holy Spirit; by assuring them through Your divine blessing, that You are indeed the Son of God, and the Redeemer of the world.

Apolytikion of the Sunday of the Holy Fathers: Supremely praised are You, O Christ our God, Who established on earth, our Fathers as luminaries; and through them You have guided all of us to the true faith, most Compassionate One, glory to You.

Apolytikion of St. John: 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: Having fulfilled the dispensation for us, and uniting the earthly with the heavenly, You ascended in glory, O Christ, our God; being in no way separated, but remaining inseparable, and calling out to those who love You: I am with you, and no one can be against you.

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 Panagopou-los, Maria Hursey, Chris Vamvakias, Effie Sorolis, 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.

Readings for Sunday of the Blind Man

Epistle Reading is from Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18, 28-36

IN THOSE DAYS, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesos, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletos he sent to Ephesos and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.' " And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Gospel Reading is from John 17:1-13

At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made. "I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves."

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

May 31-June 6

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God in Whom I trust." Psalm 91:1-2

The images portrayed in the Psalms are very powerful. As I read this verse, I imagine a tent pitched on a hillside overlooking a busy city. Except that the tent is God Himself, shielding and sheltering me. Sometimes when I'm in church, especially in the winter when it's dark, I sit in the empty pews, with just the votive lights on the icon screen illuminated. I can barely see the icon of Christ in the dome of the church, but He is there, hovering over everything, bringing a sense of peace even in the darkness. As we are still in some darkness over the coronavirus and where it is taking our society, we can be at peace knowing that the Lord hovers above everything. We sit in His shadow. If we perceive darkness and don't look up, we might think we are dark and isolated. But if we look up to Christ, we will realize that we are in His shadow.

Upcoming Services & Announcements

- Sunday, May 31** **Sunday of the Holy Fathers**
(via Live-stream, and via reservation with Sign-up genius)
Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
- Monday, June 1** Bible Study 6:30 p.m. via zoom
- Tuesday, June 2** Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. via zoom
Orthros 5:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m.
(via Live-stream, and via reservation with Sign-up genius)
- Wednesday, June 3** Holy Unction 6:00 p.m.
(via Live-stream, and via reservation with Sign-up genius)
- Thursday, June 5** Young at Heart Meeting via zoom
- Saturday, June 6** **Saturday of Souls**
(via Live-stream, and via reservation with Sign-up genius)
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. **DO NOT BRING KOLYVA**
- Sunday, June 7** **Pentecost**
(via Live-stream, and via reservation with Sign-up genius)
Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:45 a.m.
Kneeling Service 11:00 a.m.
- Monday, June 8** **Holy Trinity**
(via Live-stream, and via reservation with Sign-up genius)
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
(We are requesting that this Divine Liturgy will be reserved primarily for our senior citizens)

NOTES

Sunday, May 31 - Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council We pay homage to the collective triumph of the Church over false doctrine. The first Ecumenical Council authored the Creed. It took place in Nicaea in the year 325. This is why we call the Creed "The Nicene Creed." This Council also established the date of Pascha and decided on which books would comprise the Bible.

SignUpGenius Required to attend services—If you wish to attend any Divine Services, you must sign up via SignUpGenius. You can sign up for Liturgy on the weekends (June 6, 7, and 13) [HERE](#); for Holy Unction [HERE](#); and for weekday services [HERE](#).

Do NOT bring Kolyva for Saturday of Souls on June 6—There will be one kolyva made for the community for Saturday of Souls. Please do not bring any kolyva with you.

For **Holy Unction**, please bring your Holy Week Book if you'd like to follow along. We will be doing the service exactly as it is found on Holy Wednesday evening.

The **GOYA** meeting previously scheduled for Sunday, June 7, is being postponed until Tuesday, June 30. More details to follow.

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](#).

A Safe and Joyful Return to Worship at St. John



St. John will open for public worship in small groups on Sunday, May 31. We understand that this is a challenge for all of us and we will get through it together. Thank you for your patience, your compliance and your support of these directives. They are temporary. If we all do our part, in church and outside of it, we can move together to the day when we will again congregate as a whole community, to praise God with one voice.



To attend a service, you must sign up with SignUpGenius. Because we can't all come at once, additional services will be scheduled.



When you make your plans to come to church, please arrive early and if you are sick, please stay home. We are doing everything we can to stop the spread of COVID-19.



Upon arrival, we're going to take your temperature and check you in. Masks are required with the exception of children 2 or under. No mask means no entrance into the church.



Ushers will direct you to your seat. Social Distancing will be practiced at all times in church. Up to 75 people can be in the church at one time.



Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of Christ. It does not transmit illness. Please close your mouth on the spoon.



Please do not congregate after the service is over. All non-liturgical parish activities, ministries and meetings will continue virtually.

All Services will continue to be live-streamed—we encourage those who will not be attending in person to continue to worship virtually.

We look forward to seeing you at church!