

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

July 04, 2021 - 2nd Sunday of Matthew

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



(Above, Synaxis of Saints of America)

SYNAXARION: Andrew of Crete Author of the Great Canon; Martha, mother of St. Symeon Stylites the Younger; Asclepias the Wonderworker; Michael Choniates, Metropolitan of Athens

Apolytikion of the Week (1 Mode): The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Judeans and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred Body. O Savior, the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life. Whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the Giver of Life: Glory unto our Resurrected Christ; Glory unto Your Kingdom; Glory to Your dispensation, O You Who alone loves all.

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 (Mode 2): 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.

Memorial Service: Archimandrite Mitrofan Hauser (40 Days), Philip Bardos (40 Days), Demetrios "Jimmy" Fotopoulos (40 Days), George Alex Fotopoulos (40 Days), Ana Karvouniari (2 Years), Athanasia Keenan (2 Years)

Readings for 2nd Sunday of Matthew

Epistle Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 2:10-16

Brethren, glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading is from Matthew 4:18-23

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

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Contact Fr. John Stefero for Pastoral Emergencies

From June 28 to July 24, Fr. Stavros will be away—For any pastoral emergencies, please contact Fr. John Stefero at 678-637-4425



Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!

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

Birthdays

Maddox Gregory - July 4
Rick Garcia - July 5
John Palios - July 5
Harry G. Spirides - July 5
Eleni Markoutsas - July 6
Dean Mitseas - July 6
Kristin Nicolaou - July 6
Madeline Schad - July 8
Sheila Vukmer - July 8
Gennaro Scarfogliero - July 9
Dr. Nicholas Fallieras - July 10
William Jernigan - July 10
Milvia Koumi - July 10
Nathaniel Molina - July 10
Eldina Pierrotsakos - July 10
John Tsiabasis - July 10

Namedays

Lampados - July 5
Lykios, Satyros - July 6
Kyriaki - July 7
Prokopis, Theofilos - July 8
Pagratios - July 9
Amalia - July 10

Upcoming Services & Events



Sunday, July 4	2nd Sunday of Matthew Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday, July 5	Office Closed	
Tuesday, July 6	Suffering Book Study	6:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 11	St. Euphemia Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday, July 12	Bible Study	6:30 p.m.

Stewardship 2021 Update

As of Tuesday, June 22, we have received 308 stewardship forms, with a pledged amount of \$469,718.00 for 2021.

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

Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project July 4-10

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
II Corinthians 3:17*

This week, as we celebrate Independence Day, it is an important thing to remember that true freedom is found in the Lord. Why? Why can't we find it ourselves? There are two reasons that we cannot be representative of true freedom. Each of us has an agenda, which always has at least slight conflicts with other people. No two agendas are alike or in perfect alignment. Where there is imperfection, there is conflict. And where there is conflict, there isn't freedom. Because both sides become stressed by the conflict. Even when we have the seemingly perfect marriage or friendship, freedom is compromised every time there is conflict. And there is always some level of conflict even in the most perfect of relationships. The second reason is that even in the most perfect relationship, there is going to be an ending when we pass away. This imminent passage from this life causes conflict and anxiety in many people as they get older. And this stress compromises our sense of freedom. If one believes in God and in God's promise of eternal life, there is true freedom that is today is my last day or this year is my last year, something greater awaits me, given to me through God's divine mercy and grace. This is why true freedom is found in God, and the foundation of cultural and political freedom is the freedom to worship God. As we celebrate independence Day, we cannot forget the importance of religious freedom, to worship as we wish. Nor can we forget the ultimate freedom which is from God.

Update and Announcements

Sunday, July 4, Independence Day—While July 4 is not a day that is usually commemorated with a Divine Liturgy, it is a great day to have one, and wonderful that it falls on a Sunday this year. At a time when our country has had so much unrest, first with the Coronavirus and then with the civil unrest, it is a great day to pray for our country, for our citizens, for our first responders, and for our freedom.

St. John's Bookstore Reopens - Thank you to everyone who helped make the reopening of our bookstore a success. It was wonderful to see so many of you take advantage of the new merchandise, new pricing and new look. Although we are well stocked, we encourage special orders. We can find that icon, book or gift you've been searching for. *Please note that volunteers are needed to help man the bookstore on Sundays. If you can help, please see Presvytera Denise.*

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 had on July 12 and conclude on July 19. Charlie's Bible Study will not meet on July 5.

Women's Bible Study—We will be on hiatus until late August/early September.

Tuesday Book Study — RESUMES with two more sessions: July 6 & 13.

Mark Your Calendars for Community Outreach—Our Community Outreach would love for you to help out! Mark your Calendars for July 17. As we read the Acts of the Apostles and remember the ministry of the early Christians “serving tables”, let us become as the early Church and feed those hurting in our city! This ministry meets every 3rd Saturday of the month at First Presbyterian Church from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Be sure to contact Greg Melton for details (813-967-2074 or gmelt12@gmail.com)

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Constantinos & Kalotina Klimis; Christine Alex, June; Lillian Thomas; Scotty; Desi Serriera; Ashley Kladakis; Dora Kallas, 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 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.

SUMMER SMALL GROUPS

what:

A SMALL GROUP VIEWING AND STUDY OF THE TV SHOW, "THE CHOSEN," A SHOW THAT FOCUSES ON JESUS'S MINISTRY AND HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE

who:

THREE SEPARATE GROUPS FOR GOYA-AGED GIRLS, GOYA-AGED BOYS, AND ANY ADULT INTERESTED!

where:

GIRL'S GROUP: MEDIA CENTER

LED BY ARTEMIS XENICK

BOY'S GROUP: PRE-SCHOOL CLASSROOM

LED BY GEORGE HAMBOS AND JOE HAMBOS

ADULT GROUP: ZAHARIAS ROOM

LED BY FR. STAVROS

when:

JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27, AND JULY 18, 25

12 PM-2 PM *LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED



THE CHOSEN IS THE FIRST-EVER MULTI-SEASON TV SHOW ABOUT THE LIFE OF JESUS. CREATED OUTSIDE OF THE HOLLYWOOD SYSTEM, THE CHOSEN ALLOWS US TO SEE HIM THROUGH THE EYES OF THOSE WHO KNEW HIM.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS SUMMER SERIES, PLEASE CONTACT ALEX AT ALEX@STJOHNTPA.ORG WITH YOUR CELL NUMBER AND LET HIM KNOW WHAT GROUP YOU'D LIKE TO BE IN AND YOU WILL BE ADDED TO A "GROUPME" CHAT.



St. John Greek Orthodox Church Adult Greek School

Want to Learn Modern Greek?



Teacher born, raised, and educated in Greece with 22 years of experience teaching the Greek language. Adult classes for beginners taught @ St. John Greek Orthodox Church (2418 W. Swann Ave, Tampa, FL 33609). Classes are held at 6-8:30pm on Thursday evenings, starting on September 30, 2021. This will be the first of three sessions, with each session lasting three months.

- Speak Greek
- Read Greek
- Write Greek
- Basic Grammar & more.
- Some Greek History
- BOOK INCLUDED IN PRICE

Price per session is \$100 for church members and \$125 for non-members

Contact Ms. Magdalini Myer: at (813) 523-5771, aspis69@aol.com or the church office at (813) 876-8830