

**St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church**  
**June 6, 2021 - Sunday of the Samaritan Woman**

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



(Above, Jesus healing the Blind Man)

**SYNAXARION:** Sunday of the Blind Man; Hilarion the New of Dalmation Monastery; Bessari-  
on the Wonderworker of Egypt; 5 Virgins of Caesarea: Martha, Mary, Cyris, Valeria & Marcia;

**Entrance Hymn:** Bless God in the congregations; praise the Lord from the fountains of Israel.  
Save us o Son of God, who rose from the dead; to Thee we sing: Alleluia.

**Apolytikion of the Week (Pl. 1 Mode):** Co-eternal with the Father and Spirit is the Word Who of a  
Virgin was begotten for our salvation we the faithful both praise and worship Him. For in the flesh  
did He consent to ascend unto the cross and death did He endure and He raised unto life the dead by  
His all Glorious Resurrection.

**Apolytikion of St. John the Baptist can be found on page 24 of the [Divine Liturgy Book](#).**

**Kontakion of Pascha:** Even though You descended into the grave You destroyed the Power of  
Hades and You rose as a Victor, O Christ our God, saying to the myrrh bearing women: Rejoice! And  
to Your Apostles granting peace and to the fallen, You also grant Resurrection.

**Megalinarion:** The angel cried to her who is full of grace: Rejoice Holy Virgin and again I say  
rejoice, for your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day.  
Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has arisen over you. Dance now for joy O  
Zion and exult. Rejoice and be glad O pure Theotokos at the Resurrection of your Child.

# Readings for Sunday of the Blind Man

## Epistle Reading is from Acts 16:16-34

IN THOSE DAYS, as we apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

## Gospel Reading is from John 9:1-38

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him.

## May was Θαλασσαιμία/Cooley's Anemia Month

### **ST JOHN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

### **and AHEPA Tampa Chapter #12**

Cooley's anemia or Θαλασσαιμία/Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder which mostly affects people of Mediterranean descent.

We are very pleased to announce this year our Community has donated a total of \$1,300 to Cooley's Anemia.

#### **Congratulations to all!**

#### **Don't forget to...**

1. Get tested since it affects people of Mediterranean descent
2. Educate others to be tested and understand the need for their financial support
3. Register to be a prospective marrow donor
4. If you wish to still make a donation:
  - a. Please make checks payable to AHEPA Cooley's Anemia Foundation with "Cooley's Anemia" in the "Note" section of the check.
  - b. Send your check or call with your Credit Card Info to Tom Georgas, 506 Lantern Circle, Tampa, FL 33617 / call (813) 985-0236 or Mike Trimis (813) 784-4872

(Donations are Tax Exempt under IRA Section 170 (c) (4))

## **Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!**

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

### **Birthdays**

Leia Findlay - June 7  
Caroline Kickish - June 7  
Avelyn Krajacic - June 7  
Julianna Syros - June 7  
Vasiliki Copulos - June 8  
Katherine Hakim - June 8  
Jacqueline Ioannidis - June 8  
Stella Walling - June 8  
Michael Malatin - June 9  
Alyssa Milonas - June 9  
Melinda Mueller - June 9  
Zoe Katzaras - June 11  
Stephanie Melton Stacy - June 11

### **Namedays**

Ilarion - June 6  
Panagis, Sevastiani, Zinais - June 7  
Kalliopi, Nafkratis - June 8  
Rodanthi - June 9  
Nefeli - June 10  
Bartholomeos, Luke, Varnavas, Zafeirios - June 11  
Onoufrios - June 12

## Upcoming Services & Events

<b>Sunday, June 6</b>	<b>Sunday of the Blind Man</b> Orthros 8:45 a.m. GOYA	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
Monday, June 7	Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, June 8</b>	Women's Bible Study <b>Leave-Taking of Pascha</b> Orthros 5:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 9	Paraklesis	5:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday, June 10</b>	<b>Ascension</b> Orthros 9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Friday, June 11	Junior Olympics Dinner Dance	
Saturday, June 12	Junior Olympics 2021	
<b>Sunday, June 13</b>	<b>Sunday of the Holy Fathers</b> Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

### Stewardship 2021 Update

As of Wednesday, June 2, we have received 297 stewardship forms, with a pledged amount of \$466,263.00 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 June 6 - 12

*So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will You at this time restore the Kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."*  
*Acts 1:6-8*

The disciples had followed Jesus for three years. Many times they didn't understand what His message was or what He was doing. They didn't always know where they were going. They were understandably saddened and scared by His crucifixion and rejoiced at His Resurrection. With all the ministry behind and prophecies fulfilled, the disciples asked Jesus a seemingly reasonable question—would He at this time give them political freedom from the Romans? This seemed reasonable to them. His answer must have been like a kick in the gut to them. It is not for you to understand the times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. In other words, what is logical to us may not be in God's plans for us. Rather, Jesus reassured them that they would receive power from the Holy Spirit. Their work was not to be political overthrow but spreading Christ's message. This is our cause as well, to spread the message of the Gospel, having been strengthened by the Holy Spirit to do so. Being a Christian doesn't mean political freedom, it doesn't mean all enemies are vanquished, it doesn't even mean that everything makes sense. It means that Christ sends His Holy Spirit into each of us to help us and give us grace to make it through rough patches, even as He gives us the ability to be His witnesses in some way.

# Update and Announcements

**St. John's Bookstore Reopens** — We are excited to announce the reopening of our bookstore on Sunday, June 27th following Divine Liturgy. With new merchandise, new pricing and a new look, you will be certain to find something you'll treasure. In particular, we offer a new and diverse selection of publications for adults and children as well as a large selection of icons and gifts. Mark your calendars for this special event.

**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](mailto:frstav@gmail.com).

**Sunday, June 6, Sunday of the Blind Man** — The theme of LIGHT! Commemoration of the healing of the blind man which leads us to the reality of the healing of our own spiritual blindness.

**GOYA, June 6** — The June GOYA meeting will be today, Sunday, June 6, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner, as always, will be provided.

**No Kneeling until Pentecost** — It is actually the Tradition in the Orthodox Church that we not kneel on Sundays in honor of the Resurrection of Christ. Because we do not worship on a daily basis in our church communities, priests have encouraged people to kneel on Sundays, the thought being that if we do not kneel on Sundays, that we'll never kneel in church. It is a Tradition, that for 50 days after Pascha, we do not kneel in honor of the Resurrection. The next time we will kneel after is on the Feast of Pentecost (June 20) at the Vespers of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, when the priest says "Again and again on bended knees let us pray to the Lord."

**Monday Night Bible Study with Charlie** will RESUME on Mondays, June 7, 14, 21 and 28. Bible study is held via Zoom. If you are not currently part of the Monday Night Bible study and would like to join in, please contact Charlie at [chambos@stjohnntp.org](mailto:chambos@stjohnntp.org) and he will add you.

**Tuesday, June 8, Apodosis (Leave-Taking) of Pascha** — This marks the end of the Paschal Sea-son. It is a repeat of the Resurrection Service and Liturgy of Pascha and is the last time of the Liturgical year that we sing Χριστὸς Ανέστη. We will celebrate this feast on Tuesday, June 8, with an evening Liturgy at 6:00 p.m. (Orthros will begin at 5:15 p.m. and is a replication of the Resurrection Service from Pascha).

**Women's Bible Study** will meet in June as follows: Tuesday, June 8 and Tuesday, June 15. We are finishing our study on the Epistle of St. James. We meet via ZOOM. Fr. Stavros leads this group. If you would like to join our women's Bible study group, please contact Fr. Stavros at [frstav@gmail.com](mailto:frstav@gmail.com) and he will add you to the Zoom link. After June 15, we will be on hiatus until late August/early September.

**Tuesday Book Study** — Will not meet this week, but will instead resume June 15. Please contact Alex if you are interested in joining or have any questions.

**Thursday, June 10, Ascension** — This marks the feast where Christ ascended to heaven, 40 days after the Resurrection, thus completing His earthly ministry.

**American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture Scholarships Available**—This year, the American Foundation for Greek Language and Culture are offering five different scholarships to High School Seniors and College Students. The deadline for these applications is June 21, 2021. These forms can be picked up at the church near the baptistery. For more information, feel free to contact Kalliope Chagaris, MPH, via phone (813-789-4134) or e-mail ([khalkias@afglc.org](mailto:khalkias@afglc.org)).

**2021 Junior Olympics Friday/Saturday** — We will hold a scaled-down version of the GOYA Junior Olympics June 11-12. On June 11, the GOYAns will have a dinner/dance beginning at 5:30 p.m. On June 12, there will be games held all day on our campus. If you'd like to volunteer to help at anything, please contact Mike Palios at [mpali-os@gmail.com](mailto:mpali-os@gmail.com). We are looking for volunteers to help serve food on June 12.

**Sunday, June 13, 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. This commemoration is always done the Sunday after Ascension.

**Prayer List:** Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: 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](mailto: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.

