

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

June 13, 2021 - Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

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



(Above, Fathers of the First Council)

SYNAXARION: Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council; Aquilina the Martyr of Syria; Triphyllus the Bishop of Nicosia;

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. 2 Mode): 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 Feast (4 Mode): 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 for the Fathers (Pl. 4 Mode): 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 Baptist can be found on page 24 of the Divine Liturgy Book.

Kontakion of Pascha: 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.

Readings for Fathers of the First Council

Epistle Reading is from Acts 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."

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12 Disciples Program

In August 2020, we started a program called "The 12 Disciples." There are twelve pages of names that comprise all the members of our parish. Father Stavros prays for all twelve pages of names at Paraklesis. The idea for this program is for each "disciple" to take one page of names and pray for that group of people every day. For every twelve "disciples" who sign up, every page of people will be prayed for. We currently have 44 "disciples" meaning that each person in this community is being prayed for by at least five people every day. If you'd like to join this program and receive a page of people to pray for, please contact either Charlie or Alex.



Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!

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

Birthdays

Penelope Kladis - June 13
Leonidas Sengsouvanha - June 13
Zoe Sengsouvanha - June 13
Ashley Makris - June 14
Alexandra Stroud - June 15
George Zabetakis - June 15
Kyra Christopher - June 16
Elphida Olsen - June 17
Lex Capitano - June 18
Georgia Diamantakes - June 19
Gregory Koutroumanis - June 19
Melissa Lenardos - June 19
Luca Portier - June 19
Christina Apockotos - June 20
Remy Boomgarden - June 20
Jax Melton - June 20
Jaxon Nicolaou - June 20

Namedays

Trifilios - June 13
Elissaios, Nefron - June 14
Afgoustinos, Avgousta,
Iemymos, Livyi, Monica,
Ortansia - June 15
Tichon - June 16
Felix, Ismail - June 17
Erasmus, Leontios - June 18
Paisios, Zosimos - June 19
Kallistos, Methodios - June 20

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, June 13	Sunday of the Holy Fathers Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday, June 14	Monday Night Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 15	Suffering Book Study	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 16	Women's Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
Saturday, June 19	Saturday of the Souls Orthros 8:45 a.m. (A memorial service will be held at the end of the Liturgy)	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, June 20	Pentecost Orthros 8:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Stewardship 2021 Update

As of Tuesday, June 8, we have received 301 stewardship forms, with a pledged amount of \$468,603.00 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 13-19

*“You shall have no other gods before Me.”
Exodus 20:3*

One a month, beginning this month, we will examine one of the Ten Commandments. We begin with the First Commandment—“You shall have no other gods before Me.” This seems like a fairly easy commandment to follow (of course, once we examine each commandment, we will see that we break each one with regularity). However, in looking at this commandment, we must ask ourselves, “Is God the source and center of our lives?” Of course, He is not the source and center at all times. When we are sinning, we have given the center to temptation. The ideal life is for God to be the center at all times. As we think about the first commandment, think about the things that occupy your attention. Certainly family is a worthy occupant. Same with work. Hobbies. Friends. Exercise. Relaxation. Where is God on this list? Does He make the list? How about prayer, scripture reading, worship? Think about what you daydream about. Do you daydream more about winning the lottery or being in heaven? This commandment is not de-signed to make us feel bad, but to call our attention to what place God holds in our lives. These commandments are not just suggestions. They are commandments, orders if you will. The first order of these commandments is an order to give God the first place in our lives. The first place of our time, our focus, our goals and our purpose.

Update and Announcements

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.

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. *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.

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 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@stjohnntpa.org and he will add you.

Women’s Bible Study will meet for its final session before summer on Wednesday, June 16. 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 and he will add you to the Zoom link. We will be on hiatus until late August/early September.

Tuesday Book Study — Resumes this Tuesday, June 15, at 6:30 p.m via Zoom. We are continuing with the book *If There Is Life, I Want To Live*.

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).

Mark Your Calendars for Community Outreach - Our Community Outreach would love for you to help out! Mark your Calendars for June 19 & 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 gmlt12@gmail.com)

Saturday, June 19, Saturday of the Souls—There are four Saturdays set aside during the year for us to honor our loved ones who have fallen asleep. One of them is the Saturday before Pentecost, this year on June 19. We will have Divine Liturgy and a memorial service that day. Please send the list of names of those whom you would like to have commemorated (separate sheet provided). You may bring kolyva as you wish. We will not be having a communal kolyva (hopefully this will resume next year), so each family will take their own back.

Sunday, June 20, Pentecost—This feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles fifty days after Pascha, filling them with power, strength, wisdom and courage to spread the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ to the entire world. Pentecost is the celebration of the birth of the Christian Church!!!. A special Vespers Service will be held after Divine Liturgy on Pentecost (June 20), where three prayers will be offered, asking for the Holy Spirit to descend upon us as we mark this feast day. As a reminder, we do NOT kneel in church until AFTER the Divine Liturgy on Pentecost (we do not kneel at the Divine Liturgy on Pentecost) 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.” There is no fasting the week after Pentecost. However, there is a fast for the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul which lasts from the Monday after all Saints Day (June 28), so this year it is only one day. The length of the fast period is determined by the date of Pascha each year.

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:

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LED BY ARTEMIS XENICK

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LED BY GEORGE HAMBOS AND JOE HAMBOS

ADULT GROUP: ZAHARIAS ROOM

LED BY FR. STAVROS

when:

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12 PM-2 PM *LIGHT LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED



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