

# St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

## May 16, 2021 - Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women

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



(Above, Angel and Myrrh Bearing Women)

**SYNAXARION:** Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women; Theodore the Sanctified; Holy Martyr Peter of Blachernae; New Martyr Nicholas of Metsovos; Nicholas the Mystic, Patriarch of Constantinople; Alexandros, Archbishop of Jerusalem; Brendan the Navigator;

**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 (2nd Mode):** The Noble Joseph, taking down Your most pure Body from the Tree, wrapped It in clean linen with sweet spices, and laid It in a new tomb. But You rose on the third day, O Lord, granting great mercy to the world.

**Apolytikia of Myrrh-Bearers Sunday (2nd Mode):** Christ With the tomb sealed securely, O Christ the Life, You rose from the grave, and with the doors tightly closed, You came to Your Apostles, O Resurrection of all, renewing in us a right Spirit through them, according to Your great mercy.

...  
The angel stood by the tomb, and cried aloud to the myrrh-bearing women: myrrh is fitting for the dead, but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption. Cry out instead: Christ is risen granting great mercy to the world.

**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.

**Megalarion:** 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 Myrrh Bearing Women

## Epistle Reading is from Acts 6:1-7

In those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "it is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

## Gospel Reading is from Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

*Click [HERE](#) for our Adult & Teenage Discussion Questions on Today's Gospel Reading!*

*Click [HERE](#) for our Sunday School PDF this Sunday!*

*[Click here to Download this Week's Children's Word from MyOCN.](#)*

## Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!

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

### **Birthdays**

Kaliop Skourellos - May 16  
Jennifer Alastanos - May 17  
Nathan Moran - May 17  
Edith Mitchell - May 18  
Dimitri Tetsekas - May 18  
Christian Corcoran - May 19  
Athanasios Halkias - May 19  
Antonio Bavaro - May 20  
Alexander Demetriou - May 20  
Ellie Langas - May 20  
Kara Katzaras - May 21  
John Kladis - May 21  
Ty James Parker - May 21  
Lydia Pierrotsakos - May 21  
Ariana Chourdas Thatcher - May 22  
Jacqueline Freeman - May 22  
Evan Kremydas - May 22  
Alexandra Laliotis - May 22

### **Namedays**

Myrofora - May 16  
Andronikos, Junia, Solon - May 17  
Faeni, Galateia, Julia - May 18  
Magdalini, Marylena, Menandros, Patrick, Theognostos, Theoktistos - May 19  
Leeda, Lidia, Lito - May 20  
Constantin, Constantina, Helen, Nantia - May 21  
Emilios, Kodros - May 22



### Upcoming Services & Events

<b>Sunday, May 16</b>	<b>Orthros 8:45 a.m.</b> GOYA	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b> 5:00 p.m.
<b>Monday, May 17</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 18</b>	<b>Women's Bible Study</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Friday, May 21</b>	<b>Sts. Constantine &amp; Helen</b> Orthros 9:00 a.m.	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Saturday, May 22</b>	<b>Orthros 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Sunday, May 23</b>	<b>Sunday of the Paralytic</b> Orthros 8:45 a.m.	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>

### Stewardship 2021 Update

As of Wednesday, May 12, we have received 291 stewardship forms, with a pledged amount of \$454,753.00 for 2021.

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

May is 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.

#### How can you help?

1. Get tested since it affects people of Mediterranean descent
2. Educate others to be tested, be a possible donor and the need for financial support
3. Register to be a prospective marrow donor
4. Make Donations
  - 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 Mike Trimis (813) 784-4872 or Tom Georgas, 506 Lantern Circle, Tampa, FL 33617 or call (813) 985-0236

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

## Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project May 16-22

*Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the Council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the Body of Jesus.*

*Mark 15:43*

Joseph of Arimathea is another example of a very real figure in the Bible. He was respected. He was a member of the Council. There would have been some serious consequences had people known he might be a follower of Christ, or even interested in learning more about Him. However, Joseph was looking for the Kingdom of God. This is important. He had a longing for some deeper meaning, purpose and focus. Even under the best of circumstances, it takes courage to come to Christ. It takes humility. It also takes courage, as we wonder what people will think or say about our faith. That's why Joseph is so important, because he took courage and went to Pilate to ask for the Body of Jesus, something that was potentially very dangerous. Yet, his faith and courage were rewarded. Today he is a saint of the church.

# Update and Announcements

**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).

**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."

**Sunday, May 16, Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women**—They came to anoint Jesus' body, but found an EMPTY tomb. We also commemorate Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus.

**GOYA, May 16**—Today GOYA meeting from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner, as always, will be provided.

**Monday Night Bible Study** with Charlie will be held on Mondays, 17 and 24, from 6:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. 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](mailto:chambos@stjohnntpa.org) and he will add you.

**Women's Bible Study will meet in May as follows:** Tuesday, May 18; and MONDAY, May 24. We are studying 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. At some point, we will be resuming in person, however when we do, there will continue to be a zoom option.

**Friday, May 21, Sts. Constantine & Helen**—May 21 commemorates the feast of Sts. Constantine and Helen. St. Constantine was the emperor of the Roman Empire who decided to make Christianity the official religion of the empire. For the first time in history, the Christian church would not fall under persecution. St. Constantine also moved the capital of the Empire from Rome to Constantinople (present day Istanbul, Turkey), where he inaugurated the Byzantine Empire which flourished from 325 until 1453. He also convened the first Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in the year 325, which inaugurated what is known as the "golden age of Orthodoxy," and resulted in the writing of the Nicene Creed (edited to its current version in the year 381). St. Helen, the mother of St. Constantine, is recognized as being the person who found the true cross of Christ in Jerusalem. She went on a pilgrimage to the Holy City and searched diligently for the Cross, finding it under a patch of Basil (Vasiliko) on the Mountain of Golgotha. Sts. Constantine and Helen have the title Isapostolou, "Equal to the Apostles" because of the tremendous contributions they made to the Orthodox Christian Church.

**Sunday, May 23, Sunday of the Paralytic**—The healing of the paralytic who was afflicted for many years. This event bears witness to Christ's authority over the human body: He who can overcome death in His own body has power over all human flesh.

**Sunday, May 23, Men's Group**—Our men's group meeting for April will be Sunday, May 23 at the church at 5:00 p.m. We will meet at the church, walk to a nearby restaurant, eat dinner, then return to the church for discussion, concluding at 7:30 p.m.

**Looking for Assistance For Junior Olympics**—On June 12 we will be hosting Junior Olympics at our church and we could use your help! We are looking for not only volunteers but people who can lend us the following items for the day: *Tents, Ping Pong Tables, Ping Pong Balls, Paddles, Corn Hole Boards, Chess, Checkers, and Backgammon Boards*. Please reach out to the office if you are able to assist in any way.

**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)).

**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 Xerotes, 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.



## THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

### ARCHIEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 110/2021

#### Archiepiscopal Encyclical on AHEPA Sunday

May 16, 2021

Unto the Most Reverend and Right Reverend Hierarchs, Pious Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, Presidents and Members of Parish Councils, Honorable Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, Members of Leadership 100, the Day and Afternoon Schools, Philoptochos Societies, the Youth, Greek Orthodox Organizations, and the entirety of the Christ-named Plenitude of the Holy Archdiocese of America.

My Beloved Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Christ,

Χριστὸς Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

I extend the warmest greetings and congratulations of the Holy Archdiocese of America to all of the honorable and beloved members of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association on the occasion of our annual observance of AHEPA Sunday. This year, 2021, has been one of celebration and commemoration of the Bicentennial of the Greek Revolution, especially significant for AHEPA. The contributions from the AHEPA National Office and from her Chapters around the country continue to be invaluable to our observances that remember the Heroes of 1821. On behalf of the entire Archdiocese, I want to thank and salute all AHEPAns for their faithfulness and commitment to this historic milestone in the life of the Omogeneia.



Next year, in 2022, both the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and AHEPA will observe the centennial of their foundings. The fact that we share this anniversary reveals how connected and synergistic we truly are. I am proud that this landmark occasion will bring us even closer together, for the Archdiocese and AHEPA are partners at both the national and local levels. Every parish is enriched by the local AHEPA Chapter, and I pray that on this Sunday, particular expressions of fidelity, fraternity, and friendship will abound in all our communities. We are many members, yet one Body in Christ, and when one member succeeds, all succeed.

May God grant the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, its chapters and families, good health, spiritual prosperity, and success in all their endeavors.

Χριστὸς Ανέστη! Αληθῶς Ανέστη!

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

+ ELPIDOPHOROS  
Archbishop of America