

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

June 20, 2021 - Pentecost

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



(Above, Pentecost)

SYNAXARION: Holy Pentecost; Methodios the Martyr, Bishop of Olympus; Kalistos I, Patriarch of Constantinople; Nicholas Cabasilas of Thessaloniki;

Entrance Hymn: Be exalted, O Lord in Your Power; we will sing and praise Your mighty deeds. Save us o Good Paraclete, to Thee we sing: Alleluia;

Apolytikion of the Feast (Pl. 4 Mode): Blessed are You, O Christ our God, O Christ our God, who by sending down the Holy Spirit upon them, made the fishermen wise and through them illumined the world, and to You the universe was ever drawn, O Lover of Mankind, glory to You!

Kontakion of Pentecost (Pl. 4 Mode): When the Most High God came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations. When He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity. And with one voice we glorify the All-Holy Spirit.

Trisagion Hymn: O-si is Chris-ton e-vap-tis-thi-te Chris-ton e-ne-thi-sa-sthe. Alliluiia. All those who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

Megalinarion (Grave Mode): You conceived and gave birth in virginity; the Word Who created all, through you became incarnate. O Mother who knew not man, Virgin Theotokos, the boundless One was held by you, the dwelling of your infinite Creator; we magnify you.

Readings for Pentecost

Epistle Reading is from Acts 2:1-11

WHEN THE DAY of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontos and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

Gospel Reading is from John 7:37-52; 8:12

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

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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

Christina Apockotos - June 20
Remy Boomgarden - June 20
Jax Melton - June 20
Jaxon Nicolaou - June 20
Mary Guirguis - June 21
Gianni Bavaro - June 22
Denise Panos - June 23
George Xenick - June 23
Debra Gavalas - June 24
Isabel Berdos - June 25
Mary Ann Christodoulou - June 25
Fady Hakim - June 25
James Magos - June 25
Sandra Naum - June 25
John Katsifis - June 26
Selinda Smith - June 26

Namedays

Kallistos, Methodios - June 20
Afrodisios, Korenna, Kori, Korina, Kori-nos, Triada - June 21
Efsevios, Zinas - June 22
Agrippina, Aristoklis, Loulou - June 23
Panagiotis - June 24
Erotas, Fevronia - June 25
David, Makarios - June 26

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, June 20	Pentecost Orthros 8:30 a.m. Vespers of the Descent of the Holy Spirit	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
Monday, June 21	Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 22	Parish Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 24	Nativity of St. John the Baptist Orthros 9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, June 27	Sunday of All Saints Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Stewardship 2021 Update

As of Tuesday, June 15, we have received 304 stewardship forms, with a pledged amount of \$466,003.00 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 20-26

"Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him they worshiped Him; but some doubted."

Matthew 28:16-17

The verses this week and next week focus on the Great Commission, the end of the Gospel of Matthew. The eleven disciples (minus Judas, who had not been replaced yet) went to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw Him, they worshipped Him; but some doubted. In other words, everyone worshipped Him. Everyone showed up. There were eleven disciples at this point and all of them came to worship the Lord. Some, however, doubted. These verses are refreshing, because as in so many other instances, they tell our story. We come to worship God. On some days we come with confidence. On some days maybe our confidence is shaken. The goal for us as Christians is to come, whether we come confident or filled with doubt. Keep coming. For those who are doubting, come for encouragement. For those who have confidence, give encouragement to those who are doubting. The verse doesn't say "the disciples had it all together, with unflinching faith." It says clearly that some doubted, but all came, doubts and all.

Update and Announcements

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.

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.

Monday Night Bible Study with Charlie — RESUMES on Mondays 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@stjohntpa.org and he will add you.

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

Tuesday Book Study — will NOT meet June 22. We have three more sessions on June 29, July 6 & 13. We are continuing Metropolitan Nikolaos’ book “If There Is Life, I Want To Live” via Zoom at 6:30 p.m.

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 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 gsmelt12@gmail.com)

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

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 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