

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

May 23, 2021 - Sunday of the Paralytic

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



(Above, Healing of the Paralytic)

SYNAXARION: Sunday of the Paralytic; Michael the Confessor, Bishop of Synnada; Mary the Myrrhbearer & wife of Cleopas;

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 (3rd Mode): Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and first born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great mercy.

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 Paralytic

Epistle Reading is from Acts 9:32-42

In those days, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

Gospel Reading is from John 5:1-15

At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked.

Now that day was the sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk'?" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

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Available on Apple, Android, and Amazon Devices



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.



Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!

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

Birthdays

Alexis Mulberry - May 23
Cheryl Apostolos - May 24
Markos Mangarides - May 24
Oliver Calamunci - May 25
Hannah Passalaris - May 26
Nomiki Patellis - May 26
Michael Sandborn - May 26
Daniel LeMay - May 27
Aris Kolilias - May 28
Daphne Setzer-Torres - May 28
Olivia Axelrod - May 29
Franco Capitano - May 29
Maria Nicklow - May 29
Elisa Mitscas - May 30

Namedays

Bathsheba - May 23
Christian, Markiani, Palladia,
Photini - May 24
Karpos, Sinesios - May 26
Alypius, Ioannis, Rossos - May 27
Dimitrios, Dioskouridis - May 28
Ipomoni, Olivianos, Theodosia - May 29
Emmeleia - May 30

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, May 23	Sunday of the Paralytic Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday, May 24	Women's Bible Study Evening Bible Study	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 25	Evening Book Study	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 26	Mid-Pentecost Orthros 9:00 a.m. College Student Night	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 29	Orthros 9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, May 30	Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday, May 31	Memorial Day-Office Closed	

Stewardship 2021 Update

As of Thursday, May 20, we have received 293 stewardship forms, with a pledged amount of \$455,103.00 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 23-29

When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be healed? The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." John 5:6-7

These verses come from this week's Gospel about the healing of a paralytic. This man had been lying next to a pool for 38 years. That's a LONG time. An angel of the Lord would come down periodically and stir the water in the pool and whoever stepped in first was cured. Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be healed. After 38 years, perhaps the man gave up on being healed. Who knows how many times this man was asked this question. He still had hope though. His honest complaint was that there was no one to put him in the pool and when he was trying to go down to the pool, someone else always stepped in first. "I have no one." Sadly, this is a statement that is all too true for many people in the world. It is sad that no one recognized that the man had been there for so long, no one thought he was worthy of being helped and healed. We need to each work hard and be attentive to those around us so that no one is saying "I have no one to help me". This help includes not only helping others to heal, but also to feel included, and to help one another towards salvation.

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.

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 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.

AHEPA/Daughter's Sunday — We will have an artoklasia for the AHEPA family at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy this morning. We are grateful to the AHEPA family for sponsoring our first coffee hour in almost 15 months!

Sunday, May 23, Men's Group—Our men's group meeting for May will be today Sunday, May 23 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.

Women's Bible Study will meet in May as follows: 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 and he will add you to the Zoom link. At some point, we will be re-suming in person, however when we do, there will continue to be a zoom option.

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

Tuesday Book Study — Will kick off on May 25 at 6:30 p.m. with Alex Limberatos via Zoom. We will be reading "If There Is Life, I Want To Live," an account of religious questions from secular yet faith-seeking individuals. Please contact Alex for details on how to get the book and any other questions regarding the group.

Wednesday, May 26, Feast of Mid-Pentecost —The icon depicts Christ the teacher, foreshadows the teaching to the Samaritan Woman, celebrated the following Sunday, and it is the feast day of teachers. About the middle of the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus went up again to the Temple and taught. The Jews, marveling at the wisdom of His words, said, "How does this man know letters having never learned?" But Christ first reproached their unbelief and lawlessness, then proved to them by the Law that they sought to slay Him unjustly, supposedly as a despiser of the Law, since He had healed the paralytic on the Sabbath. This feast is held mid-way between Pascha and Pentecost.

College Student Night — all of our college students are invited to a college night on Wednesday, from 6:30-9:00 p.m. We'll have dinner and a discussion and also gauge whether there is interest in meeting a few times throughout the summer. Please email Fr. Stavros (frstav@gmail.com) if you are interested in coming.

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).

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 Eydemon, 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.