

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

July 25, 2021 - **Dormition of St. Anna, mother of the Theotokos**

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



(Above, Dormition of St. Anna)

SYNAXARION: Dormition of St. Anna, mother of the Theotokos; Olympias the Deaconess; Eupraxia & Julia the Righteous of Tabenna; Gregory Kallidis, Metropolitan of Heraclea; Memory of the Fifth Ecumenical Council in Constantinople;

Apolytikion of the Week (4 Mode): When the tidings of the Resurrection from the angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples, and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the apostles, with boasting did they proclaim: that death is vanquished evermore and Christ our God is risen from the dead, granting to the world His great mercy.

Apolytikion For St Anna (4 Mode): You carried within your womb her who was pregnant with Life, * the Mother of God, O godlyminded Anna; and thus * to heaven were you today * transported with great rejoicing, where those who feast dwell in glory. * You pray for the forgiveness of offenses for the faithful * who honor you with longing, O ever-blessed one.

Apolytikion of St. John: The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you O Forerunner the witness of the Lord is sufficient. You have proved to be truly more venerable than the prophets. Since you were granted to baptize in the river, the One Whom they proclaimed. Therefore, you strove for truth, proclaiming with joy the Good News, even to those in Hades: that God was manifested in the flesh, and takes away the sins of the world, and grants to us His great mercy.

Kontakion (Mode 2): Today we observe the memory of Christ's forebears, * and also we pray that we might receive their aid, * so that all of us may be freed from tribulations, as we cry aloud, * "Be with us, O Lord our God, * who glorified them as You were pleased to do."

Memorial Service: Androniki "Anne" Jacobsen (5 year)

Readings for St. Anna

Epistle Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:22-27

Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

Gospel Reading is from Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

The Parish Assistance Program Continues (PAP)

Since May 1 2020, we have been offering a Parish Assistance Program, PAP, with BayCare Behavioral Health. The PAP program provides our parishioners access to free and confidential counseling services - offering additional support when life's challenges become overwhelming. The PAP utilizes a network of faith-based providers and are sensitive to the values and beliefs of those they serve and provide compassionate care to children, adults, parents, and seniors. Parishioners can contact BayCare to request up to three free and confidential counseling sessions from a licensed mental health professional. The BayCare helpline, 800-878-5470, is answered 24/7 by mental health professionals. Many BayCare therapists are also offering telephonic and virtual counseling sessions to help parishioners maintain their emotional wellbeing during these trying times.

Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!

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

Birthdays

Christopher Scarfogliero -
July 25
Anthony Catrone - July 26
Maria Cauthorn - July 29
Jackson James - July 29
Peter Konstas - July 29
Michelle Clipp - July 30
Dean Hampers - July 30
Nikolas Lindiakos - July 30
Deanna Milonas - July 30
Andrea Stingulescu - July 30
Margaret Comminos -
July 31

Namedays

Anais, Ann, Efpraksia,
Olympias - July 25
Ermolaos, Ersi, Oreozili,
Paraskevi - July 26
Pantelis - July 27
Afxentios, Akakios, Drosos,
Drosoula, Hrysovalantou,
Irimi, Timon - July 28
Kallinikos, Theodoti - July
29
Adronikos, Silouanos - July
30
Evdokimos, Freideriki, Frei-
derikos, Josef - July 31

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, July 25

Dormition of St. Anna

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday, July 26

St. Paraskevi

Orthros 9:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, August 1

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Charlie's Sending Off Party

Monday, August 2

Paraklesis Service 6:00 p.m.

Stewardship 2021 Update

As of Wednesday, July 21, we have received 313 stewardship forms, with a pledged amount of \$472,868.00 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 July 25-31

*Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Psalm 103:22*

As we start to wind down summer, taking trips before the start of the school year, it is a good thing to remember to bless the Lord in all places we may find ourselves. Whether at home, at school, at work, on vacation, at the beach, working in the yard, wherever we are, we are to bless the Lord, in all places of His dominion. It is important each day and in each circumstance to bless God and to thank God. We should make a regular habit of doing that in all locations. Imagine how thankful we would feel about life in general if everywhere we went, we first thanks God. I.e. Thank You God for the roof over my head as I wake up. Thank You Lord for the food that I will eat before leaving home. Thank You God for the car that will carry me where I'm going. Thank You God that I arrived safely, etc. Putting on a posture of thanks will certainly carry into the various things we do each day.

Update and Announcements

Sunday, July 25, Dormition of St. Anna — St. Anna is the mother of the Virgin Mary. She was granted by God to have the Virgin Mary as her daughter at a very old age. She reposed when the Virgin Mary was about three.

Camp Sunday — Welcome back campers! This Sunday, we will give our campers who attended St. Stephen's Camp an opportunity to share about their experiences this year!

The Chosen Series, Grand Finale, GOYA & ALL WELCOME!

This summer, we have been watching Season 1 of the Christian series, "The Chosen." This show follows the lives of the Disciples in their journey of meeting and joining Christ in His ministry. The show is fun, paints a vivid picture of what life was like during the period of the Gospels, and easy to jump into at any point.

We will be watching two episodes as a group together this Sunday, and we are welcoming everyone to attend, especially our GOY AnS who will be speaking after liturgy about their camp experience.

As always, lunch will be provided! We hope to see you for our last two episodes!

Philoptochos Swearing In — The members of Philoptochos will be sworn in after Divine Liturgy today.

Monday, July 26, St. Paraskevi — St. Paraskevi lived in the second century. She was orphaned at the age of 20 and was left a large fortune by her parents. She sold all of her possessions to help heal human suffering and remained a virgin her entire life, leading a monastic life. She was strong in eloquence and spoke persuasively to Romans, converting many to Christianity. She was sentenced to be martyred by the emperor Antoninus, by being thrown into a cauldron of oil and tar. When she was put in the cauldron, the material cooled instead of burning her. The emperor approached to see what was going on and the steam from the cauldron blinded him. St. Paraskevi then healed the emperor, who set her free. She was martyred by the Emperor Marcus Aurelius, Antoninus' successor. St. Paraskevi is the patron saint of our eyes, and optometrists.

Young At Heart, Thursday, August 5 — Our St John YOUNG-AT-HEART Ministry Meeting Thursday August 5, 2021 @ ABC Pizza. Last month we enjoyed a game of Bingo and lunch from Acropolis. Be sure to let Mike Trimis know if you will be attending!

St. John's Bookstore — Available now in our Bookstore: The Orthodox Study Bible (NKJV) - a Bible of the early church for Orthodox Christians. This Bible is presented with commentary from the ancient Christian perspective and speaks to those Christians who seek a deeper experience of the roots of their faith. You'll find commentary from sources seldom cited in contemporary study Bibles, sources that shine with heavenly insight. Also available are various companion commentaries devoted to specific books of the Bible.

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— will continue with Fr. John Stefero at a later date. Stay tuned for details!

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

Alex's Study — The formerly known "Suffering Book Study" has decided to continue with the same author, Metropolitan Nikolaos of Mesogaia & Lavreotiki. This group will resume around October. Stay tuned for details and feel free to reach out to Alex Limberatos for details!

GriefShare to resume in January — GriefShare will resume in January 2022. In the interim you can check out LifePath Hospice for bereavement resources.

sailing away soon...

JOIN US FOR A FAREWELL LUNCHEON
HONORING CHARLIE HAMBOS



SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY, KOURMOLIS CENTER

A SPECIAL BOX WILL BE AVAILABLE TO OFFER CHARLIE NOTES OF THANKS AND ENCOURAGEMENT,
AS WELL AS DONATIONS FOR HIS FUTURE VESTMENTS

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Evangelos & Caroline Critkas; Constantinos & Kalotina Klimis; Christine Alex, June, 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.

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