



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church -- Des Plaines, Illinois

the Forerunner

June/July 2017

After the Resurrection and Beyond

By Fr. Athanasios Papagiannis
Associate Pastor

Christ Is Risen!

It's amazing to contemplate the Lord's movements after his death. We believe, for example, that the Lord did not ascend to Heaven after he died on Great Friday. At that time, right after his physical death, the Church states that the Lord descended into Hades so that he could bring out the good souls.

After this visit into the lowest part of humanity, the Lord still does not ascend into the Kingdom. The Church states that, in the time between the His Resurrection and Ascension, our Lord and Savior appeared many times to His Disciples and eventually to hundreds of others. In fact, the gospel records that there were about five hundred witnesses to the Resurrected Christ.

Just as forty days in the Church is an important number and a period known for preparation, the forty days the Lord spent on earth after his death was meant to not only confirm his victory over death but to also continue to teach those who followed Him.

St. Luke, for example, records that Christ appeared to the disciples, "to whom he also presented himself alive after his suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." (Acts 1:3)

Christ spoke to the apostles and taught them many



things during this time; of the many lessons the disciples learned after the Resurrection, three are most important for us to remember.

The first is that the Resurrected Lord appeared with marks still visible on his body. When he appeared to his disciples, our Lord went out of his way to show them the marks of the nails. In doing so, he reminds us that suffering can be redemptive. In other words, what we go through in life can have some sort of value.

This lesson is lost in modern society because we tend to abhor the idea of pain or suffering and do not find any value in it. Suffering to do God's will does, indeed, have great value for our salvation. In fact, when we read about the life of those who closely followed Christ, we tend to see the appearance of some sort of struggle. Suffering becomes a common denominator among the disciples. And while the scars remain, they are transformed.

Another lesson the Resurrected Christ teaches us is a rather fascinating one. When the Lord appears to the disciples, he displays a spiritualized body. In one instance, he shows the Apostle Thomas the marks of the nails and Thomas even puts his hand on these

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theForerunner

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Schedule of Services

Saturday

Great Vespers 6:00 pm

Sunday

Orthros 8:30 am

Divine Liturgy

Main Church 9:45 am

Chapel 10:15 am

Weekday Liturgies

Orthros 8:00 am

Liturgy 9:00 am

All articles, ministry information, and
news for the Forerunner can be sent to

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marks; in another instance he appears to the apostles even though the doors were closed for fear of the Jews. How can these contrasting images be explained? How can the Lord walk through a door and yet show his apostles the marks of his hands? Is not his body a physical one like ours is?

The explanation here is that the Lord did not have a fleshy body but a spiritualized body. When he lived as a human being, the Lord lived a particular way of life that allowed the soul to take precedence over the body. The soul was strengthened to the point that it was able to control the urges and desires of the body. This is the call for all of us. When the soul takes its rightful claim, the body is tamed and it

follows the lead of soul.

In righteous people, the body identified in the soul its rightful master. When this happens, the body transforms from a fleshy one to a spiritualized one and the laws of nature no longer apply to us. This teaching is confirmed over and over by the saints. Countless are the miracles of the saints who defy the limitations we find ourselves in when we enter into this world.

Lastly, the Resurrected Lord reminds humanity that God is an unrepentant lover of mankind, for when the Lord states, "It is



finished" on the cross, he does not mean that his love for man or his teaching is finished. It means that, his time on earth as a living human being is finished. In many respects the greatest lessons for the disciples are reserved after the Resurrection, where the disciples see firsthand what happens to those who follow Christ. No other God from any other religion exhibits this type of sacrifice and love for humanity. This is why we rejoice so fervently this time of year.

May the joy of the Resurrected Lord continue to inspire us and motivate us to draw closer to him.

Feastdays and saints of May and June

by the Library Ministry

May 21

Saints Constantine and Helen

Constantine was the Emperor of the Roman Empire in the 4th century. He issued the famous "Edict of Milan" which gave religious freedom to all Christians. His mother, Helen visited and built many Churches in the Holy Land. Among the famous shrines built by St. Helen were the:



(1) Church of the Holy Sepulchre (built over the tomb of Christ); (2) Church of the Ascension on Mt. Oliver; (3) Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem; (4) a monastery on Mt. Sinai; (5) Church of Calvary; (6) Church of the Holy Cross (where St. Helen found the True Cross of Christ. The title of "Isapostles" which means equal to the Apostles has been given

to St. Constantine and St. Helen because of their many contributions to the Christian Faith.

May 23

Saint Michael the Confessor

He lived during the seventh century A.D. and became Bishop of Synada in Asia Minor during the reign of Emperor Leo the Armenian. Leo demanded the destruction of all icons in Christian homes and Churches. Michael refused to burn the icons of the Church and tried to persuade the Emperor to give up his persecution of Christians who refused to destroy icons. Michael was exiled to a remote area in the East for over 50 years and died on May 23. His remains are entombed within the oldest monastery on Mt. Athos, called "Agia Lavra."



May 26

Saint Alexander, neomartyr of Salonika

In his youth, he had renounced his faith in Christ and became a Moslem. After some time, he regretted this decision and returned to his Christian Faith. The speech delivered by St. Alexander, confessing his Faith in Christ, has been recorded in the Church books as one of the finest literary masterpieces ever delivered by a member of the

Christian religion. He confessed, "I wish to return to the light of Christ which has driven away all darkness from my mind and soul. I was born a Christian and now I am ready to die as a Christian." St. Alexander was executed on May 26 after his famous "Confession of Faith".



June 11

Miraculous Icon of The Blessed Virgin Mary Axion Esti

Axion Esti means "It is worthy to bless Thee, the Virgin." We commemorate the miracle which took place over 1000 years ago, on June 11. Originally, the Axion Esti hymn was sung with the words, "Thee that art more honorable than the cherubim." As a groups of monks were conducting an all night vigil before the icons of the Blessed Virgin Mary, they suddenly noticed a monk whom they did not recognize. This monk began to chant the hymn with the words, "Axion Esti so Alethos Makarizin Se Tin Theotokon" which means, "It is very meet to Bless thee, Theotokos the ever blessed and most pure Virgin and Mother of God." The monk was actually the Archangel Gabriel and these additional words were to the hymn we are familiar with today.



June 29

Saints Peter and Paul

St. Peter is regarded as the leader of the Twelve Disciples of Jesus. Over the course of his missionary journeys, Peter founded our Church.

St. Paul is considered the greatest of missionaries. The accounts of his missionary journeys form an important part of the New Testament letters. Almost half of the 27 books of the New Testament were written by St. Paul.



Reference: Poulos, George Rev., Lives of the Saints and Major Feastdays, 1974.

WISEN UP

*FROM WORLDLY KNOWLEDGE
TO SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE*

June 19th—23rd
9:30am—1:00pm

Vacation Church School

Join us as we study the book of Proverbs!
Challenge your mind & have fun with friends!
For children entering grades K - 8!

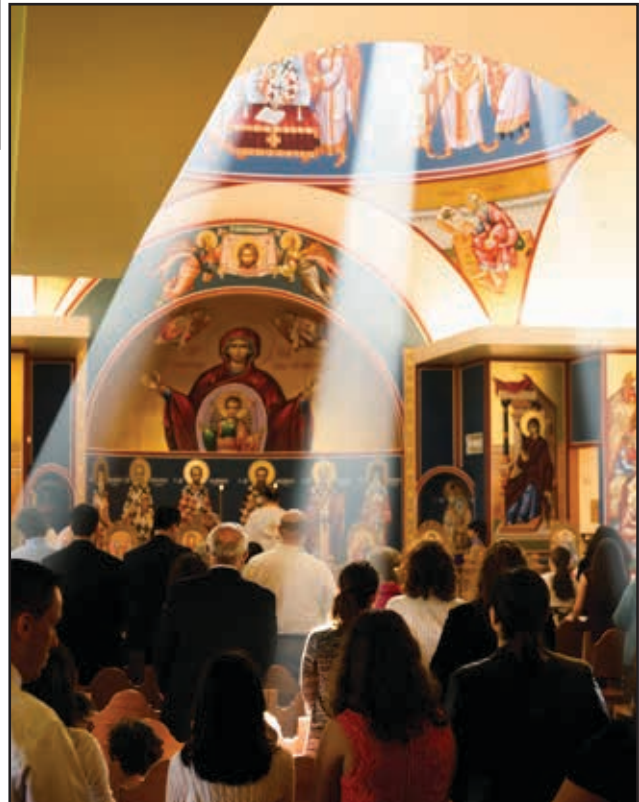
PROVERBS

Good can exist without evil, whereas evil cannot exist without good.

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.
—Proverbs 22:6

*St. John the Baptist
Des Plaines*

Easter 2017 - Saint John the B



Captist Greek Orthodox Church



Adult Greek as a Second Language

After much thought and prayer, Pythagoras Greek School is considering creating an Adult Greek as a Second Language Introductory course. This course will focus mainly on Modern Greek Conversation, touching upon the four language domains: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In addition, this course will also serve as an opportunity for students to learn about Greek culture, exposing them to Greek history, geography, customs and traditions.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Georgia Katsis at georgia.katsis@gmail.com or Elizabeth Kotis at elizabethkotis@yahoo.com

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH PYTHAGORAS GREEK SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2017-18

Are you ready for Greek School?
Interested in teaching your child the Greek language and immersed to our
Greek-Orthodox heritage?

If yes, then it is time to act.

- Registration for the school year 2017-18 has begun
- With special pricing for Stewards of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



PROGRAMS DETAILS:

A. Saturday Program- Greek as a Second language

- Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Pre-K to 9th grade

B. GSL program – Greek as a foreign language (No previous Knowledge required)

- Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.
- Levels: Pre-K, K, 1-4

- Receive a special discount when you register by June 30, 2017
- For additional information contact us at : [\(847\) 827-5510](tel:(847)827-5510) or Georgia.katsis@gmail.com

Metropolitan Iakovos

With the most profound sorrow and sense of loss, yet with confident hope in the Resurrection, we announce that His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Chicago fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, June 2, 2017 after an unexpected illness and surgery at a Chicago hospital. Metropolitan Iakovos was still active in ministry at age 89. He oversaw 34 parishes in Illinois and 25 others in northern Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, eastern Missouri and Wisconsin. He served in the Greek Orthodox Church for nearly 50 years and was the first Metropolitan of Chicago.

We are honored and fondly remember his last visit to our parish just a short two weeks ago, as he came to be blessed by the Myrrh-Streaming Icon of the Kardiotissa. We also are honored and fondly remember the 15 years he faithfully washed the feet during the annual Washing of the Feet service at our parish on Holy Wednesday evenings, setting an example of humility for all of us.

Born in Athens, Greece in 1927, he was the devoted brother of Konstandinos Garmatis, Demetrios Garmatis and the late Vasiliki Tsiklakis, and a cherished uncle of many nieces and nephews.



Our parish was the first parish His Eminence consecrated on October 7, 1979.



His Eminence at the Washing of the Feet service at St. John the Baptist - Holy Week 2017



Registry of Sacraments



Baptisms

April 30th
Baptized: John
Parents: John & Katerina Fixel
Sponsor: Nicoletta Kriaras

May 13th:
Baptized: Panagiotis Nectarios
Parents: Haralampos &
Constance Palas
Sponsors: Nicholas &
Vicky Kournetas

May 21st:
Baptized: Marianna
Parents: Simeon &
Anastasia Spirrison
Sponsors: George Spirrison &
Christina Loukas

May 28th:
Baptized: Adamandia
Parents: Daniel & Kathrine Billeh
Sponsors: Angelo &
Sophia Matarangas



Weddings

April 23rd
Theodoros Sdoukos &
Margarita Kavouras
Sponsor: Theodore C. Sdoukos

May 6th
Konstantinos Giannikoulis &
Catherine Tragas
Sponsor: Andy Demetriou

May 27th
Christos Konstantinidis &
Carly Turek
Sponsor: Dimitrios Maravelias



Funerals

March 14th: James A. Spentzos
March 17th: Joan C. Mazarr
March 28th: George Maniatis
April 28th: Konstantina Sampras
April 28th: Stephen D. Latson
May 22nd: Peter T. Panopoulos
May 24th: William P. Chausis
May 26th: Panagiotis D. Floudas

Prayer List

For any prayer concern (salvation, health, employment, stress and anxieties, etc.) please send baptismal names only to stjohn@stjohnthebaptistgoc.org
We may not be able to help others materially or medically, but God does hear our prayers and always asks us to pray for each other and so build up the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:11-16).

For health and stability in the work place: Angelo, Chrysanthy and family, Chris, Helen, and family, Mary Ellen and family, James and family, Eudoxia, Paraskevi, Maria, Panagiotis, Hristos
For guidance: Ekaterini, Renee, John, Angela
For peace: Maria, Karen, Ropalo, Stavroula, Christoforos
To let go of anger: Petros, Ioannis, Angela, John, Angela, Georgia, Ioannis, Evagelia
For health: Christos, Penelope, Theofani, Basilios, Thanasios
For healing of an illness: Helen, Mary Ellen, Angeline, Mary, Bill, Katherine, George, Athanasios, Tom, Makrina, Eric, Scott, Veronika, Nicoletta, Nicholas, Helen, George, Judy, Elaine, Nicoletta, Anastasios, Aristidis, Mary Ellen, Mary, and Ioanna
For spiritual edification: Michael, James, Helen, Cynthia, Lillian.
For spiritual guidance: Veronika, Alexander, John, Ioannis, Evagelia
For faith and hope: Evagelia
For good health and recovery from illness: Christopher
For general well-being: Tom, Anne, Helen, Lillian, Katherine, Mary, Lillian, Carol, Angeline, Mary, Chris, Frank, Anna
For health and well-being: Dennis, Mary, Lilly, Philip, Carol, Judy, Anne, and Helen, Dimitri, Georgia, Christina, Emily
For heart health: Stiljan
For illness and surgery: Judy, Mary Ellen, Phillip, Carol, Johnny, Alexandra, Austin, Panayiota, Mary, Makrina, George, Judy, Mary, Joan
For health: Judy, Anne, Chrysanthy, Helen, Mary, Iosefia, Dean and Helen (cancer), Sophie, Stafford, Ekaterini
For illness and survival of world circumstances: Mary Ellen, Jennie, Helen, George/family, Judy, Christ, Mary
For forgiveness: John, Angela, Ioannis, Evagelia
For battling cancer: Stavros, Dimitri

Six Week Calendar • June 11 - July 15, 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 11 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy Sunday of All Saints Graduate Sunday	June 12 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp 7:00pm Buildings close Apostles Fast Begins St. Onuphrius of Egypt St. Peter of Athos	June 13 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp 9:30am HOPE 7:00pm Family Synaxis Meeting 7:00pm GOYA Dinner St. Aquilina of Syria St. Triphyllus the Bishop of Nicosia	June 14 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp 7:00pm Buildings close St. Elisseus St. Methodius the Confessor	June 15 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp 7:00pm Catechism Class St. Jerome the Righteous Righteous Fr. Hieronimus St. Amos the Prophet	June 16 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp St. Tychon the Wonderworker 40 Martyrs of Rome	June 17 10:00am Church Library Committee Meeting 6:00pm Great Vespers St. Isaurus the Holy Martyr & his Companions of Athens
June 18 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 2nd Sunday of Matthew	June 19 Vacation Church School 12:00pm - 3:30pm Summer Camp St. Jude the Apostle & Brother of Our Lord Martyr Zosima	June 20 Vacation Church School 12:00pm - 3:30pm Summer Camp Hieromartyr Methodios St. Kallistos I	June 21 Vacation Church School 12:00pm - 3:30pm Summer Camp 7:00pm GAODS School Board meeting St. Julian the Martyr of Tarsus St. Nikitas the New Martyr of Nisyros	June 22 Vacation Church School 12:00pm - 3:30pm Summer Camp 7:00pm Catechism Class St. Eusebius St/ Anastasios the Serbian	June 23 Vacation Church School 12:00pm - 3:30pm Summer Camp 7:00pm Vigil St. Agrippina the Martyr of Rome	June 24 6:00pm Great Vespers Nativity of the Forerunner John the Baptist St. Elizabeth, Mother of the Forerunner
June 25 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of Matthew St. Prokopios St. Methodius	June 26 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp St. David the Righteous Appearance of the Icon of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos of Tikhvin	June 27 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp 9:30am HOPE 7:00pm Parish Council Meeting St. Samson St. Anektos the Martyr Joanna the Myrrhbearer	June 28 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp Relics of Unmercenaries Cyril & John St. Pappias the Martyr	June 29 8:30am Orthros & Hierarchical Divine Liturgy @ Sts. Peter and Paul 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp 7:00pm Catechism Class Saints Peter and Paul	June 30 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp Synaxis of the 12 Holy Apostles	July 1 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 6:00 pm Great Vespers Sts. Cosmas and Damian
July 2 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 4th Sunday of Matthew Deposition of the Precious Robe of the Theotokos St. Juvenal	July 3 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp St. Hyacinth the Martyr and his Companions St. Anatolius	July 4 Office Closed No Summer Camp St. Andrew the Hymnographer St. Martha, Mother of Symeon Stylites	July 5 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp St. Athanasius of Athos St. Lampadius the Wonderworker	July 6 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp 7:00pm Catechism Class St. Loukia Holy Apostles Archippus, Philemon and Onesimus	July 7 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp St. Kyriake the Great Martyr	July 8 6:00 pm Great Vespers Great Martyr Procopius St. Theophilus the Myrrhbearer
July 9 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 5th Sunday of Matthew Hieromartyr Pancratius Dionysios the Orator	July 10 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp 45 Martyrs of Nikopolis Bishop Gregory of Assa	July 11 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp 9:30am HOPE Great Martyr Euphemia St. Olga, Equal to the Apostles	July 12 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp St. Paisios Gerasimos of Byzantium and Akakios the young ascetic	July 13 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp 7:00pm Catechism Class Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel St. Stephen	July 14 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp St. Nicodemus St. Aquila, Apostle among the 70	July 15 6:00pm Great Vespers Martyr Glyceria Sergios the Confessor Alexandros the Martyr
July 16 8:30am Orthros & Divine Liturgy Sunday of the Holy Fathers Hieromartyr Athenogenes Virgin Martyr Julia	July 17 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp St. Marina Sts. Veronika & Speratos	July 18 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp St. Emilian Sts. Paul, Thea and Valentine	July 19 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp 5:30pm St. John Merciful Soup Kitchen Righteous Macrina	July 20 8:00am Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp 7:00pm Catechism Class Prophet Elias Mother Maria and the Russian Martyrs of France	July 21 9:00am - 3:30pm Summer Camp Sts. John & Simeon St. Parthenius, Bishop of Rabobysidius	July 22 6:00pm Great Vespers Mary Magdalene Virgin Martyr Markella

Strict Fast Days

Oil & Wine are permitted

Fish is permitted



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
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A look back to Easter of 2013. The photo was taken after the Agape Service.

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