

Calendar of Events

May 31-Pentecost Sunday

Jun 8-28 Fast of the Holy Apostles (simple fast)

Jun 13, Jul 11, Aug 8, Sep 12, Oct 10 and Nov 14

Meeting of the African Violets Club, 10am-12:30pm Social Hall

Jun 21 Father's Day

As the pandemic continues and as we continue to protect our health and the health of our parish family, our reliance on the internet for the streaming of Liturgies and prayer services has only grown. Now we also recognize the opportunities we have in using this resource to continue our parish life and faith sharing. The recent webinars and bible study have presented to us new ways of evangelization, new ways of being parish. We know that this may not be ideal and yes, we all yearn for the day when we can sit face to face and chat over coffee and discuss different topics from the Fathers. That day will come, but in the meanwhile, we have other options that can help us get through this time of pandemic, and even grow deeper in our faith. Starting this Wednesday (and continuing over the entire summer), St. John's will virtually "host" a series of presentations and discussions, online, in the ZOOM Webinar format, as part of our Parish "**Continuing Faith Education**". The speakers will be familiar to you and we may have a few guest speakers too! The ZOOM webinar presentation/discussion will take place every Wednesday, from 7pm-8:30pm, in the comfort of your own home, using your technology. If you are not on our parish email list please contact me at HoustonElias@gmail.com

The dates and topics for the rest of May and June are as follows:

- Wednesday, May 20-Zoom Webinar-**Missions: an Introduction to Sts. Cyril and Methodius-Fr. Elias**
- Wednesday, May 27-Zoom Webinar-**The Hospitality of Abraham and the Old Testament Trinity-Fr. Elias**
- Wednesday, June 3-Zoom Webinar-**The Trinity: God the Holy Spirit-Fr. Elias**
- Wednesday, June 10-Zoom Webinar-**The Feast and Fast of Sts. Peter and Paul-David Dominguez**
- Wednesday, June 17-Zoom Webinar-**Church: Sacred Space & Sacred Furnishings-David Dominguez**
- Wednesday, June 24-Zoom Webinar-**The Bridegroom's Friend: John the Baptist-Fr. Elias**

Bible Study- You are invited to join Fr. Deacon Andrew Veres and David Dominguez, for Bible Study on ZOOM! Bible Study will take place every other Tuesday, from 7pm-8:30pm online! That means you can connect using the ZOOM app or website. We will send out the connection information to all parishioners and friends. If you are not on our email list please contact me at HoustonElias@gmail.com to be included and invited. The dates for Bible Study are listed below! All are welcome!

Tuesday, May 19-ZOOM Bible Study

Tuesday, June 2-ZOOM Bible Study

Tuesday, June 16-ZOOM Bible Study

Tuesday, June 30-ZOOM Bible Study

Tuesday, July 14-ZOOM Bible Study

Tuesday, July 28-ZOOM Bible Study

Tuesday, August 11-ZOOM Bible Study

Tuesday, August 25-ZOOM Bible Study

Sunday, June 21 is **Father's Day**. The Sunday Divine Liturgy will be offered for our living and deceased fathers, grandfathers, great-grandfathers and Godfathers. Please submit your names for the remembrance by email or text message. A small cross + is used to denote that the person is deceased.

If you would like to receive **Communion** or to be anointed, please contact Fr. Elias at 713-256-8953 to arrange for a visit (drive by or as you like). No one is deprived of the Sacraments and we can make a plan suited for your health situation and addressing your concerns.

Since the end of March, when all of our Byzantine Parishes closed down all across the country, St. John's was still open although on a limited basis. On weekends, Communion was distributed in an orderly fashion by appointment, confessions were heard outside between the Social Hall and the Church, and anointing with blessed oil was given with a q-tip. Liturgies and all the services of Holy Week and Pascha were live streamed and also recorded for a newly set up YouTube page. Parish life was different, challenging but we continued forward. This vitality was made possible by our parishioners who dedicated themselves to keeping St. John's going. We thank them! Cantors-Will Colbert and Mary Black, Servers and technology-Angelo Luna and Dave Dominguez, Reader and cantor, Ryan Black, Live Stream videographer-Aly Dominguez, streaming technology-Michael and Richard Dowgun, Jean Truax-bills and accounting and Greg Truax-reconstruction, restoration and painting post flooding. Thank you for being so generous and dedicated to St. John's and helping us to survive and thrive at this time!