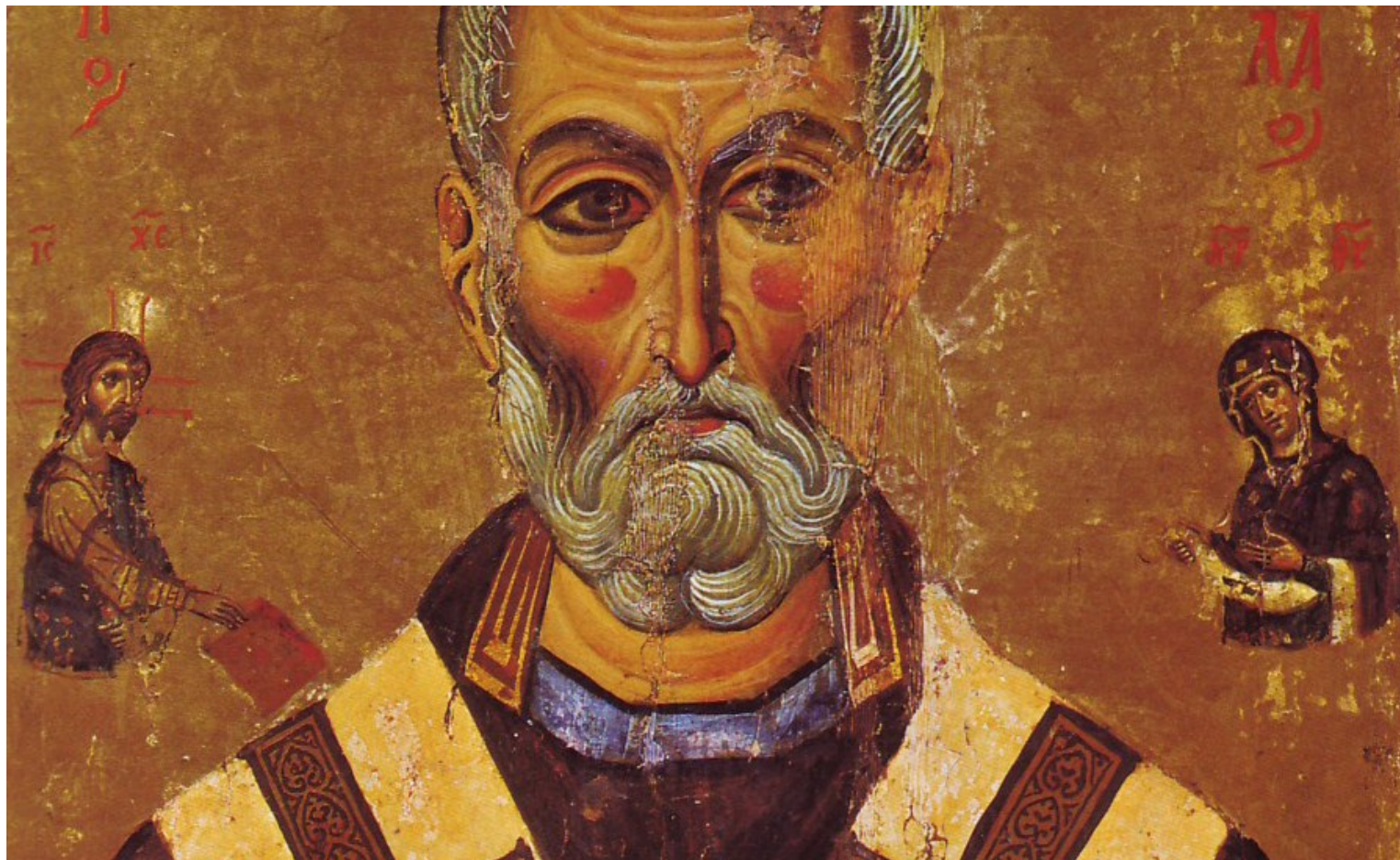


St. Nicholas - December 6, 2020
St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



SYNAXARION: Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra; Nicholas the New Martyr of Asia Minor

Resurrectional Apolytikion (1st Mode): The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Judeans and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred Body. O Savior, the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life. Whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the Giver of Life: Glory unto our Resurrected Christ; Glory unto Your Kingdom; Glory to Your dispensation, O You Who alone loves all.

Apolytikion of St. Nicholas: A rule of faith are you, and an icon of gentleness, and a teacher of self-control. And to your flock this was evident, by the truth of your life and deeds. You were humble and therefore you acquired exalted gifts, treasure in heaven for being poor. O Father and Hierarch St. Nicholas, intercede with Christ our God, and entreat Him to save our souls.

Apolytikion of St. John the Baptist can be found on page 24 of the [Divine Liturgy Book](#).

Kontakion: The Virgin gives birth today to Him Who is above all-being and the earth offers a cave to Him Whom no man can approach. Angels, with the shepherds, Glorify Him. Magi, with a star make their journey. For unto us is born today as a newborn Child, the Pre-Eternal God.

Readings for 10th Sunday of Luke

Epistle Reading is from Hebrews 13:17-21

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading is from Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

Answer these thought provoking questions about today's Gospel Reading in the adult and teen Sunday school lesson.

Click [HERE](#).

[Click here to Download this Week's Children's Word from MyOCN.](#)

Happy Birthday!

This month we will begin publishing those who are celebrating their birthdays. We will continue to do this every month. If you want to make sure we have your birthdate on file, please call the office.

Christina Matassini - December 6
Jason Owens - December 6
Nicholas Tsongranis - December 6
Athan Owens - December 7
Alexander Roy - December 8
Evangelina Chandler - December 9
Ashley Korakis - December 9
Nicholas Akrotirianakis - December 10
Jeffery Edwards - December 10
Andrew Fellios - December 10
John Krinos - December 11
Maryann Rose - December 11
Kenny Kane - December 12

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, December 6	St Nicholas Orthros 8:45 a.m. Youth Sunday	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday, December 7	St. Ambrosios Orthros 9:00 a.m. Bible Study	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 8	Women's Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, December 9	Conception of the Theotokos by St. Anna Orthros 9:00 a.m. Paraklesis Book Discussion	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, December 10	GriefShare	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, December 12	St. Spyridon Orthros 9:00 a.m. Griefshare-Surviving the Holidays Seminar Hope/Joy Movie Night	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 13	11th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 a.m. Men's Group	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.

Will Join Us to Stand Guard Over the Tampa Bay Area?

At a military base, certain soldiers guard the base at night, while the other soldiers are sleeping, so that the soldiers who are sleeping can sleep peacefully, known that others are guarding them. In the Tampa Bay area, the Greek Orthodox Clergy have committed to celebrating Divine Liturgy in at least one church for the forty days of the Nativity Fast. (A tradition known as the Forty Liturgies of the Nativity Fast). Each week, there will be a certain day (or days) in which our parish will be the only parish celebrating the Divine Liturgy in this area. It is as if we are standing guard spiritually over this area, and it is really an honor to do this. We are calling the Holy Spirit down on the Tampa Bay area every day for forty days, and on many of those days, this will only happen at St. John. So will you join me in standing guard over the Tampa Bay area this week? This week, our unique liturgical days are Monday, December 7 and Wednesday December 9. Orthros on all both days will be at 9:00 a.m. with Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

We will have Divine Liturgy on Saturday, December 12. However, multiple churches will celebrate on this day.

Extra Nativity Bags are available until we run out. — We will have extra Nativity bags for anyone who has not received one by the baptistery. If you didn't get one and you'd like one, please pick up one on the way out of church.

Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project

December 6 - 12

You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

II Corinthians 9:11

Most people think of generosity only in terms of money. And yes, giving of ourselves in a financial way is certainly part of what it means to be generous. There are other ways we can be just as generous, if not more so, things that people are in great need of that each of us, regardless of how much money we make, are very capable of giving. We can be generous with our time. Just paying attention to someone when they are talking, instead of looking at our phones, is a great way to show generosity. We can be generous with encouragement. All of us need more encouragement. We can be generous with forgiveness, meaning we can be easy when it comes to forgiving those who have wronged us. We can be generous with our talents, when it comes to helping others. Generosity is a sign of our thanksgiving to God. We show how grateful we are for what God has given us—whether it is money, or just the fact that we are alive and breathing today—by giving generously to others. Here is another thing about generosity. The truly generous person doesn't wait to be asked to give. They give without being asked. They see a need and they go and fill it.

Update and Announcements

Sunday School continues — Please do this with your children. There will be a video presentation for pre-school through sixth grade. There is a sheet of questions for teens and adults.

[Click here for the video presentation!](#)

[Click here for the lesson and challenge for today!](#)

Sunday, December 6, St. Nicholas — We celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas, the patron saint of travelers. The tradition of Santa Claus is derived from St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, who was giving gifts to those less fortunate.

Youth Sermon — Fr. Stavros will give a youth sermon at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, right after handing out Antithoron. It will last about 10 minutes. Questions will be taken either by comments on the live-stream or you can text Father or Charlie directly. Make sure you put the child's name on the text so we can recognize our people who participate.

GOYA Meet Postponed — This Sunday's GOYA meet will be postponed until January.

Monday Night Bible Study — will continue via Zoom. The Monday night Bible study with Charlie will continue from 6:30-8:30 p.m. 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 meet on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. 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. Also, each participant will receive a link to purchase a book for this year. We will be studying the Epistle of James.

Wednesday, December 9, St. Anna — This feastday commemorates the mother of the Theotokos, and also the conception of the Theotokos, as it falls 9 months before the feast of her Nativity (September 8).

"Let All Creation Rejoice" Book Discussion Part 2 — We will be having a book discussion on Wednesday night, December 9 at 7:30 p.m. The zoom link is <https://zoom.us/j/98622151897>

GriefShare continues — GriefShare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Each GriefShare session has three distinct elements: Video seminar with experts, support group discussion with focus and personal study and reflection. For more information please contact Donna Hambos at 813-843-8412 or dhambos@msn.com. Books for the program will be provided. Donation for the book suggested but not required. Open to all family and friends. ***Grief-share remains open enrollment with support towards healing and hope. You can begin at any time. If you attended last semester and missed a day or two, you can come for those days or repeat the whole thing.***

Saturday, December 12, St. Spyridon — St. Spyridon was Bishop of Trimythous. Tradition is that each year, the remains of St. Spyridon are opened to reveal that his shoes have been worn out. They are changed each year. St. Spyridon continues to intercede for the souls of the faithful, wandering over the earth to do so.

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Andrew Mellon Lynn, Jamie Segrest, 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.

FORTY LITURGIES FOR THE NATIVITY FAST

in the Tampa Bay Area Churches

Details at tampabayconference.org

The Forty Liturgies of the Nativity Fast

It is a custom in certain Orthodox Churches to celebrate the Divine Liturgy for all forty days of the Nativity Fast. These tend to be larger parishes with multiple clergy and large congregations. As we bring this chaotic 2020 to a close, we have decided in the Tampa Bay area to celebrate the Forty Liturgies of the Nativity Fast in our area, so that at least one parish is celebrating the Divine Liturgy each day. With this flyer, you'll find a calendar of who is celebrating, as well as information should you wish to attend in person or virtually. We hope that you will avail yourselves of the opportunity to worship more frequently during this period of the Nativity Fast.

We will celebrate 23 of these Divine Liturgies at St. John. If you wish to attend Divine Liturgy in person or virtually, the opportunity is there to do this for 40 days.

Sundays - Every Church

Nov. 16 - Tampa
Nov. 17 - Sarasota
Nov. 18 - Tarpon Springs
Nov. 19 - Tarpon Springs
Nov. 20 - Palm Harbor
Nov. 21 - Multiple Churches

Nov. 23 - Tampa
Nov. 24 - Tampa
Nov. 25 - Multiple Churches
Nov. 26 - Tarpon Springs
Nov. 27 - Sarasota

Nov. 30 - Multiple Churches
Dec. 1 - New Port Richey
Dec. 2 - Tampa
Dec. 3 - Palm Harbor
Dec. 4 - Sarasota

Saturdays - Tampa

Dec. 7 - Tampa
Dec. 8 - Sarasota
Dec. 9 - Multiple Churches
Dec. 10 - Tarpon Springs
Dec. 11 - Palm Harbor
Dec. 12 - Multiple Churches

Dec. 14 - New Port Richey
Dec. 15 - Multiple Churches
Dec. 16 - Clearwater
Dec. 17 - Multiple Churches
Dec. 18 - Clearwater

Dec. 21 - Sarasota
Dec. 22 - Tampa
Dec. 23 - Tarpon Springs
Dec. 24 - All Churches
Christ is Born! Glorify Him!



FORTY LITURGIES FOR THE NATIVITY FAST in the Tampa Bay Area Churches

Holy Trinity Clearwater

Fr James T Paris, Proistamenos
Fr William Damaskos, Ephimerios
409 S. Old Coachman Road
Clearwater, Florida 33765
727-799-4605
Website: <https://www.htclearwater.com/>
Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwTJXf0XHz3vjnlqdbV6S6w>
Sunday Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Weekdays Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

St. Nicholas Cathedral Tarpon Springs

Fr Athanasios Haros, Dean
Fr. Simeon Pardalis, Ephimerios
36 North Pinellas Avenue
Tarpon Springs, Florida 34689
727-937-3540
Website: <https://stnicholastarpon.org/>
Livestream: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfy4msBzlpI&feature=emb_title
Sunday Orthros 7:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.
Weekday Orthros 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

St. John the Baptist Tampa

Fr Stavros Akrotirianakis, Proistamenos
2418 W. Swann Avenue
Tampa FL 33609 USA
813-876-8830
Website: <http://stjohntpa.org/>
Livestream: <https://livestream.com/accounts/2454446>
Sunday Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Weekday Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

St. Barbara Sarasota

Fr John Bociu, Proistamenos
7671 N. Lockwood Ridge Road
Sarasota, FL 34243
941-355-2616
Website: <https://sarasotaorthodox.com/>
Facebook Live Broadcasting of Services
Sunday Orthros 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.
Weekday Orthros 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

St. George New Port Richey

Fr Andrew Pavlakos, Proistamenos
9426 Little Rd
New Port Richey, FL 34654
727-868-5911
Website: <http://stgeorgenpr.org/>
Livestream: https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgenpr/?ref=nf&hc_ref=ARRyy5nIk-K9w0sUHVYz6rJ5l8tJ3iaMe-QBxziTs8ZN_jk7IDipAvIjiCKw86oj1DF0
Sunday Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.
Weekdays Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

St. Stephanos St. Petersburg

3600 76th St. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33710
727-345-8235
Website: <http://www.ststefanos.org/>
Livestream: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAq3S_iKnqvPzDEQ2aD_3CQ/featured
Sunday Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Sts. Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene

Fr. James Rousakis, Proistamenos
1100 Riviere Rd
Palm Harbor, FL 34683
727-789-5905
Website: <http://www.straphael.fl.goarch.org/>
Facebook Live Broadcasting of Services
Sunday Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.

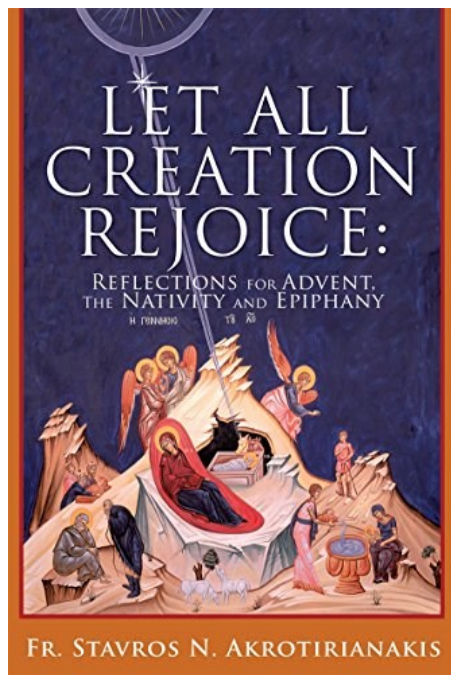
St. Sophia Winter Haven

Fr. John Stefero, Proistamenos
1030 Bradbury Rd,
Winter Haven, FL 33880
863-299-4532
Website: <http://stsophia.fl.goarch.org/>
Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCij9tz1k-LjNakl-BIOMDEQ>
Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.

Update and Announcements Continued...

As we approach the season of Advent, I wanted to share with you a book I have written called, *Let All Creation Rejoice: Reflections for Advent, the Nativity and Epiphany*. The book is approximately 230 pages long. It contains a reflection to be read daily during the period of the Nativity Fast (November 15) through January 7. From November 15 through December 24, one verse of the Gospel accounts of the Nativity is examined in detail each day. It is practical inspiration written to be understood by the average Greek Orthodox Christian.

+Fr. Stavros



Although this book is written in an easy to read style - the concepts and application are very thought provoking! My husband and I have been reading it at meal time, as our Advent meditation. Each day's readings help me turn my mind to what's really going on and important this time of year - helping me refocus, and reflect on the events surrounding the Nativity, and what they mean for me! Today's reading, for example, reflected on the angel telling the shepherds, "Don't be afraid," and following reflections on fear in my own life. Excellent book, and now that I am enjoying this one so much, I will be ordering the Lenten reflections, too. -Amazon Customer

A must read for any Christian wishing to renew their spiritual life during the Christmas season. -Amazon Customer

Philoptochos Spanakopita and Tiropita Sale

Available for purchase after Liturgy on **December 6, 13 and 20**

Spanakopita or Tiropita 28 piece tray
(Appetizer size)
\$30.00

Spanakopita 2 pound tray
\$20.00

There will be a limited number of pitas ordered because of the pandemic and our inability to gauge the demand.

We will also be selling Vasilopita on Dec. 20 & 27 for \$10

For questions and concerns please contact: **Jeanie Nenos @ (813) 451-9116** or **Lisa Alsina @ (813) 728-1094**.

Taking This Year Off from Greek Festival

As you know, we had to cancel the Greek Festival this year because of the pandemic. It is not smart or safe to offer it at this time. We look forward to having this again in 2021. With this in mind, obviously, we are not going to get a big piece of income that we receive from the Festival each year. We are encouraging parishioners to give whatever you can to help offset this loss of income. As a suggestion, consider giving what you would have spent at the Festival had you attended this year (what you would have spent on food or a raffle ticket, etc.) and we will use this money to make up for the shortfall.



Grieving?

Know someone who is?



SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Saturday, December 12 at 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our **Surviving the Holidays** seminar helps participants prepare for the holidays and even discover hope for the future.

In person and Zoom. Light refreshments will be available.



www.griefshare.org/holidays

Call or email Donna Hambos today for more information at 813-843-8471 or dhambos@msn.com
Sponsored by St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

Hope/Joy Fall Food Drive

"HOPE starts with a MEAL. HOPE starts with YOU!"

Metropolitan Ministries' Holiday Tent helps 50,000+ families in need for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Let's help them meet this year's goal of 1,763,000 pounds of food.

Please join St. John's Hope/Joy children's ministry in providing a meal to families in need through Metropolitan Ministries. Make this your family project and help us put together Boxes of Hope filled with the items needed for a Christmas holiday dinner. There are many ways you can help provide a Box of Hope:

- Shop for the items below and bring to church **Nov 7th- Dec 13th**.
- Donate \$25 or more (cash/ check/ gift card) for a Box of Hope- Checks payable to Metropolitan Ministries

BOX OF HOPE contains:

Gift Certificate for a turkey or ham	2 Cans of Black Beans
1 Box of Cereal (hot or cold)	2 Cans of Cranberry Sauce
2 Cans of Fruit	1 Bag of Dried Beans
1 Jar of Peanut Butter	1 Box or Bag of Rice
2 Cans of Vegetables	1 Can or Packet of Gravy
2 Cans of Yams	1 Box Dessert Mix
1 Bag or Box of Stuffing	1 Package of Cookies or Pastries
1 Box of Potatoes	1 Family Box of Jell-O / Pudding

There will be a collection bin at check-in area on both Saturdays and Sundays. Only non-perishable food donations please. Call Zackie Ameres at 813-245-3813 with any questions. Thank you!

"He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will reward him for what he has done." Proverbs 19:17





Hope & Joy

CHRISTMAS MOVIE NIGHT

Please Join Us for an Outdoor Movie Night

The Polar Express

Sat, Dec 12th

5-8p

We will meet in church for a prayer and discussion

Afterward head out side for pizza and goodies

Once dark we will start our movie

Bring your chairs, blankets and your Boxes of Hope

Donations for Metropolitan Ministries

We can't wait to see you!

Please R.S.V.P. by 12/4 to
Zackie Ameres at 813-245-3813 or at
zackiec@yahoo.com



We are looking for families to answer questions related to their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The study involves answering interview questions during a zoom meeting in breakout rooms where parents/guardians and children can participate together or separately.
- All individuals and their family members, including children ages 12-18, are invited to anonymously participate in the interviews.
- There are no known risks or discomforts and no benefits to participation.
- Taking part in this research project is entirely voluntary, and you can stop at any time.
- Your responses will be confidential.

Lived Experiences of the COVID-19 Pandemic for Multigenerational Families

If you are interested in participating in our study please contact:

vanessa.elias@mymail.barry.edu

philip.corr@mymail.barry.edu

deborah.doucas@mymail.barry.edu

Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Ruth Ban, Barry University, (305) 899-3710, rban@barry.edu

For further questions regarding the Barry University IRB, please contact:

Jasmine Trana, (305) 899-3020, jtrana@barry.edu