SYNAXARION: Herman the Wonderworker of Alaska & First Saint of America; Holy Martyrs Eustratius, Auxentius, Eugene, Mardarius, and Orestes of Greater Armenia; Lucia the Virgin-martyr; Gabriel the Hieromartyr, Archbishop of Serbia; Sunday of the holy Forefathers

Resurrectional Apolytikion (2nd Mode): When You descended to the realm of death, You as Life immortal, rendered to Hades a mortal blow, through Your Divine Radiance. And when You, from the depths of Hades and the darkness below, did raise the dead all the powers of heaven did proclaim and cry out: O life-giving Christ and our God we give glory.

For the Forefathers (2nd Mode): By faith You justified the Forefathers, having through them betrothed to yourself the Church that came out of the nations. The saints are boasting in glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At their entreaties, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Apolytikion of St. John the Baptist can be found on page 24 of the Divine Liturgy Book.

Kontakion: On this day, the Virgin Maid goes to the cave to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, O you inhabited earth upon your hearing, Glorify, along with Angels and with shepherds, Him Who willed that He appear as a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.

Memorial Service: Marwan Farah (40 Days)
Epistle Reading is from Colossians 3:4-11

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Gospel Reading is from Luke 14:16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

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.

Leonidas Slah - December 13
Zoe Skourellos - December 14
Antonia Costas - December 15
Dorian Setzer-Torres - December 16
Dawn Cyhan - December 18
Helena Karoutsos - December 18
George Soteriou - December 19
### Upcoming Services & Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 13</td>
<td>11th Sunday of Luke</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Orthros 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Men’s Group</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, December 14</td>
<td>Women’s Bible Study</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Women’s Bible Study will be on Monday this week)</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 15</td>
<td>St. Eleftherios</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Orthros 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Parish Council (via zoom)</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Wednesday, December 16</td>
<td>Christmas Candlelight Service</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Thursday, December 17</td>
<td>College Student Christmas Dinner/Discussion</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Friday, December 18</td>
<td>Young Adult Christmas Sweater Party</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Saturday, December 19</td>
<td>Saturday before Nativity</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Orthros 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Sunday, December 20</td>
<td>Sunday before Nativity</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Orthros 8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 22</td>
<td>St. Anastasia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Orthros 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>DAY OF PRAYER</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 23</td>
<td>Royal Hours of the Nativity</td>
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<td>9:30-11:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Thursday, December 24</td>
<td>The Nativity of Christ</td>
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<td>Great Vespers 8:45 a.m.</td>
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<td>Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great</td>
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<td>9:30-11:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>Orhros 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m.</td>
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### Stewardship 2021 Update
As of Monday, December 7, we have received 56 stewardship forms, with a pledged amount of $83,953.00 for 2021. Don’t forget to fill out your form and send it into the office!

### 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 day is December 19. Orhros will be at 9:00 a.m. with Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

We will have Divine Liturgy on Tuesday, December 15. However, multiple churches will celebrate on this day.

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

**December 13-19**

*Sing for joy, o heavens, and exult o earth; break forth, o mountains, into singing; for the Lord has comforted His people, and will have compassion on His afflicted.*

*Isaiah 49:13*

The year 2020 will probably not go in any of our books as the most joyful of years. However, the year was not without any joy! There are small joys that come every day. It might be something as simple as a good meal. I find joy when I work in the yard—the pandemic didn’t change that at all. I find joy from reading the Bible. I get joy from worship, and even from watching worship. With more time inside this year, I found several other churches that I “watch” on youtube. While I may not be actively worshipping (we worship a lot in Tampa), I still enjoy having liturgy on in the background many days as I am working. There are still plenty of joys in marriage and with our children. The joy of a friend’s voice still brings happiness, even on the phone or via zoom. There is joy in our ability to adjust and be creative. And this Christmas, there should be joy—not just because of presents, food and family, but because we again pause to remember Creation bowing its collective self to worship the Creator in its midst. As we read in Isaiah 49:13, the heavens, the earth, and the mountains sing for joy. For the Lord has comforted His people. Indeed He still comforts us, even in the midst of this stressful year.
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!

Men’s Group — The Men’s Group will have its December meeting this evening at 5:00 p.m. All men of our parish are welcome. We will meet at the church at 5:00 p.m., walk to a nearby restaurant to eat, and then return to church for a discussion, wrapping up by 7:30 p.m.

Women’s Bible Study (MOVED MONDAY THIS WEEK) — This week we will meet on Monday morning at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. After this meet, we will resume Women’s Bible Study Tuesday January 12, 2021.

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.

Tuesday, December 15, St. Eleftherios — St. Eleftherios was a priest-martyr in the 2nd century of the church.

Wednesday, December 16, Candlelight Service in Preparation for the Nativity (6:00-7:00 p.m.) — There is a “canon” (a set of hymns) in preparation for the Nativity. It is very similar in order to the Paraklesis Service that we celebrate in August, except that the hymns are dedicated to the Feast of the Nativity and not to the Virgin Mary, though she is still mentioned prominently in many of them. The service includes the opportunity to pray for people by name, so bring your names and the names of anyone you know who needs prayer to this service. Also, included in this service will be an opportunity to pray for those who have passed away this year. At the end of the service, a Trisagion service will be chanted for all those who have passed away this year. If you know someone who can use some prayer this Nativity, or someone who has lost a loved one, or someone who is sad, please invite them to this service. Allow us to pray for them and their loved ones. The service will be done entirely in English. It will last an hour. It will be done only by candlelight. There will be no Communion at the service. So the challenges of a normal Sunday liturgy—length, no intercommunion, use of Greek—that challenge non-Orthodox visitors to our church will not be present. This is a wonderful opportunity there is in the year to invite non-Orthodox friends to our church.

Thursday, December 17, College Student Night — We will be having our annual College Student Night on Thursday, December 17, beginning at 6:00 p.m. It will be in person. We will have dinner and discussion. All college students are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Fr. Stavros by December 12 if you plan to attend.

Tuesday, December 22, Day of Prayer — We’re going to have a “Day of Prayer” in our church on Tuesday, December 22, from 11:00 a.m. (after the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy) until 9:00 p.m. for people to stop in and pray. Fr. Stavros, Charlie and Alex (at least one of them at all times) will be in the church if you need someone to pray for you. If you haven’t been to church in a while and would like to stop in during the Christmas week, or if life is moving too fast and you just want to slow down for a few hours and come sit in the church, this day is for you.

Send a Video of your Christmas Greeting for a Video Montage Christmas Card by Friday, December 18 — Just as we did at Pascha, we want everyone to send in a video of their Christmas Greetings. It could be just you, just your kids or preferable your whole family. Although we are distant from one another, we want to keep our community as close together as possible. Feel free to be creative. We want everyone to send in a video of their Christmas Greetings. It could be just you, just your kids or preferable your whole family. Although we are distant from one another, we want to keep our community as close together as possible. Feel free to be creative. The greeting can say, “MERRY CHRISTMAS!,” “KALA CHRISTOUYENNA!,” “CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!” Please send in your video to Jenivieve Elly at jen@stjohntpa.org by Friday, December 18. This is going to be great and we can’t wait!

Donated Medical Equipment — A parishioner recently donated a bedside commode (no bucket), a walker (no wheels), a cane with a 4-footed base, and arms to fix to a commode or wall to assist in sitting/rising. If anyone is interested in these please contact the church office.

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Kathy & Andrew Bouzinekis; Anastasia; Amanda, Andrew, Colton, Miranda, Charlotte Elizabeth, Nuha, Nabeel, Michael, Amal, John, Elaine, Olga, Virginia Georgiou, Ron Myer, Toula Tzanos, Fr. Pat Legato, Nelle 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, Evangelene Xeroteres, 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 Farrarolos, Leon & Despina Botham, Cindy Xenick, Mary Ellen Evdemon, Marie Sofia Panagopoulos, Marie Hursey, Chris Vamvakias, John Myer, Mike Trims, Robert and Alice Stoccardo, John Alexander, Michael Romero, George Hambos, Dean Kondilis and Family, Bill and Nancy Manikas, Patricia Costello, Anastasia Myrnakis, Ekaterina & Anna Shushaudyova, Dora Koudouna, Anna Maurer, Debbie Phelps, Mary Voykin, David Voykin, Anne Sakellarts, 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/UCwTJXj0XHt3vjinIqdbV6S6w
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. 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_ik7IDipAvIjiiCKw86ojj1DF0
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. 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=wf4msBzl&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://stjohnampa.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. 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.

St. Sophia Winter Haven
1030 Bradbury Rd,
Winter Haven, FL 33880
863-299-4532
Website: http://stsophia.fl.goarch.org/
Livestream: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCij9tz1kJmDEQ
Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 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. 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.
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

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**Philoptochos Spanakopita and Tiropita Sale**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spanakopita or Tiropita</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 piece tray (Appetizer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 pound tray</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
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Available for purchase after Liturgy on December 6, 13 and 20

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.

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**Christmas Prayer Request**

Please write down below names of people you’d like Fr. Stavros to pray for, and any specific needs that these people or you have. Fr. Stavros will pray over these names and needs on December 24. Please place this card in the basket by the baptismal font or mail it to the church office.
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*
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