

Parish Priest:
Retired Priest in Residence:
Retired Priest in Residence:
Bookkeeper:

Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski 813-876-8830
Rev. Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
Debbie Bowe 813-876-8830

Parish Council:

John Zelatis, President 813-727-2271
Euripides Panos, Vice President 813-352-3972
Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary 813-760-6289
Gary Ward, Treasurer 813-846-3898
Jim Armstrong 954-295-6665
Amin Hanhan 813-846-2957
Nick Katzaras 863-581-2430
Suzanne Pileggi 813-244-5855
Alexis Scarfogliero 813-892-1599
Marcelle Triantafilou 612-396-5026
Mike Xenick 813-340-8737

12 Disciples

AHEPA:

Altar Angels:

Bible Study:

Bookstore:

Choir:

Mathew Balasis 727-421-7376
Thomas Sakaris, President 201-819-2319
Kalliope Chagaris 813-789-4134
Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
Pres. Denise Stefero 678-464-4833
Tara Swartzbaugh, Director 813-313-0439
Ruth Losoviz, Organist 727-688-2782
Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
Greg Melton 813-967-2074

College Ministry:

Community Outreach:

Dance Groups:

H XAPA MΑΣ, Alexandra De Maio 813-340-9668
Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963
ΠΑΡΕΑ, Marina Choundas 813-877-6136
Genie Carter 813-363-2362
ΠΑΝΗΓΥΡΙ, Alexandra De Maio 813-340-9668
Elena Ketchum 813-229-0144
Gary Ward 813-846-3898
Sandra Pappas 813-785-3747
Michael & Bessie Palios 813-523-0346
George & Zackie Ameres 813-245-3813
Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963
Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
Marcelle Triantafilou 612-396-5026
Karina Findlay 813-476-9632
Katherine Sakkis 813-309-1073
Chris Kyrus 757-672-1920
George Mitseas 813-748-1220
Vickie Peckham 813-758-3102
Pete Trakas 813-505-2193
Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
Maria Xenick 813-765-3587
Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-876-8830
Aris Rogers 813-309-5525
Bill Manikas 813-716-8185
Dora Morgan 813-613-3738
Suzanne Pileggi 813-244-5855

Daughters of Penelope:

Finance Committee:

Food Pantry:

GOYA:

Hope/Joy:

Joy Tweens

Men's Fellowship:

Nursing Ministry:

Photography Ministry:

Philoptochos:

Stewardship:

Sunday School:

Ushers

Veterans/1st Responders

Welcoming Ministry:

Women's Bible Study:

Young Adults

Young at Heart:

Youth Protection:



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



October 1, 2023

St. Romanos the Melodist

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)

Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)

Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)

VISION:
Love God, Love your neighbor and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ as an Orthodox Christian community.

MISSION:
The mission of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church is to welcome and serve people with love, truth, joy and peace, and to create an environment that encourages all to seek salvation through Orthodox Christianity.

CORE VALUES:
Love, Worship, Community, Learning, Service

SYNAXARION:
2nd Sunday of Luke; The Holy Protection of the Theotokos; Romanos the Melodist; John Koukouzelis the Psalti

Resurrectional Apolytikion:
From Above did You descend O Christ our God. For us did You endure three days in the tomb, that we may be relieved from passions in this world. You who are our Resurrection and our Life: Glory to You, O Lord.

Apolyikion of St. Ananias:
O holy Apostle Ananias, make intercession to our merciful God, that He grant our souls forgiveness of offenses.

Apolyikion of St. Romanos:
In you, O Father, is preserved undistorted what was made in the image of God; for taking up the cross, you followed Christ and by example taught, that we should overlook the flesh, since it passes away, and instead look after the soul, since it is immortal. And therefore, O devout Romanos, your spirit rejoices with the angels.

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:
A protection of Christians unshamable, intercessor to our Holy Maker unwavering, reject not, the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us for you are good, your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you. Hasten to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all time, Theotokos for those who honor you.

Welcome to all of our Visitors “Welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Romans 15:7 We pray that your worship experience with us today will be inspirational and uplifting. Please introduce yourself to an usher or a member of the Welcoming Ministry and pick-up a “welcome packet” as you exit the church. We are happy that you are with us today!

Holy Communion is offered only to Orthodox Christians who are in good canonical standing with the church and who have prepared through prayer and fasting. Everyone is invited to receive the Antidoron (Blessed Bread) at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

Order for Holy Communion—With Sunday School out of session the order for Holy Communion will be as follows:

1. Choir
2. Altar boys
3. Sunday school teachers (who will line up in middle aisle before Communion)
4. Sunday school students (who will line up in the middle aisle before Communion behind the teachers)
5. Then the rest of the congregation

Upcoming Services & Events		
Sunday October 1	Orthros 8:45 a.m. Dance Practice	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday October 2	Orthodoxy 101 Teaching Liturgy 6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday October 3	Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	
Wednesday October 4	Choir Practice Fr. Stavros out of town Oct 4-7	
Friday October 6	Office closes at 12:00 p.m.	
Sunday October 8	Orthros 8:45 a.m. Dance Practice GOYA 5:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday October 9	Orthodoxy 101 6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday October 10	Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Parish Council 6:30 p.m.	
Wednesday October 11	Choir Practice	
Thursday October 12	Young Adult Discussion 6:30– 8:30 p.m.	

Religious Education at St. John

Monday Night Bible Study	Women’s Bible Study
Leader: Fr. John	Leader: Fr. Stavros
October 3: Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.	October 3: Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

If you are new to the Tampa Bay area or just visiting, we would love to get to know you better.

PLEASE TEXT THE WORD
"WELCOME" TO 813-790-5950

FOLLOW THE PROMPTS TO GIVE US YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION AND FROM THERE YOU WILL BE DIRECTED TO OUR ONLINE CONNECTION CARD

DO NOT NEGLECT TO SHOW *hospitality* TO STRANGERS. FOR THEREBY SOME HAVE ENTERTAINED *angels* UNAWARES.

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore - A Boy's Journey to Sainthood

Volume 1 - Saint Paisios the Athonite and Volume 2 - Saint Porphyrios Kafsokalivia by Anna Iakovou are available in our bookstore. Full color books with beautiful illustrations and inspiring stories. The Saints of our Church, even the greatest elders and ascetics, were once children just like yours!



Greek Dance Groups

Y Hara Mas (3rd-6th grades) will have Greek dance practice **today** for 45 minutes, from 12:15 to 1:00pm. Please meet by the stage in the Kourmolis Center at 12:15pm ready to dance! We will continue practices every Sunday following the Divine Liturgy, from 12:15 to 1:00pm, until the Greek Festival. Costume fittings will take place on two Sundays, October 15 and 22, after dance practice. If you have not received an email already, and your child will be performing at the Greek Festival on Saturday, November 4, please email Maraquet Edquid at maraquet@gmail.com with your child's name and grade level. Thank you!



Greetings Parents and Hara Mas dancers K-2 (ages 5-7)

Reminder:

We will continue to have dance practice every Sunday until the festival. Please meet after church in the hall by the side of the stage closest to the kitchen. Please be sure to write your names (parent and child) and email/phone on the paper-work provided on the stage. You can purchase a costume online or borrow a costume. If the latter please see me. See you Sunday for dancing and cookies! Any questions: Alexandra DeMaio 813-340-9668

PAREA DANCE GROUP (7th-12th graders)

We will have practice every Sunday after that unless there is a GOYA meeting that day (October 1, 15, 22 and 29). We are also planning to have a couple of Saturday practices given the limited time we have before the festival. Please email Marina Choundas at mchoundas@outlook.com if your child will be dancing in the Parea dance group this year and provide your child's name, age, grade and your (the parent/guardian's) email and cell number. Thank you!



Monday night Bible study with Fr. John

Will continue meeting at 6:30 p.m. on most Monday evenings. Join us in person or via zoom for some very informative, lively and interactive discussions on how we apply Biblical principles in our everyday lives. See the Sunday bulletin for specific topics. For October, the dates are: Tuesday, October 3; Monday, October 16; and Tuesday, October 24.

MONDAY
NIGHT
BIBLE
STUDY

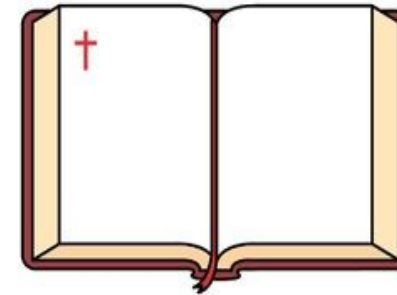
Readings for Sunday, October 1

Prokeimenon: Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them. Psalm 75.11,1

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.



The reading is from The Gospel According to Luke 6:31-36

The Lord said, "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

Fr. Stavros will be out of town October 4-7.

He has been asked to again present at Holy Cross Seminary in Boston, as part of a program called "Be Attentive" which is designed to help people discern if they have a priestly calling. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Fr. John.



Women's Bible Study

Our Tuesday morning women's Bible Study began in September. We meet on most Tuesdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. either in person or on zoom. For October, the dates are Tuesday, October 3; Tuesday, October 10; Tuesday, October 17; Tuesday, October 24 and Tuesday, October 31.



Daughter's of Penelope & AHEPA

Dear Parishioners.

As we do each year the Daughter's of Penelope with the support of AHEPA are participating in a community service project - WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S in Tampa. It will be held on November 11th at Amalie Arena at 8AM. Everyone is welcome! It provides an opportunity to raise funds by asking your friends and relatives to sponsor you in your walk or just to donate to you to meet the goal you set for yourself this year. We hope you will join us in the fight to find a cure for this disease. Join us or reach out to Maria Zabetakis at 813-748-7709 or visit our team site to register or simply to donate at:

https://act.alz.org/site/TR?team_id=843963&pg=team&fr_id=16469

Here are some facts on why it's so important to find a cure.

Alzheimer's disease is a devastating brain disorder that slowly destroys a person's memory and thinking skills. It's the 6th leading cause of death in the United States¹ and affects over 6 million Americans.² One in three older adults dies with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia—killing more people than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined.² The impact of Alzheimer's is felt by everyone who is touched by the disease, including the person with the diagnosis, their family, friends, and caregivers. Many loved ones will bear the weight of this disease, facing significant challenges along the way. Witnessing someone you love gradually lose their memory and abilities takes an undeniable emotional and physical toll. The ripple effect of Alzheimer's disease is a reminder that its reach goes far beyond those living with the disease.

THE TWELVE DISCIPLES PROJECT



Soon, St. John will distribute a refreshed list of names to all registered members of our Twelve Disciples Project for October 2023. If you are not presently a member and wish to **join a group of your fellow parishioners, praying for the well-being of members of St. John the Baptist's Congregation, please contact Mathew Balasis, (727)345-4855, (mathewbalasis@verizon.net) for details.** Your participation is **free**, and will benefit you by improving your personal prayer discipline. "Let us come to know every member of our Church by their name and in their dignity as a child of God. Let us honor every name within our Church. Let us open our own hearts to learn from one another."

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America Homily at the Divine Liturgy, Sunday of the Canaanite Woman, February 14, 2021, Denver Colorado



Altar Boy Schedule

October 1st
Gabriel Gonzalez
Michael Galin
Philip Kane
Leo Sengsouvana
Kenny Kane
Peter Konstas
Matthew Barba

Captains
Demetri Passalaris
Nicholas Akrotirianakis
Nicholas Magos
Nicholas Carter
George Xenick
PJ Zelatis

October 8th
Michael Snyder
Zachary Carter
Dorian Setzer-Torres
Leo Lendaros
Niko Kyrus
Josh Roby
Michael Svintsitskiy
Michael Kwasny

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

October 1st
Reading the Bible



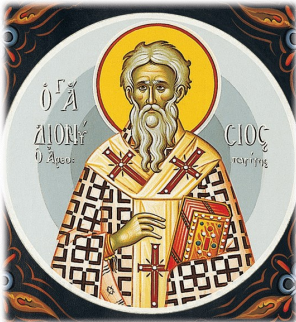
October 8th
The Ten Commandments

If you do not receive our weekly Sunday School Constant Contact every Friday afternoon, please e-mail Vickie Peckham to let her know. Her e-mail address is vickiepeckham@gmail.com

Liturgical Notes

Monday, October 2- Teaching Divine Liturgy - St. Dionysios the Areopagite

St. Dionysios converted to Christianity after hearing St. Paul preach in Athens, becoming one of the first Athenians to convert. He later became the first bishop of Athens, who was later martyred for his faith. AS part of the Orthodoxy 101 class, we will have a teaching Divine Liturgy on Monday, October 2, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on the solea of the church, and there will be periodic pauses in the service for people to ask questions and for Father Stavros to offer explanations.



Sunday, October 15 - Special Prayer for Medical Personnel

St. Luke, Apostle, Evangelist and also Physician, has his feastday celebrated on October 18. In conjunction with this, as he is the patron saint of doctors, we are going to offer a prayer for everyone in the medical field on Sunday, October 15, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. All doctors, nurses, dentists, researchers, students, and anyone connected to the medical field is encouraged to attend.

Community News

GOYA

There are **two** of GOYA events in October.

Our regular GOYA meeting will be on Sunday, October 8, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner, as always, will be provided.

Senior Lockin-There will be a lock-in for our 10th-12th grade GOYAns on Saturday, October 21, beginning at 5:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by Tuesday, October 17.



Young Adult Dinner/Discussion

Thursday, October 12-Our young adult group meets once a month for dinner/discussion (and other times for fellowship and service). The meeting for October will be on Thursday, October 12, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. All young adults, ages 18-40, are invited to participate. We will be having a monthly discussion based on some set topics. The Topic for October is Service—how we can best serve in the church and in the world. Group Members use What's App for communication. Please contact Aris Rogers to be add-ed to our what's app for young adults at 813-309-5525.

St. John is
responsible to have 6
volunteers sign up
each month.

Sign Up

Have a heart, lend a hand,
and make a difference.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH 2023

OUR SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINING MONTHS OF 2023 IS
AS FOLLOWS:
SATURDAY OCTOBER 21,
NOVEMBER 18, DECEMBER 16.
TIME: 8:00 AM - 10 AM
PLACE: TAMPA HOPE
3704 E. 3RD AVENUE
TAMPA, FL. 33605



Sign up via SIGNUP GENIUS



Fifty- Two Verses

-In-

Fifty- Two Weeks

October 1-7

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

Psalm 150:6

This verse of Psalm 150:6 is chanted in almost every Orthros service. It is a reminder that all creation is supposed to praise the Lord. Everything that has breath. Some translations actually say “let every breath praise the Lord.” That can mean that everything with breath should praise the Lord, but even more poignantly, that every breath from every breathing thing ideally praises the Lord. What would life look like if every one of our breaths praised the Lord. Imagine if every words praised the Lord. Imagine when we sit quietly with our thoughts, when we are breathing silently, if even the thoughts were thoughts that praised the Lord. This does not mean we can’t ever have another thought besides the Lord. Rather, if we divide our lives into two pieces—things that show praise for the Lord and things that sin against the Lord. If we put everything into those two categories. The goal then would be to have everything we do be in the category that praises the Lord. Even lei-sure and laughter can praise the Lord, when these things are done in a wholesome way. This is the ultimate goal, which is why this is the last verse of the last Psalm. The Psalms are prayers that capture every emotion as it re-lates to the Lord and the spiritual life. It is fitting, then, that the last verse of the Psalms captures this ultimate goal, that everything that breathes should praise the Lord, and ideally every breath should praise Him as well.

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Melissa Romero, Sandra Reyes, Miltiadis, Larry Maas; Konstantinos Triantafyllopoulos; Kostadinos Booras; Michael I, Anna Maria & Thomas Reilly; Jim Armstrong, Calliope Herman; Delaney & Alexis Johnson; Ron & Linda Ledet; Helen & Mike Mitchell; Marcelle T., Joanna & Yenay R., Carlos R., Elena, Ricky & Michael Gordenina, Tina Chakonas, Felix R., Ivco; George Joseph; Anna, Stavroula, George, Pam, and Liz; Christopher Labatos; Eva Coppalla; Christopher; Christopher; Peter Nenos; Patrick Carroll; Ourania Tziotis, Irina, Marina, Yuri, and Christophoros; Ashley Snyder; Evangelos & Caroline Critkas; Christine Alex, June, Lillian Thomas; Scotty; Desi Serriera; Ashley Kladakis; Dora Kallas, Kathy & Andrew Bouzinakis; Anastasia; Virginia Georgiou, Toulia Tsaros, Nellie Pringle, Yolanda Webb, Angela Bougas, Ron, Jason Vickers, Rex Garrison, Ann Demas, Christina Noel Kouzes Houck, Evangeline Xeroteris, Ashley Henderson, Natalie Henderson, Chris, Debbie, James, Avery, Lily, Jacob, Jesse, Ann, Rosario, Alissa, John, Angela, Joey, Christine Scourtes, Steven, 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, Michael Romero, George Hambos, Dean Kondilis and Family, Bill and Nancy Manikas, Patricia Costello, Ekaterina & Anna S. Dora K., Debbie P., Mary V., David V., Don Payne, and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT
ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY?
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FOUR WEEK COURSE

Orthodoxy 101

BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER & OFFERED BY
FR. STAVROS N. AKROTIRIANAKIS, PARISH PRIEST

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND ORTHODOXY 101?

· INTERFAITH COUPLES. THIS WILL
HELP THE NON-ORTHODOX PERSON
UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT WHAT IS
GOING ON IN OUR CHURCH.

· ANYONE WHO IS CONSIDERING
JOINING OUR CHURCH. GOING
FORWARD, THIS CLASS WILL BE A
REQUIREMENT FOR THOSE WHO
WISH TO JOIN OUR ORTHODOX
FAITH.

· NEW CONVERTS TO ORTHODOXY.
FOR THOSE WHO RECENTLY JOINED
OUR CHURCH AND WHO WANT TO
KNOW A LITTLE BIT MORE.

· ANYONE WHO WANTS TO KNOW
MORE ABOUT THE BASICS OF OUR
FAITH, OR WHO WANTS A
REFRESHER

WHAT FORMAT CAN I EXPECT?

A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE WITH PRESENTATIONS, INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS,
AND LOTS OF TIME FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CLASSES WILL BE HELD FROM 6:30-8:30 P.M. IN THE CHURCH SANCTUARY.

Please sign up with Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com, so he has enough materials for everyone.
There is no charge for this class.

WHEN WILL THE CLASSES BE HELD?

· MONDAY, OCTOBER 2
THE DIVINE LITURGY –
A “TEACHING” LITURGY

· MONDAY, OCTOBER 9
ORTHODOX TRADITIONS –
FASTING, ICONS, PRAYER
AND LIVING AN
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN
LIFE

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH · 2418 W. SWANN AVENUE · TAMPA, FL · 33609



FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 3RD
4:00 pm - 10:00 pm

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 4TH
11:00 am - 10:00 pm

WWW.TAMPAGREEKFESTIVAL.COM

*Let's get excited to
share our faith and
our culture with
the Tampa Bay
area!*

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CHARITABLE
ORGANIZATIONS
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THANK YOU FOR
YOUR
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ENJOY:

- Outdoor Cafe & Children's Play Area
- Live Music, Church tours, and Choir Concerts
- Greek Food, Dancing, and Music
- Bakaliko (Greek Food Market) and Mediterranean Goods



SIGN UP TO
VOLUNTEER
EACH SUNDAY
AFTER LITURGY

CONTACT MIKE XENICK AT
MXENICK@GMAIL.COM OR 813-340-8737 TO
FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED!

St. John Greek Orthodox Church - 2418 W. Swann Avenue - Tampa, FL 33609
(813)876- 8830 - www.stjohntpa.org