

Parish Priest:	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-876-8830
Retired Priest in Residence:	Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830
Retired Priest in Residence:	Rev. Fr. John Stefero	813-876-8830
Pastoral Assistant:	Alex Limberatos	262-370-0586
Pastoral Assistant:	Vasili Panagopoulos	414-254-5134
Bookkeeper:	Debbie Bowe	813-876-8830
Parish Council:		
John Zelatis, President		813-727-2271
Euripides Panos, Vice President		813-352-3972
Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary		813-855-8678
Gary Ward, Treasurer		813-846-3898
Jim Armstrong		954-295-6665
Joanne Dalaklis		781-888-3329
Amin Hanhan		813-846-2957
Nick Katzaras		863-581-2430
Suzanne Pileggi		813-244-5855
Marcelle Triantafilou		612-396-5026
Mike Xenick		813-340-8737
12 Disciples	Mathew Balasis	727-421-7376
AHEPA:	Thomas Sakaris, President	201-819-2319
Altar Angels:	Kalliopo Chagaris	813-789-4134
Bookstore:	Pres. Denise Stefero	678-464-4833
Choir:	Pauline Spencer, Director	813-390-1782
	Ruth Losovitz, Organist	727-688-2782
Community Outreach:	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
Dance Groups:	H XAPA ΜΑΣ, Alexandra De Maio	813-340-9668
	Bessie Palios,	813-523-0347
	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
	ΠΑΡΕΑ, Marina Choundas	813-877-6136
	ΠΑΝΗΓΥΡΙ, Alexandra De Maio	813-340-9668
Daughters of Penelope:	Diane Trimis	813-220-3389
Finance Committee:	Gary Ward	813-846-3898
Food Pantry	Sheila Vukmer	412-719-1005
GriefShare:	Donna Hambos	813-843-8412
GOYA:	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346
Hope/Joy:	George & Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
Men's Fellowship:	Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis	813-876-8830
MOMS:	Mary Ann Konstas	813-215-9862
Nursing Ministry:	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
Oratorical Festival:	Peggy Bradshaw	727-244-1374
Photography Ministry:	Karina Findlay	813-476-9632
Philoptochos:	Melissa Krinos	813-716-9975
Stewardship:	Chris Kyrus	757-672-1920
	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
Sunday School:	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102
Ushers	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
Welcoming Ministry:	Maria Xenick	813-765-3587
Young Adults	Alex Limberatos	262-370-0586
Young at Heart:	Bill Manikas	813-716-8185
	Dora Morgan	813-613-3738
Youth Protection:	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

May 1, 2022 - Sunday of Thomas

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)

Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)

Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)

(Icon Sunday of Thomas)

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:

Sunday of St. Thomas

Prophet Jeremiah; Batas the Hieromartyr; Philosopher the Martyr; Isodia; Efthymios, Ignatios, and Akakos the Martyrs

Apolytikion of the Feast (Plagal First):

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

Apolytikion of the Feast (Barys Mode):

With the tomb sealed securely, O Christ the Life, You rose from the grave, and with the doors tightly closed, You came to Your Apostles, O Resurrection of all, renewing in us a right Spirit through them, according to Your great mercy.

Kontakion of Pascha (Plagal Fourth Mode):

Even though You descended into the grave You destroyed the Power of Hades and You rose as a Victor, O Christ our God, saying to the myrrh bearing women: Rejoice! And to Your Apostles granting peace and to the fallen, You also grant Resurrection.

Hymn to the Theotokos (First Mode):

The angel cried to her who is full of grace: Rejoice Holy Virgin and again I say rejoice, for your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day.

Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has arisen over you. Dance now for joy O Zion and exult. Rejoice and be glad O pure Theotokos at the Resurrection of your Child.

Communion Hymn

So-ma Chris-tou me-ta-la-ve-te Pi-gis A-tha-na-tou yef-sas-the. Allilulia.

Receive the Body of Christ and partake ye of Him. He is an Immortal Fountain. Alleluia.

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 back in 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, May 1

Thomas Sunday

Orthros

8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy

10:00 a.m.

Men’s Group

5:00 p.m.

Monday, May 2

Monday Night Bible Study

6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 3

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

10:00 a.m.

Thursday, May 5

St. Irene

Orthros

9:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy

10:00 a.m.

Adult Greek School

6:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 8

Sunday of the Myrrh-bearers

Orthros

8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy

10:00 a.m.

Monday, May 9

Meeting of the Ministry Heads 6:30 p.m.

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

May 1-7

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

John 20:30-31

The Gospels are not an exhaustive document of everything Jesus did. We all know that there are four Gospels. While there are many similarities in the Gospel accounts, there are some significant differences. I heard on a podcast recently that the Gospel of Matthew pre-sents Jesus as King, Mark presents Him as servant, Luke pre-sents Him as man, and John presents Him as God. Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the “Synoptic Gospels” because there is a lot of over-lap between them. John’s Gospel is called the “Theological Gospel” because it pre-sents the highest level of theology of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. For instance, it is in John where we read about Jesus as the “Bread of Life.” Regarding Christmas, Matthew tells the story of the Magi, while Luke focuses on the Shepherds. Each Gospel has an account of both the Crucifixion and Resurrection. Luke has the story of the repentant thief, while John has the encounter between Jesus, where He entrusts His mother to His beloved disciple John. Taken together, or even individually, the Gospels speak the truth of the Divinity of Christ. No amount of books could contain every conversation Jesus had over His three-year earthly ministry, nor the impressions of those who heard and saw Him. These are written, as the verse says, so that by hearing and reading, we may believe “that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you (we) may have life in His name.”

Education at St. John

Monday Night Bible Study

Leader: Fr. John

Day: Monday 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Leader: Fr. Stavros

Day: Tuesday 10:00 a.m.

Greek School

Leader: Magda Myer

Day: Thursday 6:00 p.m.

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Men's Group Meets Today!

The Men's group will meet today, Sunday, May 1 at 5:00 p.m. We meet once a month, go to a restaurant for fellow-ship and discussion. We finish by 7:30 p.m. All men of our parish are welcome to join. New people are welcome, and bring your non-Orthodox friends, they are welcome also.

Next GOYA Meeting - Mark Your Calendars!

Dear GOYAns,

Our next GOYA Meeting will be Sunday, May 15, from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner, as always, will be served. We hope to see you there!

St. John's Bookstore - Paschal Items now Available!!



Items are still available: Holy week service books, red egg dye imported from Greece, wooden and glass eggs with display stands, Resurrection icons, and children's books are some of the many items in stock. Stop by our bookstore today to view our selection.

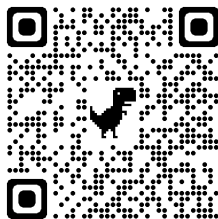
Community Outreach

Hello and WELCOME! **On the 3rd Saturday of each month**, we volunteer 2 1/2 hrs of our time to provide for the needy and homeless of our community in East Tampa. We partner with local charity Matthew 25, Metropolitan Ministries and USF Medical School to serve breakfast, provide clothing and medical needs for our guests.

To Volunteer: Go to the Sign Up Genius below, or scan the QR code.

If you forget to sign up, you can still come!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f48a5a62da3f49-community1>



Vasili's Book Study Beginning in June!

Vasili Panagopoulos, our Pastoral Assistant, will be starting a book study in June. This book study will meet once a week, for about an hour and a half each session. In addition, the book study will be hybrid: both in-person and virtual over Zoom. The specific book, start date and time, and schedule of meetings will be announced shortly.

Readings for Holy Pascha

Prokeimenon: Great is our Lord, and great is His strength. Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

The Epistle Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles (5-12-20)

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

Gospel Reading is from John (20:19-31)

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to Him: "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Felix; Sylvia Michos; Eva Coppalla; Christopher; Christopher; Mary & Peter Nenos; Tony Ekonomou; Keith Lynn & Patrick Carroll; Ourania Tziotis, Irina, Marina, Yuri, and Christophoros; Ashley Snyder; Evangelos & Caroline Critkas; Constantinos & Kalotina Klimis; Christine Alex, June, Lillian Thomas; Scotty; Desi Serriera; Ashley Kladakis; Dora Kallas, Kathy & Andrew Bouzinekis; Anastasia; Virginia Georgiou, Ron Myer, Toulia Tsaros, Fr. Pat Legato, Nellie Pringle, Yolanda Webb, Angela Bougas, Tony Ekonomou, Ron, Jason Vickers, Rex Garrion, Tina Chakonas, Ann Demas, Christina Noel Kouzes Houck, Evangeline Xeroteris, Ashley Henderson, Natalie Henderson, Chris, Debbie, James, Avery, Lily, Jacob, Jesse, Ann, Rosario, Antonia Caffentzis, 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, 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, Debbie Phelps, Mary Voykin, David Voykin, Denise Badrane, Don Payne, and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATE

Sunday, May 1

Topic: St. Thomas/Holy Week Highlights

Sunday, May 8

Topic: Ascension

Sunday, May 15

Topic: Pentecost

Sunday, May 22

Last Day of Sunday School

Sunday School Graduation Ceremony for all students
Sunday School and Teachers' Photo taken for Directory
Sunday School End of the Year Party on CAMPUS

Liturgical Notes

The Pentecostarion - The 50 Days After Pascha The period of 50 days between Pascha & Pentecost is referred to as the "Pentecostarion." The period of forty days between Pascha Sunday and the day of the Ascension is known as the period of Pascha (or Easter). It is a period set aside by the Church for the specific celebration of Christ's glorious resurrection. It is a celebration of "rebirth". . . The re-birth of God's creation which surrounds us, and the rebirth of the spirit within each and every one of us! This period is not merely a ritualistic celebration but a celebration which can be seen, felt, heard and talked about. It is a very REAL celebration which CAN make our entire being jump with JOY. It is a celebration which offers us HOPE. It is a celebration which offers us the TRUE FREEDOM found only in Jesus Christ! During the 40 days of Pascha, we are to greet each other with the greeting "Christ is Risen" or "Χριστός Ανέστη!", to which the response is "Truly He is Risen" or "Αληθώς Ανέστη!"

No Kneeling until Pentecost

It is actually the Tradition in the Orthodox Church that we not kneel on Sundays in honor of the Resurrection of Christ. Because we do not worship on a daily basis in our church communities, priests have encouraged people to kneel on Sundays, the thought being that if we do not kneel on Sundays, that we'll never kneel in church. It is a Tradition, that for 50 days after Pascha, we do not kneel in honor of the Resurrection. The next time we will kneel after April 23 is on the Feast of Pentecost (June 12) at the Vespers of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, when the priest says "Again and again on bended knees let us pray to the Lord."

Sunday, May 1 - Sunday of St. Thomas The Church brings to our mind the unbelief of Thomas followed by his belief after seeing the scars of Christ.

Thursday, May 5 - Feast of St. Irene - St. Irene was a martyr of the 4th century. Many miracles have been attributed to her. She is the pa-tron saint of law enforcement officers.

Sunday, May 8- Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women They came to anoint Jesus' body, but found an EMPTY tomb. We also commem-orate Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemos.

Sunday, May 8 - Feast of St. John the Theologian and St. Arsenios On May 8, we celebrate the feast days of St. John the Theologian, the author of the fourth Gospel, as well as the Epistles of St. John and the book of Revelation, and also celebrate the feast of St. Arsenios, a monk of the 5th Century.

Wednesday, May 11 – Paraklesis Service of Supplication to the Virgin Mary - We will continue to offer Paraklesis once a month, so that we can pray for all the members of our community by name, out loud. We will alternate some in the evening and some in the morning. For May, the Paraklesis will be offered on Wednesday Evening, May 11, from 6:00--7:00 p.m.



Our Food Pantry is very active helping people near and far in the Tampa Community

- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Tomato sauce/ chopped tomatoes etc.
- All kinds of white flour
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Gluten Free Foods and Flours
- Body Wash
- Cereal
- Whole wheat rice and pasta
- Men's and Women's razors and shaving cream (travel size)
- Toothbrushes
- Granola & Protein Bars

Download Our St. John the Baptist App Today!

Stay Updated With Push Notifications, Access Our Parish's Resources With Just One Click! Available on Apple, Android, and Amazon Devices. Just look up "St. John GOC Tampa"

Using our community's Church App on your mobile device is a great way to stay in touch and get the most out of Holy Week this year. If you haven't already, download the app on your device's App Store for free!

**Follow us on Instagram: stjohntpa
And follow us on Facebook!**



Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!

If you want to make sure we have your birthdate on file, please call the office.

Birthdays

Namedays

May 1	Gianna Fotopoulos	Filosofos, Isidora, Jeremia, Tamara
May 2	George Ciampolilo, Stefan Katzaras	
May 3		
May 4	Ethel Athena Chakonas, Anastasios Damianakis, Diana Mamero	Irimi, Markos, Melia, Nikos, Raphael
May 5	Fabio Cara, Basileios Roussos	Ephraim, Eirinaios, Irimi, Theoharis
May 6	Abigail Mueller	Iov, Seraphim
May 7	Athena Katzaras, Corinna Robinson, Peter Zaban	Krini, Panagiotis, Pigi, Polyzois, Zisimos, Zisis, Zoe

Altar Boy Schedule

Sunday, May 1
St. Matthew

George Xenick
Nicholas Magos
Michael Galin
Leo Sengsouvanna
Kenny Kane
Philip Kane
James Betza

Captains

John Palios
Genaro Scarfogliero
Nicholas Akrotirianakis
Yanni Trimikliniotis
James Magos
Demetri Passalaris

Sunday, May 8
St. Mark

Nicholas Carter
Zachary Carter
Harry Robinson
Prometheus Koutouzi
Leo Lenardos
PJ Zelatis
Niko Kyros