

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
Retired Priest in Residence: Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski 813-876-8830
Retired Priest in Residence: Rev. Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
Pastoral Assistant: Vasili Panagopoulos 414-254-5134
Administrative Assistant: Kim Rojas 813-876-8830
Bookkeeper: Debbie Bowe 813-876-8830

Parish Council:
 John Zelatis, President 813-727-2271
 Euripides Panos, Vice President 813-352-3972
 Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary 813-760-6289
 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:
College Ministry:
Community Outreach:
Dance Groups:

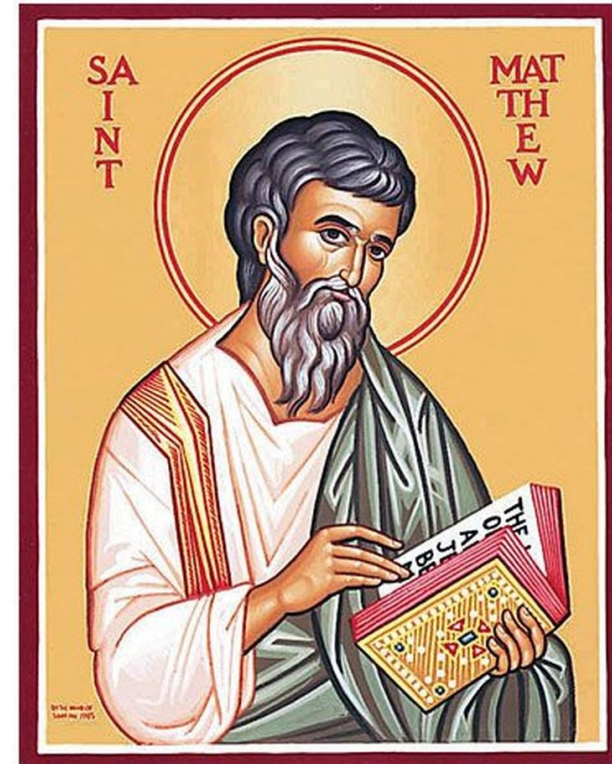
Mathew Balasis 727-421-7376
 Thomas Sakaris, President 201-819-2319
 Kalliope Chagaris 813-789-4134
 Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
 Pres. Denise Stefero 678-464-4833
 Tara Swartzbaugh, Director 813-313-0439
 Ruth Losovitz, Organist 727-688-2782
 Vasili Panagopoulos 414-254-5134
 Greg Melton 813-967-2074
 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
 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
 Melissa Krinos 813-716-9975
 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

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



July 2, 2023

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)
Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)
Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)
4th SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

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.

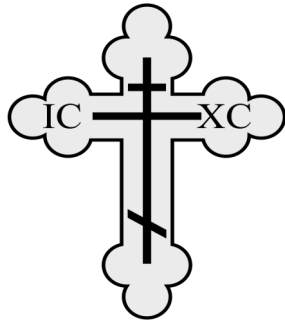
CORE VALUES:
Love, Worship, Community, Learning, Service

SYNAXARION:
4th Sunday of Matthew ; Deposition of the Precious Robe of the Theotokos in Blachernae ; Juvenal, Patriarch of Jerusalem

Resurrection Apolytikion:
Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and first born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great mercy.

Hymn of St. John the Baptist:
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 back in session the order for Holy Communion will be as follows:

1. Choir
2. Altar boys
3. Then the rest of the congregation

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday July 2	Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. (Fr. John Stefero Celebrant)
Tuesday July 4	Independence Day– Office Closed
Saturday July 8	Young at Heart Gathering
Sunday July 9	Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. (Fr. Stavros Celebrant)
Monday July 10	Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday July 11	Paraklesis to St. Paisios 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday July 12	St. Paisios Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Adult Greek Dance 7:00 p.m.
Thursday July 13	Chant Class 6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.
Saturday July 15	Community Outreach

Religious Education at St. John

Monday Night Bible Study	Women’s Bible Study
Leader: Fr. John	Leader: Fr. Stavros
July 10: Monday at 6:30 p.m.	Resumes until August

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 unaware.*
HEBREWS 13:2

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore | Orthodox Books Now Available through Hillsborough County Public Library System

We have some exciting news to share! Due to the efforts of Jamie Hartzler, there are now new Orthodox books in the Hillsborough County Public Library System catalog. What motivated Jamie to do this? In her words, " My husband is Orthodox but I am new to the Orthodox faith and have much to learn. Although the library has some beautiful children's books about the lives of the saints, none appeared to be Orthodox. I wanted my girls, Senna and Kiernan, to be able to learn more about the lives of the saints and appreciate the beautiful iconography of the church through children's books. The gorgeous illustrations in these books are a beautiful way to learn about church history and traditions. So, this meant that I needed to start making purchasing suggestions to the library". Through her persistence and dedication to this project she has succeeded in getting 13 Orthodox books on the shelves! The following are titles recently acquired.

- For Children of All ages:
- [Laurel and the Wind](#) by Gaelan Gilbert
 - [The Saint and His Bees](#) by Dessi Jackson
 - [A Taste of Paradise: Stories of Saints and Animals](#) by Katherine Bolger Hyde
 - [In the Candle's Glow](#) by Elizabeth Crispina Johnson
 - [North Star, St. Herman of Alaska](#) by Dorrie Papademetriou
 - [The Wonderful Life of Russia's Saint Sergius of Radonezh](#) by Alvin Alexsi Currier
 - [The Monk Who Grew Prayer](#) by Claire Bradenburg
 - [Saint La Rides a Leaf](#) by Melinda Johnson
 - [The Sleepy Bear and the Golden Whispers](#) by T. Anne Mancuso
 - [Snow on Martinmas](#) by Heather Sleightholm
 - [Brigid and the Butter: The Legend of Saint Brigid of Ireland](#) by Pamela Love

- For Adults:
- [Thinking Orthodox: Understanding and Acquiring the Orthodox Christian Mind](#) by Eugenia Scarvelis Constantinou, Ph.D
 - [The Crucifixion of the King of Glory: The Amazing History and Sublime Mystery of the Passion](#) by Eugenia Scarvelis Constantinou, Ph.D

As only one copy of each title is available in the catalog, please place the book you'd like on hold after logging in to your library account . You can specify which branch is your preferred pick-up location. The library will notify you when the book becomes available.

Are you interested in suggesting titles of Orthodox Books for purchase by the Hillsborough County Public Library? If so, see Jamie or Presvytera Denise for more information on how you can get involved. Please thank Jamie for her efforts in planting this seed and watching it blossom!

Presvytera Denise

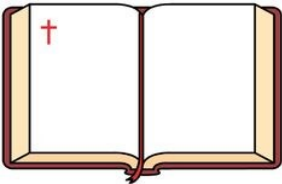


Readings for Sunday, July 2

Prokeimenon: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. Luke 1: 46-48

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 9:1-7
BRETHREN, the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

The reading is from Matthew 8:5-13
At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, "Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress." And he said to him, "I will come and heal him." But the centurion answered him, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, "Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth." And to the centurion Jesus said, "Go; be it done for you as you have believed." And the servant was healed at that very moment.



Fr. Stavros will be out of the office from June 28-July 10 directing St. Stephen's Greek Orthodox Summer Camp. I will have very limited access to email. For any pastoral emergencies, please contact Fr. John Stefero at 678-637-4425.

Liturgical Notes

Wednesday, July 12 St. Paisios

St. Paisios is one of the newest Orthodox saints, having been canonized in 2015. He lived from 1924-1994, was a monk on Mount Athos and was spiritual father to thousands of people. Miracles have been attributed to him.



Sunday, July 17 St. Marina

St. Marina brought many people to Christ. She was tortured for her faith. And each time she was tortured, she was healed. She was martyred in the third century.

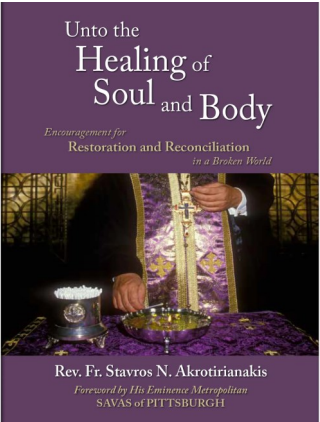
Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Larry Maas; Konstantinos Triantafyllopoulos; Kostadinos Booras; Michael I, Anna Maria & Thomas Reilly; Jim Armstrong, Calliope Herman; Delaney & Alexis Johnson; Ron & Linda Ledet; Helen & Mike Mitchell; Marcelle 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; Sylvia Michos; Eva Coppalla; Christopher; Christopher; Peter Nenos; Tony Ekonomou; 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 Bouzinekis; Anastasia; Virginia Georgiou, Toulou 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, Alice Stoccardo, 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, Vasili, Moriah, Andoni, and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

Altar Boy Schedule

July 2nd
Anyone attending
may serve

Captains
John Palios
Genaro Scarfogliero
Nicholas Akrotirianakis
Nicholas Carter
James Magos
Demetri Passalaris
George Xenick
Nicholas Magos
PJ Zelatis

July 9th
Anyone attending
may serve



Introducing the Newest Book
by Fr. Stavros
Unto the Healing of Soul and Body:
Encouragement for Restoration and
Reconciliation in a Broken World

There has never been a greater need for healing in the world than there is today. The Orthodox Sacrament of Holy Unction is intended for the healing of soul and body. What makes this sacrament so powerful is not just the anointing that occurs at the end of the service, but the journey there—through seven Epistle readings, seven Gospel passages and seven powerful prayers. Unto the Healing of Soul and Body will serve as an aid on this journey, helping us understand our need for healing, as well as God’s role and our own participation in spiritual healing.

Fifty- Two Verses
-In-
Fifty- Two Weeks
July 2– July 8th

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”
Matthew 9:37-38

The “harvest” at the time of Jesus were the people who had been prepared for the coming of the Messiah. They had been taught by the prophets of the coming of Christ, when a new kind of life would be inaugurated. The disciples were the laborers. They were few in number. Jesus was praying that the Lord of the harvest, God, would send the disciples and bring more disciples to focus on the harvest. In our times, the harvest are people who are longing for truth, who are longing for something. And we are the laborers, we the parishioners of this church. Perhaps the greatest challenge with the churches, including ours, is to convert the people from thinking as consumers and acting as producers, as not only the ones who benefit from the harvest but who help to gather more people, to harvest more people for Christ. We have been conditioned (as I wrote about earlier) to think with the mind of a consumer—that we come, we worship, we partake in the ministries of the church. But we also need to change the mindset to one where we help in putting on the worship, leading the ministries, and bringing people to Christ. This will be the turning point of our community, when we move more people



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

*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 JULY 15, AUGUST 19, SEPTEMBER 16,
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

Take Advantage of the Parish Assistance Program

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church is excited to share we will continue to offer the Parish Assistance program together with BayCare Behavioral Health. The program will provide our parishioners access to **free and confidential** counseling services - offering additional support when life's challenges become overwhelming. The PAP utilizes a network of faith-based providers that are sensitive to the values and beliefs of those they serve and provide compassionate care to children, adults, parents, and seniors. Parishioners can confidentially contact BayCare directly to request up to three free counseling sessions from a licensed mental health professional.

The BayCare helpline, 800-878-5470, is answered 24/7 by mental health professionals. Many BayCare therapists are also offering telephonic and virtual counseling sessions to help parishioners maintain their emotional wellbeing during these trying times. You can get more information on the BayCare Behavioral Health Community Services Program on their website at: <https://baycare.org/services/behavioral-health/our-specialties/community-healthservices> Help is available for life issues including:

Help is available for life issues including:

- Stress
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Family discord
- Marital problems
- Substance abuse issues
- Behavioral issues

**This service is completely confidential between parishioner and a
BayCare Christian Therapist**



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

INTRODUCTION TO CHANT CLASS

A 13-Week introductory chant class
offered at St. John's Church

REGISTER FOR CLASSES NOW AT
VASILI@STJOHNTPA.ORG

All are welcome

| 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. |

Next class: Thursday, July 13

Three Class Goals

- Being comfortable reading, intoning, and projecting your voice from the chanters stand
- Seeing and understanding the services from the perspective of the chanter
- Having the knowledge and ability to chant a Divine Liturgy or Sacrament by yourself



ST. JOHN'S 12 DISCIPLES PROJECT

"Every Christian is like a fortress under assault. Within the fortress of our lives is our soul, the sacred treasure of God placed in each of us. And like the medieval fortress, we must defend ourselves, specifically our souls, from the relentless attacks of the devil and sin. We pray then for God to guard us, to help us to preserve our souls and grow them so that they honor Him and are ready to return to Him."

*(Excerpt from May 30, 2023, St. John's Prayer Team message,
Strengthen Us)*

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis

ONE OF THE SIMPLEST TASKS WE COULD UNDERTAKE, PERSONAL PRAYER, REQUIRES HARDLY ANY EFFORT OR SPECIAL RESOURCES. IT IS ALSO THE BEST TOOL TO BOLSTER OUR DEFENSES AGAINST "THE RELENTLESS ATTACKS OF THE DEVIL AND SIN."

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY INSTITUTED A PROJECT INTENDED TO HELP US TO STRIVE TOWARD DEVELOPING A REGULAR, PERSONAL, PRIVATE, AND MEANINGFUL PRAYER DISCIPLINE. THIS GUIDANCE IS CALLED THE 12 DISCIPLES PROJECT. THIS HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL WITH MANY MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION, DAILY PRAYING "FOR, 'THE PEACE FROM ABOVE, AND FOR THE SALVATION OF OUR SOULS..." INTENDED FOR EACH OF YOU AND DIRECTED TO GOD FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUNDREDS OF MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION.

PARTICIPATING "12 DISCIPLES" RECEIVE A PRAYER AND A SHORT LIST OF NAMES, DISTRIBUTED MONTHLY. EACH PARTICIPANT RECEIVES A FEW NAMES, SO THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE PROJECT COLLECTIVELY PRAY FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION. COMBINED, EACH MEMBER OF OUR CONGREGATION IS PRAYED FOR DAILY BY NO FEWER THAN 6 OTHER MEMBERS OF THE 12 DISCIPLES PROJECT! THERE IS POWER IN PRAYER AND THERE IS MUCH POWER IN COLLECTIVE, COMBINED, DIRECTED, AND DAILY PRAYER.



YOU MAY JOIN US AND BECOME A TRUE ST. JOHN PRAYER WARRIOR, WHAT OUR DISCIPLES ARE CALLED. CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE, 813-876-8830, AND PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND YOU WILL BE ADDED TO THE GROWING LIST OF PARTICIPATING MEMBERS OF THE 12 DISCIPLES PROJECT.