

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
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 Mathew Balasis 727-421-7376
AHEPA: Thomas Sakaris, President 201-819-2319
Altar Angels: Kalliope Chagaris 813-789-4134
Bible Study: Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
Bookstore: Pres. Denise Stefero 678-464-4833
Choir: Tara Swartzbaugh, Director 813-313-0439
 Ruth Losovitz, Organist 727-688-2782
College Ministry: Vasili Panagopoulos 414-254-5134
Community Outreach: Greg Melton 813-967-2074
Dance Groups: H XAPA MΑΣ, Alexandra De Maio 813-340-9668
 Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963
 ΠΙΑΡΕΑ, Marina Choundas 813-877-6136
 Genie Carter 813-363-2362
 ΠΑΝΗΓΥΡΙ, Alexandra De Maio 813-340-9668
 Elena Ketchum 813-229-0144

Daughters of Penelope: Gary Ward 813-846-3898
Finance Committee: Sandra Pappas 813-785-3747
Food Pantry: Michael & Bessie Palios 813-523-0346
GOYA: George & Zackie Ameres 813-245-3813
Hope/Joy: Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963
Joy Tweens Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
Men's Fellowship: Marcelle Triantafilou 612-396-5026
Nursing Ministry: Karina Findlay 813-476-9632
Photography Ministry: Katherine Sakkis 813-309-1073
Philoptochos: Chris Kyrus 757-672-1920
Stewardship: George Mitseas 813-748-1220

Sunday School: Vickie Peckham 813-758-3102
Ushers Pete Trakas 813-505-2193
Veterans/1st Responders Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
Welcoming Ministry: Maria Xenick 813-765-3587
Women's Bible Study: Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-876-8830
Young Adults Aris Rogers 813-309-5525
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



September 3, 2023

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)
Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)
Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)
Icon of Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedia

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:

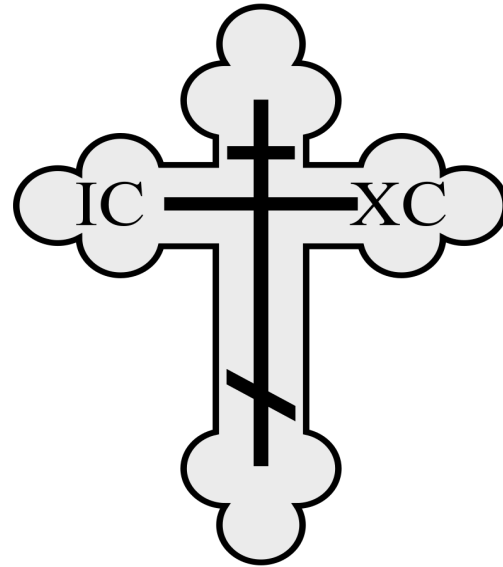
13th Sunday of Matthew; Anthimus, Bishop of Nicomedeia; Polydorus the Martyr of New Ephesus

Resurrectional Apolytikion:

When the tidings of the Resurrection from the angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples, and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the apostles, with boasting did they proclaim: that death is vanquished evermore and Christ our God is risen from the dead, granting to the world His great mercy.

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.



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 September 3

Orthros 8:45 a.m.
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday September 4

Labor Day– Office Closed

Tuesday September 5

Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday September 6

Choir Practice

Thursday September 7

Philoptochos Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Friday September 8

Nativity of the Virgin Mary
Orthros 9:00 a.m. **Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

Saturday September 9

Young at Heart
GOYA– St. Pete Volleyball

Sunday September 10

Orthros 8:45 a.m. **Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**
Dance Practice

Monday September 11

In Remembrance of 9/11
Orthros 9:00 a.m. **Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Religious Education at St. John

Monday Night Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. John

September 5: **Tuesday** at
6:30 p.m.

Women's Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. Stavros

Resumes until
September 12th 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* UN-AWARES.
HEBREWS 13:2

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore - New Children's Books from Greece

A new shipment of 110 books is displayed in our bookstore today. These mini books by Paterikon for Kids feature a multitude of Saints as well as books highlighting major feast days, martyrs, etc. Saints from Aegina, Cyprus, Chios, Ioannina, Kephallonia, and many other areas are available.

Greek Dance Groups



Y Hara Mas (3rd-6th grades) will **not** have Greek dance practice today. There will be dance practice next Sunday, September 10. Enjoy your Labor Day weekend! Please contact Maraquet Edquid (813-422-8963) with any questions.



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 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



DONATE BLOOD

St. John's Greek Orthodox Church
Sunday, September 17
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

All donors receive*:

- \$20 eGift Card
- OneBlood T-shirt
- Wellness Checkup including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

Fact: One in three of us will need a blood transfusion.



Appointments are encouraged, please
visit oneblood.org/donate-now and
use sponsor code 14583

ID REQUIRED

*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information
please visit oneblood.org/details.

Donors
Receive



- PLUS -



- PLUS -



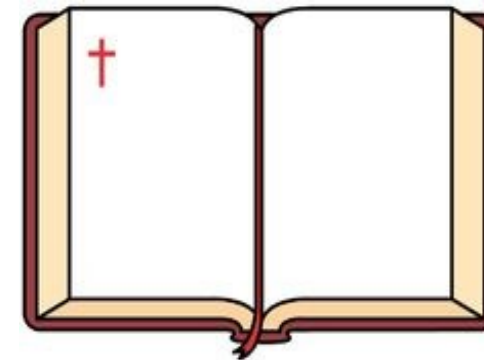
oneblood
Share your power.

Readings for Sunday, September 3

Prokeimenon: O Lord, how manifold are your works. You have made all things in wisdom. Psalm 103.24,1

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 16:13-24

Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicos, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.



The reading is from Matthew 21:33-42

The Lord said this parable, "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent

other servants, more than the first; and they did the same to them. Afterward he sent his son to them, saying 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'"

**Fifty- Two Verses
-In-
Fifty- Two Weeks
September 3rd– September 9th**

**It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.
2 Timothy 2:6**

This week we celebrate Labor Day. For most of us, it's a day off. We will take it as a well-deserved break from work. Yet, we should reflect for a few moments on our labors. We should be thankful for the skills we have that enable us to get a job which enable us to put bread on the table. It is interesting that the Bible teaches us to have sufficiency and to spare, meaning we are supposed to share what we have. In the world today, the concept of sufficiency is very subjective. In fact, the more we get, the more we seem to want. There is, however, a growing segment of society that thinks we should all have the same, or that the one who doesn't work at all should receive the same as the one who is working hard. That is not scriptural. To the contrary, St. Paul recognizes in his letter to Timothy that the one who works hard should have the first share in the reward. As a society, the ideal of a strong work ethic is being dimin-ished, if not criticized. And yet, Saint Paul, in this in-stance, and also in many other instances in the Bible, we are taught that working hard is a virtue. It signifies that one is using his or her talents to the BEST of their abil-ity. Matthew 25:14-30, the parable of the talents, re-minds us that when we have been blessed with a talent, we have the responsibility to use that talent . And that if we bury the talent we've been given, if we don't work with it and serve others with it, there is going to be a reckoning with God as to why we didn't do anything with what He gave us. Labor Day should be not only a day that is free from labor, but a reminder of the value and importance of labor, based on not only what it brings to ourselves, but what it contributes to the world and ultimately how our labor serves the Lord.

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 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, 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.

Altar Boy Schedule

September 3rd
**Anyone attending
may serve**

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

September 10th
Michael Snyder
Zachary Carter
Dorian Setzer-Torres
Leo Lendaros
Niko Kyrus
Josh Roby
Michael Svintsitskiy

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

September 3rd
NO CLASS



September 10th
Prayer
CLASS PHOTOS

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

Friday, September 8 - Nativity of the Virgin Mary
Placed right after the beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year, this feastday commemorates the birth of the Virgin Mary to her parents, Joachim and Anna. It is one of the 12 Major Feast Days of the Church year.

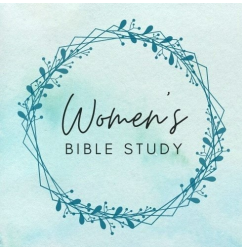


Monday, September 11 – Day of Remembrance—21 Year Anniversary of 9/11
This year marks 22 years since the terrorist attack on America on 9/11/01. Every year, we have paused to offer some service in remembrance of this day. On Monday, September 11, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy, to call the Holy Spirit down upon not only the Holy Gifts but on all of us, in Tampa and throughout the United States. We will have a memorial service of re-membrance at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. You are encouraged to pause and pray on 9/11.

Community News

GOYA St. Pete Volleyball Tournament

Our GOYAns will be participating in the volleyball tournament sponsored by St. Stefanos Greek Orthodox Church in St. Pete on September 9-10.



Women's Bible Study will begin again on Tuesday, September 12. We will have both an in-person and zoom option.

Women's Bible study will meet on Tuesdays (if a liturgical day falls on a Tuesday it will move to a different day for that week) from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the back room of the administration building. Fr. Stavros leads this group.



ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΓΛΩΣΣΑΣ ΚΑΙ
ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ
SCHOOL OF GREEK LANGUAGE AND
CULTURE

We are excited to inform you all that the School of Greek Language and Culture of Tampa will start again on Saturday, September 9th.

The lessons will take place at the building of Bridgeprep Charter School (behind Saint John's Church) every Saturday from 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

Our school will have classes from K-8th Grade. Registrations will start on Saturday, September 9th at 12:00 pm.

Information: Ioannis Giavaras
igiavaras@gmail.com
Tel. 718 419 4413

IOCC Needs Your Help to Rebuild Areas of Florida damaged by Hurricane Ian

International Orthodox Christian Charities has received a grant from The National Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society to assist in the rebuilding of areas of Florida devastated by Hurricane Ian. Teaming with Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity, IOCC will be rebuilding from now through October 2023 and are looking for volunteers to assist in this task.



The contribution per person is \$75 per week which includes local transportation, room & board, 3 meals a day, materials, supplies, tools, and site supervision.

Meals and travel to and from the destination would be at your own expense. For more detailed information, contact Krista Hamann US Admin. Project Asst. at (667)331-9812 or volunteercoordinator@iocc.org.

This can be an excellent way to gather a group from your Ministry and PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION!

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





WANT TO LEARN MODERN GREEK
ST. JOHN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



ADULT
GREEK
SCHOOL



TEACHER BORN, RAISED, AND EDUCATED IN
GREECE WITH 24 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
TEACHING THE GREEK LANGUAGE.
ADULT CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS TAUGHT @
ST. JOHN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
(2418 W. SWANN AVE, TAMPA, FL 33609). CLASSES
ARE HELD AT 6-8:30PM ON THURSDAY EVENINGS,
STARTING ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2023. THIS WILL BE
THE FIRST OF THREE SESSIONS, WITH EACH
SESSION LASTING THREE MONTHS

- SPEAK GREEK
- READ GREEK
- WRITE GREEK
- BASIC GRAMMAR & MORE.
- SOME GREEK HISTORY
- BOOK INCLUDED IN PRICE

PRICE PER SESSION IS \$150 FOR CHURCH MEMBERS
AND \$175 FOR NON-MEMBERS.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING,
PLEASE REACH OUT TO MS. MAGDALINI MYER AT
ASPIS69@AOL.COM OR (813) 523-5771



JOIN US FOR OUR
**YOUNG ADULT
RETREAT**

Saturday, September 30
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Theme: Renewal of Mind and Soul: A Discussion with an
Orthodox Priest and an Orthodox Therapist
Presenters: Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis, priest of
St. John Greek Orthodox Church in Tampa, FL
Mary Ann Konstas, licensed Mental Health Counselor

\$15.00 (lunch included)

Retreat to be held at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church,
2418 Swann Avenue, Tampa, FL
RSVP to kim@stjohnstpa.org by Monday, September 25