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			<u>المالك الكالك الكا</u>
5	Parish Priest:	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-876-8830
۳		Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830
	Retired Priest in Residence:		813-876-8830
5	Pastoral Assistant:	Alex Limberatos	262-370-0586
	Pastoral Assistant:	Vasili Panagopoulos	414-254-5134
5	Bookkeeper:	Debbie Bowe	813-876-8830
	•	Debble Bowe	813-870-8830
	Parish Council:		
5	John Zelatis, President		813-727-2271
	Euripides Panos, Vice Pre	sident	813-352-3972
5	Marilyn Sandborn, Secret		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
9	Marcelle Triantafilou		612-396-5026
	Mike Xenick		813-340-8737
G			
E	12 Disciples	Mathew Balasis	727-421-7376
9	AHEPA:	Thomas Sakaris, President	201-819-2319
ш	Altar Angels:	Kalliope Chagaris	813-789-4134
	Bookstore:	Pres. Denise Stefero	678-464-4833
5	Choir:	Pauline Spencer, Director	813-390-1782
		Ruth Losovitz, Organist	727-688-2782
5	Community Outreach:	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
	Dance Groups:	H XAPA MAΣ, Alexandra De Maio	813-340-9668
5	•	Bessie Palios,	813-523-0347
		Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
		ПАРЕ́А, Marina Choundas	813-877-6136
6		ПАNHГYPI, Alexandra De Maio	813-340-9668
	Daughters of Penelope:	Diane Trimis	813-220-3389
5	Finance Committee:	Gary Ward	813-846-3898
	Food Pantry	Sheila Vukmer	412-719-1005
5	GriefShare:	Donna Hambos	813-843-8412
	GOYA:	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346
த	Hope/Joy:	George & Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
ш	Men's Fellowship:	Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis	813-876-8830
	MOMS:	Mary Ann Konstas	813-215-9862
5	Nursing Ministry:	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
	Oratorical Festival:	Peggy Bradshaw	727-244-1374
5		Karina Findlay	813-476-9632
	Photography Ministry: Philoptochos:	Melissa Krinos	
5	Philoptochos:		813-716-9975
巴	Stewardship:	Chris Kyrus George Mitsees	757-672-1920
ភា	Sunday School:	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
Ľ۳	Sunday School:	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102
	Ushers	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
Ľ	Welcoming Ministry:	Maria Xenick	813-765-3587
	Young Adults	Alex Limberatos	262-370-0586
G	Young at Heart:	Bill Manikas	813-716-8185
E		Dora Morgan	813-613-3738
ு	Youth Protection:	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855
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St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

April 3, 2022 - Sunday of St. John Climacus Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos) Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence) Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)

(Icon of the Ladder of Divine Ascent)

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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.

<u>CORE VALUES:</u> Love, Worship, Community, Learning, Service

SYNAXARION:

St. John Climacus; Nicetas, Abbot of the Monastery of Medicium; Joseph the Hymnographer; Theodosia and Irene the Martyrs;

Apolytikion of the Week (Pl. 4 Mode): Lord by Your sacred cross You abolished The memory of the just is observed with hymns death, and granted to the thief blessed para- of praise; for you O Forerunner the witness of dise. The myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy; the apostles did preach the good news at Your command that You are risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.

Apolytikion for the Feast (Pl. 4 Mode):

With the rivers of your tears, you changed the barren desert into fertile land, and with the sighs from your depths, you have made your labors produce a hundredfold; and you became a bright star, shining on the earth with vour miracles, O John our Righteous Father; intercede with Christ our God, for our souls to be saved.

Apolytikion for St. John:

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 (Plagal Fourth Mode):

Victorious Lady, mighty champion, defending us, we your servants, now inscribe to you this hymn of thanks, for you rescued us from suffering and tribulation. Theotokos, with your power that can never fail, keep us safe from every danger our whole life long. That we may cry to vou: Rejoice, O Bride unwedded.

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: Choir

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

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, April 3	Sunday of St. John Climacus Orthros 8:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 9:45 a.m.
Monday, April 4	Great Compline Bible Study	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 5	Women's Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, April 6	9th Hour Pre-Sanctified Liturgy Lenten Dinner to follow	5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 7	Adult Greek School Griefshare	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
Friday, April 8	9th Hour Pre-Sanctified Liturgy <u>Vigil & The Akathist Hymn</u> Akathist Hymn Divine Liturgy	9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m. 8:15 p.m.
Sunday, April 10	Orthros 8:30 a.m. GOYA	Divine Liturgy 9:45 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
Monday, April 11	Great Compline	5:30 p.m.

Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project April 3-9

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—Who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Hebrews 11:32-34

The Old Testament is filled with stories of people who were waiting for the promised Messiah. Many of them were martyrs, just like the saints of the early centuries, who gave tremendous witness for God in both life and death. The basic summary of the Old Testament is that God created the world, the world fell through sin, and God desired to redeem the fallen world. His plan for redemption started with a covenant with Abraham, the Law and the Commandments given to Moses, a series of judges and kings, as well as prophets who foretold the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The Old Testament is foundational to the New Testament. These people all worked with faith and vigilance to preserve and spread this hope of the coming Messiah. Hebrews 11:32-34 attests to some of their names and some of their work. Each of these affirmed faith in God and played an important role in the journey to Christ. Many of them are depicted in the icon of the Resurrection. Because even they, in their righteous-ness, were still consigned to Hades, until the time that Christ came and went to Hades to rescue all those who were bound there, prefiguring the Resurrection of all who are in the graves.

Education at St. John

Fr. John's Bible Study Leader: Fr. John Day: Monday 6:30 p.m.

Women's 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

Greek Independence Day Celebration - April 3, 2022

On Sunday, April 3, we will be having our annual Greek Independence Day Celebration, an event we have not been able to have since March 2019. Following Divine Liturgy, please join us in the hall for the Greek Independence Program! Thank you to Parish Council for sponsoring lunch and Daughters of Penelope for dessert & decorations!

Young At Heart Meeting, Saturday April 9

at The Young at Heart will be meeting on Saturday, April 9 @ 11:30 a.m. in the Church hall. We will have a potluck luncheon and be watching a religious video.

GOYA Meeting, April 10

Our GOYA will meet this month on April 10 @ 5:00 p.m. As always, dinner will be provided. We hope to see you then!

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+ <u>St. John's Bookstore - Paschal Items now Available!</u>

Beginning today, items are available for the remainder of your journey to Pascha. 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.

GriefShare meets every Thursday In-Person at 6:30 p.m. It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friends you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions. "Going to GriefShare feels like having warm arms wrapped around you when you're shivering." GriefShare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Each GriefShare session has three distinct elements: Video seminar with experts, support group discussion with focus and personal study and reflection. We will meet from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays. For more information please contact Donna Hambos at 813-843-8412 or dhambos@msn.com. Books for the program will be provided. Donation for the book suggested but not required. Open to all family and friends. GriefShare remains open enrollment with support towards healing and hope. You can begin at any time.

New Church Directory Photo Shoot

Dear parishioners, It's time for a new church directory! We will have two photographers at our church taking photos of our parishioners for our new church directory. Please mark down the following dates and times in your calendar to coordinate with your families. -April 15 (Friday) & 16 (Saturday): 11:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. -April 29 (Friday) & 30 (Saturday): 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Everyone photographed will receive a free directory! The sign-up link can be found here: https://www.ucdir.com/schedule/login.php Username: fl776 Password: photos

> <u>March is Θαλασσαμία/Cooley's Anemia Month</u> ST JOHN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH and AHEPA Tampa Chapter #12

Cooley's anemia or Θαλασσαιμία/Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder which mostly affects people of Mediterranean descent.

- We will be conducting a Cooley's Anemia potential donor cheek SWAB screening this Sunday April 3rd after Liturgy on the Church Hall.
- We have an incredible opportunity to add more willing, committed and available new members to the national "Be The Match Registry".
- If you are between ages 18-40, please consider getting screened to be a potential donor and save a life.
- Additional swabs may be available to take home for family and friends or
- Text EllasMatch to 61474 or
- Scan the QR Code

Pascha Bakesale - April 16 & 17

First come... first serve... while supplies last! Spanakopita 2lb pan \$20 Spanakopita/Tyropita Triangles 48 pieces \$30 Tsoureki \$10 Koulourakia \$7 Paximathia \$5 South Tampa Sugar Mama Easter Cookie \$4



Palm Sunday Luncheon - April 17 Join us for a traditional Palm Sunday Luncheon Adults \$15.00 Children \$5 *all proceeds go to Philoptochos charities

Help Needed

Many hands make light work! We need volunteers to make skorthalia and desserts. We also need help setting up, serving and cleaning up. If you can help, please contact Lisa Alsina: (813) 728-1094 - lisaalsina@gmail.com

Readings for St. John Climacus

Prokeimenon: Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them. God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

The Epistle Reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Hebrews (6:13-20)

BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchize-dek.

Gospel Reading is from Mark (9:17-31)

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to You, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked Your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And He answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to Him; and when the spirit saw Him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if You can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together. He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had entered the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And He said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for He was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him; and when He is killed, after three days He will rise."

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, Toula Tsaros, Fr. Pat Legato, Nellie Pringle, Yolanda Webb, Angela Bougas, Tony Ekonomou, Ron, Jason Vickers, Rex Garrison, Tina Chakonas, Ann Demas, Christina Noel Kouzes Houck, Evangeline Xeroteres, 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, April 3 Topic: Faith - Fourth Sunday of Great Lent - St. John the Ladder Prosphora: High School Boys Sunday, April 10 Youth Sunday (7th-12th Grade Music at 11:40 a.m.) Topic: Holy Week - Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

Sunday, April 17 Topic: Holy Week - Palm Sunday All Students Involved in Palm Sunday Procession Friday, April 22 Topic: Good Friday Retreat

Liturgical Notes

Divine Liturgy to begin at 9:45 a.m. on the Sundays of Great Lent

Since the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is offered on each Sunday of Lent, and this Divine Liturgy is slightly longer than the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, the Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:45 a.m. from March 13-April 17. The Choir will begin the Doxology at 9:40 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Lent, St. John of the Ladder

St. John of the Ladder was only 16 years old when he left Palestine and went to St. Catherine's monastery (at Mt. Sinai, Egypt). He lived there for 50 years, where he wrote his famous book, The Ladder of Divine Ascent. This is a spiritual ladder. Christians follow certain rules so that they can get closer to God, and symbolically climb to heaven. He had struggles, like any person does, but he won over those struggles that the Devil put for him. That's why we celebrate his memory on this Sunday of Lent. St. John is a perfect example of how a person could be faithful all of their life, and be together with God in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Mondays of Lent - Great Compline

The service of the Great Compline will be read on the following Mondays of Lent-April 4 and April 11. This service lasts about an hour and consists of Psalms and hymns of repentance. Service Books for this service will be available.

Wednesdays of Lent – 9th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

The Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (also called Pre-Sanctified Liturgy) will be held on the Wednesdays during Great Lent. This service consists of Vespers with Holy Communion that was "Pre-Sanctified" the previous Sunday. It is an opportunity to receive Holy Communion frequently during the season of fasting. The Pre-Sanctified Liturgy is preceded by the reading of the 9th Hour, a short service with penitential prayers as well as the recitation of the Creed, a pre-requisite for the reception of Holy Communion. Service books for this service will be available. The Pre-Sanctified Liturgy will be celebrated on the following Wednesdays of Great Lent: Wednesday, April 6; and Wednesday, April 13. Each ministry is encouraged to attend one Pre-Sanctified Liturgy as follows:

Wednesday, April 6 Sunday School Wednesday, April 13 Parish Council

Fridays of Lent - 9th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

The Pre-Sanctified Liturgy has Traditionally been celebrated on Wednesdays AND Fridays of Great Lent. The 9th Hour will begin at 9:30 a.m., with the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy from 10:00-11:15 a.m. The Pre-Sanctified Liturgy will be held on the Fridays of Lent as follows: Friday, April 8: and Friday, April 15.

Fridays of Lent - The Salutations to the Virgin Mary (Heretismoi)

This service also lasts about an hour and is a series of prayers and devotions that invoke the intercessions of the Virgin Mary for our salvation. It will be held on April 1 and April 8. Service Books for this service will be available.

Friday, April 8 - Vigil of the Akathist

It is the tradition of the Orthodox Church (practiced in monasteries and in a few parishes) that the Akathist Hymn is celebrated as part of an allnight vigil, culminating in the celebration of the Divine Litur gy. A Vigil is when more than one service is held in sequence. We will begin the Akathist Hymn at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 12, fol lowed by the Divine Liturgy at 8:15 p.m., with both services conclud ing by 9:30 p.m. This will afford us the opportunity to pray the Di vine Liturgy together in a more subdued atmosphere (and how often do we get to celebrate Liturgy at night in our church?) and to receive Holy Communion on this very special feast day. For those who wish to receive Holy Communion, please abstain from food after 2:00 p.m. on that Friday.

Holv Friday Vigil - Sign Up Is Live!

As is tradition, we will be holding vigil in reading the Psalter in front of Christ upon the Cross following Holy Thursday evening.

The sign-up genius is live for sign-up and can be accessed at the following link or QR Code: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0548a5af28a1fe3-vigil1





9th Hour - 5:30 p.m. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. Lenten Dinner - 7:15 p.m. Presentation offered by Fr. Stavros - 7:45 p.m Small Group Discussion - 8:15 p.m. Wrap Up - 8:45 p.m.

Each Wednesday of Great Lent

LENTEN PRESANCTIFIED SERIES

H. Have A Plan	3/9
A. Affirm your Faith	3/16
B. Be a Friend	3/23
I. Intentionally Choose Him	3/30
T. Trust Him	4/6
S. Surrender to Him	4/13

New Instagram Page & Contest

Our church now has its own Instagram page, so be sure to go give it a follow, and also tag us in any picture you take here at the Church! Our username is: stjohntpa



To kick off our new page, we are having an Instagram contest.

Enter to win a signed copy of Fr. Stavros' new book: "Commissioned to be Apostles."

1.) Follow St. John's on Instagram

2.) Post a picture of yourself (or with others) at the Church, about Church in general, etc. and tag St. John's @stjohntpa

3.) Entries will be accepted until April 30, and the winner will be announced May 1

Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!

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

	Birthdays	Namedays
April 3	Ekaterini Alithinos; Nedi Ferekides; Petra Silber	Illyrios
April 4	Angelika Labatos;	
April 5	Anthony Koudouna;	Panagiotis
April 6	Michelle Blankenbaker; Zachary Carter; Nicholas Katzaras;	Eftihios
April 7		
April 8	Kristina Hanhan;	
April 9	Maria N. Miaoulis; Robert Reace;	Efpsyhios; Josef;

	Altar Boy Schedu
<u>April 3</u>	<u>Captains</u>
(St. Luke)	John Palios
Teddy Kafentaris	Genaro Scarfogliero
Andrew Thatcher	Nicholas Akrotirianakis
Kris Christopher	Yanni Trimikliniotis
Vasilios Panos	James Magos
Jonah Blankenbaker	Demetri Passalaris
Lucas Elly	
Liam Elly	

tar Boy Schedule Captains

April 10 (St. John)

Christos Nenos Constantine Ameres Zachary George Alex Findlay Gianni Matassini Grayson Borgeas-Beech Gryphon Borgeas-Beech Nathan Moran