

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:	Kalliope 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 Kyros	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

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)

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

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!



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

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

March is Θαλασσαιμία/Cooley's Anemia Month 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
Tsourekis \$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 Melchizedek.

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, Toulia 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 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, April 3

Topic: Faith - Fourth Sunday of Great Lent - St. John the Ladder
Prophora: 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 all-night vigil, culminating in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. 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, followed by the Divine Liturgy at 8:15 p.m., with both services concluding by 9:30 p.m. This will afford us the opportunity to pray the Divine 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.

Holy 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>



ST. JOHN'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
2418 W. SWANN AVE. TAMPA, FL 33609

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

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 Schedule

April 3
(St. Luke)

Teddy Kafentaris
Andrew Thatcher
Kris Christopher
Vasilios Panos
Jonah Blankenbaker
Lucas Elly
Liam Elly

Captains

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

April 10
(St. John)

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