

**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:** Mathew Balasis 727-421-7376  
**Bible Study:** Thomas Sakaris, President 201-819-2319  
**Bookstore:** Kalliope Chagaris 813-789-4134  
**Choir:** 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  
**College Ministry:** H XAPA MΑΣ, Alexandra De Maio 813-340-9668  
**Community Outreach:** Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963  
**Dance Groups:** 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

**Daughters of Penelope:** Michael & Bessie Palios 813-523-0346  
**Finance Committee:** George & Zackie Ameres 813-245-3813  
**GOYA:** Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963  
**Hope/Joy:** Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038  
**Joy Tweens** Marcelle Triantafilou 612-396-5026  
**Men's Fellowship:** Karina Findlay 813-476-9632  
**Nursing Ministry:** Melissa Krinos 813-716-9975  
**Photography Ministry:** Chris Kyrus 757-672-1920  
**Philoptochos:** George Mitseas 813-748-1220  
**Stewardship:** Vickie Peckham 813-758-3102  
Pete Trakas 813-505-2193

**Sunday School:** Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425  
**Ushers** Maria Xenick 813-765-3587  
**Veterans/1st Responders** Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-876-8830  
**Welcoming Ministry:** Aris Rogers 813-309-5525  
**Women's Bible Study:** Bill Manikas 813-716-8185  
**Young Adults** Dora Morgan 813-613-3738  
**Young at Heart:** Suzanne Pileggi 813-244-5855  
**Youth Protection:**



## St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



**June 4, 2023**

**Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)**  
**Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)**  
**Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)**  
**HOLY PENTECOST**

**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:**  
Holy Pentecost ; Our Father Metrophanes, Archbishop of Constantinople; Mary & Martha, the sisters of Lazarus

**Second Antiphon:**  
Save us O Good Paraclete, to Thee we sing:  
Alleluia.

**Apolytikion of Pentecost:**  
You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, cheering up the Disciples, by the promise of the Holy Spirit; by assuring them through Your divine blessing, that You are indeed the Son of God, and the Redeemer of the world.

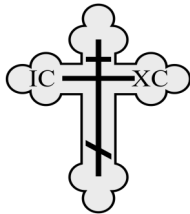
**Entrance Hymn :**  
Be exalted, O Lord in Your Power; we will sing and praise Your mighty deeds. Save us o Good Paraclete, to Thee we sing: Alleluia.

**Kontakion of Pentecost:**  
When the Most High God came down and confused the tongues, He divided the nations. When He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all to unity. And with one voice we glorify the All-Holy Spirit.

**Trisagion Hymn :**  
All those who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

**Megalinarion:**  
You conceived and gave birth in virginity; the Word Who created all, through you became incarnate. O Mother who knew not man, Virgin Theotokos, the boundless One was held by you, the dwelling of your infinite Creator; we magnify you.

**Communion Hymn:**  
Let Your Good Spirit lead me along a path that is sure and straight. Alleluia.



A special service will be held at the end of Liturgy.  
Service books are available in the northax.  
Please leave books in the pews after the service.

**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
- Then the rest of the congregation

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday June 4	Pentecost Orthros 8:30 a.m. Kneeling Vespers 11:00 a.m. GOYA 5:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy 9:45 a.m.
Monday June 5	Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Chant Class 6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.	
Tuesday June 6	College Student Event 6:00 p.m.	
Wednesday June 7	GOYA Olympics Prep 6:00 p.m.	
Thursday June 8	Young Adult Discussion 6:30 p.m.– 8:30 p.m.	
Friday June 9	Junior Olympics	
Saturday June 10	Junior Olympics	
Sunday June 11	All Saints Day Orthros 8:45 a.m. Junior Olympics Luncheon	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday June 12	Beginning of Holy Apostles Fast	

**Religious Education at St. John**

**Monday Night Bible Study**

Leader: Fr. John

June 5: Monday at 6:30 p.m.

**Women’s Bible Study**

Leader: Fr. Stavros

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* UNAWARES. HEBREWS 13:2

## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### St. John's Bookstore -VINTAGE GREEK COOKBOOKS

I'm on the lookout for used Greek cookbooks that we can offer for sale in our bookstore. Many of us have books we haven't used for years and I thought it might be fun to do a fundraising swap.

Please see us with any books you'd like to donate.

Presvytera Denise and Elaina

### The American Foundation for Greek Language & Culture (AFGLC)

The American Foundation for Greek Languages & Culture (AFGLC) Scholarships are now available to High School Seniors and College Students. The AFGLC Dr. Demetrios G. Halkias, the AFGLC Peter & Sophia Kourmolis, the AFGLC Dr. Byron P. Palls Scholarships.

Deadline to apply **June 25th. Applications are available at the Baptismal table upfront!**

For more information contact Kalliope at 813-789-4134 or khalkias@afglc.org.



### Chant Class

Join us for our next 13- week introductory chant class offered at St. John's Church!

ALL ARE WELCOME

Next class will be Monday, June 5 from 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

Register for classes now at [vasili@stjohntpa.org](mailto:vasili@stjohntpa.org)

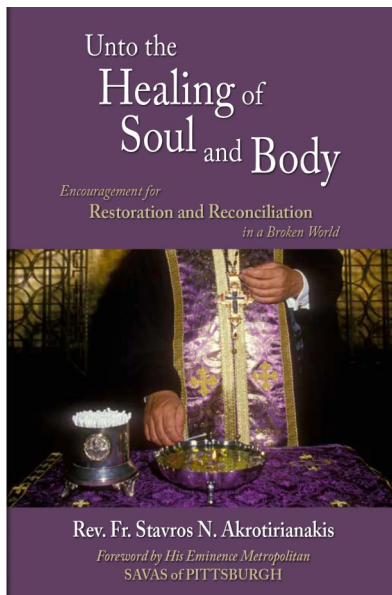
### COLLEGE STUDENT NIGHT

Tuesday, June 6—we are planning a summer get together at the church for any college students in the area for Tuesday, June 6, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. There is no cost.

Please RSVP to Fr. Stavros by Monday, June 5 at [frstav@gmail.com](mailto:frstav@gmail.com)

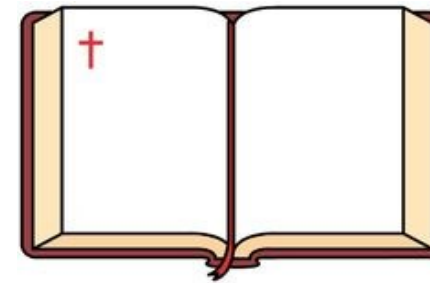
### Introducing the Newest Book by Fr. Stavros Unto the Healing of Soul and Body: Encouragement for Restoration and Reconciliation in a Broken World

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.



## Readings for Sunday, June 4

**Prokeimenon: Their voice has gone out into all the earth. Psalm 18.4,1**



**The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11**

WHEN THE DAY of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation un-

der heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontos and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

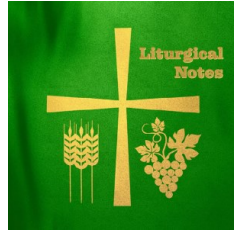
**The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to John 7:37-52; 8:12**

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."



## Liturgical Notes



### **Sunday, June 4, Pentecost**

This feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles fifty days after Pascha, filling them with power, strength, wisdom and courage to spread the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ to the entire world. Pentecost is the celebration of the birth of the Christian Church!!!. A special Vespers Service will be held after Divine Liturgy on Pentecost (June 4), where three prayers will be offered, asking for the Holy Spirit to descend upon us as we mark this feast day. As a reminder, we do NOT kneel in church until AFTER the Divine Liturgy on Pentecost (we do not kneel at the Divine Liturgy on Pentecost) 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.” There is no fasting the week after Pentecost. However, there is a fast for the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul which lasts from the Monday after all Saints Day (June 12), so this year it is 17 days long. The length of the fast period is determined by the date of Pascha each year.

### **Sunday, June 11, Sunday of All Saints**

The period of the Pentecostarion is now complete with the com-memoration of “All Saints.” This feast not only honors all the saints who have ever lived, as well as the ones who are unknown. It reminds us that our goal is for all of us to become saints.

**Prayer List:** Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Kostadinos Booras; Michael I, Anna Maria & Thomas Reilly; Jim Armstrong, Caliope 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, Toulia 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

### June 4th

Christos Nenos  
Constantine Ameres  
Zachary George  
Alex Findlay  
Gianni Matassini  
Nathan Moran  
Michael Meadows

### Captains

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

### June 11th

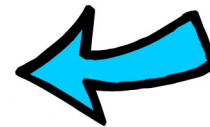
GOYAns may serve



From June 9th– 11th, St. John will be hosting the annual GOYA Junior Olympics. We will be hosting GOYANS from around North & Central Florida for a weekend of athletic competition.

**A BIG THANK YOU to Dwight Forde** for organizing this event!!!

Come out and cheer on the teams!



### **Fifty- Two Verses**

**-In-**

### **Fifty- Two Weeks**

**June 4-10**

Judge not, that you not be judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Matthew 7:1-2

Many people get intimidated by the Bible and the tenets of Christianity in general. They think there is so much to learn and to remember. These two verses are an ex-ample of “if you only learn and practice a couple of verses of Scripture, these are the ones to remember.” One of the greatest temptations for all of us is to judge others. We gossip about them. We covet what they have. If we could stop judging others, imagine how peaceful life could be. I once heard a story about a monk who lived in a monastery, where he was assigned to work as a cook. He wasn’t a particularly good cook, but kept to himself and faithfully did his work. When the monk died, the other monks sighed with relief “thank God he is dead, now we can get some better food.” The abbot gave the eulogy and praised the monk for his virtuous life. The other monks went to the abbot to com-plain—“why praise this man, he was terrible?” To which the abbot replied “Jesus said, ‘Judge not, and you will not be judged.’ This man never judged anyone, and now God will not judge him.” If we expect God to have mercy on us, we need to have mercy on each other.



## 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**







*Have a heart, lend a hand,  
and make a difference.*

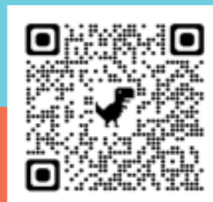
# COMMUNITY OUTREACH 2023

OUR SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINING MONTHS OF 2023 IS  
AS FOLLOWS:

SATURDAY JUNE 17, 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**

## Veterans Ministry

Remember and Honor



Thank you to everyone for the beautiful Memorial Day celebration last Sunday at St. John's!  
Special thanks to the following individuals who made this event possible:

**Bill Comminos** for making the crosses that lined the entrance of the church and arranging for the playing of TAPS

**Joshua Roby** for setting up the "Fallen Soldier Battle Cross" display in the church hall

**Margaret Comminos** for setting up the "POW/MIA" Missing Man Table" in the church hall

**Alexis Lelekis** for purchasing the table cloths and and working with Presvytera Denise on the set-up and decoration of tables

**Daniel Gregory** for making and donating the bases for the American flag centerpieces

**Jeanie Nenos** for coordinating the donation of pastries for the coffee hour

**Sue Whaley-Oster** for helping to set up the tables on Saturday and assisting with the coffee hour

**ALL** - who donated and helped serve the refreshments and coffee and helped with clean-up afterwards

**May the memory of those who have sacrificed for us ever be eternal!**

## St. John's 12 Disciples Project

St. John's 12 Disciples Project

An unfortunate statement, true for many of us, is that personal, private, and meaningful prayer is rare in our lives, outside of the prayers of the regular Divine Liturgy.

Think ... why is this?

Think ... does it have to be this way?

Do each of us consider ourselves fully engaged in a daily prayer discipline?

The obvious answer is no to all these questions.

One of the simplest tasks we could undertake, personal prayer, requires hardly any effort or special resources. 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 "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.