

**Parish Priest:**  
**Retired Priest in Residence:**  
**Retired Priest in Residence:**  
**Bookkeeper:**

Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038  
Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski 813-876-8830  
Rev. Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425  
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:**

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 Losoviz, Organist 727-688-2782  
Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038  
Greg Melton 813-967-2074  
H XAPA MΑΣ, Alexandra De Maio 813-340-9668  
Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963  
ITAPEA, Marina Choundas 813-877-6136  
Genie Carter 813-363-2362  
ITANH'I YPI, Alexandra De Maio 813-340-9668  
Elena Ketchum 813-229-0144  
Gary Ward 813-846-3898  
Sandra Pappas 813-785-3747  
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  
Katherine Sakkis 813-309-1073  
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  
Dora Morgan 813-613-3738  
Suzanne Pileggi 813-244-5855

**College Ministry:**

**Community Outreach:**

**Dance Groups:**

**Daughters of Penelope:**

**Finance Committee:**

**Food Pantry:**

**GOYA:**

**Hope/Joy:**

**Joy Tweens**

**Men's Fellowship:**

**Nursing Ministry:**

**Photography Ministry:**

**Philoptochos:**

**Stewardship:**

**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



**November 5, 2023**

**Galaktion & his wife Episteme, the Martyrs of Emesa**

**Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)**

**Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)**

**Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)**

**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:**

5th Sunday of Luke; Hermas, Patrobos, Gaios, Linos, & Philologos, Apostles of the 70

**Resurrectional Apolytikion:**

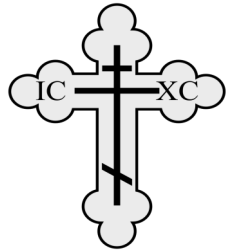
Co-eternal with the Father and Spirit is the Word Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation we the faithful both praise and worship Him. For in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the cross and death did He endure and He raised unto life the dead by His all Glorious Resurrection.

**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.

**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 in 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 ( side areas then the main section)

**Memorial:**

Jenny (Polyxeni) Sotiropoulos (40 days)

## Upcoming Services & Events

**Sunday November 5**

**Daylight Saving Time Ends**

**Orthros 8:45 a.m.**

**Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

No Sunday School

**Greek Festival Community Celebration**

**Monday November 6**

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday November 7**

Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

**Wednesday November 8**

**Archangels**

**Orthros 9:00 a.m.**

**Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

Choir Practice

**Paraklesis 6:00 p.m.**

**Thursday November 9**

**St.Nektarios**

**Orthros 9:00 a.m.**

**Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

Young Adult Discussion 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday November 11**

Young At Heart

**Sunday November 12**

**Orthros 8:45 a.m.**

**Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

Youth Sunday

Prayers for Veterans

College Group

Boxes of Hope Kick– off (through Dec 9)

Distribution of Nativity Bags

GOYA 5:00 p.m.

**Monday November 13**

**St. John Chrysostom**

**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

November 6 :  
**Monday** at  
6:30 p.m.

**Women’s**  
**Bible Study**

Leader:  
Fr. Stavros

November 7 :  
**Tuesday** 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* unaware.  
HEBREWS 13:2



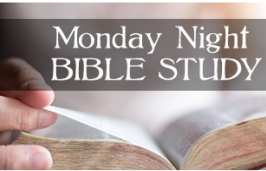
# MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

## St. John's Bookstore

As Orthodox Christians, we are baptized with the name of one of the saints of the church. What do you know about your patron saint? Our bookstore offers an extensive selection of books on the saints at both youth and adult levels. Check them out today!

### Monday night Bible study with Fr. John

Will continue meeting at 6:30 p.m. on most Monday evenings. Join us in person or via zoom for some very informative, lively and interactive discussions on how we apply Biblical principles in our everyday lives. See the Sunday bulletin for specific topics. For November, the dates are Monday, November 6; Monday, November 13; Monday, November 20; and Monday, November 27.



### Young at Heart News

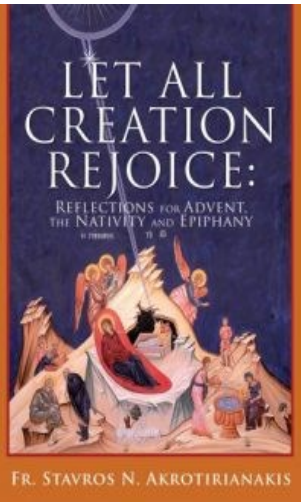


Mark your calendars for our next get together on November 11th. We're planning a presentation on The Ranks of Angels - as well as an early Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner. Regulars, look for a flyer in your email. If you've never joined us. This is a perfect time to start.

See Dora Morgan, Diane Trimis, or Presvytera Denise for details.

*Note: Young at Heart is excited to be participating in a program to aid needy seniors called "Be a Santa to a Senior" sponsored through Home Instead. Requested gifts will be purchased and gifted to those seniors who are normally alone and without presents during the Christmas Season. Getting involved in our community is an important aspect of any ministry.*

As we approach the season of Advent, I wanted to share with you a book I have written called, Let All Creation Rejoice: Reflections for Advent, the Nativity and Epiphany. The book is approximately 230 pages long. It contains a reflection to be read daily during the period of the Nativity Fast (November 15) through January 7. From November 15 through December 24, one verse of the Gospel accounts of the Nativity is examined in detail each day. It is practical inspiration written to be understood by the average Greek Orthodox Christian. +Fr. Stavros



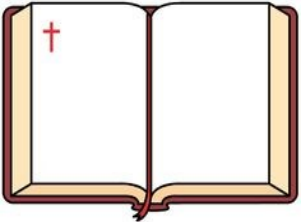
Although this book is written in an easy to read style - the concepts and application are very thought provoking! My husband and I have been reading it at meal time, as our Advent meditation. Each day's readings help me turn my mind to what's really going on and important this time of year - helping me refocus, and reflect on the events surrounding the Nativity, and what they mean for me! To-day's reading, for example, reflected on the angel telling the shepherds, "Don't be afraid," and following reflections on fear in my own life. Excellent book, and now that I am enjoying this one so much, I will be ordering the Lenten reflections, too. -Amazon Customer

## Readings for Sunday, November 5

**Prokeimenon: You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us. Psalm 11.7,1**

### The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.



### The reading is from The Gospel According to Luke 16:19-31

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazaros, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazaros in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazaros to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazaros in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses, and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to them, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.'"

### COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

**NOVEMBER 5TH**  
FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

**NOVEMBER 12TH**  
VETERANS

*Please join us for a celebration of our Festival, in the Hall after Liturgy*

St. John’s 12 Disciples Project

"Prayer needs no teacher. It requires diligence, effort and personal ardor, and then God will be its teacher." - St. Meletius the Confessor  
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.



Early next month, November, all participating “Disciples” will receive a refreshed list of names.  
Participating “12 Disciples” will also receive a prayer with the short list of names. Each participant will receive 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 individual 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 group is called. Call the Church Office, 813-876-8830, or contact Mathew Balasis, 727-345-4855 (mathewbalasis@verizon.net) and provide your own email address, phone number; you will be added to the growing list of participating members of St. John the Baptist’s 12 Disciples Project.**

FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for the support of our **St. John Food Pantry**. We gathered over 15 bags of donations the past few months for Metropolitan Ministries and have created 10 ‘bags of groceries’ for local families in need. **As a reminder the First Sunday of Each Month ( Nov. 5th)** is our primary collection day (but donations are welcome anytime). Every little bit helps!

Men’s Group

Our men’s group will meet on Sunday, November 19, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Any men of our community are welcome to join us for dinner, discussion. We meet at 5:00 p.m., walk to a local restaurant and get some food, then bring it back to the hall where we eat and have a discussion. Our Topic for November will be Thankfulness & Generosity.  
Please mark down our dates for men’s group for this academic year—Sunday, November 19; Sunday, December 17; Sunday, January 21; Sunday, March 3; and Sunday, April 14.



**Save the Date—Men’s Retreat—Saturday, February 10—Men’s Retreat for Orthodox Men of the Tampa Bay Area.**

Altar Boy Schedule

November 5th

*Anyone attending  
may serve*

Captains

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

November 12th

Michael Snyder  
Zachary Carter  
Dorian Setzer-Torres  
Leo Lendaros  
Niko Kyrus  
Josh Roby  
Michael Svintsitskiy  
Michael Kwasny

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

November 5th  
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL—  
FESTIVAL



November 12th  
Communion-Liturgy-Worship  
YOUTH SUNDAY

**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](mailto:vickiepeckham@gmail.com)**

Liturgical Notes

Wednesday, November 8 - The Archangels

This feast commemorates the Archangels Michael and Gabriel and all of the “bodiless powers” of heaven, all of the angels. There are nine orders of angels—Angels, Archangels, Virtues, Thrones, Dominions, Principalities, Authorities, Cherubim and Seraphim.

Wednesday, November 8 – Paraklesis Service of Supplication to the Virgin Mary

We will continue to offer Paraklesis once a month, so that we can pray for all the members of our community by name, out loud. For November, the Paraklesis will be offered on Wednesday even-ing, November 8, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 9 - St. Nektarios

St. Nektarios is a “modern day” saint, a saint of the 20th Century, (Died in 1920, Canonized as a Saint in 1960), who was a bishop in Greece. St. Nektarios is the patron saint of cancer patients and is considered one of our “healing” saints, meaning that we invoke his intercessions when we are praying for those who are sick. Cancer sufferers and survivors are urged to attend this Divine Liturgy in order to pray for continued healing through the Intercessions of St. Nektarios. Father Stavros has oil from the tomb of St. Nektarios in Aegina, Greece, with which he will anoint the faithful in attendance at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on November 9.

Monday, November 13 - St. John Chrysostom

St. John Chrysostom lived in the 4th Century. He was a Bishop of the Church and is recognized as one of the Three Hierarchs (together with St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory the Theologian). He received the title “Chrysostomos,” meaning “the Golden Mouth,” for his great ability to speak. St. John Chrysostom authored the Divine Liturgy that we celebrate on most Sundays. Therefore, we offer the Divine Liturgy on this day in honor of St. John Chrysostom.



# Community News



## Ladies Philoptochos Society

It's never too early to plan. Mark your calendars for our Christmas Brunch to be held at 717 South on Sunday, December 3rd. Look for a flyer in your email next month.



## Young Adult Dinner/Discussion-Thursday, November 9-

Our young adult group meets once a month for dinner/discussion (and other times for fellowship and service). The meeting for November will be on Thursday, November 9, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. All young adults, ages 18-40, are invited to participate. We will be having a monthly discussion based on some set topics. The Topic for November is how Thanksgiving & Generosity bring meaning to life. Group Members use What's App for communication. Please contact Aris Rogers to be added to our what's app for young adults at 813-309-5525.

## College Student Monthly Luncheon

We invite **all college students** for lunch after Liturgy on Sunday, November 12. We will have a lunch/discussion in the library. There is no cost. Please **RSVP to Fr. Stavros** by texting (813)394-1038



## Adult Greek School

Will restart on **Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

You all will do the "Registration" for the **1st Session** and pay only for the "**Half of the Session**", because you missed half of it (6 lessons): \$75 for the parishioners and \$87 for non Parishioners. Write the check on my name: Magdalini Myer and the memo line: for Adult Greek School.

Call me at my cell phone: (813) 523-5771 or email [aspis69@aol.com](mailto:aspis69@aol.com), if you have any questions.

The classroom will be on the **2nd floor** of the **Bridge Prep Academy School Building, Room 205.**



## Love to take photos? Come join our Photo Ministry!

It's a fun and creative way to serve and to show the community all the beautiful services and wonderful activities we have here at St. John.

All abilities are welcome.  
Please call or text  
Karina Findlay at  
(813) 476-9632.



## Veterans/1st Responders Ministry: Will sponsor two upcoming events!

1. Dedication of a plaque "In honor of those who served" on Sunday, Nov 12th. This plaque will be displayed in the church hall near the bookstore. Join us for this special presentation.
2. Collection for the US Marines' program "Toys for Tots." Please deposit brand new toys in the original packaging in the three boxes in the church hall. These will be distributed to needy families in our local area.


**Thanks,  
Fr. John**

**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, 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, 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.

## GOYA

The GOYA Meeting for November will be Sunday, November 12, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner, as always, will be provided.





*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**

**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**

## Hope & Joy Fall Food Drive

**Sun, Nov 12<sup>th</sup> - Sun, Dec 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**"HOPE starts with a MEAL. HOPE starts with YOU!"**

Metropolitan Ministries' Holiday Tent helps 50,000+ families in need for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Let's help them meet this year's goal of 1,763,000 pounds of food.

Please join St. John's Hope & Joy children's ministry in providing a meal to families in need through Metropolitan Ministries. Make this your family project and help us put together Boxes of Hope filled with the items needed for a Christmas holiday dinner. There are many ways you can help provide a Box of Hope:

- Shop for any of the items below and bring to church **Sun, Nov 12<sup>th</sup> - Sun, Dec 16<sup>th</sup>.**
- Donate \$25 or more (cash/ check/ gift card) for a Box of Hope-
- Checks payable to Metropolitan Ministries

### BOX OF HOPE contains:

<b>Gift certificate for a turkey or ham</b>	<b>2 cans of black beans</b>
<b>1 box of cereal (hot or cold)</b>	<b>2 cans of cranberry sauce</b>
<b>2 cans of fruit</b>	<b>1 bag of dried beans</b>
<b>1 jar of peanut butter</b>	<b>1 box or bag of rice</b>
<b>2 cans of vegetables</b>	<b>1 can or packet of gravy</b>
<b>2 cans of yams</b>	<b>1 box dessert mix</b>
<b>1 bag or box of stuffing</b>	<b>1 package cookies or pastries</b>
<b>1 box of potatoes</b>	<b>1 family box of Jell-O/Pudding</b>

Only non-perishable food donations please. **Call Zackie Ameres at 813-245-3813 or email at [zackiec@yahoo.com](mailto:zackiec@yahoo.com) with any questions.** Thank you!

*"He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will reward him for what he has done." Proverbs 19:17*

