

**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:** Vasili Panagopoulos 414-254-5134  
**Bookkeeper:** Debbie Bowe 813-876-8830  
**Administrative Assistant:** Kim Rojas 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  
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  
**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:** HXAPA ΜΑΣ, Alexandra De Maio 813-340-9668  
Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963  
ΠΑΡΕΑ, Marina Choundas 813-877-6136  
Genie Carter 813-363-2362  
ΠΑΝΗΓΥΡΙ, Alexandra De Maio 813-340-9668

**Daughters of Penelope:** Elena Ketchum 813-229-0144  
**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  
**Joy Tweens** Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963  
**Men's Fellowship:** Fr. Stavros 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 Kyrus 757-672-1920  
George Mitseas 813-748-1220

**Sunday School:** Vickie Peckham 813-758-3102  
**Ushers** Pete Trakas 813-505-2193  
**Veterans/1st Responders** Fr. John Stefero 813-876-8830  
**Welcoming Ministry:** Maria Xenick 813-765-3587  
**Young Adults** Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-876-8830  
**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

**February 5, 2023**

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

**(Icon of -Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Triodion Begins  
Today February 5)**

**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:**

Agatha the Martyr; Polyeuktos, Patriarch Of Constantinople; Antonios the New Martyr of Athens

**Apolytikion of the Feast: ( Mode 1)**

Hail o Theotokos, Virgin full of grace: for from you has shone forth the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, giving Light to those in darkness. Be glad, also you righteous Elder, for you have received in your arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who bestows upon us resurrection.

**Resurrectional Apolytikion (Mode 1)**

The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Judeans and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred Body. O Savior, the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life. Whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the Giver of Life: Glory unto our Resurrected Christ; Glory unto Your Kingdom; Glory to Your dispensation, O You Who alone loves all.

**Apolytikion of St. John the Baptist:**

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:**

O You Who sanctified by Your birth a Virgin womb, and blessed the hands of Simeon as seemed most appropriate, You came indeed to save us all, O Christ our God. Wherefore bring peace to our nation in time of hostility, and secure in strength, the rulers You have truly loved, as the only one Who loves mankind.

**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:

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 February 5**

**Beginning of Triodion- Sunday of Publican & Pharisee**  
**Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

Monday February 6

Orthodoxy 101 - Teaching Liturgy 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday February 7

Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday February 8

Choir Practice 7:15 p.m.

Thursday February 9

Greek Adult School  
Young Adult Discussion 6:30 p.m

**Friday February 10**

**St. Haralambos**  
**Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday February 12**

**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**  
**Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**  
Philoptochos Luncheon to benefit OCMC  
Parea Dance Practtice  
College Discussion

Monday February 13

Orthodoxy 101 6:30 p.m.  
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday February 14

Valentine’s Day  
Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday February 15

Paraklesis 10:00 a.m.

Thursday February 16

Adult Greek School

### 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

## Religious Education at St. John

**Monday Night**  
**Bible Study**

Leader:  
Fr. John

February 13:  
**Monday** at 6:30  
p.m.

**Women’s**  
**Bible Study**

Leader:  
Fr. Stavros

February 7:  
**Tuesday** at 10:00  
a.m.



# MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

## St. John's Bookstore - Book of the Week

Now available in our bookstore - a guide to more fully understand how to "serve" - our parish word for 2023. " **If You Love Me - Serving Christ and the Church in Spirit and Truth**" the writings of Matthew the Poor of the Monastery of St. Macarius the Great, The lesson of love can never be taught simply with words. Rather, it is taught by truly giving yourself and communicating the love of Christ to those you SERVE.

## Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, Feb 12th is not only the BIG game where we cheer for our favorite football team, but also "SOUPER BOWL OF CARING" Sunday a nation-wide, youth-led initiative to TACKLE hunger! Pick your favorite team and join our HOPE & JOY Youth ministry collect donations to benefit Hope Children's Home- a Christian home that takes orphaned children and is en-tirely supported by churches, private individuals, clubs, and organizations.



"Souper Bowl of Caring"  
Which team will raise the most donations for the  
children of  
Hope Children's Home

## OCMC Super Bowl Luncheon Sponsored by Philoptochos -

On Sunday, February 12, Philoptochos will host the annual Super Bowl Chili Dog luncheon to benefit Orthodox Christian Mission Center. O.C.M.C's mission is to make disciples of all nations by bringing people to Christ and His Church. We hope you will join us in the Koulouris Center and help support the Mission Center.

## GO RED SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

February is healthy heart month. We celebrate Valentine's Day. We get our hearts ready for Great Lent. And we recognize the need to live healthier lives. As a show of support for our hearts and an opportunity to do something together, everyone is asked to wear RED on Sunday, February 12, for Valentine's Day and for healthy hearts. We did this last year and it was great.



Did you know...

- ☐ Someone needs a blood transfusion every two seconds
- ☐ One in three people will need a transfusion at some point in their life
- ☐ One blood donation can save up to three lives

Your Nursing Ministry will host a blood drive on Sunday February 19th.

To donate, you must be at least 16 years old, weigh 110+ pounds, and be in generally good health.

Donating blood is one way you can be a hero and help save lives. Please consider donating.

## SAVE THE DATE—Men's Retreat

hosted by St. John in Tampa on Saturday, February 18, from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Theme: "How Can I Be a Spiritual Leader If I'm Not Even a Follower: Getting Back to the Basics of Christianity." This retreat is open to any Orthodox men of the Tampa Bay area and any of your friends.

# Readings for the Sunday, February 5

**Prokeimenon: Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Psalm 32.22,1**

## **The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Timothy 3:10-15**

TIMOTHY, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

## **The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 18:10-14**

The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

**Prayer List:** Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Elena, Ricky& Michael Gordenina, Tina Chakonas, Felix Ramirez, Dr. Stevtlian, Ivco; Konstantinos Triantafyllopoulos; 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; Constantinos & Kalotina Klimis; 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, Tony Ekonomou, 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, John Alexander, Michael Romero, George Hambos, Dean Kondilis and Family, Bill and Nancy Manikas, Patricia Costello, Ekaterina & Anna Shushaalykova, Dora Koudouna, Debbie Phelps, Mary Voykin, David Voykin, Denise Badrane, Don Payne, Vasili, Moriah, Andoni, and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATE

February 5

Topic:  
Beginning of the Triodion-Publican and Pharisee

February 12

Topic:  
Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Liturgical Notes

Sunday, February 5 - Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

The focus this Sunday is on the Gospel of Luke 18:10-14, in which two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, an externally decent and righteous man of religion, and the other was a publican, a sinful tax-collector who was cheating the people. Though the Pharisee was genuinely righteous under the Law, he boasted before God and was condemned. The publican, although he was truly sinful, begged for mercy, received it, and was justified by God. There is NO fasting this week, in preparation for our great journey.

Friday, February 10 - St. Haralambos

St. Haralambos was a Saint of the first century and lived in Greece. He was a priest who was martyred. Our parish has a special connection to St. Haralambos since his relics were interred in our altar table when the church was consecrated in 1986.

Sunday, February 12 - Sunday of the Prodigal Son

On this Sunday in the preparation for Great Lent, Orthodox Christians are to read Christ’s parable about God’s loving forgiveness (Luke 15:11-24). They are to see themselves as being in a foreign country far from the Father’s house and to make the movement of return to God, where we truly belong. The parable gives assurance that the Father will receive them with joy and gladness in their journey through Great Lent, their journey home.

Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project  
February 5- 11

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.  
Luke 18:14

The verses this month will focus on one or two verses from the Gospel readings on the four Sundays of Triodion. The lesson of the first Sunday is the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee. The lesson here is about humility. Christianity is not about self-aggrandizement, but about humility. If we are God’s children, and we recognize Christ as our Savior, that means we have a consciousness that we need saving, we can’t save ourselves. And that’s where humility starts. It starts with saying “I’m not the center of the universe, I am not god, I serve a God who is greater than me, and a purpose that is greater than myself.” That was the mistake of the Pharisee. He had done a lot of good things—like praying, fasting, tithing. But he put himself at the center of things, rather than putting God there. He had made himself his own god by declaring that he was essentially perfect. The publican, on the other hand, did a lot of things wrong. And there is no denying that. He, however, came before God asking for mercy, recognizing he needed it. He could not save himself by himself. He needed God for that. That is why God exalted him while humbling the Pharisee.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT  
ORTHODOX CHRISTIANIANITY?  
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FOUR WEEK COURSE

Orthodoxy 101

OFFERED BY  
FR. STAVROS N. AKROTIRIANAKIS, PARISH PRIEST

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND  
ORTHODOXY 101?

- TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE  
BASICS OF THE ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIAN FAITH
- IF YOU ARE MARRIED TO (OR  
DATING) AN ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIAN AND WOULD LIKE TO  
BETTER UNDERSTAND THE FAITH  
OF YOUR ORTHODOX SPOUSE
- AS A PRE-REQUISITE FOR  
JOINING THE ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIAN FAITH
- AS A REFRESHER COURSE IN THE  
BASICS OF THE ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIAN FAITH

WHEN WILL THE  
CLASSES BE HELD?

- MONDAY, JANUARY 23  
A TOUR OF THE ORTHODOX  
CHURCH: WHAT WE SEE AND  
WHAT IT MEANS
- MONDAY, JANUARY 30  
INTRODUCTION TO THE  
SACRAMENTS—BAPTISM,  
CHRISMATION, CONFESSION,  
MARRIAGE, UNCTION
- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6  
THE DIVINE LITURGY—  
A “TEACHING” LITURGY
- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13  
ORTHODOX TRADITIONS—  
FASTING, ICONS, PRAYER AND  
LIVING AN ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIAN LIFE

WHAT FORMAT CAN I EXPECT?

A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE WITH PRESENTATIONS, INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS,  
AND LOTS OF TIME FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.  
CLASSES WILL BE HELD FROM 6:30-8:30 P.M. IN THE CHURCH SANCTUARY.

Please call the church office at 813-876-8830 for further information or if you have any questions.  
Please sign up by emailing Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com.  
There is no charge for this class.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH - 2418 W. SWANN AVENUE - TAMPA, FL - 33609

Altar Boy Schedule

February 5  
Teddy Kafentaris  
Andrew Thatcher  
Kris Christopher  
Vasilios Panos  
Jonah Blankenbaker  
Lucas Elly  
Liam Elly

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

February 12  
Christos Nenos  
Constantine Ameres  
Zachary George  
Alex Findlay  
Gianni Matassini  
Nathan Moran  
Michael Meadows