

Parish Priest:
Retired Priest in Residence:
Retired Priest in Residence:
Pastoral Assistant:
Administrative Assistant:
Bookkeeper:

Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
 Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski 813-876-8830
 Rev. Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
 Vasili Panagopoulos 414-254-5134
 Kim Rojas 813-876-8830
 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 Losovitz, Organist 727-688-2782
 Vasili Panagopoulos 414-254-5134
 Greg Melton 813-967-2074
 H XAPA MΑΣ, 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
 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

College Ministry:

Community Outreach:

Dance Groups:

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
 Bill Manikas 813-716-8185
 Dora Morgan 813-613-3738
 Suzanne Pileggi 813-244-5855

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



August 6, 2023

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)

Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)

Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)

Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

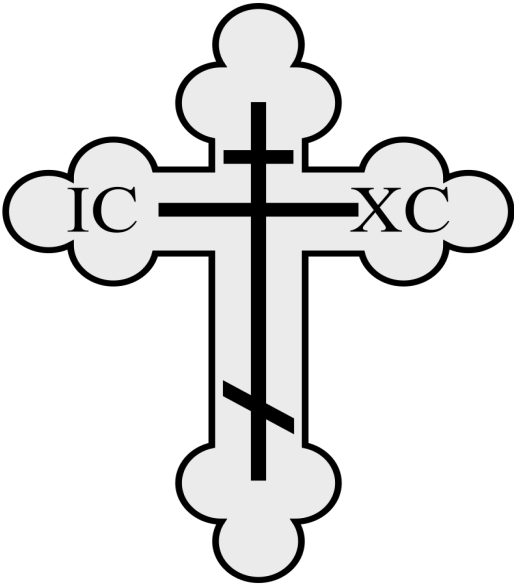
VISION:
Love God, Love your neighbor and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ as an Orthodox Christian community.

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:
Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Apolytikion of the Feast:
You were Transfigured on the Mountain
O Christ our God, showing to Your disciples Your Glory as far as they could understand; shine upon us the sinners as well, the Light of Yours, eternal, by the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, Glory to You.



Kontakion:
Upon the Mount, You were Transfigured and Your Disciples beheld Your Glory, as far as they were able to, O Christ our God; so that when they would see You crucified, they would know that You suffered willingly; and thus proclaim to all the world: that You are truly the One who is the Father’s Radiance.

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 out of session the order for Holy Communion will be as follows:

1. Choir
2. Altar boys
3. Then the rest of the congregation

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday August 6	Transfiguration of our Savior Orthros 8:45 a.m. Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Back to school prayer for K-12 students
Monday August 7	Paraklesis 6:00 p.m Meeting of Ministry Heads via Zoom 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday August 8	Bible Study 6:30 p.m. College Student Dinner 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday August 9	Paraklesis 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice
Thursday August 10	Young Adult Discussion 6:30 p.m. Choir Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Friday August 11	Paraklesis 6:00 p.m.
Saturday August 12	Sunday School 9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.
Sunday August 13	Orthros 8:45 a.m. First Day of Sunday School College Student Prayer GOYA kick-off 5:00 p.m.
	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Religious Education at
St. John

Monday Night Bible Study	Women’s Bible Study
Leader: Fr. John	Leader: Fr. Stavros
August 8: Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.	Resumes until September

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* UN-AWARES.
HEBREWS 13:2

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore - Angels

The books “Lifted by Angels”, “Angels and Demons”, and “The Holy Angels” are all available in our bookstore. There is a unique relationship between people and angels and angelic beings are a basic element of belief in the Orthodox Church. In the Creed we recite “I believe in One God Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth, and of all things visible and invisible”.

Prayer for School Students

TODAY- All school students and teachers (high school and below) are invited to participate in a special prayer that will be held at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on August 6, prior to the beginning of the public school year. Fr. Stavros will offer a special prayer for all of our students and teachers as they begin the new school year.



Nurse Ministry

Save the date to donate!

The Big Red Bus will be here September 17 for your blood donation. Anyone 18 years or older can donate and save lives!



FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

Will have a meeting after Liturgy on August 20th.
Come and join us!

Readings for Sunday, August 6

Prokeimenon: O Lord, how manifold are your works. You have made all things in wisdom. Psalm 103.24,1

The reading is from St. Peter's Second Universal Letter 1:10-19

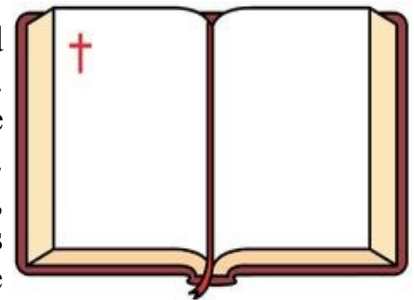
BRETHREN, be more zealous to confirm your call and election, for if you do this you will never fall; so there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Therefore I intend always to remind you of these things, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to arouse you by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. And I will see to it that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

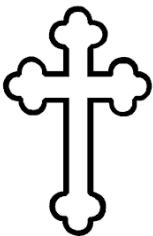
For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word made more sure. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

The reading is from Matthew 17:1-9

At that time, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead."



Liturgical Notes



Sunday, August 6 - Transfiguration of our Savior

We read in the Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke, how Jesus was Transfigured on Mount Tabor in the presence of His Disciples. Matthew 17:2 says, “His face shone like the sun and His clothes became as white as the light.” Jesus was shown in the fullness of His glory as God, and standing beside Him were Moses and Elijah, the two greatest prophets of the Old Testament. This showed the Disci-ples that the man Jesus was indeed God as well, and pre-figured His glory at the Resurrection and Ascension. Grapes are blessed at the end of the Divine Liturgy on August 6. This coincided in past centuries with the blessing of the har-vest. The “harvest” for Christ are all those who have dedicated their lives to follow-ing Him. Because this event oc-curred historically only a few weeks before Holy Week, it is connected to the harvest of Christian souls that was ready to be had after the Resur-rection. Because this feastday is so important, and would have been lost in the midst of the Lenten cycle, the church moved it to August 6, exactly 40 days before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14, since the Transfiguration took place a few weeks be-fore the Crucifixion.

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Larry Maas; Konstantinos Triantafyllopoulos; Kostadinou 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; Sylvia Michos; Eva Coppalla; Chris-topher; 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 Scour-tes, 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, Vasili, Moriah, Andoni, and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

Altar Boy Schedule

August 6th
**Anyone attending
may serve**

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

August 13th
**Anyone attending
may serve**

**Fifty- Two Verses
-In-
Fifty- Two Weeks
August 6th– August 12th**

He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud over-shadowed the, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased; listen to Him. Matthew 17:5

On August 6, we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Savior. The word “transfigured” means to be changed. To literally take your figure and change it. In this in-stance, the figure of Jesus became changed, as He was elevated into the sky, and He shined so brightly that no one could look at Him, and next to Him appeared the two pillars of the Old Testament—Moses and Elijah, to endorse Him. And in addition to this, the voice of God was heard saying “This is my beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased.” This is an echo of what was said at the baptism of Christ. But in this case, one additional phrase is added “Listen to Him.” Based on the content of the Bible and what happened before and after the event of the Transfiguration, this occurred only a few weeks before Palm Sunday and the Passion of Christ. Jesus was about to do and say a lot of things which would define Him not just as a moral teacher and miracle worker, but as the Son of God who came to die for our sins. It is not enough for us to acknowledge Jesus with icons on our walls and crosses around our necks. We need to listen to His words, and beyond that, we need to follow those words. Our lives are supposed to be transfigured from what the world calls us to be to what He calls us to be. We are living at a time when transfig-uration is more important than ever, because the world calls us to conform to societal standards, but God calls us to transform to standards of holiness. The standards of the world lead to materialism and individualism, which ultimately lead to fear and death. The standards of God lead to love, service, faith and ultimately salva-tion.

Community News

TWO Meetings of Ministry Heads in August-

There will be two meetings of ministry heads during the month of August, one on zoom and one in person. The first meeting will be on Monday, August 7 at 7:30 p.m. This will be a single subject meeting. This meeting will be held via zoom, so that we can look at the calendar on a shared screen. If you have specific calendar dates, please send those ahead of time to Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com The second meeting will be on Tuesday, August 29 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This one will be in person, so we can discuss ministry issues for the fall. Each ministry is asked to have a least one representative present at each respective meeting.

College Student Dinner-Tuesday, August 8—

Our college students are invited to a dinner on Tuesday, August 8 at 6:00 p.m. This will be a chance to meet before returning to school for fall semester. Please RSVP to Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com if you plan to attend by Wednesday, August 2. Young Adult Dinner/Discussion-Thursday, August 10-We will be resuming our once a month Young Adult Dinner/Discussion on Thursday, August 10 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. All young adults ages 18-40 are invited to participate. We will be having a monthly discussion based on some set topics. For August 10, the topic will be worship.



Young Adult Dinner/Discussion-Thursday, August 10-

We will be resuming our once a month Young Adult Dinner/Discussion on Thursday, August 10 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. All young adults ages 18-40 are invited to participate. We will be having a monthly discussion based on some set topics. For August 10, the topic will be worship.

Prayer for College Students - Sunday, August 13

All college students and professors are invited to celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 13 with us. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Fr. Stavros will offer a prayer for all college students as they begin a new school year.

GOYA Meeting - Sunday, August 13 Our first GOYA meeting of the new school year will be held on Sunday, August 21 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner will be provided. One parent of each GOYAn is asked to attend the meeting. Also, there will be a parents' meeting, while the GOYAns meet with Fr. Stavros, to go over procedures for the year, review the yearly calendar, fill out emergency forms and arrange for parents to sign up to do a meal for one of the meetings.

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



JOIN US FOR THE

Young at Heart August Gathering



SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023

YOUNG AT HEART GATHERING - 11:30 AM

POTLUCK LUNCHEON - 12 NOON

PROGRAM TO FOLLOW

VIDEO AND GROUP DISCUSSION WITH FR. JOHN

THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

PLEASE RESPOND NO LATER THAN AUGUST 13TH WITH
THE NUMBER ATTENDING AND
THE ITEM YOU WILL BRING FOR THE POTLUCK LUNCHEON

PRESVYTERA DENISE - DENISES54@HOTMAIL.COM -

(678) 464-4833

BILL MANIKAS - WMANIKAS@GMAIL.COM - (813) 716-8185



*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 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