

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

College Ministry:

Community Outreach:

Dance Groups:

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
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

Daughters of Penelope:

Finance Committee:

Food Pantry:

GOYA:

Hope/Joy:

Joy Tweens

Men's Fellowship:

Nursing Ministry:

Photography Ministry:

Philoptochos:

Stewardship:

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

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



October 8, 2023

Saint Pelagia the Righteous

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:

3rd Sunday of Luke; Pelagia the Righteous ; Pelagia the Virgin-martyr of Antioch; Phillip, Bishop of Gortyna

Resurrectional Apolytikion:

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 the Feast:

In you, O Mother, is preserved undistorted what was made in the image of God; for taking up the cross, you followed Christ and by example taught, that we should overlook the flesh, since it passes away, and instead look after the soul, since it is immortal. And therefore, O devout Pelagia, your spirit rejoices with the angels.

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 out of 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 October 8

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

Dance Practice
GOYA 5:00 p.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday October 9

Orthodoxy 101 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday October 10

Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Parish Council 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday October 11

Choir Practice

Thursday October 12

Young Adult Discussion 6:30 p.m.

Sunday October 15

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

Prayer for Medical Personnel
College Group after Liturgy
Dance Practice
Philoptochos Meeting
Men’s Group 5:00 p.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday October 16

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday October 17

Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday October 18

St. Luke

Orthros 9:00 a.m.

Choir
Paraklesis 6:00 p.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Religious Education at St. John

**Monday Night
Bible Study**

Leader:
Fr. John

October 16 :
Monday at
6:30 p.m.

**Women’s
Bible Study**

Leader:
Fr. Stavros

October 17 :
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* UN-AWARES.
HEBREWS 13:2

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore - America's First Canonized Saint

Available now in our bookstore - Father Herman, Alaska's Saint and Saint Herman of Alaska, His Life and Service. Books detailing the life of St Herman who, in 1794, was sent from Russia to Alaska with nine other monastics to evangelize the natives. He would become the sole survivor of the original missionaries. Read about his life and dedication to the Lord.

Greek Dance Groups

Y Hara Mas (3rd-6th grades) will have Greek dance practice today for 45 minutes, from 12:15 to 1:00pm. Please meet by the stage in the Kourmolis Center at 12:15pm ready to dance! We will continue practices every Sunday following the Divine Liturgy, from 12:15 to 1:00pm, until the Greek Festival. Costume fittings will take place on two Sundays, October 15 and 22, after dance practice. If your dancer plans to perform at the Greek Festival on Saturday, November 4, and you have not yet received an email, please email your dancer's name and grade level to Maraquet Edquid at maraquet@gmail.com. Thank you!



Greetings Parents and Hara Mas dancers K-2 (ages 5-7)

Reminder:

We will continue to have dance practice every Sunday until the festival. Please meet after church in the hall by the side of the stage closest to the kitchen. Please be sure to write your names (parent and child) and email/phone on the paper-work provided on the stage. You can purchase a costume online or borrow a costume. If the latter please see me. See you Sunday for dancing and cookies! Any questions: Alexandra DeMaio 813-340-9668

PAREA DANCE GROUP (7th-12th graders)

We will have practice every Sunday after that unless there is a GOYA meeting that day (October 1, 15, 22 and 29). We are also planning to have a couple of Saturday practices given the limited time we have before the festival. Please email Marina Choundas at mchoundas@outlook.com if your child will be dancing in the Parea dance group this year and provide your child's name, age, grade and your (the parent/guardian's) email and cell number. Thank you!



FOOD PANTRY

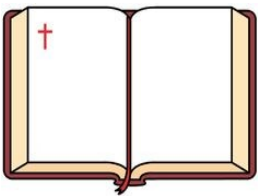
The Food Pantry Ministry is grateful for the donations on our 'First Sunday of the Month' Collection Day. It was a success! As a reminder this will be on going, however donations and/or gift cards are welcome anytime. Your donations help us help others! With Appreciation from our Ministry.

Readings for Sunday, October 8

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

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 9:6-11

Brethren, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.



The reading is from The Gospel According to Luke 7:11-16

At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"

COFFE HOUR SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 8TH

Dance Groups

OCTOBER 15TH

Kathy Kaburis& Kalliope

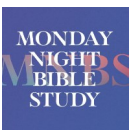
Women's Bible Study

Our Tuesday morning women's Bible Study began in September. We meet on most Tuesdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. either in person or on zoom. For October, the dates are Tuesday, October 3; Tuesday, October 10; Tuesday, October 17; Tuesday, October 24 and Tuesday, October 31.



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 October, the dates are: Tuesday, October 3; Monday, October 16; and Tuesday,



Daughter's of Penelope & AHEPA

Dear Parishioners.

As we do each year the Daughter's of Penelope with the support of AHEPA are participating in a community service project - WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S in Tampa. It will be held on November 11th at Amalie Arena at 8AM. Everyone is welcome! It provides an opportunity to raise funds by asking your friends and relatives to sponsor you in your walk or just to donate to you to meet the goal you set for yourself this year. We hope you will join us in the fight to find a cure for this disease. Join us or reach out to Maria Zabetakis at 813-748-7709 or visit our team site to register or simply to donate at:

https://act.alz.org/site/TR?team_id=843963&pg=team&fr_id=16469

Here are some facts on why it's so important to find a cure.

Alzheimer's disease is a devastating brain disorder that slowly destroys a person's memory and thinking skills. It's the 6th leading cause of death in the United States¹ and affects over 6 million Americans.² One in three older adults dies with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia—killing more people than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined.² The impact of Alzheimer's is felt by everyone who is touched by the disease, including the person with the diagnosis, their family, friends, and caregivers. Many loved ones will bear the weight of this disease, facing significant challenges along the way. Witnessing someone you love gradually lose their memory and abilities takes an undeniable emotional and physical toll. The ripple effect of Alzheimer's disease is a reminder that its reach goes far beyond those living with the disease.

THE TWELVE DISCIPLES PROJECT



Soon, St. John will distribute a refreshed list of names to all registered members of our Twelve Disciples Project for October 2023. If you are not presently a member and wish to **join a group of your fellow parishioners, praying for the well-being of members of St. John the Baptist's Congregation, please contact Mathew Balasis, (727)345-4855, (mathewbalasis@verizon.net) for details.** Your participation is **free**, and will benefit you by improving your personal prayer discipline. "Let us come to know every member of our Church by their name and in their dignity as a child of God. Let us honor every name within our Church. Let us open our own hearts to learn from one another."

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America Homily at the Divine Liturgy, Sunday of the Canaanite Woman, February 14, 2021, Denver Colorado



Altar Boy Schedule

October 8th

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

Captains

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

October 15th

Teddy Kafentaris
Andreas Stefanou
Kris Christopher
Vasilios Panos
Jonah Blankenbaker
Theodore Edquid

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

October 8th
The Ten Commandments



October 15th
Making Moral Choices

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

Liturgical Notes

Sunday, October 15 - Special Prayer for Medical Personnel

St. Luke, Apostle, Evangelist and also Physician, has his feastday celebrated on October 18. In conjunction with this, as he is the patron saint of doctors, we are going to offer a prayer for everyone in the medical field on Sunday, October 15, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. All doctors, nurses, dentists, researchers, students, and anyone connected to the medical field is encouraged to attend.



Tuesday, October 18 - Feast of St. Luke

St. Luke was one of the Four Evangelists, along with Sts. Matthew, Mark and John. He was an artist, writer, and doctor, and is probably one of the most intelligent of all the saints in the history of our church.

Wednesday, October 18 – 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.

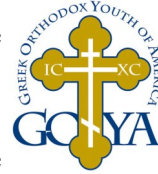
Community News

GOYA

There are **two** of GOYA events in October.

Our regular GOYA meeting will **TODAY**, October 8, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner, as always, will be provided.

Senior Lockin-There will be a lock-in for our 10th-12th grade GOYAns on Saturday, October 21, beginning at 5:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP by Tuesday, October 17.



Young Adult Dinner/Discussion

Thursday, October 12-Our young adult group meets once a month for dinner/discussion (and other times for fellowship and service). The meeting for October will be on Thursday, October 12, 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 October is Service—how we can best serve in the church and in the world. Group Members use What's App for communication. Please contact Aris Rogers to be add-ed to our what's app for young adults at 813-309-5525.

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 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



Fifty- Two Verses

-In-

Fifty- Two Weeks

October 8-14

Never flag in zeal, be glow in the Spirit, serve the Lord. Romans 12:11

It is amazing how much can be said with few words. There are only twelve words in this verse from Romans 12:11, get they give such powerful guidance. To “never flag in zeal,” pertains to our enthusiasm for Christ, for the Church, for Scripture, for service, for obedience to the commandments. These opportunities should excite us, inspire us, and focus us. Imagine if we were glowing with the Spirit. We’ve all seen glow bracelets that are used at dances. In the darkness of the dance floor, you can see arms aglow with the glow bracelets. Imagine if people could see the glow of the Holy Spirit in us, if in a dark world, like on a dark dance floor, we were illu-mined by the power of the Spirit and in turn illumined others as well. Serve the Lord. We are either serving ourselves or we are serving the Lord. When we serve others, we are serving the Lord. Thus, it is a question of whom do we serve? Ourselves or Him? We need to be consistent in our zeal, our enthusiasm for the Lord; we need to be glowing in a way that illumines others and brings others to the light, and we need to consistently serve the Lord. This is another example of how clinging to even one verse of Scripture as a guide can change our lives and center them on Christ and serving others.

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 Bouzinakis; 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.

~November 3-4, 2023~

~ Festival Countdown ~25 Days until our OPA Kickoff Weekend ~

‘Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven’ Matthew 5:16

Things to Know

Volunteer - This is our single largest fundraiser and help is needed! Please go to the Signup Genius and select a shift or two or three. Encourage your friends and family to volunteer TODAY!



Promote – Pick up a Yard Sign and Poster Today. Please share with your Businesses, Family, Friends, Social Media Accounts. & local NextDoor Site - Yell from your Rooftops!

Areas of Need – We need someone or a team to oversee the Kids Area. We promise it will bring lots of smiles and everything will be provided. Please contact Mike Xenick #813-340-8737 or mxenick@gmail.com if you're able to help.

Admission & Parking: Admission and parking are free and will be collecting donations at the door and throughout the weekend. If you're unable to attend the festival this year, please consider making a donation.

Help Needed on the Following Dates:

Thursday, October 19 - Koulourakia Baking/Rolling 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, October 21st – Koulourakia Baking/Rolling – 9:30a.m.

Coming Soon – Dates/Times for Dolmathes/Pastitsio

Decorating / Setup – Festival Week – 10/30 – 11/2

(morning and late afternoon 10/30 & 10/31/evening on 11/1 & 11/2) – Details on SignUp

www.TampaGreekFestival.com

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk– October 28



Join the ladies of Philoptochos, our Nursing Ministry, and the American Cancer Society in a celebration of courage and hope as we take strides in a movement uniting communities to end breast cancer on

Saturday, October 28th- Raymond James Stadium– 7:30 a.m.

For three decades, these 3 to 5 mile non-competitive walks have grown into the nation's largest and most impactful breast cancer movement providing a supportive community for courageous breast cancer survivors, caregivers, and families alike.

Under the direction of Chairpersons Georgia Kane and Vivian Samuels, we will be enlisting volunteers of all ages to form teams, raise funds, and participate in the walk.

To join our team go to: <https://bit.ly/3tlugNh> or scan the QR code (attached)



**FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 3RD
4:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 4TH
11:00 am - 10:00 pm**

WWW.TAMPAGREEKFESTIVAL.COM

*Let's get excited to
share our faith and
our culture with
the Tampa Bay
area!*

**WE SUPPORT
MANY
CHARITABLE
ORGANIZATIONS
WITH OUR
FESTIVAL
PROCEEDS.
THANK YOU FOR
YOUR
DONATIONS.**

ENJOY:

1. Outdoor Cafe & Children's Play Area
2. Orthodox Bookstore, Icons and Gifts
3. Live Music, Church tours, and Choir Concerts
4. Greek Food, Dancing, and Music
5. Bakaliko (Greek Food Market) and Mediterranean Goods

**SIGN UP TO
VOLUNTEER
EACH SUNDAY
AFTER LITURGY**

CONTACT MIKE XENICK AT
MXENICK@GMAIL.COM OR 813-340-8737 TO
FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED!

**St. John Greek Orthodox Church - 2418 W. Swann Avenue - Tampa, FL 33609
(813)876- 8830 - www.stjohntpa.org**