

**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  
Joanne Dalaklis 813-385-8205  
Amin Hanhan 813-846-2957  
Nick Katzaras 863-581-2430  
Suzanne Pileggi 813-244-5855  
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  
Bessie Palios, 813-523-0347  
Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963  
IIAPEA, Marina Choundas 813-877-6136  
IIANHUYPI, 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  
Vickie Peckham 813-758-3102  
Pete Trakas 813-505-2193  
**Sunday School:** Fr. John Stefero 813-876-8830  
**Ushers** Maria Xenick 813-765-3587  
**Veterans/1st Responders** Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 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**

**January 8, 2023**

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

**(Icon of the Baptism of Christ -January 8)**

# Upcoming Services & Events

<b>Sunday January 8</b>	<b>Orthros 8:45 a.m.</b> <b>Vasilopita Sunday</b> GOYA 5:00 p.m.	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>
Monday January 9	Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday January 10	Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Meeting of Ministry Heads 6:30 p.m.	
Wednesday January 11	Choir Practice 7:15pm	
Thursday January 12	Young Adult Discussion 6:30 p.m.	
Saturday January 14	Sunday School Teacher's Seminar 9:00 a.m.	
<b>Sunday January 15</b>	<b>Orthros 8:45 a.m.</b> Parea Dance Practice	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>
Monday January 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day JOY Tweens Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	
<b>Tuesday January 17</b>	<b>St. Anthony</b> <b>Orthros 9:00 a.m.</b> Veteran's / First Responders 6:30 p.m.	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday January 18</b>	<b>Stas. Anthansios and Cyril</b> <b>Orthros 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Paraklesis 6:00 p.m.</b> Choir Practice 7:15pm	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>
Thursday January 19	Adult Greek School	

**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

**SYNTAXARION:**

Sunday after Epiphany; George of Hozeva; Domnica the Righteous of Constantinople; Atticus and Cyrus, Holy Patriarchs of Constantinople

**Resurrectional Apolytikion (Mode pl. 1.) Apolytikion of St. John:**

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 Theophany:**

When You O Christ were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was revealed to all. For the Father's voice bore witness unto You, calling You the beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed His word as the truth. O revealed Christ, our God: the world gives glory to You!

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:**

From above You appeared today, to all the world, and Your Light, O our Lord, has been marked upon us, who in true knowledge sing to You: You came, You appeared, O Light unapproachable.

**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

**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

**Education at St. John**

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

Leader:  
Fr. John

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

**Women's**  
**Bible Study**

Leader:  
Fr. Stavros

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

**Adult Greek**  
**School**

Teacher:  
Magda Myer

**Thursday**  
6:00 p.m.



## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### St. John's Bookstore

Now Available : Stories of Saints and Animals "A Taste of Paradise "

The perfect book for animal lovers of all ages although classified as a children's book. Stories of more than a dozen Saints and their special friendships with animals and nature as a whole. Exquisitely illustrated and beautifully written.

Presvytera Denise and Elaina Stefero

### Philoptochos Vasilopita- Sunday, January 8

We will again resume our tradition of Vasilopita Sunday for 2023. We will cut the Vasilopita for our various ministries at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 8. The Philoptochos will also be offering pieces of Vasilopita as part of coffee hour. Any proceeds from this day will be going to St. Basil's Academy in New York.

### GOYA

Our January GOYA Meeting will be Sunday, January 8, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner, as always, will be provided.

### Meeting of Ministry Heads- Tuesday, January 10

On Tuesday, January 10, there will be a meeting of ministry heads from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Each ministry head is requested to attend and other members of each ministry are invited to attend. If the ministry head cannot attend, please ask someone else in your ministry to attend, so that all ministries are represented.

### Sunday School Teachers' Seminar, January 14

On Saturday, January 14, from 9:00-12:00, there will be a seminar for all Sunday school teachers.

### Philoptochos

The Annunciation Chapter of Philoptochos wishes you and your family a very blessed and happy 2023! In January we will have several events:

January 22 - General meeting immediately after Divine Liturgy in the Zaharias Room - everyone is welcome to attend, please join us!

### Prayer for Teachers on Sunday, January 29

On January 29, we celebrate the feast of the Three Hierarchs, who are also the patron saints of teachers. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we will offer a prayer for all teachers and anyone who works in education in our

### The S.S. St. John Needs All Hands On Deck!

Ahoy!

Tampa's Gasparilla approacheth fast, and we need the Ye Holy Crewe of the SS St. John the Baptist to reconvene! We are looking for volunteers to help out on Saturday, January 28, to assist with parking. This endeavor has been a tremendous support to our parish in the past only made possible by you, our faithful crew!

We need your help once more!

If you are available to assist on Saturday, January 28, please e-mail or text Alex Limberatos as soon as you can (262)370-0586 / [chaplainalexl@gmail.com](mailto:chaplainalexl@gmail.com)).

Thanks for all your support, mateys!



## Readings for the Sunday, January 8

### **Prokeimenon: Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us. ( Mode pl. 2. Psalm 32. )**

Brethren, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

### **The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew ( Mt. 4:12-17 )**

At that time, Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

**Prayer List:** Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: 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, Angela Bougas, Tony Ekonomou, Ron, Jason Vickers, Rex Garrison, Tina Chakonas, Ann Demas, Christina Noel Kouzes Houck, Evangeline Xeroteris, Ashley Henderson, Natalie Henderson, Chris, Debbie, James, Avery, Lily, Jacob, Jesse, Ann, Rosario, Antonia Caffentzis, 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

**January 8**

Topic: Vasilopita- St. Basil- Epiphany

**January 15**

Topic: Confession

### Liturgical Notes

**Tuesday, January 17 - St. Anthony** - St. Anthony is recognized as one of the fathers of monasticism. He lived in the late 3rd and early 4th centuries. He founded a monastery in Egypt which still exists to this day. He authored many of the monastic rules that are still in practice today. He also was a major contributor to the First Ecumenical Council in Nicea in 325, where the Nicene Creed was first authored. He was one of the leaders against the heresies of Arianism.

**Wednesday, January 18 - St. Athanasios and Cyril** - St. Athanasios was born in 297 and was ordained a priest in 319. At the tender age of 28, he was one of the leaders of the First Ecumenical Council in 325 in Nicea, and defended the Faith against the heresies of Arius. He contributed to the development of the Nicene Creed which was authored in 325 and edited in 381 at the second Ecumenical Council. St. Athanasios became a bishop and later Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Cyril was actually born after the death of St. Athanasios, so even though they are depicted together and celebrated together, they never met one another. Saint Cyril was also the Patriarch of Alexandria and presided over the Third Ecumenical Council in 431.

**Wednesday, January 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. We will alternate some in the evening and some in the morning. For January, the Paraklesis will be offered on Wednesday evening, January 18, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, January 25 - St. Gregory the Theologian** - One of the Three Hierarchs, also lived in the 4th century. He was a friend and contemporary of St. Basil and St. John Chrysostom. He was an accomplished speaker and writer, was the Bishop of Nazianzos and was one of the Bishops who presided at the Second Ecumenical Council of Constantinople in 381, which finalized the Nicene Creed that we recite to this day.

**Monday, January 30 - The Three Hierarchs**- The Three Hierarchs are St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom. Each had his own feastday and all are honored together on January 30, ironically because of a controversy over which was the greatest. (Imagine a church meeting where we de-bated which saints were the most important!) Each of them lived in the 4th Century, each was an accom-plished writer and speaker, each was a Bishop, each authored a Liturgy and each is remembered prominently in the history of our church to this day. The Three Hierarchs are Patron Saints of Teachers and Education.

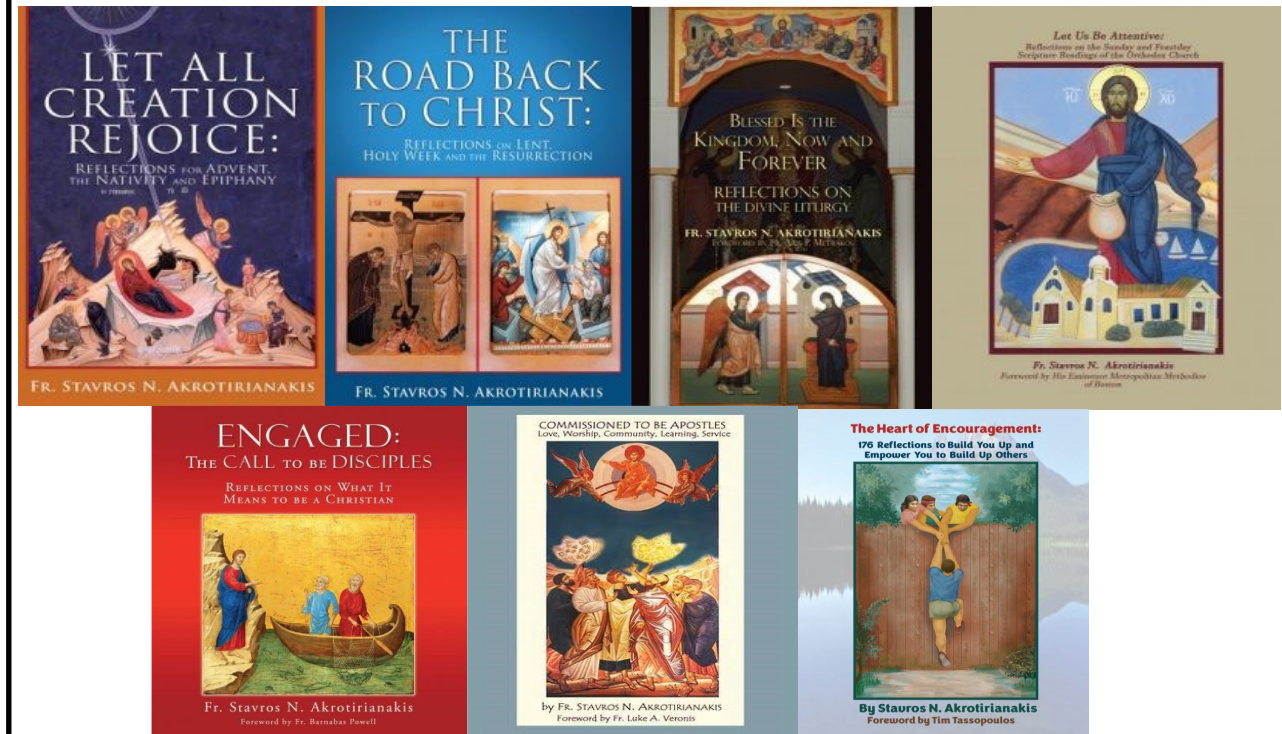
### Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project January 8-14

**He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.  
Psalm 23:3**

Some people enter this year not in a great place. Perhaps 2022 wasn't a good year for you. Perhaps 2023 isn't off to a good start. Or you just can't make a good start be-cause of something bogging you down from the past. One thing that God can do, and only God can do, is to restore your soul. When we forgive one another, we restore relationships. When we get back to work after a failure, we can restore success. But the associated guilt, shame, sin, whatever darkens our soul as a result of whatever things we've failed at can only be restored by God. Prayer is a great place to start. So is worship, confession reading of Scripture, and just some quiet time with God, and quiet time with your own thoughts. We don't get enough stillness in our lives. We don't take enough time for reflection. Psalm 23 paints a beautiful picture in the verses before verse three, as the Psalmist writes of lying down in green pastures and being led be-side still waters. This is a beautiful picture of what is possible with God, to be led, even through the valley of the valley of the shadow of death (23:4) and still feel restored. This is the kind of peace, confidence, and restoration that can only come from God. He is also the one that points on the path of righteousness, but only when we are traveling for His name's sake.

**Father Stavros has authored SEVEN books that are available both in the bookstore and online. They are entitled:**

*Let All Creation Rejoice: Reflections on Advent, the Nativity and Epiphany*  
*The Road Back to Christ: Reflections on Lent, Holy Week and the Resurrection*  
*Blessed is the Kingdom, Now and Forever: Reflections on the Divine Liturgy*  
*Let us Be Attentive: Reflections on the Sunday and Feastday Scripture Readings of the Orthodox Church*  
*Engaged: The Call To Be Disciples, Reflections on What it Means to be a Christian*  
*Commissioned to be Apostles: Love, Worship, Community, Learning, Service*  
*The Heart of Encouragement: 176 Reflections to Build You Up and Empower You to Build Up Others*



### Altar Boy Schedule

**January 8**

Teddy Kafentaris  
 Andrew Thatcher  
 Kris Christopher  
 Vasilios Panos  
 Jonah Blankenkaker  
 Lucas Elly  
 Liam Elly

**Captains**

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

**January 15**

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