

**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

**College Ministry:**

**Community Outreach:**

**Dance Groups:**

**Daughters of Penelope:**

**Finance Committee:**

**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  
Melissa Krinos 813-716-9975  
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:**

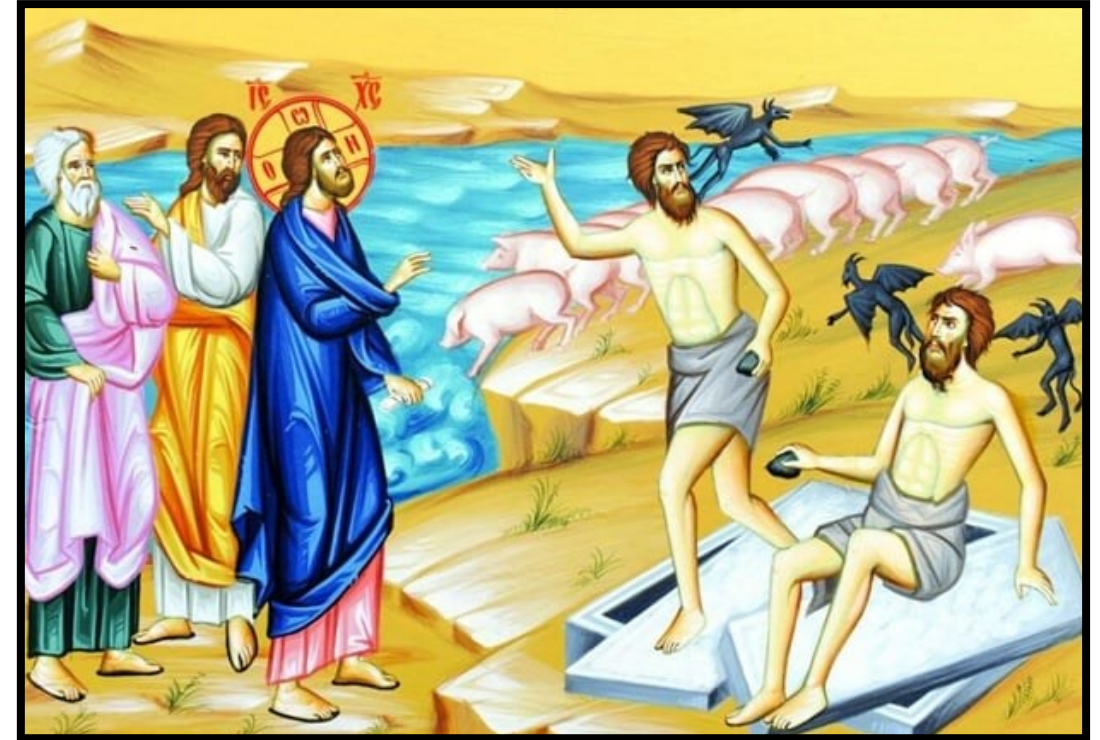
**Young Adults**

**Young at Heart:**

**Youth Protection:**



## St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



**July 9, 2023**

**Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)**

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

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

**5th SUNDAY OF MATTHEW**

**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 Matthew; The Holy Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Tauromenium in Sicily; Dionysios the Orator

**Resurrection Apolytikion:**

When the tidings of the Resurrection from the angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples, and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the apostles, with boasting did they proclaim: that death is vanquished evermore and Christ our God is risen from the dead, granting to the world His great mercy.

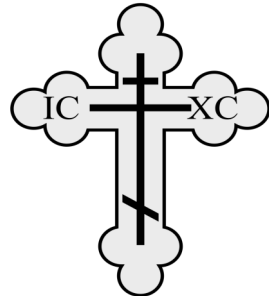
**Hymn of St. John the Baptist:**

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:**

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 back in session the order for Holy Communion will be as follows:

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

**Memorial:**

Anna Karavouniari (4 years); Athanasia Keenan (4 years)

## Upcoming Services & Events

**Sunday July 9**

**Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**  
**(Fr. Stavros Celebrant)**

**Monday July 10**

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday July 11**

**Paraklesis to St. Paisios 6:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday July 12**

**St. Paisios**  
**Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**  
Adult Greek Dance 7:00 p.m.

**Thursday July 13**

Chant Class 6:00 p.m.— 8:00 p.m.

**Saturday July 15**

Community Outreach

**Sunday July 16**

**Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**  
**AHEPA/Daughter's**

**Monday July 17**

**St. Marina**  
**Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**  
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday July 18**

Chant Class 6:00 p.m.— 8:00 p.m.

### **Religious Education at** **St. John**

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

Leader:  
Fr. John

July 10: Monday at  
6:30 p.m.

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

Leader:  
Fr. Stavros

**Resumes until August**

### **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

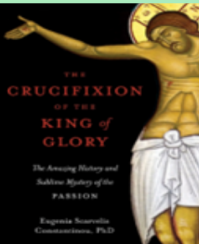
St. John's Bookstore | Orthodox Books Now Available through Hillsborough County Public Library System

We have some exciting news to share! Due to the efforts of Jamie Hartzler, there are now new Orthodox books in the Hillsborough County Public Library System catalog. What motivated Jamie to do this? In her words, " My husband is Orthodox but I am new to the Orthodox faith and have much to learn. Although the library has some beautiful children's books about the lives of the saints, none appeared to be Orthodox. I wanted my girls, Senna and Kiernan, to be able to learn more about the lives of the saints and appreciate the beautiful iconography of the church through children's books. The gorgeous illustrations in these books are a beautiful way to learn about church history and traditions. So, this meant that I needed to start making purchasing suggestions to the library". Through her persistence and dedication to this project she has succeeded in getting 13 Orthodox books on the shelves! The following are titles recently acquired.

- For Children of All ages:
- Laurel and the Wind by Gaelan Gilbert
  - The Saint and His Bees by Dessi Jackson
  - A Taste of Paradise: Stories of Saints and Animals by Katherine Bolger Hyde
  - In the Candle's Glow by Elizabeth Crispina Johnson
  - North Star, St. Herman of Alaska by Dorrie Papademetriou
  - The Wonderful Life of Russia's Saint Sergius of Radonezh by Alvin Alexsi Currier
  - The Monk Who Grew Prayer by Claire Bradenburg
  - Saint La Rides a Leaf by Melinda Johnson
  - The Sleepy Bear and the Golden Whispers by T. Anne Mancuso
  - Snow on Martinmas by Heather Sleightholm
  - Brigid and the Butter: The Legend of Saint Brigid of Ireland by Pamela Love



- For Adults:
- Thinking Orthodox: Understanding and Acquiring the Orthodox Christian Mind by Eugenia Scarvelis Constantinou, Ph.D
  - The Crucifixion of the King of Glory: The Amazing History and Sublime Mystery of the Passion by Eugenia Scarvelis Constantinou, Ph.D



As only one copy of each title is available in the catalog, please place the book you'd like on hold after logging in to your library account . You can specify which branch is your preferred pick-up location. The library will notify you when the book becomes available.

Are you interested in suggesting titles of Orthodox Books for purchase by the Hillsborough County Public Library? If so, see Jamie or Presvytera Denise for more information on how you can get involved. Please thank Jamie for her efforts in planting this seed and watching it blossom!

Presvytera Denise

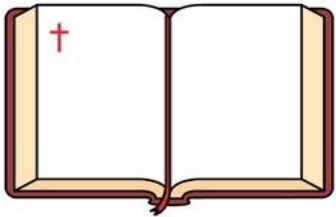


Readings for Sunday, July 9

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

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 10:1-10

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.



The reading is from Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

Fr. Stavros will be out of the office from June 28-July 10 directing St. Stephen's Greek Orthodox Summer Camp. I will have very limited access to email. For any pastoral emergencies, please contact Fr. John Stefero at 678-637-4425.

**Liturgical Notes**

**Wednesday, July 12 St. Paisios**

St. Paisios is one of the newest Orthodox saints, having been canonized in 2015. He lived from 1924-1994, was a monk on Mount Athos and was spiritual father to thousands of people. Miracles have been attributed to him.



**Sunday, July 17 St. Marina**

St. Marina brought many people to Christ. She was tortured for her faith. And each time she was tortured, she was healed. She was martyred in the third century.

**Prayer List:** Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: 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; Sylvia Michos; Eva Coppalla; Christopher; 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 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, 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**

**July 9th**

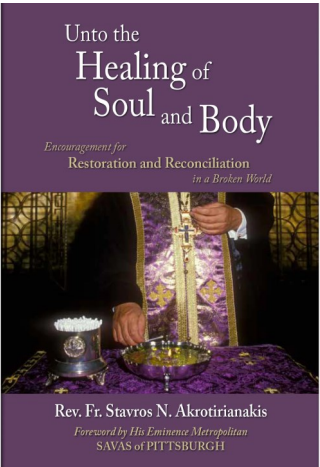
**Anyone attending  
may serve**

**Captains**

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

**July 16th**

**Anyone attending  
may serve**



**Introducing the Newest Book  
by Fr. Stavros**

**Unto the Healing of Soul and Body:  
Encouragement for Restoration and  
Reconciliation in a Broken World**

There has never been a greater need for healing in the world than there is today. The Orthodox Sacrament of Holy Unction is intended for the healing of soul and body. What makes this sacrament so powerful is not just the anointing that occurs at the end of the service, but the journey there—through seven Epistle readings, seven Gospel passages and seven powerful prayers. Unto the Healing of Soul and Body will serve as an aid on this journey, helping us understand our need for healing, as well as God’s role and our own participation in spiritual healing.

**Fifty- Two Verses**

**-In-**

**Fifty- Two Weeks**

**July 9th- July 15th**

Either make the tree good and its fruit good; or make the tree bad, and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. Matthew 12:33

I heard a beautiful commentary on this verse, which said, if you plant an apple tree, don’t be surprised if you get apples. If you plant an orange tree, don’t expect to get apples. Jesus was smart in using images of the farm with his disciples, because everyone lived in an agrarian environment. Trees bare good fruit if they are taken care of. Trees that are not taken care of will not bare good fruit. We are all called to bear the Fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, good-ness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control. We are not going to bear these fruits if instead of love, we sow hate; instead of joy we sow sadness, if we have strife instead of peace, anger instead of kindness, if we are out of control rather than having self-control. If we want these Fruit of the Spirit, we have to sow the right seeds in our lives, based on what we see, what we hear, what we do, how we are conditioned.





**St. John is responsible  
to have 6 volunteers  
sign up each month.**

*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 JULY 15, 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*

## 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**



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

# INTRODUCTION TO CHANT CLASS

A 13-Week introductory chant class  
offered at St. John's Church

REGISTER FOR CLASSES NOW AT  
[VASILI@STJOHNTPA.ORG](mailto:VASILI@STJOHNTPA.ORG)

All are welcome  
| 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. |  
Next class: Thursday, July 13

## Three Class Goals

- Being comfortable reading, intoning, and projecting your voice from the chanters stand
- Seeing and understanding the services from the perspective of the chanter
- Having the knowledge and ability to chant a Divine Liturgy or Sacrament by yourself

## ST. JOHN'S 12 DISCIPLES PROJECT



*"We must pray with ever vigilant attention. And this will be possible if we understand well with whom we are conversing, and that during such time we are his servants offering sacrifice to God. We must pray with contrition, with tears, with reverence, with serenity and great calmness. Our sins should not stop us from prayer. We should be ashamed of our sins, but they should not keep us from our prayers. Even though you are a sinner, approach God with prayer, that you may be reconciled with him; give him an opportunity to forgive your sins, which he will, in order to reveal his love for mankind."*

*St. John Chrysostom.*



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.



PARTICIPATING "12 DISCIPLES" RECEIVE A PRAYER AND A SHORT LIST OF NAMES, DISTRIBUTED MONTHLY. EACH PARTICIPANT RECEIVES 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 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 ARE CALLED. CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE, 813-876-8830, AND PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND YOU WILL BE ADDED TO THE GROWING LIST OF PARTICIPATING MEMBERS OF THE 12 DISCIPLES PROJECT.

