

**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:** Alex Limberatos 262-370-0586  
**Bookkeeper:** Debbie Bowe 813-876-8830

**Parish Council:**  
 Jim Armstrong, President 954-295-6665  
 Euripides Panos, Vice President 813-352-3972  
 John Zelatis, Secretary 813-727-2271  
 Gary Ward, Treasurer 813-846-3898  
 George Chagaris 727-420-1920  
 Joanne Dalaklis 781-888-3329  
 Amin Hanhan 813-846-2957  
 Nick Kazaras 863-581-2430  
 Jimmy Konstas 813-220-7352  
 Marilyn Sandborn 813-855-8678  
 Mike Xenick 813-340-8737

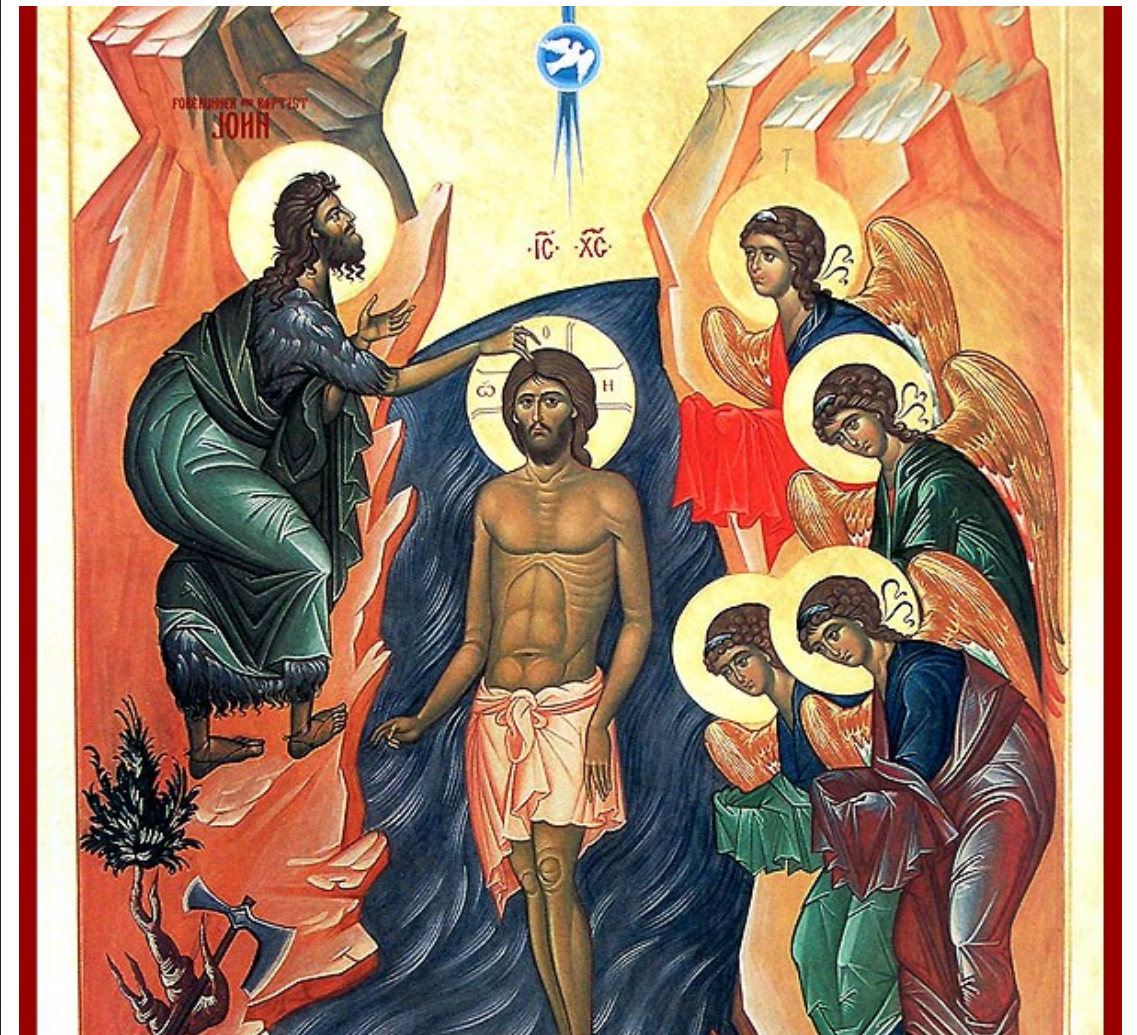
**12 Disciples** Mathew Balasis 727-421-7376  
**AHEPA:** Thomas Sakaris, President 201-819-2319  
**Altar Angels:** Engie Halkias 813-932-5859

**Bookstore:** Pres. Denise Stefero 813-789-4134  
**Choir:** Pauline Spencer, Director 678-464-4833  
 Ruth Losovitz, Organist 813-390-1782  
 Greg Melton 727-688-2782

**Community Outreach:** 813-967-2074  
**Dance Groups:** H XAPA MΑΣ, Alexandra De Maio 813-340-9668  
 Bessie Palios, 813-523-0347  
 Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963  
 ΠΑΡΕΑ, Marina Choundas 813-877-6136  
 ΠΑΝΗΓΥΡΙ, Alexandra De Maio 813-340-9668

**Daughters of Penelope:** Diane Trimis 813-220-3389  
**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  
**Men's Fellowship:** Fr. Stavros N. 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:** Maria Xenick 813-765-3587  
**Ushers:** Alex Limberatos 262-370-0586  
**Welcoming Ministry:** Bill Manikas, President 813-716-8185  
**Young Adults:** Mary Nenos, Vice President 813-935-2096  
**Young at Heart:** Suzanne Pileggi 813-244-5855



## **St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church**

**January 9, 2021 - Sunday After Epiphany**

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

**(Epiphany January 6 Above)**

**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

**Apolytikion of the Week (4 Mode):** 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.

**Apolytikion for the Feast (1 Mode):** 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!

**Apolytikion for 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 (4 Mode):** 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

**Upcoming Services & Events**

<b>Sunday, January 9</b>	<b>Sunday After Epiphany</b> <b>Orthros 8:45 a.m.</b> Vasilopita Sunday (to follow Divine Liturgy) GOYA	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b> 5:00 p.m.
Monday, January 10	Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, January 11	Women’s Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
Thursday, January 13	Adult Greek School GriefShare Begins	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 15	Sunday School Teachers Retreat	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
<b>Sunday, January 16</b>	<b>Orthros 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>

**Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project**  
**January 9-15**

*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.*  
*Matthew 4:16*

This verse fulfills a prophecy, now come to fruition in the person of Jesus Christ. Light has dawned on the Jewish nation that had been in exile, who hadn’t heard the voice of a prophet in almost 400 years. Now the light of Christ had dawned on them. There was no longer a need to feel like they were sitting in darkness. Many times, in summer, we retreat to shade in order to not be in the sun. On a cold day, however, we leave the shade to come out into the sun in order to feel warm. In many ways, the world is like a cold day. There isn’t a lot of warmth, or love, or kindness or caring. Yet, we don’t have to remain in the shady world of these things. Christ’s light has come into the world. Therefore, we should step out of the shade of cruelty and coldness of heart, and step out into the light and into the sun. Indeed, there is a great light that we are all invited to experience, even though who voluntarily sit in darkness. All are called to the light of Christ.

**Education at St. John 01/02 to 01/08**

<b><u>Monday Night Bible Study</u></b> <i>Leader:</i> Fr John Stefero <i>Day:</i> <b>Monday</b> 6:30 p.m.	<b><u>Women’s Bible Study</u></b> <i>Leader:</i> Fr. Stavros <i>Day:</i> <b>Tuesday</b> 10:00 a.m.	<b><u>Greek School</u></b> <i>Leader:</i> Magda Myer <i>Day:</i> <b>Thursday</b> 6:30 p.m.
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## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

**St. John's Bookstore**— Have you decided to devote more time to studying Scripture this year? Our bookstore is full of resource materials for you. From Orthodox study Bibles to commentaries on particular books, we have a large selection to choose from. Stop in today and browse our selection.



**Philoptochos Vasilopita Sunday TODAY** – We will again resume our tradition of Vasilopita Sunday for 2022. We will cut the Vasilopita for our various ministries at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 9. 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 TODAY-** GOYA Meeting for January will be Sunday, January 9, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner, as always, will be provided. There will also be a lock in on January 22 starting at 5:00 p.m. Mark your calendars!



**GriefShare Starting Back Up This Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.** - If you are struggling with a loss in your life, GriefShare is open to you to be vulnerable with this hurt. GriefShare is a Christian-based bereavement program open to those inside and outside our community. GriefShare groups meet weekly and has three distinct elements: Video seminar with experts, support group discussion with focus and personal study and reflection. This thirteen session program will begin on January 13 and weekly will be held from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays. If you are interested or have any questions about GriefShare, please contact Donna Hambos at 813-843-8412 or the church office.

**Young Adult Dinner on Thursday, January 20** - We will be having a young adult "Paraklesis and Pareia" on Thursday, January 20. We will gather for Paraklesis at 6:00 p.m., followed by a dinner/discussion at 7:00 p.m. If you are a young adult, age 18-40, and would like to attend, please email Fr. Stavros so that we have enough food. You can email Father at [frstav@gmail.com](mailto:frstav@gmail.com).



**2022 My Word, 2022** - For the past two years, we've encouraged parishioners to identify one word that will shape their year. With 2022 now a month away, it's time to start thinking of the word that will define you in 2022. It is also time to start thinking of a word that will define our parish for 2022. If you have an idea for a word for our parish for 2022, please send it to Fr. Stavros at [frstav@gmail.com](mailto:frstav@gmail.com). Towards the end of December, he will send out a request for individual words to define you for 2022.

**Blood Pressure Screening in February-** YOUR nursing ministry will be doing FREE blood pressure checks every Sunday, after liturgy, for the month of February! Come get your blood pressure checked and know your numbers!



## Readings for Sunday After Epiphany

**Epistle Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13**

**Prokeimenon:** Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice in the Lord, O Ye Righteous

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.

**Gospel Reading is from Matthew 4:12-17**

At that time, when 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: Elaine Daniels; Mary & Peter Nenos; Tony Ekonomou; Keith Lynn & Patrick Carroll; Daniel Hoss, 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, Ron Myer, Toulia Tsaros, Fr. Pat Legato, Nellie Pringle, Yolanda Webb, 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, Matthew & Family, 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, Robert and Alice Stoccardo, John Alexander, Michael Romero, George Hambos, Dean Kondilis and Family, Bill and Nancy Manikas, Patricia Costello, Anastasia Smyrnakis, Ekaterina & Anna Shushaalykova, Dora Koudouna, Debbie Phelps, Mary Voykin, David Voykin, Denise Badrane, Don Payne, and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATE

January 9

Sunday School Resumes  
Topic: Epiphany/St. John

Sunday, January 16

Topic: Vasilopita/St. Basil  
Prosphora: Grades 7-8

Saturday, January 15th:

Sunday School Teacher Retreat 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 23

Topic: Making Moral Choices  
Prosphora: Grades 2-4

8 Facts from the life of St. Basil the Great

- 1. He comes from a family that gave the world seven saints.
- 2. He donated his fortune to build hospitals, orphanages and schools for girls
- 3. He established monasteries and set up rules for monastic life
- 4. He is known as the “revealer of heavenly mysteries” because he explained the Holy Trinity dog-ma
- 5. He was a good friend of St. Gregory the Theologian
- 6. The philanthrop-ic institutions he founded were known as “Vasiliada”
- 7. He is the author of a version of the Divine Liturgy.
- 8. He reposed in the Lord at age 49.



Both Bible Studies Resumes!

- Fr. John will continue his Bible Study on the topic of the Gospel of Luke.
- Fr. Stavros’ Women’s Bible Study will also resume this week, at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday January 11.

Altar Boy Schedule

January 9  
(St. John Team)

Christos Nenos  
Constantine Ameres  
Zachary George  
Alex Findlay  
Gianni Matassini  
Grayson Borgeas-Beech  
Gryphon Borgeas-Beech  
Nathan Moran

Captains

John Palios  
Genaro Scarfogliero  
Nicholas Akrotirianakis  
Yanni Trimikliniotis  
James Magos  
Demetri Passalaris

January 16  
(St. Matthew Team)

George Xenick  
Nicholas Magos  
Michael Galin  
Leo Sengsouvana  
Kenny Kane  
Philip Kane  
James Betza

Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!

If you want to make sure we have your birthdate on file, please call the office.

Birthdays

January 9	David Colado
January 10	Kris Christopher; Anthony Heilman;
January 11	Alexandra Demas; Nicholas Demas;
January 12	Axl David;
January 13	Helen Katzaras; Eleni Stilian;
January 14	Sophia Calamunci; Matthew Demetriou; Angela Johnston;
January 15	Aristi Patellis; Bill Sotiropoulos;

Namedays

Efstratios;
Theodosios;
Mertios; Tatiani;
Ermilos;
Nina;

Orthodoxy 101 Class will  
Begin in January

Fr. Stavros offers this class two times per year, in the spring and in the fall. This will be a Four-week course of study on Monday nights to make people aware of the basics of being an Orthodox Christian. The classes will be part lecture, part discussion, with lots of time for questions and answers.

Who should attend the Orthodoxy 101 class?

- Interfaith couples. This will help the non-Orthodox person understand more about what is going on in our church.
- Anyone who is considering joining our church. Going forward, this class will be a requirement for those who wish to join our Orthodox faith.
- New converts to Orthodoxy. For those who recently joined our church and who want to know a little bit more.
- Anyone who wants to know more about the basics of our faith, or who wants a refresher course in the basics of Orthodoxy is encouraged to attend.

The four sessions will be done as follows:

Monday, January 17 A Tour of the Orthodox Church: What we see in the Church and what it means

Monday, January 24 Orthodox Spirituality—Introduction to the Sacraments

Monday, January 31 The Divine Liturgy—This will actually be a “teaching” Liturgy on the solea of the church. If you have taken the class, or if you wish to only attend THIS session, please feel free to do so.

Monday, February 7 Orthodox Traditions—fasting, icons, prayer, and separating Theology from “yiayialogy.” Classes will be held on these three Mondays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and will be held in the CHURCH Sanctuary.

Please sign up with Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com, so he has enough materials for everyone. There is no charge for this class.



Gasparilla Parking  
Volunteers Needed -

After 15 years, John Kokkas is retiring from chairing our Gasparilla Parking fundraiser. For those who do not know, we sell parking spaces in our

parking lots for the two Saturdays of the Gasparilla parades—January 22 (children’s) and January 29 (adults). John will be there to assist whoever the new chairperson is this year. If you are interested in chairing the Gasparilla Parking fundraiser, please see Fr. Stavros.



Our Food Pantry is very active helping people near and far in the Tampa Community

- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Tomato sauce/chopped tomatoes etc.
- All kinds of white flour
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Body Wash
- Gluten Free Foods and

- Flours
- Cereal
- Whole wheat rice and pasta
- Men's and Women's razors and shaving cream (travel size)
- Toothbrushes
- Granola & Protein Bars