

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
Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
Greg Melton 813-967-2074

College Ministry:

Community Outreach:

Dance Groups:

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
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
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:

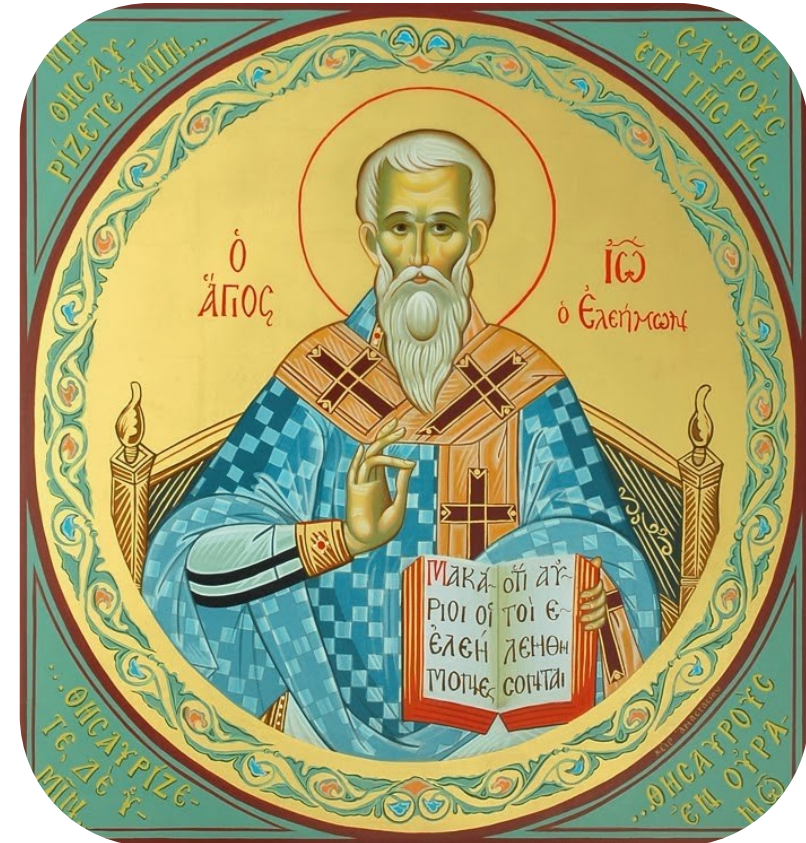
Young Adults

Young at Heart:

Youth Protection:



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



November 12, 2023

St. John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria

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:

8th Sunday of Luke; John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria; Nilus the Ascetic of Sinai

Resurrectional Apolytikion:

When the angelic powers appeared at the tomb and soldiers guarding You became as though dead and standing by Your sepulchre was Mary seeking Your pure and sacred Body. For You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the virgin woman bestowing the gift of Life. O You who rose from the dead, Lord, we give glory to You.

Apolytikion-St. John the Merciful

By your patience you obtained your reward, O devout Father. You persevered your prayers without ceasing; and the poor you loved and satisfied. We entreat you, blessed John the Merciful, intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.



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:

The very purest abode of the Savior, and the most priceless bridal chamber and Virgin, the most sacred treasure of the glory of God, today is led inside of the house of the Lord, bringing in the grace with her of the Holy Spirit. It is for her God's angels sing in praise: she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

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 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 (side areas then the main section)

Memorial:

Hector Serrano (19 days); (Michael Jennewein (3 years); Mareda Zoumberos (5 years); Michael Zoumberos (5 years); Maria Zoumberos (20 years); Theodore Kladis (25 years)

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday November 12

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Youth Sunday
Prayers for Veterans
College Group
Boxes of Hope Kick– off (through Dec 9)
Distribution of Nativity Bags
GOYA 5:00 p.m.

Monday November 13

St. John Chrysostom

Orthros 9:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday November 14

Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday November 15

Beginning of the Nativity Fast

Holy Unction 6:00 p.m.

Thursday November 16

St. Matthew

Orthros 9:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Adult Greek School 6:00 p.m.– 8:30 p.m.

Saturday November 18

Community Outreach

Sunday November 19

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

JOY Tweens
Bags of Love Collection
Philoptochos Meeting
Men's Group 5:00 p.m.

Monday November 20

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Religious Education at **St. John**

Monday Night
Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. John

November 13 :
Monday at
6:30 p.m.

Women's
Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. Stavros

November 14 :
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-AWARE.
HEBREWS 13:2

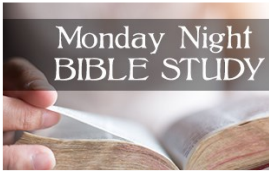
MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore

"O Give thanks to the Lord for His mercy endures forever" Ps:118. Visiting family and friends this Thanksgiving? Remember them with a gift that expresses the gratitude we share in the many blessings God showers on us each day. Visit the bookstore today to see our special display.

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 November, the dates are Monday, November 13; Monday, November 20; and Monday, November 27.



College Student Monthly Luncheon

We invite **all college students** for lunch after Liturgy on **TODAY**. We will have a lunch/discussion in the library. There is no cost.

Please **RSVP to Fr. Stavros** by texting (813)394-1038

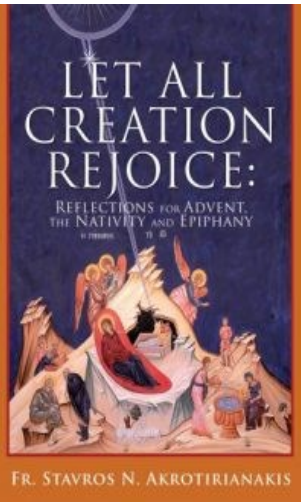


GOYA

The GOYA Meeting for November will be **TODAY**, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner, as always, will be provided.



As we approach the season of Advent, I wanted to share with you a book I have written called, Let All Creation Rejoice: Reflections for Advent, the Nativity and Epiphany. The book is approximately 230 pages long. It contains a reflection to be read daily during the period of the Nativity Fast (November 15) through January 7. From November 15 through December 24, one verse of the Gospel accounts of the Nativity is examined in detail each day. It is practical inspiration written to be understood by the average Greek Orthodox Christian. +Fr. Stavros



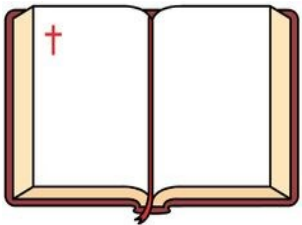
Although this book is written in an easy to read style - the concepts and application are very thought provoking! My husband and I have been reading it at meal time, as our Advent meditation. Each day's readings help me turn my mind to what's really going on and important this time of year - helping me refocus, and reflect on the events surrounding the Nativity, and what they mean for me! To-day's reading, for example, reflected on the angel telling the shepherds, "Don't be afraid," and following reflections on fear in my own life. Excellent book, and now that I am enjoying this one so much, I will be ordering the Lenten reflections, too. -Amazon Customer

Readings for Sunday, November 12

Prokeimenon: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.
Psalm 115.5,3 (116.15,12)

The reading is from St. Paul's 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 10:25-37

At that time, a lawyer stood up to put Jesus to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered right; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was; and when he saw him, he had compassion, and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; then he set him on his own beast and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' Which of these three, do you think, proved neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed mercy on him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 12TH
VETERANS

NOVEMBER 19TH
Philoptochos (for Presbyteras)

Guide us to Thy Perfect Light!



We are once again thrilled to offer a very special gift bag to you to engage, encourage, and invite you to participate this year. We have put together these bags to keep our community united and focused on Christ and the celebration of His upcoming birth. November 15th is the start date of the Nativity Fast, a 40-day period of preparation for Feast of Christmas. It is a time of reflection, renewal, and spiritual growth.

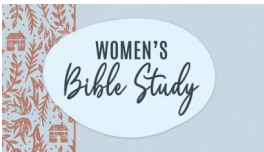
Bags are available **today** after the Divine Liturgy to pick up. Please see our greeters in the breezeway to get your bag. If you are unable to get your bags today, you may come and pick one up in the office.

However you choose to spend the Nativity Fast, whether you join us in person or online, we pray this gift will inspire you and your family to experience a path to Guide us to Thy Perfect Light!

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 November, the dates are
Tuesday; November 14 and Tuesday, November 28.



Men’s Group

Our men’s group will meet on Sunday, November 19, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Any men of our community are welcome to join us for dinner, discussion. We meet at 5:00 p.m., walk to a local restaurant and get some food, then bring it back to the hall where we eat and have a discussion. Our Topic for November will be Thankfulness & Generosity. Please mark down our dates for men’s group for this academic year—Sunday, November 19; Sunday, December 17; Sunday, January 21; Sunday, March 3; and Sunday, April 14.



Save the Date—Men’s Retreat—Saturday, February 10—Men’s Retreat for Orthodox Men of the Tampa Bay Area.

Altar Boy Schedule

November 12th

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

Captains

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

November 19th

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

November 12th
Communion-Liturgy-Worship



November 19th
Charity/ Thanksgiving
YOUTH SUNDAY

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

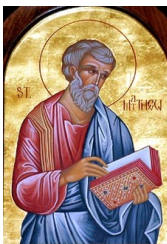
Liturgical Notes

Monday, November 13 - St. John Chrysostom

St. John Chrysostom lived in the 4th Century. He was a Bishop of the Church and is recognized as one of the Three Hierarchs (together with St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory the Theologian). He received the title “Chrysostomos,” meaning “the Golden Mouth,” for his great ability to speak. St. John Chrysostom authored the Divine Liturgy that we celebrate on most Sundays. Therefore, we offer the Divine Liturgy on this day in honor of St. John Chrysostom.

Wednesday, November 15- Holy Unction for the beginning of Advent at 6:00 p.m.

The forty-day period of Advent begins on November 15. It is a period of fasting and reflective preparation. In America, Advent is marked by a period of shopping, decorating and parties, none of which really help us prepare spiritually to celebrate the great feast of the Nativity. As we have done in past years, we will hold a Holy Unction Service as we begin the period of Ad-vent—it will be on Wednesday, November 15, at 6:00 p.m. Please bring your Holy Week book as the service will follow the service of Holy Wednesday evening.



Thursday, November 16 –St. Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist

Saint Matthew was one of the 12 Disciples and one of four Evangelists, the authors of the Gospels. St. Matthew did not spend his early life as a holy man. Rather, he was a dishonest tax collector. Once he encountered Christ, his life changed. He became a faithful follower. St. Matthew is one of many examples of prominent saints who turned their life around after an in-auspicious beginning. He is a role model for any of us to do the same.

Community News

Ladies Philoptochos Society

Adult Greek School

It's never too early to plan. Mark your calendars for our *Christmas Brunch to be held at 717 South on Sunday, December 3rd.*

Look for a flyer in your email.



Young at Heart

Young at Heart is excited to be participating in a program to aid needy seniors called "Be a Santa to a Senior" sponsored through Home Instead. Requested gifts will be purchased and gifted to those seniors who are normally alone and without presents during the Christmas Season. Getting involved in our community is an important aspect of any ministry. Come join us!

Will restart on **Thursdays at 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.** You all will do the "Registration" for the **1st Session and pay only for the "Half of the Session"**, because you missed half of it (6 lessons): \$75 for the parishioners and \$87 for non Parishioners. Write the check on my name: Magdalini Myer and the memo line: for Adult Greek School.

Call me at my cell phone: (813) 523-5771 or email aspis69@aol.com, if you have any questions.

The classroom will be on the **2nd floor** of the **Bridge Prep Academy School Building, Room 205.**

JOY Tweens

Will meet again this month on **Sunday, November 19, following the Divine Liturgy at 12:30pm.** Lunch will be provided.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our Community Outreach ministry has secured dates with Metropolitan Ministries to volunteer to help with the annual Holiday Tent for the needy.

Metropolitan Ministries Holiday Tent 2023 2609 N Rome Ave, Tampa, FL 33607

St John the Baptist GOC is requesting 12 amazing volunteers for both the Thanksgiving and the Christmas events.

Below are the dates, times and sign up website for St John the Baptist GOC.

It is imperative that each St John volunteer pre-registers for this opportunity as any unfilled slots are released 2 weeks prior to our scheduled dates.

Thanksgiving Holiday: Tuesday November 21— 2:00 to 5:30 PM

Christmas Holiday: Thursday December 21— 2:00 to 6:00 PM

Sign-up Link: <https://metromin.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/stjohnngreekorthodox/>



Love to take photos? Come join our Photo Ministry!

It's a fun and creative way to serve and to show the community all the beautiful services and wonderful activities we have here at St. John.

All abilities are welcome.

Please call or text
Karina Findlay at
(813) 476-9632.




Veterans/1st Responders Ministry: Will sponsor two upcoming events!

1. Dedication of a plaque "In honor of those who served" **TODAY.** This plaque will be displayed in the church hall near the bookstore.
2. Collection for the US Marines' program "Toys for Tots." Please deposit brand new toys in the original packaging in the three boxes in the church hall. These will be distributed to needy families in our local area.

**Thanks,
Fr. John**

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 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, 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.



*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

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**

Hope & Joy Fall Food Drive

Sun, Nov 12th - Sun, Dec 16th.

"HOPE starts with a MEAL. HOPE starts with YOU!"

Metropolitan Ministries' Holiday Tent helps 50,000+ families in need for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Let's help them meet this year's goal of 1,763,000 pounds of food.

Please join St. John's Hope & Joy children's ministry in providing a meal to families in need through Metropolitan Ministries. Make this your family project and help us put together Boxes of Hope filled with the items needed for a Christmas holiday dinner. There are many ways you can help provide a Box of Hope:

- Shop for any of the items below and bring to church **Sun, Nov 12th - Sun, Dec 16th.**
- Donate \$25 or more (cash/ check/ gift card) for a Box of Hope-
- Checks payable to Metropolitan Ministries

BOX OF HOPE contains:

Gift certificate for a turkey or ham	2 cans of black beans
1 box of cereal (hot or cold)	2 cans of cranberry sauce
2 cans of fruit	1 bag of dried beans
1 jar of peanut butter	1 box or bag of rice
2 cans of vegetables	1 can or packet of gravy
2 cans of yams	1 box dessert mix
1 bag or box of stuffing	1 package cookies or pastries
1 box of potatoes	1 family box of Jell-O/Pudding

Only non-perishable food donations please. **Call Zackie Ameres at 813-245-3813 or email at zackiec@yahoo.com with any questions.** Thank you!

"He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will reward him for what he has done." Proverbs 19:17

