

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-876-8830
<b>Retired Priest in Residence:</b>	Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830
<b>Retired Priest in Residence:</b>	Rev. Fr. John Stefero	813-876-8830
<b>Pastoral Assistant:</b>	Vasili Panagopoulos	414-254-5134
<b>Bookkeeper:</b>	Debbie Bowe	813-876-8830
<b>Administrative Assistant:</b>	Kim Rojas	813-876-8830

<b>Parish Council:</b>		
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
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

<b>12 Disciples</b>	Mathew Balasis	727-421-7376
<b>AHEPA:</b>	Thomas Sakaris, President	201-819-2319
<b>Altar Angels:</b>	Kalliope Chagaris	813-789-4134
<b>Bookstore:</b>	Pres. Denise Stefero	678-464-4833
<b>Choir:</b>	Tara Swartzbaugh, Director	813-313-0439
	Ruth Losovitz, Organist	727-688-2782
<b>College Ministry:</b>	Vasili Panagopoulos	414-254-5134
<b>Community Outreach:</b>	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
<b>Dance Groups:</b>	HXAPA ΜΑΣ, 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

<b>Daughters of Penelope:</b>	Elena Ketchum	813-229-0144
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	Gary Ward	813-846-3898
<b>Food Pantry</b>	Sheila Vukmer	412-719-1005
<b>GriefShare:</b>	Donna Hambos	813-843-8412
<b>GOYA:</b>	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346
<b>Hope/Joy:</b>	George & Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
<b>Joy Tweens</b>	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
<b>Men's Fellowship:</b>	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-876-8830
<b>MOMS:</b>	Mary Ann Konstas	813-215-9862
<b>Nursing Ministry:</b>	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
<b>Oratorical Festival:</b>	Peggy Bradshaw	727-244-1374
<b>Photography Ministry:</b>	Karina Findlay	813-476-9632
<b>Philoptochos:</b>	Melissa Krinos	813-716-9975
<b>Stewardship:</b>	Chris Kyrus	757-672-1920

<b>Sunday School:</b>	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
<b>Ushers</b>	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102
<b>Veterans/1st Responders</b>	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
<b>Welcoming Ministry:</b>	Fr. John Stefero	813-876-8830
<b>Young Adults</b>	Maria Xenick	813-765-3587
<b>Young at Heart:</b>	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-876-8830
	Bill Manikas	813-716-8185
	Dora Morgan	813-613-3738
<b>Youth Protection:</b>	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855



## St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

February 12, 2023

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

(Icon of -Sunday of the Prodigal Son -February 12)

**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:**

Meletius, Archbishop of Antioch; Antonius, Archbishop of Constantinople; Meletios of Ypseni

**Resurrectional Apolytikion (Mode 2)**

When You descended to the realm of death,  
You as Life immortal, rendered to Hades a  
mortal blow, through Your Divine Radiance.  
And when You, from the depths of Hades  
and the darkness below, did raise the dead  
all the powers of heaven did proclaim and  
cry out: O life-giving Christ and our God we  
give glory.

**Apolytikion 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:**

Foolishly I ran away from Your glory, O Father,  
and wasted in sin all the wealth You gave me.  
Therefore, the Prodigal's cry, I offer to You. I  
have sinned before You compassionate Father,  
do accept me in repentance and make me again  
one of Your servants.

**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

**Trisagion:**

Kontstantinos Tsokos (6 months); George Kakallelis (6 months); John Boyles (2years); Ouviaia Pavlidov (11 years)

## Upcoming Services & Events

**Sunday February 12**

**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

**Orthros 8:30 a.m.**

**Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

Philoptochos Luncheon to benefit OCMC

Parea Dance Practice

College Discussion

Monday February 13

Orthodoxy 101 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday February 14

Valentine's Day

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

Wednesday February 15

Paraklesis 10:00 a.m.

Thursday February 16

Adult Greek School

Friday February 17

Deliver Hope Children's Donations

JOY Tweens

**Saturday February 18**

**Saturday of Souls**

**Orthros 9:00 a.m.**

**Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

Community Outreach

Men's Retreat 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday February 19**

**Judgement Sunday**

**Orthros 8:30 a.m.**

**Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

Youth Sunday

Mental Health Presentation

AHEPA/ Daughters

GOYA 5:00 p.m.

Monday February 20

President's Day

Bible Study 6:30 p.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 unaware.*  
HEBREWS 13:2

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

**Monday Night  
Bible Study**

Leader:

Fr. John

February 13:  
**Monday** at 6:30  
p.m.

**Women's  
Bible Study**

Leader:

Fr. Stavros

February 14:  
**Tuesday** at 10:00  
a.m.



## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### **St. John's Bookstore - Book of the Week**

Now available in our bookstore - a guide to more fully understand how to "serve" - our parish word for 2023. " **If You Love Me - Serving Christ and the Church in Spirit and Truth**" the writings of Matthew the Poor of the Monastery of St. Macarius the Great, The lesson of love can never be taught simply with words. Rather, it is taught by truly giving yourself and communicating the love of Christ to those you SERVE.

### **Souper Bowl of Caring- TODAY**

Sunday, Feb 12th is not only the BIG game where we cheer for our favorite football team, but also "SOUPER BOWL OF CARING" Sunday a nation-wide, youth-led initiative to TACKLE hunger! Pick your favorite team and join our HOPE & JOY Youth ministry collect donations to benefit Hope Children's Home- a Christian home that takes orphaned children and is entirely supported by churches, private individuals, clubs, and organizations.



"Souper Bowl of Caring"  
Which team will raise the most donations for the  
children of  
Hope Children's Home

### **OCMC Super Bowl Luncheon Sponsored by Philoptochos - TODAY**

Sunday, February 12, Philoptochos will host the annual Super Bowl Chili Dog luncheon to benefit Orthodox Christian Mission Center. O.C.M.C's mission is to make disciples of all nations by bringing people to Christ and His Church. We hope you will join us in the Koulouris Center and help support the Mission Center.

### **College Student Ministry- TODAY**

Our college student group will meet on Sunday, February 12, following Divine Liturgy in the office building. Any college student who moved to the Tampa area to study at one of the many local colleges are welcome to join us for lunch and a discussion. Please RSVP to Vasili Panagopoulos so we know how many are coming at [vasili@stjohnntp.org](mailto:vasili@stjohnntp.org)

### **JOY Tweens**

On Friday, February 17, our JOY Tweens will be delivering all donations collected by HOPE & JOY Youth ministry in this year's "SOUPER BOWL OF CARING" to Hope Children's Home. Please see the JOY Tweens Constant Contact for more details or contact Maraquet Edquid at 813-422-8963.

Did you know...

- ☐ Someone needs a blood transfusion every two seconds
- ☐ One in three people will need a transfusion at some point in their life
- ☐ One blood donation can save up to three lives



Your **Nursing Ministry** will host a blood drive on **Sunday February 19th.**

To donate, you must be at least 16 years old, weigh 110+ pounds, and be in generally good health.

Donating blood is one way you can be a hero and help save lives.

Please consider donating.

## Readings for the Sunday, February 12

### **Prokeimenon: The Lord is my strength and my song. Psalm 117.14,18**

### **The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 6:12-20**

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

### **The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 15:11-32**

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

**February 12**

Topic:  
Sunday of the Prodigal Son

**February 19**

Topic:  
Sunday of Triodion—The Last Judgment

**Liturgical Notes**

**Sunday, February 12 - Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

On this Sunday in the preparation for Great Lent, Orthodox Christians are to read Christ's parable about God's loving forgiveness (Luke 15:11-24). They are to see themselves as being in a foreign country far from the Father's house and to make the movement of return to God, where we truly belong. The parable gives assurance that the Father will receive them with joy and gladness in their journey through Great Lent, their journey home.

**Wednesday, February 15 – 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 February, the Paraklesis will be offered on Wednesday Morning, February 15, from 10:00-11:00 a.m.

**Saturday, February 18- Saturday of Souls**

It is a Tradition in the Orthodox Church to offer prayers for the souls of all of our loved ones who have departed this life, in the hope of the Resurrection to Eternal Life. There are four Saturdays of the year that are dedicated specifically to this purpose. There are three Saturdays at the beginning of Lent and the Saturday before Pentecost. Everyone is encouraged to submit the names of their loved ones to be commemorated at the services (see enclosed form). Everyone is encouraged to attend one of these services (and bring Kolyva) if you are able, as a way of honoring the people in your family who have passed away, once a year.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATE**

Attention Sunday School Parents PreK – 6th!

**"EMPOWERING PARENTS" RETREAT:  
MAKING SUNDAY SCHOOL PART OF YOUR  
EVERYDAY**

**WHAT:** A retreat for ALL parents of Sunday School students  
**WHEN:** Sunday, February 26  
**TIME:** Immediately following church until 1:30 pm  
**WHERE:** The Zaharias Room

**We will discuss:**

- How to bring each week's lesson into every day of the week
- Why we bring our children to Sunday School and why it's important
- How our Sunday School program can better meet the needs of students and parents
- Any topic parents want to discuss – we want your input!



**For Children!**

Lunch, a movie and childcare will be provided (on premises) for children with parents participating in the Sunday School Parents Retreat!

**JOIN  
US!**

**PLEASE TELL YOUR CHILD'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER IF YOU WILL ATTEND**

**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](mailto:vickiepeckham@gmail.com)**

**Prayer List:** Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Elena, Ricky & Michael Gordenina, Tina Chakonas, Felix Ramirez, Dr. Stevtlian, Ivco; 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, Kathy & Andrew Bouzinekis; Anastasia; Virginia Georgiou, Toulia Tsaros, Nellie Pringle, Yolanda Webb, Angela Bougas, Tony Ekonomou, 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, 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.

**GETTING BACK TO THE BASICS OF  
CHRISTIANITY:**  
*How can I be a spiritual leader if i'm not even a  
follower?*

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18  
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

**ALL MEN ARE WELCOME, ORTHODOX OR NOT**

**\$15 (COVERS LUNCH)**

**STARTING WITH DIVINE LITURGY, FOLLOWED BY  
PRESENTATIONS AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

**FR. STAVROS  
AKROTIRIANAKIS**



**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK  
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

2418 W. Swann Ave. Tampa, FL 33609

Kindly RSVP by February 15 to [frstav@gmail.com](mailto:frstav@gmail.com)

**HEALTHY  
MINDS**  
**A SHORT  
QUESTION AND  
ANSWER  
SESSION ON  
MENTAL HEALTH**

- WHY** To destigmatize mental health care through awareness of what it is and what it isn't.
- WHEN** Sunday, February 19, after the Divine Liturgy
- WHERE** in the Zaharias Room
- WHO IS FACILITATING THIS** Amy Wenditz, LMHC  
Mary Ann Konstas, LMHC  
Bill Zaferos, who will offer testimonial on the benefits of mental health care
- TOPICS TO BE COVERED** What is the counseling experience like?  
How do you find the right counselor for you?  
How do you know when it is time to seek counseling?  
How might I benefit from counseling even if I don't think I have mental illness?

What else?: There is no cost or obligation for this session, just an opportunity to hear information and ask questions.

**Altar Boy Schedule**

**February 12**  
Christos Nenos

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

**Captains**  
John Palios

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

**February 19**

Thanos Kantaras  
Michael Galin  
Leo Sengsouvanha  
Kenny Kane  
Philip Kane  
Gabriel Gonzalez  
Andreas Stefanou