

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  
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  
Bill Manikas 813-716-8185  
Dora Morgan 813-613-3738  
Suzanne Pileggi 813-244-5855

**College Ministry:**

**Community Outreach:**

**Dance Groups:**

**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



**August 13, 2023**

**Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)**

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

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

**Icon of the Father with the Epileptic Child**

**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:**

10th Sunday of Matthew ; Apodosis of the Transfiguration ; Maximus the Confessor

**Resurrectional Apolytikion:**

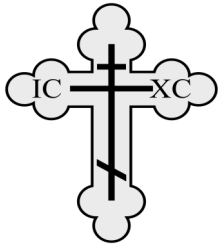
The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Judeans and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred Body. O Savior, the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life. Whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the Giver of Life: Glory unto our Resurrected Christ; Glory unto Your Kingdom; Glory to Your dispensation, O You Who alone loves all.

**Apolytikion of the Feast:**

You were Transfigured on the Mountain O Christ our God, showing to Your disciples Your Glory as far as they could understand; shine upon us the sinners as well, the Light of Yours, eternal, by the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, Glory to You.

**Kontakion:**

Upon the Mount, You were Transfigured and Your Disciples beheld Your Glory, as far as they were able to, O Christ our God; so that when they would see You crucified, they would know that You suffered willingly; and thus proclaim to all the world: that You are truly the One who is the Father's Radiance.



**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 out of 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

**Sunday August 13**

**Orthros 8:45 a.m.**

First Day of Sunday School  
College Student Prayer  
GOYA kick-off 5:00 p.m.

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

**Monday August 14**

**Vespers 6:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday August 15**

**Dormition of Virgin Mary**

**Orthros 8:45 a.m.**  
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

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

**Wednesday August 16**

Fr. Stavros out of office from August 16– 24  
Choir Practice

**Saturday August 19**

Community Outreach  
Young At Heart 11:30 a.m.

**Sunday August 20**

**Orthros 8:45 a.m.**

Dance Practice  
Food Pantry Ministry Meeting after Liturgy

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

**Monday August 21**

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday August 22**

Veterans/ 1st Responders Meeting 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday August 23**

Choir Practice

**Religious Education at**

**St. John**

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

Leader:  
Fr. John

August 15: **Tuesday** at  
6:30 p.m.

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

Leader:  
Fr. Stavros

**Resumes until**  
**September**

### 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 - Book of the Week

#### "Orthodox Wisdom" - Spiritual Inspiration from Church Fathers, Saints and Elders

Financed by the Arts Council of Great Britain and compiled by Fr. Spyridon Bailey, this inspirational book of quotations deals with over 20 topics we encounter each day. For example, on the subject of anger we read, "Someone who bears a grudge while he prays is like a person who sows in the sea and expects a harvest" St. Isaac the Syrian.

### Greek Dance Groups



Are you ready to dance? Y Hara Mas (3rd-6th grades) will be starting Greek dance practices on Sunday, August 20, 2023, from 12:15 to 12:45pm in the Kourmoulis Center (during coffee hour). Practices will continue every Sunday following the Divine Liturgy until our Greek Festival in November. Please contact Maraquet Edquid (813-422-8963) with any questions.

### FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

Will have a meeting after Liturgy on August 20th.  
Come and join us!



### Philoptochos Meeting Today

Grab a cup of coffee and a snack and join us after Divine Liturgy today for the first meeting of our new term.

We have so many new and exciting plans to share with you. From charitable and social events to retreats and special programs, we have something for everyone.



Not yet a member? Come hear what it is all about.  
Try it! You'll like it!

Location: Zaharias Room Time: 12:15 PM - 1 PM

We want to be respectful of your time. The meeting will start promptly at 12:15 PM and end at 1 PM. Please bring your coffee and refreshments with you.

## Readings for Sunday, August 13

**Prokeimenon: Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Psalm 32.22,1**

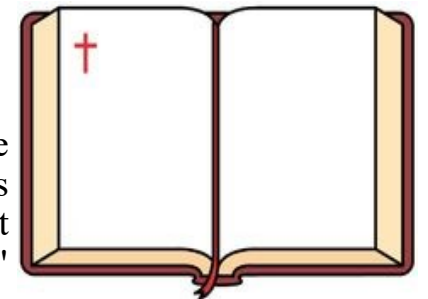
**The reading is from St. Peter's First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16**

Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

**The reading is from Matthew 17:14-23**

At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered,

"O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day."



Liturgical Notes

Monday, August 14 - Great Vespers for the Feast of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary—

In the liturgical tradition of the Orthodox Church, the day begins with the setting of the sun. On August 15, we celebrate the Dormition of the Virgin Mary. But the actual feast begins with the setting of the sun on the evening of August 14. An evening service, Liturgical Notes for August called Vespers, announces each new day. In most parishes, Vespers is only offered a few times a year.



For instance, in Tampa, we do Vespers on January 6 in the evening, as the prelude of the feast of St. John the Baptist on January 7. There are a few others times of the year we offer this service as well. This year, we will begin a tradi-tion of celebrating Great Vespers on August 14. There is a tradition of an “Epitaphios” of the Virgin Mary. Most of us know the term “Epitaphios” as it relates to Christ in the tomb. In fact, the word “Epi-Taphios” literally means “in the tomb.” On Good Friday, we lay the “Epitaphios” of Christ into the Kouvouklion, the tomb of Christ. There is a tradition of doing the same thing on August 14, laying an “Epitaphios” (icon of the Virgin Mary in the tomb) in a Kou-vouklion. I’ve personally thought that the Kouvouklion should be used once a year, only for the Body of Christ, which is why we have not done this service previously. However, because of the pandemic, Felix, our maintenance man, built us a small Kouvouklion because we did not use the regular one this year. So, now we have two Kou-vouklia, the regular large one and now a smaller one. We have also acquired a beautiful Epitaphios of the Virgin Mary. On August 14, we will use the Epitaphios of the Virgin Mary and place it in the small Kouvouklion. And on Good Friday, we will utilize the large Kouvouklion for the Epitaphios of Christ. Great Vespers on August 14 will be at 6:00 p.m. We will display the Epitaphios of the Virgin Mary and the Kouvouklion from August 14-23 (which is the leave-taking of the Dormition).

**Prayer List:** Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: 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; 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, Toulou 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, Vasili, Moriah, Andoni, and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, nat-ural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

Altar Boy Schedule

August 13th  
Anyone attending  
may serve

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

August 20th  
Anyone attending  
may serve

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATE

WELCOME TO OUR 2023-2024 SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR:  
The Sunday School Staff at St. John’s Greek Orthodox Church is looking forward to another great year. All children ages two through eighteen are invited to attend our program.

A Few Announcements:

- 1. All children will remain in church through Holy Communion.
- 2. PLEASE allow the Sunday School Teachers and their students to receive Holy Communion first. PLEASE line up in the center aisle.
- 3. After Communion, all of our 1st – 6th graders will report to the Zaharias Room for our Music Program.
- 4. Parents of 3RD GRADERS and YOUNGER should pick up their children, from their classrooms, after church.

Room Assignments:

- \*\*Toddler 2’s are in the school admin. building on the right. (Must be 2 years old by Sept. 1st)
- \*\*Pre-K3 classroom is the 1st door on the right after you exit the church. (Must be 3 years old by Sept. 1st)
- \*\*Pre-K4 through 3rd grade is on the first floor of the school building.
- \*\*4th Grade through Middle School is on SECOND FLOOR of the school building. (Room numbers on right)
- \*\*High School Boys are in the Media Center in the School Building.
- \*\*High School Girls are in the Conference Rm. in the Admin. Building.



If you have not registered your child, please do so today. Registration will take place in the hall AFTER SUNDAY SCHOOL. If you have any questions or comments, or do not get the Sun. Sch. weekly Constant Contact, please contact Vickie Peckham at 813-758-3102 or (vickiepeckham@gmail.com) Thank you for your cooperation.

## Community News

### Meeting of Ministry Heads on August 29-

The meeting will be on Tuesday, August 29 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This one will be in person, so we can discuss ministry issues for the fall. Each ministry is asked to have a least one representative present at each respective meeting.

### Prayer for College Students - Sunday, August 13

All college students and professors are invited to celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 13 with us. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Fr. Stavros will offer a prayer for all college students as they begin a new school year.

**GOYA Meeting - Sunday, August 13** Our first GOYA meeting of the new school year will be held on Sunday, August 21 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner will be provided. One parent of each GOYAn is asked to attend the meeting. Also, there will be a parents' meeting, while the GOYAns meet with Fr. Stavros, to go over procedures for the year, review the yearly calendar, fill out emergency forms and arrange for parents to sign up to do a meal for one of the meetings.



## Nurse Ministry

**Save the date to donate!**

**The Big Red Bus will be here September 17 for your blood donation.**

**Anyone 18 years or older can donate and save lives!**



## 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**





## OUR 2023-20224 SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS:

We would like to introduce and thank  
our dedicated staff for  
their commitment to the children of St.

John's. Together, with  
the help of our parents, we will strive to strengthen the faith of  
our students in Sunday School.

Director of Sunday School: Vickie Peckham

Music: Maria Xenick

Toddler 2's: Jenny Paloumpis

Pre-K3: Zackie Ameres and Mary Guirguis

Pre-K4: RM. 100 - Denise Panos and Rachel Zaharis

Kindergarten: RM. 101 - Debbie Nicklow and Donna Trakas

Grade 1: RM. 104 - Maraquet Edquid and Doukissa Moshos

Grade 2: RM. 106 - Nicole Mantzanas and Jaime Brewer

Grade 3: RM. 108 - Stamie Garcia and Amy Kafantaris

Grade 4: RM. 201 - Georgia Kane and Vivian Samuel

Grade 5: RM. 205 - Vickie Peckham and

Grade 6: RM. 207 - Stefanie Moran and Katherine Kyrus

Grade 7 and 8: RM. 208 - Betty Katherine Katsamakakis and

Marina Choundas

High School Girls: Mary Ann Konstas

High School Boys: James Konstas



### SUNDAY SCHOOL TOPICS

August 13  
First day of classes -  
The Theotokos

August 20  
Church Etiquette



*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 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**