

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
	Kalliope Chagaris	813-789-4134
Bookstore:	Pres. Denise Stefero	678-464-4833
Choir:	Pauline Spencer, Director	813-390-1782
	Ruth Losovitz, Organist	727-688-2782
Community Outreach:	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
Dance Groups:	H XAPA ΜΑΣ, Alexandra De Maio	813-340-9668
	Bessie Palios,	813-523-0347
	Maraqet Edquid	813-422-8963
	ΙΑΡΕΑ, 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 Triantafylou	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 Kyros	757-672-1920
	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
Sunday School:	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102
Ushers	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
Welcoming Ministry:	Maria Xenick	813-765-3587
Young Adults	Alex Limberatos	262-370-0586
Young at Heart:	Mike Trimis, President	813-784-4872
	Mary Nenos, Vice President	813-935-2096
Youth Protection:	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

November 14, 2021 - St. Philip

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

(Icon of St. Philip, 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

SYNTAXARION:

St. Philip the Apostle; St. Gregory Palamas; Holy Great New Martyr Constantine of Hydra; Justinian the Emperor and his wife Theodora

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 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.

Apolytikion of St. Philip (3 Mode): O holy Apostle Philip, make intercession to our merciful God, that He grant our souls forgiveness of offenses.

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. 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

Education & St. John

Monday Night Bible Study

Leader: Fr John Stefero

Day: **Monday** 6:30 p.m.

Women’s Bible Study

Leader: Fr. Stavros

Day: **Monday** 10:00 a.m.

Greek School

Leader: Magda Myer

Day: **Thursday**, 6:00-8:30pm

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, November 14	St. Philip Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday, November 15	<i>Beginning of Nativity Fast</i> Women’s Bible Study Fr. John Bible Study	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 16	St. Matthew Orthros 9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, November 17	Holy Unction	6:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 18	Greek School	6:00-8:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 21	Entrance of the Virgin Mary Into The Temple Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
	GOYA Movie Night	4:30-8:30 p.m.

Stewardship 2021 Update

As of Friday, November 12, we have received 368 stewardship forms, with a pledged amount of \$485,943.00 for 2021. Don’t forget to fill out your form and send it into the office!

**Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project
November 14-20**

*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:18*

One word in this verse changes the entire meaning of it, and that is the word “in.” Many people misread this verse and think it says “Give thanks FOR all circumstances.” And then people become frustrated, angry and despondent, to think they have to thank God for illness or misfortune. We are not expected to thank God FOR illness or misfortune, but we can still thank God IN all circumstances, even in bad ones. For instance, a person who is ill can thank God for doctors, or a supportive family, or an understanding employer. A person who suffers any kind of misfortune can thank God for life, breath, food and basic needs. When life is difficult, I try to remember to thank God for the little things, the little blessings, and the small positive things that happen even in tough times. It is not possible (or fair) to think we will thank God for all circumstances, but it is possible (though still a challenge) to thank God in all circumstances.

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore — On November 8th, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Synaxis of the Archangels and we remember, in particular, Archangel Michael and Archangel Gabriel. We come together at this feast to honor these divine ministers, our protectors and guardians, and to chant their praises. Throughout the month of November, our bookstore is offering 20% off ANY items pertaining to or depicting angels. Our bookstore is open every Sunday following Divine Liturgy. Stop in and browse our selection.



Epiphany Diver Applications Due December 10—If you are between the age of 16-18 (on January 6), you are eligible to dive for the cross on January 6, 2022 at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Tarpon Springs. See Messenger or visit St. Nicholas' website for link to application. The application must be submitted by December 10 at 4:00 p.m., no exceptions.



GOYA Movie Night November 21—The GOYA Meeting for November will be on Sunday, November 21, from 4:30-8:30 p.m. (notice the different hours). We are going to be watching a movie entitled "To Save a Life." The movie is about two hours. This will allow us a time to eat and have fellowship, to watch the movie and to have discussion afterwards. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend the screening of this movie. With it being Thanksgiving Week, this is the perfect day to watch a movie and go a little longer with GOYA.



Scholarship Opportunities For Seniors— St. John's Greek Orthodox Church is pleased to announce the AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope Scholarship Committee are now accepting applications. The scholarship's purpose is to promote, encourage, and advance education at the college, university and graduate school levels. Please contact Edie Kavouklis at [813.758.0305](tel:813-758-0305), edie.kavouklis@gmail.com, Tom Sakaris, tomsak1234@gmail.com, or DOP President, Dianne Trimis at ddtrimis@gmail.com



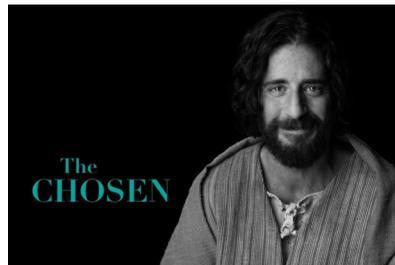
Applications due November 30, 2021.

St. John the Baptist 2021 Community Christmas Card - It's that time again for our annual Saint John the Baptist Community Christmas Card, sponsored by our GOYA. The suggested contribution of \$25.00 will go to assist our GOYA Ministry. This is a lovely way to join in the spirit of love and good will during the Christmas season. GOYA will have a table set up in the community center for you to come sign up and make your donations. Please make checks out to St. John the Baptist GOYA. Our GOYA family is truly thankful to you all for the support you continue to show us through the years. Thank you and God Bless!



Sign-ups for the Christmas Card will be after church Sunday, November 28, Sunday, December 5 and Sunday December 12 in the Kourmolis Center. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Palios at 813-523-0346.

Last call to join us for Christmas with The Chosen: The Messengers! We will be watching this Christmas special together at AMC Theaters at Westshore Mall on Wednesday December 1st at 7:00 PM. Tickets cost \$12.50 each. Please email Maria Xenick at mpxenick@gmail.com by 5:00 PM Friday, November 19th with the number of tickets you would like. Tickets may be paid with cash or checks made out to St. John Greek Orthodox Church with "movie tickets" in the memo line. We look forward to hearing from you!



Readings for 8th Sunday of Luke

Epistle Reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16

Prokeimenon: Their voice has gone out into all the earth / The heavens declare the glory of God.

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.

Gospel Reading is from 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."

Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: 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

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATE

November 14

Topic: Talents & Giving
Prospora: 5 & 6 Grade

November 28

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES
(Thanksgiving)

November 21

Youth Sunday (7-12 Grade Music @ 11:40 a.m.)
Topic: Charity/Thankfulness

December 5

Topic: Stewardship

Hope/Joy Fall Food Drive—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 7- Sat, Dec 11**
- Donate \$25 or more (cash/ check/ gift card) for a Box of Hope-
- Checks payable to Metropolitan Ministries



- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gift certificate for a turkey or ham • 1 box of cereal (hot or cold) 2 cans of fruit • 1 jar of peanut butter 2 cans of vegetables 2 cans of yams • 1 bag or box of stuffing 1 box of potatoes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 cans of black beans • 2 cans of cranberry sauce 1 bag of dried beans • 1 box or bag of rice • 1 can or packet of gravy 1 box dessert mix • 1 package cookies or pastries 1 family box of Jell-O/ Pudding |
|---|--|

Youth Protection Program reminder!

At this time, many of our Youth Workers' background checks are coming up for renewal, which is done every two years. On or about your two-year mark, Praesidium will automatically send an email to you from backgroundcheck@praesidiuminc.com when a new background check is needed. Please be on the lookout for these emails, as the link for a background check expires after two weeks. Also, the Youth Protection Program administrator will notify you via email when it's time to renew your online training by completing the 2-part/2-quiz Youth Safety module and the 1-part/1-quiz Youth Worker Regulations module. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Suzanne Pileggi at smpileggi@gmail.com or (813) 244-5855.

Altar Boy Schedule

November 14 (Captains Only)

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

November 21 (St. John)

Christos Nenos
Constantine Ameres
Zachary George
Alex Findlay
Gianni Matassinni
Grayson Borgeas-Beech
Gryphon Borgeas-Beech

Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!

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

Birthdays

Namedays

November 14	Daniela Cara, Catherine DeYoung, Dimitri Karounos	Gregory, Philip, Philipia
November 15	Calliope Kafantaris	
November 16	Linnea Anderson, Violet Anderson	Ifigenia, Mathaios
November 17	Athina Perry	Genadios, Hilda
November 18	Kourtney Doucas, Alicia Kalojiannis, Shea Larino, Lukas Nicolaou	Plato
November 19	Demetrios Camene, John Mitchell	
November 20		Denahis

Liturgical & Study Notes

Sunday, November 14 –St. Philip the Apostle Each of the Twelve Disciples has their own feastday. They are celebrated collectively on June 30. With Saturday Liturgies being offered during this period of the pandemic, we are celebrating some extra feast days this year, which include the feast of St. Philip, one of the 12 disciples, who is commemorated on November 14.

Tuesday, 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 inauspicious beginning. He is a role model for any of us to do the same.

Wednesday, November 17- 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 Advent—it will be on Wednesday, November 17, at 6:00 p.m. Please bring your Holy Week book as the service will follow the service of Holy Wednesday evening.

Sunday, November 21 - Entrance of the Virgin Mary into the Temple The Entrance of the Virgin Mary (Ta Eisodia) Commemorates when the Virgin Mary entered into the Temple at age two to begin a life of service to God, in preparation for the awesome role she would play in the history of humanity as the Theotokos. This is one of the 12 Major Feastdays of the Orthodox Liturgical Year.