

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

August 15, 2021 - Dormition of the Theotokos

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



(Above, Dormition of the Theotokos)

SYNAXARION: Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary

Apolytikion of the Week (Barys Mode): Lord by Your sacred cross You abolished death, and granted to the thief blessed paradise. The myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy; the apostles did preach the good news at Your command that You are risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.

Apolytikion of Dormition: In giving birth you preserved your virginity, at your Dormition you forsook not the world, O Theotokos; to Life you did pass on, being the Mother of Life itself; and redeeming with your intercessions, our souls from the clutches of death.

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: In giving birth you preserved your virginity, at your Dormition you forsook not the world, O Theotokos; to Life you did pass on, being the Mother of Life itself; and redeeming with your intercessions, our souls from the clutches of death.

Readings for Dormition of Theotokos

Epistle Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 2:5-11

Brethren, have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Reading is from Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

At that time, Jesus entered a village; and a woman called Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve you alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

The Parish Assistance Program Continues (PAP)

Since May 1 2020, we have been offering a Parish Assistance Program, PAP, with BayCare Behavioral Health. The PAP program provides 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 and are sensitive to the values and beliefs of those they serve and provide compassionate care to children, adults, parents, and seniors. Parishioners can contact BayCare to request up to three free and confidential 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.

Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!

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

Birthdays

Yianni Lambrou-August 15
Matthew Peckham-August 15
Nicholas Apostoleres- August 16
Louis Papaefstathiou- August 16
Natasha Stroud-August 16
Jason Williams-August 16
Ekaterini-Petranelis Man-
garides-August 17
Michael Meadows-August 17
Dean Naum-August 17
Cathryn Sandborn-August 17
Will Apostolos-August 18
John Kavouklis-August 18
Isabella Kokkas-August 18
Marian Preston-August 19
Demetri Roussos-August 20
Jeannie Spirides-August 20
Elias Tziotis-August 20
Emma Melton-August 21
Dimitrios Papaconomou-
August 21
Dante Skourellos-August 21

Namedays

PANAGIOTIS, DESPOINA,
ELONA, GES-THIMANI,
HELIOSTALAKTI,
KATHOLIKI, KRISTALO,
MARIETA, MA-RINIKI,
MARY, MARIA, MARIOS,
MAR-CY, PRESVEIA, THE-
OTOKIS - AUGUST 15
ALKIVIADIS, APOSTOLOS,
DIOMIDIS, GERASIMOS,
SARANTIS, SERAPHIM,
STAMATIA, STAMATIS -
AUGUST 16
LEFKOTHEA, MIRON,
STRATON - AU-GUST 17
ARSENIOS, FLOROS, LAV-
ROS - AU-GUST 18
ILIODOROS, SAMUEL,
THEOHARIS - AUGUST 20

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, August 15

Dormition of the Virgin Mary

Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Welcome Back Celebration (Following Divine Liturgy)

GOYA

5:00 p.m.



Saturday, August 21

Community Outreach
(First Presbyterian Church)

8:00-10:30 a.m.

GOYA Lock-In
(Kourmolis Center)

4:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 22

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Altar Boy Meeting (Following Divine Liturgy)

Sunday, August 15 - Dormition of the Virgin Mary—This is one of the Twelve Major Feasts of the Church Year, and commemorates the Falling Asleep of the Virgin Mary. When the Virgin Mary died, all the disciples were present, save for Thomas, who could not get there in time for the funeral. When Thomas arrived, they opened the tomb for him to pay his respects to the Virgin Mary. The tomb was found empty, save for the belt of the Virgin Mary. Her body, along with her soul, had been assumed into heaven. This shows us that those who are righteous will be taken to heaven. It is not just Christ who went to heaven, but all of us can go. The Virgin Mary was not God—she was one of us, and shows to us, in the most excellent example, of what it means to live a life of obedience to God. We honor her above every person, even every angel, as we chant, “Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim (Cherubim and Seraphim are two order of angels, the ones who stand closest to God), you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos, you do we magnify.”



Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project August 15 - 21

The Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful.

Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her.” Luke 10: 41-42

These verses are read on all the feasts of the Virgin Mary, including her Dormition on August 15. Many people misinterpret this verse as being demeaning to those who work. Running around like Martha is a part of every life. Can anyone really afford to be like Mary, and sit at the foot of Jesus all day listening to His teaching? The best portion in life is the spiritual portion, which we partake of when we center our lives around God, rather than trying to fit God around our lives. We shouldn’t be anxious and troubled about many things on Sunday mornings, as an example. We should eagerly come to the needful thing, the Divine Liturgy and Holy Communion. In our busy lives, we shouldn’t forget the needful things of prayer, reading Scripture, generosity, fellowship and fasting. It will always be a challenge to be a “Mary” in a “Martha” world, to center our lives around Christ when the world seems to be calling us to do anything but that. In giving out our portions of time, let us not forget to give the first portion to the Lord. In seeking our share of portions of income and possessions, let us not forget to receive portions of grace from the Lord.

Do you have a heart for Service, Prayer, and Fellowship? Then you won’t want to miss this special day!

On Saturday December 4th, 2021, St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church is teaming up with Christ the King Catholic Church for a day of Service, Prayer, and Fellowship.

The day will begin with **servicing** at Metropolitan Ministries, assisting in preparing food and assembling food items in their warehouse. We are in need of at least 25 volunteers to serve alongside Christ The King's 25 volunteers.

Afterwards both of our communities will meet at Christ the King for **prayer** led by parish leaders and followed by **fellowship**, with a cookout sponsored by Christ the King!

This is a great opportunity to grow in communion with one another and demonstrate Christian service to those in need around our community. All are welcome!

A sign-up link for each of our parish communities will be coming in September!

If you are interested in volunteering at this special day of Service, Prayer, and Fellowship, please save the date and refer any questions to Greg Melton (813-967-2074 or gmelt12@gmail.com).



Sunday School Update

WELCOME TO OUR 2021-2022 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 until 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 ONLINE today. 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.



OUR 2021-2022 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 the parents, we will strive to strengthen the faith of our students in Sunday School.

DIRECTOR of Sunday School:

Victoria Peckham Music/
Pageant/Retreats: Maria Xenick

Toddler 2's: Jenny Paloumpis

Pre-K3: Alexis Scarfogliero and Zackie Ameres

Pre-K4: RM. 100 - Denise Panos and Rachel Zaharis (Must be 4 years old by Sept. 1st)

Kindergarten: RM. 101 - Debbie Nicklow and Donna Trakas

Grade 1: RM. 104 - Jenevieve Elly and Maraquet Edquid

Grade 2: RM. 106 - Georgia Kane, Vivian Samuel, and Nicole Mantzanas

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

Grade 4: RM. 201 - Sarah Sengsou-vanna

Grade 5 and 6: RM. 205 - Vickie Peckham and Stefanie Moran

Grade 7 and 8: RM. 208 - Betty Katherine Katsamakis and Marina Choundas

High School Girls: Mary Ann Konstas
High School Boys: Alex Limberatos

Update and Announcements

St. John's Bookstore — We are so happy to welcome back our Sunday School students! Stop by our bookstore today to check out our wide selection of children's books. Pick out something special for everyone in the family.

Prayer for College Students - Sunday, August 15—All college students and professors are invited to celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 15 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.

Welcome Back Event Sunday, August 15—We will celebrate together the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos and the return of our ministries, including Sunday School. Everyone is welcome to enjoy a luncheon to follow Divine Liturgy in the hall.

GOYA Meeting - Sunday, August 15—Our first GOYA meeting of the new school year will be held on Sunday, August 15 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 meet-ing. 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.

Meeting of Ministry Heads POSTPONED—The Ministry Heads Meeting will be postponed due to Fr. Stavros being out of town. We will keep you updated as we reschedule this.

Mark Your Calendars for Community Outreach — Our Community Outreach would love for you to help out! Mark your Calendars for **August 21**. As we read the Acts of the Apostles and remember the ministry of the early Christians "serving tables", let us become as the early church and feed those hurting in our city! This ministry meets every 3rd Saturday of the month at First Presbyterian Church from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Be sure to contact Greg Melton for details (813-967-2074 or gmelt12@gmail.com)

GOYA Lock-in - Saturday, August 21—Our GOYA will have an end of summer lock-in on Saturday, August 21, beginning at 4:00 p.m. and ending after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 22.

Mandatory Altar Boy Meeting & Training Sunday, August 22 — All altar boys are requested to attend a meeting on Sunday, August 22, following the Divine Liturgy. We will go over procedures on how the altar boys serve, updating and making a few small changes. This meeting is important for new altar boys but also older ones, as we seek to continue to improve our service. The meeting will last approximately 1 hour. Each boy is asked to have at least one parent present. New Schedule to take effect on August 22. As of publication time, the new altar boy schedule is still being finalized. All altar boys will receive a copy of the new schedule prior to August 22.

Fr. Stavros will be out of town next week — Due to the passing of his mother, Barbara Akrotirianakis, Father Stavros will be out of the office Monday through Friday. Please call the office, Alex, or Fr. John for any pastoral emergencies. May Barabara's memory be eternal!

Stewardship 2021 Update

As of Wednesday, August 11, we have received 349 stewardship forms, with a pledged amount of \$475,068.00 for 2021.

Don't forget to fill out your form and send it into the office!

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Evangelos & Caroline Critkas; Constantinos & Kalotina Klimis; Christine Alex, June, Lillian Thomas; Scotty; Desi Serriera; Ashley Kladakis; Dora Kallas, Kathy & Andrew Bouzinekis; Anastasia; Amanda, Andrew, Colton, Miranda, Charlotte Elizabeth, Nuha, Nabeel, Michael, Amal, John, Elaine, Olga, 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, Alex Martinez, Adriana Martinez, Aaron Martinez, Christina Noel Kouzes Houck, Evangeline Xeroteris, Nichole Ross, Daniel Ross, Daniella Ross, 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, Ana Mourer, Debbie Phelps, Mary Voykin, David Voykin, Anne Sakellaris, Denise Badrane, Sia Blankenship, Don Payne, Zhana Temelkova, Stanislava Terzieva, James, Jude and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

St. John Greek Orthodox Church Adult Greek School

Want to Learn Modern Greek?



Teacher born, raised, and educated in Greece with 22 years of experience teaching the Greek language. Adult classes for beginners taught @ St. John Greek Orthodox Church (2418 W. Swann Ave, Tampa, FL 33609). Classes are held at 6-8:30pm on Thursday evenings, starting on September 30, 2021. This will be the first of three sessions, with each session lasting three months.

- Speak Greek
- Read Greek
- Write Greek
- Basic Grammar & more.
- Some Greek History
- BOOK INCLUDED IN PRICE

Price per session is \$100 for church members and \$125 for non-members

Contact Ms. Magdalini Myer: at (813) 523-5771, aspis69@aol.com or the church office at (813) 876-8830