

<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
Alexis Scarfogliero		813-892-1599
Amin Hanhan		813-846-2957
Nick Katzaras		863-581-2430
Suzanne Pileggi		813-244-5855
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

**January 15, 2023**

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

**(Icon of Paul of Thebes- January 15)**

**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:**  
12th Sunday of Luke; Paul of Thebes ; John the Hut- Dweller; Pansophios the Martyr of Alexandria

**Trisagion:**  
Tyler Koulouris 15 ( 1 year)

**Resurrectional Apolytikion (Mode pl. 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:**  
O You Who sanctified by Your birth a Virgin womb, and blessed the hands of Simeon as seemed most appropriate, You came indeed to save us all, O Christ our God. Wherefore bring peace to our nation in time of hostility, and secure in strength, the rulers You have truly loved, as the only one Who loves mankind.

**Apolytikion of the Saint:**  
From infancy fervently you loved and longed for the Lord; \* you therefore renounced the world and every worldly delight, \* and excelled in ascetic feats. \* You set the hut you dwelt in before the gates of your parents. \* Therein, all-blessed struggler, you crushed the snares of the demons. And therefore, O John, Christ has glorified you worthily.

**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:

- Choir
- Altar boys
- Sunday school teachers (who will line up in middle aisle before Communion)
- Sunday school students (who will line up in the middle aisle before Communion behind the teachers)
- Then the rest of the congregation

**Upcoming Services & Events**

<b>Sunday January 15</b>	<b>Orthros 8:45 a.m.</b> Parea Dance Practice	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>
Monday January 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
<b>Tuesday January 17</b>	<b>St. Anthony Orthros 9:00 a.m.</b> Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Wednesday January 18</b>	<b>Sts. Anthansios and Cyril Orthros 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>Paraklesis 6:00 p.m.</b> Choir Practice 7:15 p.m.	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>
Thursday January 19	Adult Greek School	
Friday January 20	GOYA Clearwater Event	
Saturday January 21	Community Outreach GOYA Clearwater Event	
<b>Sunday January 22</b>	<b>Orthros 8:45 a.m.</b> AHEPA/Daughters	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>
Monday January 23	Orthodoxy 101 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday January 24	Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Parish Council 6:30 p.m.	
<b>Wednesday January 25</b>	<b>Orthros 9:00 a.m.</b> Choir Practice 7:15 p.m.	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>

**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

**Education at St. John**

<b>Monday Night Bible Study</b>	<b>Women’s Bible Study</b>	<b>Adult Greek School</b>
Leader: Fr. John	Leader: Fr. Stavros	Teacher: Magda Myer
January 17: <b>Tuesday</b> at 6:30 p.m.	Will resume <b>January 24</b>	January 19: <b>Thursday</b> 6:00 p.m.

## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### St. John's Bookstore

Now Available : Stories of Saints and Animals "[A Taste of Paradise](#) "

The perfect book for animal lovers of all ages although classified as a children's book. Stories of more than a dozen Saints and their special friendships with animals and nature as a whole. Exquisitely illustrated and beautifully written.

Presvytera Denise

### Today, January 15 - Check your blood pressure

Blood pressure clinic today!

Come and get your blood pressure checked after Liturgy and know your numbers.



### Parea Dancers—Our Parea Dance Group (GOYAns)

Will be having a monthly practice one Sunday each month after the Divine Liturgy. Our January practice is on Sunday, January 15.

### GOYA Clearwater Event

The GOYA Clearwater Winter Event will be held January 20-22 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Clearwater. Those in GOYA will be receiving details for how to sign up to attend.

### Philoptochos

The Annunciation Chapter of Philoptochos wishes you and your family a very blessed and happy 2023!

In January we will have several events:

January 22 - General meeting immediately after Divine Liturgy in the Zaharias Room - everyone is welcome to attend, please join us!

### Prayer for Teachers on Sunday, January 29

On January 29, we celebrate the feast of the Three Hierarchs, who are also the patron saints of teachers. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we will offer a prayer for all teachers and anyone who works in education in our community.

### The S.S. St. John Needs All Hands On Deck!

Ahoy!

Tampa's Gasparilla approacheth fast, and we need the Ye Holy Crewe of the SS St. John the Baptist to reconvene! We are looking for volunteers to help out on Saturday, January 28, to assist with parking. This endeavor has been a tremendous support to our parish in the past only made possible by you, our faithful crew!

We need your help once more!

If you are available to assist on Saturday, January 28, please e-mail or text

Alex Limberatos as soon as you can

(262)370-0586 / [chaplainalexl@gmail.com](mailto:chaplainalexl@gmail.com)).

Thanks for all your support, matesys!



## Readings for the Sunday, January 15

**Prokeimenon: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.**

**Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.**

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11**

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

**The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 17:12-19**

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

**Prayer List:** Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: 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, 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, 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.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATE

January 15

Topic: Confession

January 22

Topic: Zacchaeus- Youth Sunday

Liturgical Notes

**Tuesday, January 17 - St. Anthony** - St. Anthony is recognized as one of the fathers of monasticism. He lived in the late 3rd and early 4th centuries. He founded a monastery in Egypt which still exists to this day. He authored many of the monastic rules that are still in practice today. He also was a major contributor to the First Ecumenical Council in Nicea in 325, where the Nicene Creed was first authored. He was one of the leaders against the heresies of Arianism.

**Wednesday, January 18 - St. Athanasios and Cyril** - St. Athanasios was born in 297 and was ordained a priest in 319. At the tender age of 28, he was one of the leaders of the First Ecumenical Council in 325 in Nicea, and defended the Faith against the heresies of Arius. He contributed to the development of the Nicene Creed which was authored in 325 and edited in 381 at the second Ecumenical Council. St. Athanasios became a bishop and later Patriarch of Alexandria. St. Cyril was actually born after the death of St. Athanasios, so even though they are depicted together and celebrated together, they never met one another. Saint Cyril was also the Patriarch of Alexandria and presided over the Third Ecumenical Council in 431.

**Thursday, January 20 – 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 January, the Paraklesis will be offered on Wednesday evening, January 18, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, January 25 - St. Gregory the Theologian** - One of the Three Hierarchs, also lived in the 4th century. He was a friend and contemporary of St. Basil and St. John Chrysostom. He was an accomplished speaker and writer, was the Bishop of Nazianzos and was one of the Bishops who presided at the Second Ecumenical Council of Constantinople in 381, which finalized the Nicene Creed that we recite to this day.

**Monday, January 30 - The Three Hierarchs-** The Three Hierarchs are St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom. Each had his own feastday and all are honored together on January 30, ironically because of a controversy over which was the greatest. (Imagine a church meeting where we de-bated which saints were the most important!) Each of them lived in the 4th Century, each was an accom-plished writer and speaker, each was a Bishop, each authored a Liturgy and each is remembered prominently in the history of our church to this day. The Three Hierarchs are Patron Saints of Teachers and Education.

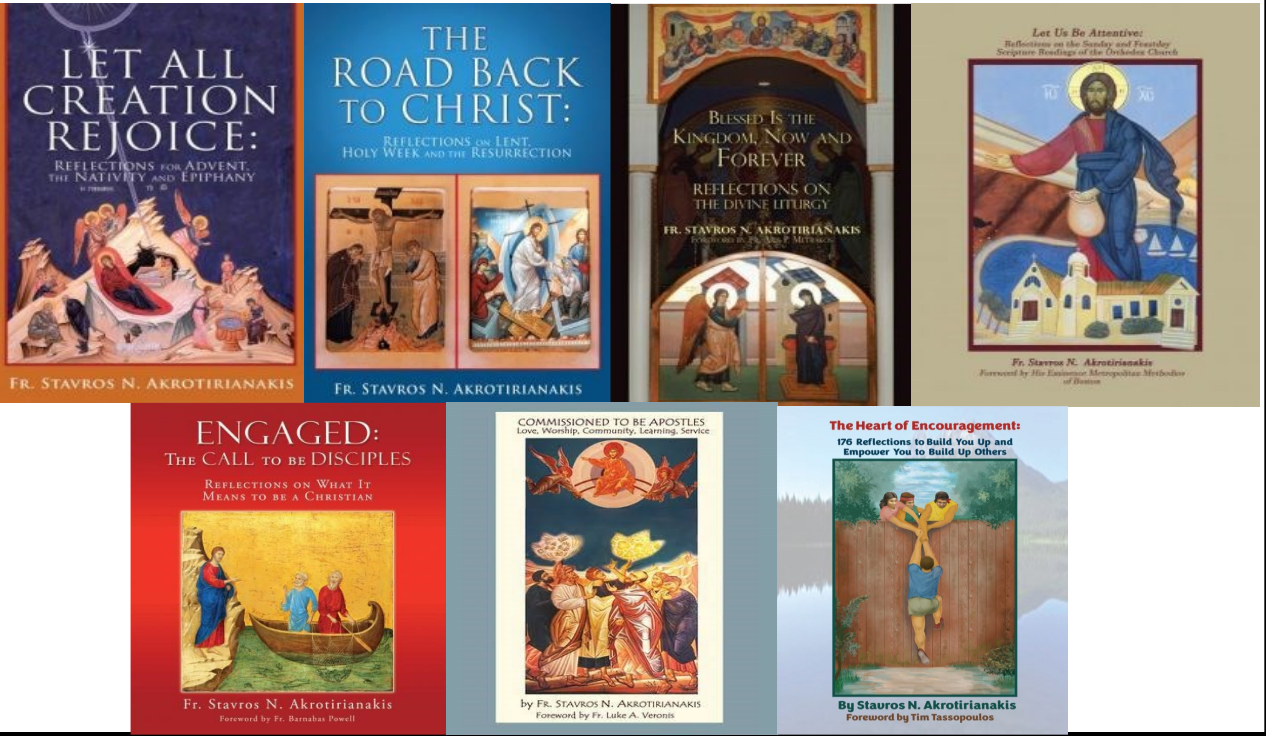
Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project  
January 15-21

When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come.  
John 16:13

In order to be guided by someone, one has to accept guidance. And in order to accept guidance, one has to have a posture of humility, recognizing the need for guidance, recognizing that they are somewhat “lost” or “off the path.” Sin causes all of us to be somewhat lost. Sin is what causes us to miss the mark on God and on relationships with one another. Sin is what causes us to drift from truth. The Holy Spirit is supposed to be our guide. He guides us in all truth. The challenge for us is to be open to truth, and to have that posture of humility and recognition that we have missed the mark. There is an often-used phrase, “leave room for the Holy Spirit.” We are not supposed to micromanage our lives down to the smallest unit. We are supposed to allow the Holy Spirit to come into us and to guide us, where He wills sometimes, and not necessarily where we want to go. More importantly, we need to allow Him to guide us away from the things we shouldn’t be doing, many of which we know we should be doing. A lie is a rewriting of history. We lie all the time. Yet, Jesus tells us that the truth will set us free. (John 8:32) Relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit is a big step in our quest for true freedom.

Father Stavros has authored SEVEN books that are available both in the bookstore and online. They are entitled:

Let All Creation Rejoice: Reflections on Advent, the Nativity and Epiphany  
The Road Back to Christ: Reflections on Lent, Holy Week and the Resurrection  
Blessed is the Kingdom, Now and Forever: Reflections on the Divine Liturgy  
Let us Be Attentive: Reflections on the Sunday and Feastday Scripture Readings of the Orthodox Church  
Engaged: The Call To Be Disciples, Reflections on What it Means to be a Christian  
Commissioned to be Apostles: Love, Worship, Community, Learning, Service  
The Heart of Encouragement: 176 Reflections to Build You Up and Empower You to Build Up Others



Altar Boy Schedule

January 15  
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

January 22  
Thanos Kantaras  
Michael Galin  
Leo Sengsouvana  
Kenny Kane  
Philip Kane  
Gabriel Gonzalez