

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

Daughters of Penelope:

Finance Committee:

GOYA:

Hope/Joy:

Joy Tweens

Men's Fellowship:

Nursing Ministry:

Photography Ministry:

Philoptochos:

Stewardship:

Elena Ketchum 813-229-0144
Gary Ward 813-846-3898
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
Melissa Krinos 813-716-9975
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

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



July 16, 2023

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)

Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)

Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council

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:

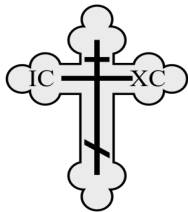
Athenogenes the Holy Martyr of Heracleopolis; Julia the Virgin-martyr of Carthage;
Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council

Resurrection Apolytikion:

Co-eternal with the Father and Spirit is the Word Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation we the faithful both praise and worship Him. For in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the cross and death did He endure and He raised unto life the dead by His all Glorious Resurrection.

Hymn of the Holy Fathers:

Supremely blessed are You, O Christ our God. You established the holy Fathers upon the earth as beacons, and through them You have guided us all to the true Faith, O greatly merciful One, glory be to You.



Hymn 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:

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 out of session the order for Holy Communion will be as follows:

1. Choir
2. Altar boys
3. Then the rest of the congregation

Memorial:

Vladimir Vysotski (3 years); 49th Anniversary of the invasion of the Republic of Cyprus

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday July 16

Orthros 8:45 a.m.
(Fr. Stavros Celebrant)
AHEPA/Daughter's

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday July 17

St. Marina
Orthros 9:00 a.m.
(Fr. Stavros Celebrant)
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday July 18

Chant Class 6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

Sunday July 23

Orthros 8:45 a.m.
(Fr. Stavros Celebrant)

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday July 24

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday July 25

Chant Class 6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday July 26

St. Paraskevi
Orthros 9:00 a.m.
(Fr. John Celebrant)

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Sunday July 30

Orthros 8:45 a.m.
(Fr. Stavros & Fr. John Celebrant)

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday July 31

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Religious Education at **St. John**

Monday Night **Bible Study**

Leader:
Fr. John

July 17: Monday at
6:30 p.m.

Women's **Bible Study**

Leader:
Fr. Stavros

Resumes until August

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

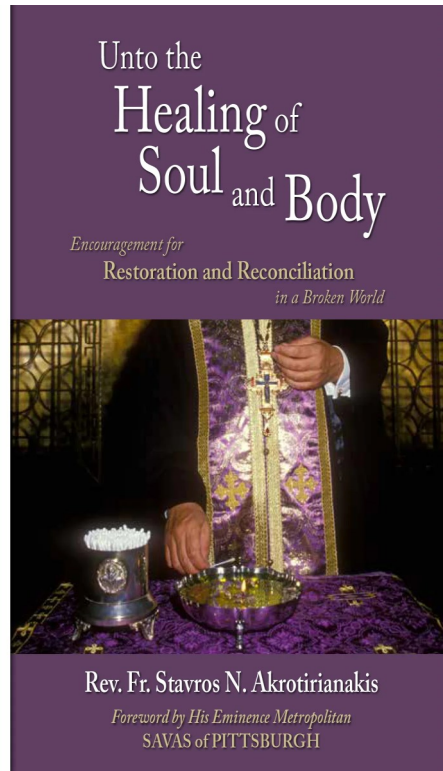
DO NOT NEGLECT TO SHOW *hospitality* TO STRANGERS.
FOR THEREBY SOME HAVE ENTERTAINED *angels* UN-AWARE.
HEBREWS 13:2

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore - Book of the Week

"Holiness - Is it Attainable Today?" by Monk Moses of Mount Athos. The theme and premise of this beautiful book are truly inspiring and full of consolation and spiritual joy for those who would take up the struggle for an authentic spiritual life. Holiness is indeed attainable today!

Fr. Stavros will be out of the office from July 18-July 29 on vacation with his family. I will have very limited access to email. For any pastoral emergencies, please contact Fr. John Stefero at 678-637-4425.



Introducing the Newest Book by Fr. Stavros **Unto the Healing of Soul and Body: Encouragement for Restoration and Reconciliation in a Broken World**

There has never been a greater need for healing in the world than there is today. The Orthodox Sacrament of Holy Unction is intended for the healing of soul and body. What makes this sacrament so powerful is not just the anointing that occurs at the end of the service, but the journey there—through seven Epistle readings, seven Gospel passages and seven powerful prayers. *Unto the Healing of Soul and Body* will serve as an aid on this journey, helping us understand our need for healing, as well as God's role and our own participation in spiritual healing.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

ROMANS 12:2: "DO NOT CONFORM TO THE PATTERN OF THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND. THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TEST AND APPROVE WHAT GOD'S WILL IS—HIS GOOD, PLEASING AND PERFECT WILL."

Readings for Sunday, July 16

**Prokeimenon: Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous.
Psalm 31.11,1**

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Titus 3:8-15

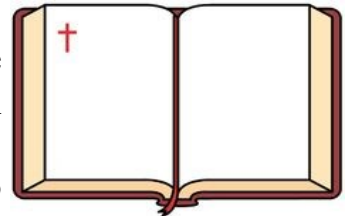
Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned.

When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful.

All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

The reading is from Matthew 5:14-19

The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."



Liturgical Notes

Sunday, July 17 St. Marina

St. Marina brought many people to Christ. She was tortured for her faith. And each time she was tortured, she was healed. She was martyred in the third century.

July 26-St. Paraskevi

St. Paraskevi lived in the second century. She was orphaned at the age of 20 and was left a large fortune by her parents. She sold all of her possessions to help heal human suffering and remained a version her entire life, leading a monastic life. She was strong in eloquence and spoke persuasively to Romans, converting many to Christianity. She was sentence to be martyred by the emperor Antoninus, by being thrown into a cauldron of oil and tar. When she was put in the cauldron, the material cooled instead of burning her. The emperor approached to see what was going on and the steam from the cauldron blinded him. St. Paraskevi then healed the emperor, who set her free. She was martyred by the Emperor Marcus Aurelius, Antoninus’ successor. St. Paraskevi is the patron saint of our eyes, and optometrists.



Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: 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, Toulas 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, Alice Stoccardo, 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, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

Altar Boy Schedule

July 16th

Anyone attending
may serve

Captains

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

July 23rd

Anyone attending
may serve

Fifty- Two Verses

-In-

Fifty- Two Weeks

July 16th- July 22nd

For to him who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. Matthew 13:12

This verse in the context of the Parable of the Sower, as told in Matthew 13. This parable is told in other Gospels as well. The gist of the parable, again has to do with farming. The one who accepts the seed of Christ, who uses what he or she has been given, will have abundance. The one who doesn’t use what he has, even what he has will be taken away. Let’s take the example of the seed. If a seed is sowed into soil, watered, given sun-light, it produces something. The small seed becomes something bigger. If the seed is carelessly thrown on rock, not put in soil, not watered, not given sunlight, then the seed is burned up and become nothing. So if we use what we have been given, the way a seed is properly sown into soil, the seed grows and produces abundance. If we do not use what we have been given, the seed is destroyed, even what we have been given is taken away.



The Parable of the Sower



St. John is responsible to have 6 volunteers sign up each month.

SIGN UP!

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



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



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

INTRODUCTION TO CHANT CLASS

A 13-Week introductory chant class
offered at St. John's Church

REGISTER FOR CLASSES NOW AT
VASILI@STJOHNTPA.ORG

All are welcome
| 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. |
Next class: Tuesday, July 18

Three Class Goals

- Being comfortable reading, intoning, and projecting your voice from the chanters stand
- Seeing and understanding the services from the perspective of the chanter
- Having the knowledge and ability to chant a Divine Liturgy or Sacrament by yourself

ST. JOHN'S 12 DISCIPLES PROJECT



"We must pray with ever vigilant attention. And this will be possible if we understand well with whom we are conversing, and that during such time we are his servants offering sacrifice to God. We must pray with contrition, with tears, with reverence, with serenity and great calmness. Our sins should not stop us from prayer. We should be ashamed of our sins, but they should not keep us from our prayers. Even though you are a sinner, approach God with prayer, that you may be reconciled with him; give him an opportunity to forgive your sins, which he will, in order to reveal his love for mankind."

St. John Chrysostom.



SEVERAL YEARS AGO, ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY INSTITUTED A PROJECT INTENDED TO HELP US TO STRIVE TOWARD DEVELOPING A REGULAR, PERSONAL, PRIVATE, AND MEANINGFUL PRAYER DISCIPLINE. THIS GUIDANCE IS CALLED THE 12 DISCIPLES PROJECT. THIS HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL WITH MANY MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION, DAILY PRAYING "FOR, "THE PEACE FROM ABOVE, AND FOR THE SALVATION OF OUR SOULS..." INTENDED FOR EACH OF YOU AND DIRECTED TO GOD FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUNDREDS OF MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION.



PARTICIPATING "12 DISCIPLES" RECEIVE A PRAYER AND A SHORT LIST OF NAMES, DISTRIBUTED MONTHLY. EACH PARTICIPANT RECEIVES A FEW NAMES, SO THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE PROJECT COLLECTIVELY PRAY FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION. COMBINED, EACH MEMBER OF OUR CONGREGATION IS PRAYED FOR DAILY BY NO FEWER THAN 6 OTHER MEMBERS OF THE 12 DISCIPLES PROJECT! THERE IS POWER IN PRAYER AND THERE IS MUCH POWER IN COLLECTIVE, COMBINED, DIRECTED, AND DAILY PRAYER.

YOU MAY JOIN US AND BECOME A TRUE ST. JOHN PRAYER WARRIOR, WHAT OUR DISCIPLES ARE CALLED. CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE, 813-876-8830, AND PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND YOU WILL BE ADDED TO THE GROWING LIST OF PARTICIPATING MEMBERS OF THE 12 DISCIPLES PROJECT.

