

Parish Priest:
Retired Priest in Residence:
Retired Priest in Residence:
Administrative Assistant:
Bookkeeper:

Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski 813-876-8830
Rev. Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
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 Losoviz, Organist 727-688-2782
Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
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

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



September 17, 2023

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)

Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)

Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)

Sophia & her three daughters: Faith, Hope, and Love

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:

Sunday after Holy Cross; Sophia & her three daughters: Faith, Hope, and Love; Afterfeast of the Holy Cross

Second Antiphon:

Save us o Son of God, who was crucified in the flesh, to Thee we sing: Alleluia. (Three times)

Entrance Hymn:

Exalt the Lord our God and worship at His footstool, for Holy is He. (Psalm 99:5) Save us o Son of God, Who was Crucified in the flesh, to Thee we sing: Alleluia.

Apolytikion of the Feast:

Save O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

Resurrectional Apolytikion:

When the angelic powers appeared at the tomb and soldiers guarding You became as though dead and standing by Your sepulchre was Mary seeking Your pure and sacred Body. For You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the virgin woman bestowing the gift of Life. O You who rose from the dead, Lord, we give glory to You.

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:

You were lifted on the Cross voluntarily, on Your new community that bears Your Name, do You bestow Your mercies O Christ our God; gladden in Your mighty strength, our faithful leaders, granting to them victories, against all their enemies, and may Your help in battle be for them: a weapon of peace, and banner invincible.

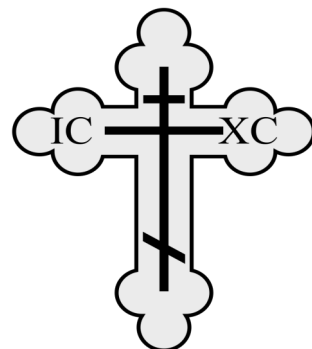
Trisagion Hymn:

Your Cross we Venerate O Master and Your Holy Resurrection we glorify.

Communion Hymn:

Let the Light of Your face shine on us, O Lord. Alleluia.

There will be a procession for the Holy Cross at the end of Liturgy. The service can be found on page 85.



Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday September 17

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Blood Drive 11a.m.– 2:30 p.m.

Dance Practice

College Student Day

GOYA 5:00 p.m.

Monday September 18

Orthodoxy 101 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday September 19

Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday September 20

Choir Practice

Saturday September 23

Youth Worker Training 9:00 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.

Sunday September 24

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

JOY Tweens 12:15 p.m.

Men's Group 5:00 p.m.

Monday September 25

Women's Bible Study 10 :00 a.m.

Orthodoxy 101 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

**Donations for those affected during Hurricane Idalia & Fires in Hawaii.
Contribution basket is located in the front at the Baptistry Area.**

Religious Education at St. John

**Monday Night
Bible Study**

Leader:
Fr. John

September 18:
Monday at
6:30 p.m.

**Women's
Bible Study**

Leader:
Fr. Stavros

September 19:
Tuesday at
10:00 a.m.

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* UNAWARES.
HEBREWS 13:2

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore - Free books today!

We're cleaning and clearing for the upcoming festival. Check out our table in the hall today and help yourself to FREE BOOKS while they last.



Greek Dance Groups

Y Hara Mas (3rd-6th grades) will have Greek dance practice **today**. Please meet by the stage in the Kourmoulis Center at 12:15pm (during coffee hour). Please get your snacks before practice! We will continue practices every Sunday following the Divine Liturgy, from 12:15 to 12:45pm, until our Greek Festival in November. Please contact Maraquet Edquid (813-422-8963) with any questions.

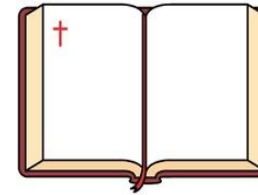
GOYA

The GOYA Meeting for September will be **TODAY**, September 17, from 5:00-7:30 pm. Dinner, as always, will be provided.



Readings for Sunday, September 17

Prokeimenon: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.
Psalm 27.9,1



The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

The reading is from The Gospel According to Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

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

WANT TO LEARN MODERN GREEK

ST. JOHN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



ADULT GREEK SCHOOL

TEACHER BORN, RAISED, AND EDUCATED IN GREECE WITH 24 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 28, 2023. 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 \$150 FOR CHURCH MEMBERS AND \$175 FOR NON-MEMBERS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING, PLEASE REACH OUT TO MS. MAGDALINI MYER AT ASPI69@AOL.COM OR (813) 523-5771



DONATE BLOOD

St. John's Greek Orthodox Church
Sunday, September 17
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

All donors receive*:

- \$20 eGift Card
- OneBlood T-shirt
- Wellness Checkup including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

Fact: One in three of us will need a blood transfusion.



Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code 14583

ID REQUIRED

*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/details.

Donors
Receive



- PLUS -



- PLUS -

Sign up
here!



oneblood
Share your power.

Youth Worker Training

What:

Youth Worker Training Seminar

When:

Saturday, September 23 from
9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Where:

St. John Greek Orthodox Church in Tampa

Who:

GOYA advisors, JOY/HOPE Advisors, Sunday school teachers,
older GOYAns (10-12th grade), anyone who works with youth
Led by: Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis

Cost & Why:

Cost: none

Why: to learn more about how to impart the Gospel of
Jesus Christ to our youth in ways that are safe and
fun and meaningful

Lunch: Included

Agenda: Learn how to lead an icebreaker, discussion, and best
practices of working with youth

RSVP: to Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com by
Tuesday, September 18

Questions: Call Fr. Stavros at 813-394-1038

We Need: 12 people at a minimum to make this work.

Altar Boy Schedule

September 17th

Teddy Kafentaris
Andreas Stefanou
Kris Christopher
Vasilios Panos
Jonah Blankenbaker
Theodore Edquid

Captains

Demetri Passalaris
Nicholas Akrotirianakis
Nicholas Magos
Nicholas Carter
George Xenick
PJ Zelatis

September 24th

Christos Nenos
Constantine Ameres
Zachary George
Alex Findlay
Gianni Matassini
Nathan Moran
Michael Meadows

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

September 17th
Sign of the Cross
9th- 12th Boys will stay in Altar



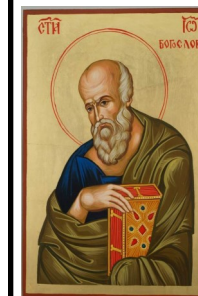
September 24th
The Creed

If you do not receive our weekly Sunday School Constant Contact every Friday afternoon,
please e-mail Vickie Peckham to let her know.
Her e-mail address is vickiepeckham@gmail.com

Liturgical Notes

Sunday, September 17 - Exaltation of the Holy Cross

This Major Feast Day commemorates the finding of the Precious Cross of Christ by St. Helen in the year 325. This day is equal in solemnity to Good Friday, as it draws our attention to the supreme sacrifice made by the Lord for us. St. Helen went in search of the Precious Cross. In Je-rusalem, she found the hill of Golgotha. But she did not know where to search for the cross. Vasiliko (Basil), a sweet scented plant, was found growing on the hillside. She looked beneath the Basil and that's where the cross was found. It is the Tradition of the Church that a Procession is held, where Basil is placed on a tray along with a cross and it is carried above the heads of the faithful. We will hold this procession on Sunday, September 17.



Tuesday, September 26 – St. John the Theologian

St. John was one of the 12 disciples. He was the “beloved” Disciple we read about. He is the author of the Gospel of St. John, the Epistles of St. John and the Book of Revelation. He is the only one of the original 12 disciples to die nat-urally, repos-ing on the island of Patmos, where he had lived in exile, in the year 96 A.D. He was the youngest of the disciples and the last one to pass away.

Community News

Get Together for College Students who are going to college in the Tampa Bay Area—

September 17 after Liturgy

We are exploring a program for college students (primarily those from out of town, but local students as well) who are studying at colleges in Tampa (USF and UT). We have many students from St. John who are studying in other cities and we hope that the churches of those cities are welcoming to them. We want to do our part to welcome out of town college students to our parish. We will be inviting these students to church on Sunday, September 17, and having a discussion with them after Liturgy. And we will see who may need rides, etc. We will reach out to our community afterwards to see who may need rides, or other support, and who may be able to offer that. Stay tuned.



JOY Tweens

Mark your calendars! Our first JOY Tweens meeting of the year, for 4th to 6th graders, will be Sunday, September 24, following Divine Liturgy at 12:15pm.

PAREA DANCE GROUP (7th-12th graders)

PAREA's first dance practice to prepare for the festival will be held on Sunday, September 24, after church. We will have practice every Sunday after that unless there is a GOYA meeting that day (October 1, 15, 22 and 29). We are also planning to have a couple of Saturday practices given the limited time we have before the festival. Please email Marina Choundas at mchoundas@outlook.com if your child will be dancing in the Parea dance group this year and provide your child's name, age, grade and your (the parent/guardian's) email and cell number. Thank you!



Philo托chos Thanks You!

The numbers are in! Thanks to your generosity and your support of Fanouropita Sunday, we are sending \$500 to the Metropolis of Atlanta to be used for Youth Programs. "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Galatians 6:9

LOOK FOR UPCOMING INFORMATION AND PLAN TO JOIN US AS WE AND OUR NURSING MINISTRY PARTICIPATE IN THE MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER WALK –

OCTOBER 28th

INTERESTED? SEE GEORGIA KANE AND VIVIAN SAMUEL FOR MORE INFORMATION!



[This Photo](#) by

September is a Great time to JOIN THE CHOIR!

We sing Sunday Liturgy and Special Services Rehearsal Wednesday Evenings

For more info Call or Text:

813-313-0439

Email:

TSwartzbaugh@ut.edu

Fifty- Two Verses

-In-

Fifty- Two Weeks

September 17th– September 23rd

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

I Corinthians 1:17

We celebrate the Holy Cross day from September 14-21. In thinking about the cross and its relevance for our lives today, the cross was a symbol of humiliation, a form of execution reserved for the worst of criminals. The cross now is a symbol of Christianity, for in dying on the cross, Jesus was able to rise from the dead, and through His death and resurrection the gates of Para-dise have once again been opened. We can know a lot about Christ without knowing Him. Just like we can preach eloquently or be able to talk about Christ with great eloquence. The power of Christianity emanates from the Cross though. It doesn't emanate just from the human beings but from the cross itself. Christ has "unleashed" this power through the Resurrection, and by extension everyone who is baptized into Christ has put on Christ, is imbued with this power. It's not OUR power though, but rather His power working through us. A worthy prayer is to ask Christ to allow His light and His power to shine through us, and to give us the power to serve, to forgive others, and most especially to know Christ.

Just for Laughs



What did Jonah's family say when he told them about what happened before reaching Nineveh? "Hmm, sounds fishy."

What was Moses' wife, Zippora, known as when she'd throw dinner parties? "The hostess with the Moses."

Why couldn't the Israelites initially enter the Promised Land? It wasn't the Pinky Promised Land.

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Melissa Romero, Sandra Reyes, 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; Eva Coppalla; Christopher; Christopher; Peter Nenos; 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, Toulia 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, and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT
ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY?
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FOUR WEEK COURSE

Orthodoxy 101

BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER & OFFERED BY
FR. STAVROS N. AKROTIRIANAKIS, PARISH PRIEST

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND ORTHODOXY 101?

· INTERFAITH COUPLES. THIS WILL
HELP THE NON-ORTHODOX PERSON
UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT WHAT IS
GOING ON IN OUR CHURCH.

· ANYONE WHO IS CONSIDERING
JOINING OUR CHURCH. GOING
FORWARD, THIS CLASS WILL BE A
REQUIREMENT FOR THOSE WHO
WISH TO JOIN OUR ORTHODOX
FAITH.

· NEW CONVERTS TO ORTHODOXY.
FOR THOSE WHO RECENTLY JOINED
OUR CHURCH AND WHO WANT TO
KNOW A LITTLE BIT MORE.

· ANYONE WHO WANTS TO KNOW
MORE ABOUT THE BASICS OF OUR
FAITH, OR WHO WANTS A
REFRESHER

WHAT FORMAT CAN I EXPECT?

A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE WITH PRESENTATIONS, INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS,
AND LOTS OF TIME FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CLASSES WILL BE HELD FROM 6:30-8:30 P.M. IN THE CHURCH SANCTUARY.

Please sign up with Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com, so he has enough materials for everyone.
There is no charge for this class.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH · 2418 W. SWANN AVENUE · TAMPA, FL · 33609

WHEN WILL THE CLASSES BE HELD?

· MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
A TOUR OF THE ORTHODOX
CHURCH: WHAT WE SEE AND
WHAT IT MEANS

· MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
INTRODUCTION TO THE
SACRAMENTS—BAPTISM,
CHRISMATION, CONFESSION,
MARRIAGE, UNCTION

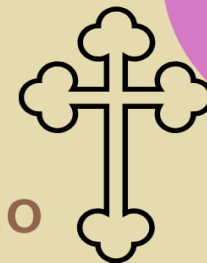
· MONDAY, OCTOBER 2
THE DIVINE LITURGY—
A "TEACHING" LITURGY

· MONDAY, OCTOBER 9
ORTHODOX TRADITIONS—
FASTING, ICONS, PRAYER AND
LIVING AN ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN LIFE

JOIN US FOR OUR

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Saturday, September 30
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Theme: Renewal of Mind and Soul: A Discussion with an
Orthodox Priest and an Orthodox Therapist

Presenters: Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis, priest of
St. John Greek Orthodox Church in Tampa, FL



Mary Ann Konstas, licensed Mental Health Counselor



\$15.00 (lunch included)

Retreat to be held at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox
Church, 2418 Swann Avenue, Tampa, FL

RSVP to kim@stjohntpa.org by Monday, September 25