

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
Pastoral Assistant:	Vasili Panagopoulos	414-254-5134
Bookkeeper:	Debbie Bowe	813-876-8830
Parish Council:		
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
Joanne Dalaklis		781-888-3329
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Nick Katzaras		863-581-2430
Suzanne Pileggi		813-244-5855
Marcelle Triantafilou		612-396-5026
Mike Xenick		813-340-8737
12 Disciples		
	Mathew Balasis	727-421-7376
AHEPA:	Thomas Sakaris, President	201-819-2319
Altar Angels:	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
	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
	ΠΑΡΕΑ, 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 Triantafilou	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 Kyrus	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:	Bill Manikas	813-716-8185
	Dora Morgan	813-613-3738
Youth Protection:	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

April 17, 2022 - Palm Sunday

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

(Icon of Christ Entering Jerusalem)

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:

Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem

Symeon the Hieromartyr and those with him: Abdechalas, Gothazat, Fusik, and another 1,150 Martyrs; Adrian the Martyr; Agapetos the Pope of Rome; Makarios the Archbishop of Corinth

Apolytikion of the Feast (First Mode):

Of the common Resurrection, before Your passion assuring us, from the dead, You raised Lazarus O Christ our God. Wherefore, like the children, we also carry the symbols of victory. To You, the Victor over death, we cry: Hosanna in the Highest, Blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord.

Apolytikion of the Feast (Fourth Mode):

As by baptism we were buried with Thee, O Christ our God, so by Thy Resurrection we were deemed worthy of immortal life; and praising Thee, we cry: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Kontakion (Plagal Second Mode):

In heaven upon a throne, on earth upon a colt, being carried O Christ our God, You accepted the angels' praise and the children's extolling hymns, as they cried out to You: Blessed is He that comes, fallen Adam to recall again.

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

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, April 17

Palm Sunday

Orthros 8:30 a.m.

Luncheon to follow

Great Vespers

Bridegroom Service

Divine Liturgy 9:45 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

Monday, April 18

Holy Monday

9th Hour

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Bridegroom Service

9:00 a.m.

9:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19

Holy Tuesday

9th Hour

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Bridegroom Service

9:00 a.m.

9:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

Wednesday April 20

Holy Wednesday

9th Hour

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Holy Unction

Bridegroom Service

Holy Unction

9:00 a.m.

9:30 p.m.

3:00 p.m.

5:15 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 21

Holy Thursday

Vespertal Liturgy

Passion Service

9:15 a.m.

6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 22

Good Friday

Royal Hours

Decoration of Kouvouklion following

Apokathelosis

Lamentations

9:00 a.m.

7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 23

Holy Saturday

Vespertal Liturgy

Great Canon

Resurrection Service

8:30 a.m.

11:00 p.m.

11:40 p.m.

Sunday, April 24

Holy Pascha

Paschal Liturgy

Agape Vespers

12:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

Monday, April 18

Bright Monday

Orthros

Divine Liturgy

St. George the Great Martyr

9:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m.

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Fifty- Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project April 17-23

The next day, a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, crying "Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"

John 12:12-13

These verses are from Palm Sunday, when a great crowd went out to meet Jesus as He entered Jerusalem. They waved palm branches at Him, and cried "Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" This scene brings me a lot of confusion. First, they were hailing Jesus as the King of Israel. Yet, several days later, the same people in that crowd cried out for Jesus to be crucified. How do we know that the same people participated both on Sunday and on Friday? It was the time of the Passover, when every-one was required to go to Jerusalem for the feast. So there were tons and tons of people. They heard Jesus was coming and ran to meet Him. Undoubtedly, as they shouted "Hosanna!" for the King of Isra-el, they must have wondered where were the chariots and the soldiers to overthrow the Romans. Again, they misunderstood Jesus' mission, which was not political overthrow. Certainly, many were probably disappointed. Certainly they didn't understand who Jesus was. Be-cause the same people became bloodthirsty only days later. We need to remember that our "King" rode a donkey, not a chariot. He had a rag tag group of disciples, not an army of soldiers. As Christians, we need to remember that we are to be like Jesus, to lead with humility and service, not grandeur and self-aggrandizing. We need humble hearts and soft souls. We also need to be like children in the sense that an encounter with Christ in prayer or worship should excite us, as it excited the people of Jerusalem 2,000 years ago.

Pascha Bakesale - April 16 & 17

First come... first serve... while supplies last!
Spanakopita 2lb pan \$20
Spanakopita/Tyropita Triangles 48 pieces \$30
Tsourekis \$10
Koulourakia \$7
Paximathia \$5
South Tampa Sugar Mama Easter Cookie \$4

Palm Sunday Luncheon - April 17

Join us for a traditional Palm Sunday Luncheon
Adults \$15.00
Children \$5
*all proceeds go to Philoptochos charities

Help Needed

Many hands make light work! We need volunteers to make skorthalia and desserts. We also need help setting up, serving and cleaning up. If you can help, please contact Lisa Alsina: (813) 728-1094 - lisaalsina@gmail.com



St. John's Bookstore - Paschal Items now Available!!

Items are now available for the remainder of your journey to Pascha. Holy week service books, red egg dye imported from Greece, wooden and glass eggs with display stands, Resurrection icons, and children's books are some of the many items in stock. Stop by our bookstore today to view our selection.



GriefShare meets every Thursday In-Person at 6:30 p.m. It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you've lost a spouse, child, family member, or friends you've probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions. "Going to GriefShare feels like having warm arms wrapped around you when you're shivering." GriefShare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Each GriefShare session has three distinct elements: Video seminar with experts, support group discussion with

focus and personal study and reflection. We will meet from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays. For more information please contact Donna Hambos at 813-843-8412 or dhambos@msn.com. Books for the program will be provided. Donation for the book suggested but not required. Open to all family and friends. Griefshare remains open enrollment with support towards healing and hope. You can begin at any time.

New Church Directory Photo Shoot

Dear parishioners,

It's time for a new church directory! We will have two photographers at our church taking photos of our parishioners for our new church directory. Please mark down the following dates and times in your calendar to coordinate with your families.

-April 29 (Friday) & 30 (Saturday): 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Everyone photographed will receive a free directory!

The sign-up link can be found here: <https://www.ucdir.com/schedule/login.php>

Username: fl776 Password: photos

Readings for St. John Climacus

Prokeimenon: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

The Epistle Reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Philippians (4:4-13)

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you. But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Gospel Reading is from John (12:1-18)

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Felix; Sylvia Michos; Eva Coppalla; Christopher; Christopher; Mary & Peter Nenos; Tony Ekonomou; Keith Lynn & 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, 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, 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 whom we are unaware.

Liturgical Notes

Palm Sunday Afternoon - The Vespers for Holy Monday

There is a short vespers service of Holy Monday that is generally sup-pressed in parish usage. We have done this the past two years and will continue this year as well. The Bridegroom Service is done Palm Sunday night. The Vespers of Holy Monday is the transition from the joy of Palm Sunday to the sorrow of Holy Week. The service begins with bright colors, green for Palm Sunday, and in the middle of the service, the colors change to the dark purple of Holy Week. The service will be from 5:00-5:45 p.m., with the Bridegroom Service beginning at 6:30 p.m. A text of this service will be posted on the website and made available to the community via email.

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, and Holy Wednesday mornings

These three Pre-Sanctified Liturgies include important Scripture readings—from Exodus, from Job and from the Gospels. The Gospel readings are the last teachings of Jesus to His disciples on Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday. The Gospel of Holy Wednesday morning is the first act of the Passion, the betrayal by Judas. The Scripture readings of these services are an important part of the Holy Week narrative.

Holy Unction

The Mystery of Holy Unction is established upon the words and actions of our Lord Jesus Christ and is a sacrament of the church. This is a sacrament of healing and transformation from a bruised and hurt world to the deliverance from sin and corruption. All sacraments of the church are administered by the priests of the church. In fact, the primary role and identity of the priests of the church is to be the celebrant of the sacraments. Because of this, **Holy Unction may not be taken home**. If you wish to have this sacrament offered, Father Stavros is happy to offer it at the church, on a day and time of your choosing. For those unable to come to church, Father will be happy to bring it to shut-ins who are unable to come to church. *For those who are not Orthodox and cannot receive Holy Unction, as it is a sacrament, Fr. Stavros also has oil from the tomb of St. Nektarios, which can be administered to anyone. The oil will be administered also on Holy Wednesday for those who are not Orthodox, so that they can still receive prayer and anointing.*

Bridegroom Service for the Last Supper

There is actually a Bridegroom Service which is traditionally celebrated on Holy Wednesday evening. However, this service has been suppressed in most parishes because of the Sacrament of Holy Unction. This service is important because it contains the Gospel lesson of the Last Supper. We will celebrate this service, beginning at 5:15 p.m. The evening Holy Unction service will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Thursday Evening - The Service of the Passion

The service of the 12 Gospels and procession of the crucified Lord is the longest service of the Church year. On Holy Thursday, light and darkness, joy and sorrow are mixed. At the “upper room” and in Gethsemane the light of the kingdom and the darkness of hell come together. The way of life and the way of death converge. **However, one cannot truly celebrate the Resurrection if he/she has not stood at the foot of the cross of Christ.** As one prayer of the Sun-day Orthros states, “Through the Cross, joy has come to all the world.” Without the Crucifixion, there could be no Resurrection. Thus, after the Resurrection Service on Holy Saturday Night, one could argue that Holy Thursday evening is the next most-important service of Holy Week. *If you are unable to attend the entire service, then please come from 7:30-8:30 p.m., witness the Procession of the Crucified Lord, venerate His precious Body on the Cross and leave early. But please do not abandon the Lord as He hangs on the Cross. Holy Thursday evening is the most powerful service of Holy Week and the entire church year.*

Good Friday

Decoration of the Kouvouklion will be done following the Royal Hours on Good Friday. All are invited to come and help decorate the tomb of Christ. Please, however, work quietly—this job is meant to be solemn not social.

Apokathelosis

The Service of Apokathelosis (the Un-Nailing) re-enacts the narrative of Christ descending from the Cross. The figure of Christ is removed from the cross and wrapped in a new linen cloth, carried into the sanctuary and placed on the altar table. In the same service, a procession with the Epitaphios (embroidery of the dead Christ) is made around the interior of the church, and the Epitaphios is placed in the Kouvouklion (tomb of Christ).

The Lamentations and the Epitaphios Procession

The Lamentations are short, poetic verses lamenting the Passion, Death and Burial of Christ. Interspersed with the Lamentations are Psalm verses from Psalm 119, the same verses we sing at a funeral service, which is appropriate, as the Lamentations are the funeral service for the Lord. The service starts with the Canon, and after the Canon is complete, the priest opens the Royal Doors, the lights are turned up, and the Lamentations begin. Everyone is invited to sing together. Books will be provided for your use. Last year, we did the procession indoors, walking around both the interior of the hall and the church, with everyone having an opportunity to pass under the Epitaphios, symbolizing how one day we hope to pass through death to eternal life. This went very smoothly last year and people indicated that they would like us to continue doing the procession like this. Thus the procession will be indoors this year.

Holy Saturday

Anastasis Service

The service of the Anastasis will begin at 11:00 p.m. on Holy Satur-day evening, with the chanting of the Canon. Shortly before mid-night, the light of the Resurrected Christ will be given to all the faith-ful. We will then go outside, weather permitting, to read the Resur-rection Gospel and sing the Christos Anesti for the first time. Please proceed outside in an orderly manner so that we can complete this service in a timely manner. We will then proceed back into the church for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. **Please plan to stay for the entirety of the Divine Liturgy on Pascha, the most joyous Liturgy of the year, and to receive Holy Communion. After all, we don't break our fast with meatballs and cheese, but with Holy Communion.** There will be a reception following the Divine Liturgy for all in attendance, in the Kourmolis Center. After making the jour-ney through Holy Week together, what better way to continue our celebration than to sit down as a family and break bread together on the greatest feast day of the church year.

Blessing of Baskets of Food

It is the Orthodox Tradition on Pascha that we not only bless eggs but other types of food that will go on the table for the Paschal Banquet. Therefore, if anyone wishes to bring a basket of food to be blessed on Pascha night, they may come and place it beneath or around the table on the Solea where the basket of Easter eggs will be.

Sunday School News and Update

Sunday, April 17

Topic: Holy Week - Palm Sunday
All Students Involved in Palm Sunday
Procession

Friday, April 22

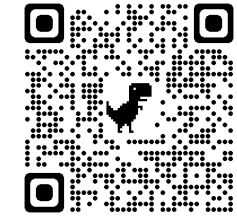
Topic: Good Friday Retreat

Sunday, April 24

PASCHA - No Sunday School

Sunday, May 1

Thomas Sunday/Holy Week Highlights



Holy Friday Vigil - Sign Up Is Live!

As is tradition, we will be holding vigil in reading the Psalter in front of Christ upon the Cross following Holy Thursday evening.

The sign-up genius is live for sign-up and can be accessed at the following link or QR Code:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0548a5af28a1fe3-vigil1>

Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!

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

Birthdays

Namedays

April 17	William Comminos, Pete Kabougeris, Samuel Thomas	
April 18	Nikos Pagratis	
April 19	Vasilios Panos	
April 20	Zachary George, Maverick Horack	Zakhaios
April 21	Nicholas Tsiabasis	Alexandra, Faistos, Ianos, January
April 22	Leo Saliba	Nathanael, Nearhos
April 23		Achilles, Doukas, Elizabeth, Lazaros, Thavmastos

Altar Boy Schedule

April 17-24

Special Holy Week Schedule will be mailed out



Captains

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

May 1

St. Matthew
George Xenick
Nicholas Magos
Michael Galin
Leo Sengsouvana