

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 Balas 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
 Η ΧΑΡΑ 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

College Ministry:

Community Outreach:

Dance Groups:

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

Sunday School:

Ushers

Veterans/1st Responders

Welcoming Ministry:

Women's Bible Study:

Young Adults

Young at Heart:

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

Youth Protection:



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



June 18, 2023

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)
Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)
Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)
THE CALL OF THE 1st DISCIPLES

Upcoming Services & Events

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:

2nd Sunday of Matthew; Leontius, Hypatius, & Theodulus the Martyrs of Syria; Leontios the Myrrh-Streamer of Argos

Resurrection Apolytikion:

The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Judeans and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred Body. O Savior, the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life. Whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the Giver of Life: Glory unto our Resurrected Christ; Glory unto Your Kingdom; Glory to Your dispensation, O You Who alone loves all.

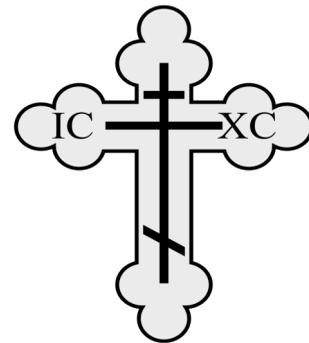
Kontakion:

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.

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.



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. Then the rest of the congregation

Sunday June 18

**Orthros 8:45 a.m.
Father’s Day**

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday June 19

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday June 20

Chant Class 6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

Saturday June 24

***Nativity of St. John the Baptist (changed from 6/23)*
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

Sunday June 25

**Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
AHEPA sponsoring Artoklasia**

Monday June 26

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday June 27

Chant Class 6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday June 28

**Sts. Peter and Paul
Orthros 5:00 p.m.**

Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m.

Religious Education at St. John

Monday Night Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. John

June 19: 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 unaware.*
HEBREWS 13:2

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore -SUMMER READING

Summer isn't a time to take a vacation from your faith. Dig into God's Word and find deep refreshment for your heart, mind, and soul. Our bookstore is packed with books geared to all age levels. Stop in and stock up for your summer reading.

Presvytera Denise and Elaina

The American Foundation for Greek Language & Culture (AFGLC)

The American Foundation for Greek Languages & Culture (AFGLC) Scholarships are now available to High School Seniors and College Students. The AFGLC Dr. Demetrios G. Halkias, the AFGLC Peter & Sophia Kourmolis, the AFGLC Dr. Byron P. Palls Scholarships.

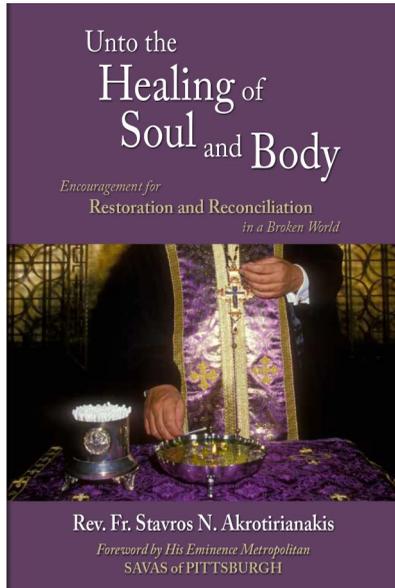
Deadline to apply **June 25th. Applications are available at the Baptismal table upfront!**

For more information contact Kalliope at 813-789-4134 or khalkias@afglc.org.

Metropolis Clergy Laity in Tarpon Springs from
June 20th—June 25th

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.



Readings for Sunday, June 18

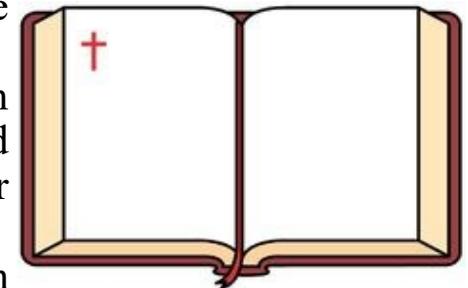
Prokeimenon: Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Psalm 32.22,1

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 2:10-16

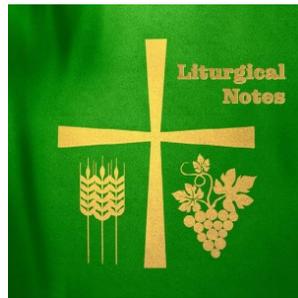
Brethren, glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

The reading is from Matthew 4:18-23

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed Him. And He went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.



Liturgical Notes



Saturday, June 24, Nativity of St. John the Baptist (Evening Divine Liturgy)

This marks the feast day of the Nativity (birth) of St. John the Baptist, the Forerunner of the Lord and patron saint of our parish. **We will celebrate Liturgy on Saturday, June 24,** instead of the previously scheduled service on Friday, June 23.

Wednesday, June 28, Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, the Para-mounts of the Apostles (Evening Divine Liturgy)

Sts. Peter and Paul are the two greatest of the Apostles who were at one time two of the greatest sinners. St. Peter denied Christ and St. Paul was persecuting and killing Christians. God used these men for good despite their sins, a lesson for all of us. Their feast day is June 29. We will celebrate the Divine Liturgy the evening be-fore, on Thursday, June 28.

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Kostadinos Booras; Michael I, Anna Maria & Thomas Reilly; Jim Armstrong, Caliope 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 Klidakis; 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, 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

June 18th
**Anyone attending
may serve**

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

June 25th
**Anyone attending
may serve**

A Special Thank You to all who **volunteered, donated, and helped** make this weekend's Junior Olympics a great success. Thank you for making a fun, safe, and edifying environment for the youth of our district and helping bring back this bonding event!



**Fifty- Two Verses
-In-
Fifty- Two Weeks
June 18-24**

And a scribe came up and said to Jesus "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay His head."

Matthew 8:19-20

Being a Christian is hard! There is no easy way to the Kingdom of God, or really to anything else worthwhile in life. A scribe was eager to follow Jesus, even saying to Him "I will follow WHEREVER you go." That's a bold statement. And Jesus response was cautious. Following is good, but be aware that this path is hard. Every one wants a place, security, ease—the Christian works for the eternal place, and that means that on the journey, there might not be the earthly place (wealth), security or ease.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

"A DAY TO CELEBRATE YOUR
SUPERHERO"

"AS A FATHER HAS COMPASSION
ON HIS CHILDREN, SO THE LORD
HAS COMPASSION ON THOSE WHO
FEAR HIM." PSALM 103:13:



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

Tuesday's | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Next class: Tuesday, June 20

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

Artoklasia



Sponsored by AHEPA

Join us for

The Blessing of the
Five Loaves- June 25th