

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: Vasili Panagopoulos 414-254-5134
Bookkeeper: Debbie Bowe 813-876-8830
Administrative Assistant: Kim Rojas 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 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: Tara Swartzbaugh, Director 813-313-0439
Ruth Losovitz, Organist 727-688-2782
College Ministry: Vasili Panagopoulos 414-254-5134
Community Outreach: Greg Melton 813-967-2074
Dance Groups: HXAPA ΜΑΣ, Alexandra De Maio 813-340-9668
Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963
IIAPEA, Marina Choundas 813-877-6136
Genie Carter 813-363-2362
IIANHITYPI, Alexandra De Maio 813-340-9668

Daughters of Penelope: Elena Ketchum 813-229-0144
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
Joy Tweens: Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963
Men's Fellowship: Fr. Stavros 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
Veterans/1st Responders: Fr. John Stefero 813-876-8830
Welcoming Ministry: Maria Xenick 813-765-3587
Young Adults: Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-876-8830
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

February 19, 2023

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

(Icon of -Judgment Sunday- February 19)

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:
The Holy Apostles of the Seventy Philemon, Apphia, Achippus, and Onesimus

Resurrectional Apolytikion (Mode 3)
Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and first born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great mercy.

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:

When You come O God, upon the earth with glory, and the universe will tremble, and the river of fire will bring men before Your judgment seat, and the books will be opened and the secrets are disclosed; then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, and count me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O Most Righteous Judge.

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 February 19	Judgement Sunday Orthros 8:30 a.m. Youth Sunday Health Minds Mental Health Presentation AHEPA/ Daughters GOYA 5:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday February 20	President’s Day Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday February 21	Orthros 8:00 a.m. Parish Council 6:30 p.m.	Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m
Wednesday February 22	Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice	
Thursday February 23	Adult Greek School	
Friday February 24	GOYA Lenten Retreat	
Saturday February 25	Second Saturday of the Souls Orthros 9:00 a.m. GOYA Lenten Retreat YAH Meeting 11:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Sunday February 26	Orthros 8:30 a.m. Empowering Parents Retreat Forgiveness Vespers 6:00 p.m. Sunday School Pre- Lent Retreat	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday February 27	Clean Monday Beginning of Great Lent Canon of St. Andrew 10:00 a.m. Holy Unction 6:00 p.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


Religious Education at St. John

Monday Night Bible Study	Women’s Bible Study
Leader: Fr. John	Leader: Fr. Stavros
February 20: Monday at 6:30 p.m.	February 22: Wednesday at 10:00 a.m.

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore - Book of the Week

Troubled by wounds from your past? Now available in our bookstore - *"Healing your Wounded Soul - Growing from Pain to Peace"* by Fr. Joshua Makoul, Orthodox priest and licensed therapist. Fr. Joshua shows how we can draw on the insights and resources of both the Church and modern psychology to help us come to terms with our past and further our path to union with God.



DONATE BLOOD

St. John's Greek Orthodox Church
Sunday, February 19
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM


All donors will receive*:
- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **OneBlood Long Sleeve T-shirt**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

Fact: A single car accident victim can require 100 pints of blood.


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



oneblood

Mental Health Presentation- TODAY


When: After Divine Liturgy
Where: In the ZAHARIAS Room
Facilitating the Session:
Amy Wenditz, LMHC
Mary Ann Konstas, LMHC
Bill Zaferas- will offer testimonial on benefits of mental health care
There is no cost or obligation!

GOYA

Join us **TODAY** from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Din-ner, as always, will be provided. The program this month will include a “siblings retreat” for any GOYAns who have siblings in GOYA. This will be led by Fr. Stavros. For the GOYAns who don’t have a sibling in GOYA, Vasili will lead the discussion.

Greece, Cyprus and Turkey at a Crossroads

The Archons of Tampa Bay, the Holy Trinity Lecture Series and the PanHellenic Federation of Florida cordially invite you to a presentation on “Greece, Cyprus and Turkey at a Crossroads: The Importance of U.S. Policy in the Eastern Mediterranean.” The Presentation will be by Nick Larigakis, President and CEO of the American Hellenic Institute. It will be on Thursday, February 23 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Matheos Hall at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 409 Old Coachman Road in Clearwater. A reception will follow. There is no charge for this event.



Your Nursing Ministry will host a blood drive **TODAY**

Did you know...

- Someone needs a blood transfusion every two seconds
- One in three people will need a transfusion at some point in their life
- One blood donation can save up to three lives



HEALTHY MINDS

A SHORT QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

WHY To destigmatize mental health care through awareness of what it is and what it isn't.

WHEN Sunday, February 19, after the Divine Liturgy

WHERE In the Zaharias Room

WHO IS FACILITATING THIS Amy Wenditz, LMHC
Mary Ann Konstas, LMHC
Bill Zaferas, who will offer testimonial on the benefits of mental health care

TOPICS TO BE COVERED What is the counseling experience like?
How do you find the right counselor for you?
How do you know when it is time to seek counseling?
How might I benefit from counseling even if I don't think I have mental illness?

What else?: There is no cost or obligation for this session, just an opportunity to hear information and ask questions.

Readings for the Sunday, February 19

Prokeimenon: Great is our Lord, and great is his power. Psalm 146.5; 134.3

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 8:8-13, 9:1-2

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:31-46

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Liturgical Notes

Sunday, February 19 – Judgment Sunday (Meatfare)

Judgment Sunday is also called - Meatfare Sunday because it is the last Sunday, according to the fasting canons, that the faithful eat meat before Easter. During the following week, we do not fast on Wednesday and Friday (except for meat, of course). On this Sunday, we call to mind something that has not even happened yet: the Second Coming of Christ. Our Lord has promised us that He will come again, “to judge the living and the dead, and His Kingdom will have no end” (from the Nicene Creed). We call to mind the “criteria” of our entrance into Paradise, as our Lord said in today’s Gospel: “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.”

Sunday, February 26 - Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare)

Cheese-Fare Sunday is the last day in which dairy products are allowed. The Monday after Cheese-Fare Sunday is the official beginning of the Great Lent; this Monday is also called Clean Monday (Kathara Deftera). On Cheese-Fare Sunday the Church commemorates the sending away of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Paradise. Adam and Eve were in complete harmony with God, nature and themselves. They were tempted by the devil and they agreed to eat from the tree of knowledge, in order that they themselves might become gods. The result was fatal; they were cast out of Paradise and sin came into the world. The Holy Fathers selected this event to remind us of our obligations to God and about the laws of fasting and Christian behavior (Matthew 6:14-21).

Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project

February 19-25

And the King will answer them, “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.”

Matthew 25:40

We serve God by serving others. That is the mes-sage of this verse, which is part of the Gospel read-ing on the Sunday of the Last Judgment. When we serve others, it is as if we are serving the Lord Him-self. When we fail to serve others, it is as if we are failing to serve the Lord Himself. Ideally, (and it is a lofty ideal) we see the Lord in other people. We superimpose His icon over their faces and treat oth-ers as if we were treating Him directly. If Jesus walked into the room, looking like the icon on the icon screen of our churches, we certainly would stop what we were doing and serve Him. When the wrong person comes in at the wrong time, we often-times fail to run to serve. If it was the Lord, it would never be the wrong person or the wrong time. This is the kind of attitude, again ide-ally, that we take towards each person. Christ says our judgment is based on how consistently we do this!

Altar Boy Schedule		
February 19 Thanos Kantaras Michael Galin Leo Sengsouvanna Kenny Kane Philip Kane Gabriel Gonzalez Andreas Stefanou	Captains John Palios Genaro Scarfogliero Nicholas Akrotirianakis Nicholas Carter James Magos Demetri Passalaris George Xenick Nicholas Magos PJ Zelatis	February 26 GOYAns ONLY

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Elena, Ricky& Michael Gordenina, Tina Chakonas, Felix Ramirez, Dr. Stevtlian, Ivco; 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 Christoph-oros; 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, Toulas Tsaros, Nellie Pringle, Yolanda Webb, Angela Bougas, Tony Ekonomou, 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, Ste-ven, 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 Mani-kas, 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 dis-aster, and all of whom we are unaware.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATE

February 19

Topic:

Sunday of Triodion—The Last Judgment

February 26

Topic:

Forgiveness Sunday

Attention Sunday School Parents PreK – 6th!

"EMPOWERING PARENTS" RETREAT:
MAKING SUNDAY SCHOOL PART OF YOUR
EVERYDAY

WHAT: A retreat for ALL parents of Sunday School students
WHEN: Sunday, February 26
TIME: Immediately following church until 1:30 pm
WHERE: The Zaharias Room

We will discuss:

- How to bring each week's lesson into every day of the week
- Why we bring our children to Sunday School and why it's important
- How our Sunday School program can better meet the needs of students and parents
- Any topic parents want to discuss – we want your input!

JOIN US!

For Children!
Lunch, a movie and childcare will be provided (on premises) for children with parents participating in the Sunday School Parents Retreat!

PLEASE TELL YOUR CHILD'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER IF YOU WILL ATTEND

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
WORSHIP • LOVE • COMMUNITY
LEARNING • SERVICE
Tampa, Florida

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

Ministry News & Updates

GOYA

Our 18th Annual GOYA Lenten Retreat will be held on Friday, February 24-Sunday, February 26 at the Mary Help of Christians Conference Center in East Tampa. This retreat will be for GOYAns from all over the Tampa Bay area. We will welcome our guests to Divine Liturgy at St. John on Sunday, February 26.

Young At Heart

February 25 Join us for a gathering with potluck luncheon and program. There will be a video presentation and Orthodox Trivia Quiz