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         813-760-6289           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 Triantafflou         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         813-319-2319           Altar Angels: </th
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Pastoral Assistant:         Vasili Panagopoulos         414-254-5134           Bookkeeper:         Debbie Bowe         813-876-8830           Administrative Assistant:         Kim Rojas         813-876-8830           Parish Council:         Standard Resident         813-876-8830           John Zelatis, President         813-727-2271         813-727-2271           Euripides Panos, Vice President         813-352-3972         813-760-6289           Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary         813-846-3898         954-295-6665           Amin Hanhan         813-846-2957         Nick Katzaras         863-581-2430           Suzanne Pileggi         813-846-2957         Nick Katzaras         863-581-2430           Suzanne Pileggi         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 Mi
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Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963 ПАРЕА, Marina Choundas 813-877-6136
Camia Cantan 912 262 2262
Genie Carter 813-363-2362
ПАNHГҮРІ, Alexandra De Maio 813-340-9668
Daughters of Penelope:Elena Ketchum813-229-0144Finance Committee:Gary Ward813-846-3898
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 Findlay813-476-9632Philoptochos:Melissa Krinos813-716-9975
Stewardship: Chris Kyrus 757-672-1920
George Mitseas 813-748-1220
Sunday School: Vickie Peckham 813-758-3102
Usherš 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 <b>Youth Protection:</b> Suzanne Pileggi 813-244-5855



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# 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:**

of praise; for you O Forerunner the witness of from the unquenchable fire, and count 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 se-The memory of the just is observed with hymns crets are disclosed; then deliver me 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:

- Choir
- Altar boys
- Sunday school teachers (who will line up in middle aisle before Communion)
- Sunday school students (who will line up in the middle aisle before Communion behind the teachers)
- Then the rest of the congregation

# **Upcoming Services & Events**

**Sunday February 19 Judgement Sunday** 

Orthros 8:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Youth Sunday

Health Minds Mental Health Presentation

AHEPA/ Daughters GOYA 5:00 p.m.

Monday February 20 President's Day

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Orthros 8:00 a.m. **Tuesday February 21** 

Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m

Parish Council 6:30 p.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.

**Sunday February 26** Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

**Empowering Parents Retreat** Forgiveness Vespers 6:00 p.m. Sunday School Pre- Lent Retreat

**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.

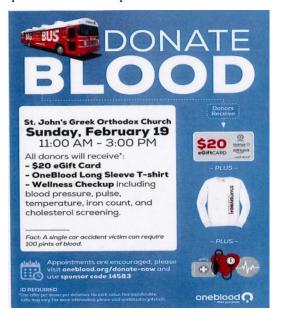
# **Religious Education at** St. John

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



# Mental Health Presentation- TODAY

When: After Divine Liturgy Where: In the ZAHARIAS Room

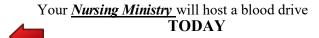
Facilitating the Session:

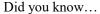
Amy Wenditz, LMHC Mary Ann Konstas. LMHC

Bill Zaferas- will offer testimonial on benefits

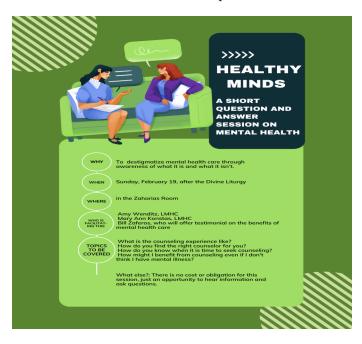
of mental health care

There is no cost or obligation!





- ☐ 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



#### **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.

## 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 work-manship 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 others 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

Nicholas Akrotirianak 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 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, Toula Tsaros, Nellie Pringle, Yolanda Webb, Angela Bougas, Tony Ekonomou, Ron, Jason Vickers, Rex Garrison, Ann Demas, Christina Noel Kouzes Houck, Evangeline Xeroteres, 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, John Alexander, Michael Romero, George Hambos, Dean Kondilis and Family, Bill and Nancy Manikas, 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 disaster, 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:

NIOL

US!

- 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!

#### For Children!

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

EASE TELL VOLID CHILD'S CUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHED IS VOLUMILL ATTEND

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 Hear

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