

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
Retired Priest in Residence: Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski 813-876-8830
Retired Priest in Residence: Rev. Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
Pastoral Assistant: Position is Available
Administrative Assistant: Kim Rojas 813-876-8830
Bookkeeper: Debbie Bowe 813-876-8830

Parish Council:
 John Zelatis, President 813-727-2271
 Euripides Panos, Vice President 813-352-3972
 Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary 813-760-6289
 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: Mathew Balasis 727-421-7376
 Thomas Sakaris, President 201-819-2319
Altar Angels: Kalliope Chagaris 813-789-4134
Bible Study: Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
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: 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

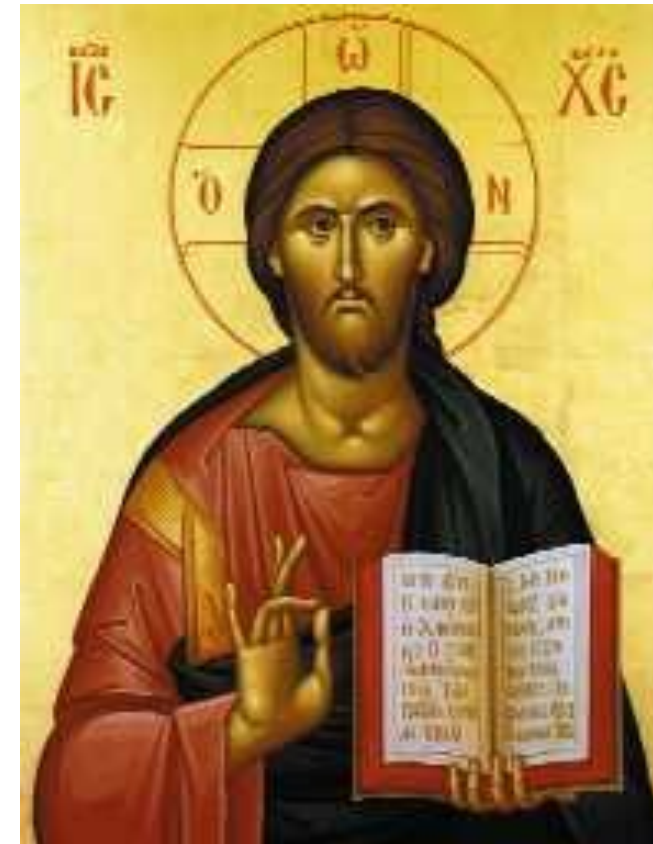
Daughters of Penelope: Elena Ketchum 813-229-0144
Finance Committee: Gary Ward 813-846-3898
Food Pantry: Sandra Pappas 813-785-3747
GOYA: Michael & Bessie Palios 813-523-0346
Hope/Joy: George & Zackie Amers 813-245-3813
Joy Tweens Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963
Men's Fellowship: Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
Nursing Ministry: Marcelle Triantafilou 612-396-5026
Photography Ministry: Karina Findlay 813-476-9632
Philoptochos: Katherine Sakkis 813-309-1073
Stewardship: Chris Kyrus 757-672-1920
 George Mitseas 813-748-1220
 Vickie Peckham 813-758-3102

Sunday School: Pete Trakas 813-505-2193
Ushers Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
Veterans/1st Responders Maria Xenick 813-765-3587
Welcoming Ministry: Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-876-8830
Women's Bible Study: Aris Rogers 813-309-5525
Young Adults Bill Manikas 813-716-8185
Young at Heart: Dora Morgan 813-613-3738
 Suzanne Pileggi 813-244-5855

Youth Protection:



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



August 20, 2023

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)
Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)
Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)
11th Sunday of Matthew

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:

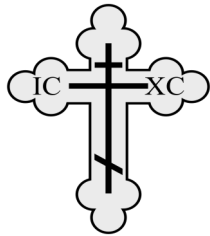
Love, Worship, Community, Learning, Service

SYNAXARION:

11th Sunday of Matthew ; Samuel the Prophet ; Holy Martyr Luke of Bouleutos

Resurrectional Apolytikion:

When You descended to the realm of death,
You as Life immortal, rendered to Hades a
mortal blow, through Your Divine Radiance.
And when You, from the depths of Hades
and the darkness below, did raise the dead
all the powers of heaven did proclaim and
cry out: O life-giving Christ and our God we
give glory.



Apolytikion of the Feast:

In giving birth you preserved your virginity,
at your Dormition you forsook not the
world, O Theotokos; to Life you did pass on,
being the Mother of Life itself; and redeem-
ing with your intercessions, our souls from
the clutches of death.

Kontakion:

The Theotokos who is incessant in her inter-
cessions, and an immovable hope in her pro-
tection, the tomb and the state of death could
not hold; for being the Mother of Life, to the
Life He carried, He who dwelled in a womb
ever-virgin.

Welcome to all of our Visitors “Welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Ro-
mans 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 fol-
lows:

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

Memorial:

Elica Markovich (40 days)

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday August 20

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

Dance Practice

Food Pantry Ministry Meeting after Liturgy– Zaharias Room

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday August 21

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday August 22

Veterans/ 1st Responders Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday August 23

Choir Practice

Saturday August 26

GOYA Lock-In

Sunday August 27

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

Fanouropita Fundraiser

Altar Boy Meeting

Dance Practice

Men’s Group 5:00 p.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday August 28

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday August 29

Beheading of St. John the Baptist

Orthros 9:00 a.m.

Ministry Heads Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Religious Education at

St. John

Monday Night
Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. John

August 21: **Monday** at
6:30 p.m.

Women’s
Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. Stavros

Resumes until
September

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* UN-AWARE.
HEBREWS 13:2

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore - New Children's Books from Greece

A new shipment of 110 books is displayed in our bookstore today. These mini books by Paterikon for Kids feature a multitude of Saints as well as books highlighting major feast days, martyrs, etc. Saints from Aegina, Cyprus, Chios, Ioannina, Cephalonia, and many other areas are available.

Greek Dance Groups



Are you ready to dance? Y Hara Mas (3rd-6th grades) will be starting Greek dance practices today! Please meet by the stage in the Kourmoulis Center at 12:15pm (during coffee hour). Practices will continue 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.

FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

Will have a meeting TODAY after Liturgy, in the Zaharias room .
Come and join us!



Philoptochos Phanouropita Sunday



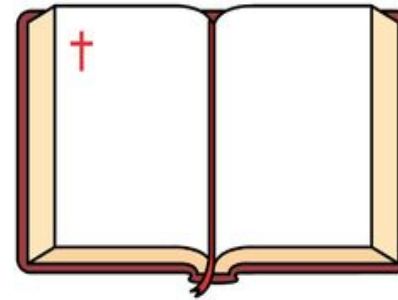
On Sunday August 27th the Ladies Philoptochos Society will sponsor Phanouropita Sunday honoring St Phanourios the Great Martyr. The Saint has become known for revealing lost things, hidden spiritual matters of the heart, actions that should be taken, and even restoring health. The sweet cake (Phanouropita) will be blessed by Fr. Stavros with prayers for the faithful. Afterwards the cake will be served and offered for purchase in the fellowship hall with all proceeds earmarked for our Metropolis Youth.

Would you like to bake a Phanouropita?

See Jeanie Nenos who is chairperson of the event.

Readings for Sunday, August 20

Prokeimenon: The Lord is my strength and my song. Psalm 117.14,18



The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 9:2-12

Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living?

Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

The reading is from Matthew 18:23-35

The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the torturers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Liturgical Notes



Tuesday, August 29 - Beheading of St. John the Baptist

St. John the Baptist, according to the Gospel accounts, was beheaded in prison. St. John had spoken out against Herod Antipas, the son of Herod the Great. This man had a lawful wife, the daughter of Arethas, the King of Arabia. Without any cause, and against every commandment of the Law, he put her away and took to himself Herodias, the wife of his deceased brother Philip, to whom Herodias had borne a daughter, Salome. He would not desist from this unlawful union even when John, the preacher of repentance, the bold and austere accuser of the lawless, censured him and told him, "It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife" (Mark 6: 18). Thus Herod, besides his other unholy acts, added yet this, that he apprehended John and shut him in prison; and perhaps he would have killed him straightway, had he not feared the people, who had extreme reverence for John. When Salome, Herodias' daughter, had danced in order to please him and those who were

supping with him, he promised her -- with an oath more foolish than any foolishness -- that he would give her anything she asked, even unto the half of his kingdom. And she, consulting with her mother, straightway asked for the head of John the Baptist in a charger. Hence this transgressor of the Law, preferring his lawless oath above the precepts of the Law, fulfilled this godless promise and filled his loathsome banquet with the blood of the Prophet. So it was that that all-venerable head, revered by the Angels, was given as a prize for an abominable dance, and became the plaything of the dissolute daughter of a debauched mother. As for the body of the divine Baptist, it was taken up by his disciples and placed in a tomb (Mark 6:21 - 29). We commemorate this event each year on August 29, which is also a strict fast day. As St. John the Baptist is the patron saint of our parish, we honor this feast day, and we pray for his intercessions over each of us and our parish.

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: 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; 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 Kladakis; Dora Kallas, Kathy & Andrew Bouzinekis; Anastasia; Virginia Georgiou, Toulou 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, Vasili, Moriah, Andoni, and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

Altar Boy Schedule

August 20th
Anyone attending
may serve

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

August 27th
Gabriel Gonzalez
Michael Galin
Philip Kane
Leo Sengsouvanha
Kenny Kane
Peter Konstas

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATE

WELCOME TO OUR 2023-2024 SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR:
The Sunday School Staff at St. John’s Greek Orthodox Church is looking forward to another great year. All children ages two through eighteen are invited to attend our program.

A Few Announcements:

- 1. All children will remain in church through Holy Communion.
- 2. PLEASE allow the Sunday School Teachers and their students to receive Holy Communion first. PLEASE line up in the center aisle.
- 3. After Communion, all of our 1st – 6th graders will report to the Zaharias Room for our Music Program.
- 4. Parents of 3RD GRADERS and YOUNGER should pick up their children, from their classrooms, after church.

Room Assignments:

- **Toddler 2’s are in the school admin. building on the right.
(Must be 2 years old by Sept. 1st)
- **Pre-K3 classroom is the 1st door on the right after you exit the church. (Must be 3 years old by Sept. 1st)
- **Pre-K4 through 3rd grade is on the first floor of the school building.
- **4th Grade through Middle School is on SECOND FLOOR of the school building. (Room numbers on right)
- **High School Boys are in the Media Center in the School Building.
- **High School Girls are in the Conference Rm. in the Admin. Building.

If you have any questions or comments, or do not get the Sun. Sch. weekly Constant Contact, please contact Vickie Peckham at 813-758-3102 or (vickiepeckham@gmail.com) Thank you for your cooperation.

Community News

Meeting of Ministry Heads on August 29-

The meeting will be on Tuesday, August 29 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This one will be in person, so we can discuss ministry issues for the fall. Each ministry is asked to have a least one representative present at each respective meeting.



GOYA Meeting - Sunday, August 13

Our first GOYA meeting of the new school year will be held on Sunday, August 21 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner will be provided. One parent of each GOYAn is asked to attend the meeting. Also, there will be a parents' meeting, while the GOYAns meet with Fr. Stavros, to go over procedures for the year, review the yearly calendar, fill out emergency forms and arrange for parents to sign up to do a meal for one of the meetings.

GOYA Lock-in - Saturday, August 26

Our GOYA will have an end of summer lock-in on Saturday, August 26, beginning at 4:00 p.m. and ending after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 27.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet on Sunday, August 27, at 5:00 p.m. We will walk to a nearby restaurant and have dinner and then come back to church for a discussion, concluding by 7:30 p.m. All men of the community are welcome to participate.



Nurse Ministry

Save the date to donate!

The Big Red Bus will be here September 17 for your blood donation. Anyone 18 years or older can donate and save lives!



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



OUR 2023-20224 SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS:

We would like to introduce and thank our dedicated staff for their commitment to the children of St.

John's. Together, with the help of our parents, we will strive to strengthen the faith of our students in Sunday School.

Director of Sunday School: Vickie Peckham

Music: Maria Xenick

Toddler 2's: Jenny Paloumpis

Pre-K3: Zackie Ameres and Mary Guirguis

Pre-K4: RM. 100 - Denise Panos and Rachel Zaharis

Kindergarten: RM. 101 - Debbie Nicklow and Donna Trakas

Grade 1: RM. 104 - Maraquet Edquid and Doukissa Moshos

Grade 2: RM. 106 - Nicole Mantzanas and Jaime Brewer

Grade 3: RM. 108 - Stamie Garcia and Amy Kafantaris

Grade 4: RM. 201 - Georgia Kane and Vivian Samuel

Grade 5: RM. 205 - Vickie Peckham and

Grade 6: RM. 207 - Stefanie Moran and Katherine Kyrus

Grade 7 and 8: RM. 208 - Betty Katherine Katsamakakis and

Marina Choundas

High School Girls: Mary Ann Konstas

High School Boys: James Konstas



SUNDAY SCHOOL TOPICS

August 20th
Church Etiquette

August 27th
The Lord's Prayer

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 Heal 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