

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
Amin Hanhan		813-846-2957
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

February 20, 2022 - Sunday of the Prodigal Son

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

(Icon of the Prodigal Son Above)

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:

Leo the Bishop of Catania, Agathus the Pope of Rome, Bessarion the Great

**Apolytikion of the Week
(Second Mode):**

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 for St. John:

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 (Third Mode):

Foolishly I ran away from Your glory, O Father, and wasted in sin all the wealth You gave me. Therefore, the Prodigal's cry, I offer to You. I have sinned before You compassionate Father, do accept me in repentance and make me again one of Your servants.

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

Memorials:

Eleftherios Fotopoulos (1 Year)

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, February 20	Prodigal Son Orthros 8:30 a.m. 4th-6th Confessions	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. 5 p.m. GOYA Meeting
Monday, February 21	Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 22	Women's Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, February 23	Paraklesis	6:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 24	Adult Greek School GriefShare	6:00-8:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 26	1st Saturday of the Souls Orthros 8:45 a.m.	At Garden of Memories Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, February 27	Judgement Sunday Orthros 8:30 a.m. 1st-3rd Confessions	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Men's Group 5:00 p.m.

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

February 20-26

Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor.
Romans 12:10

Imagine if we had a contest to see who could outdo each other in showing honor to other people. Imagine if we worked to outdo each other in acting like brothers. Love is certainly not a contest where there are winners and losers, or even competition. But imagine if we tried to love others more than they loved us. If instead of waiting to be loved in order to show love, we showed love first, and we loved more than we were loved. Imagine the day when someone wronged you, even someone close like a spouse, a child, a parent or a good friend and we decided to love them anyway, even in our annoyance. Imagine if we "fought" about who would open the door for someone else, or who could get in the most compliments, or who could give the most encouragement. Love, again, is not a contest, but we should have a consciousness about love, and it should be leading with love, not just reciprocating love we've already been shown.

Education at St. John

Monday Night Bible Study

Leader: Fr. John

Day: Monday 6:30 p.m.

Women's Bible Study

Leader: Fr. Stavros

Day: Tuesday 10:00 a.m.

Greek School

Leader: Magda Myer

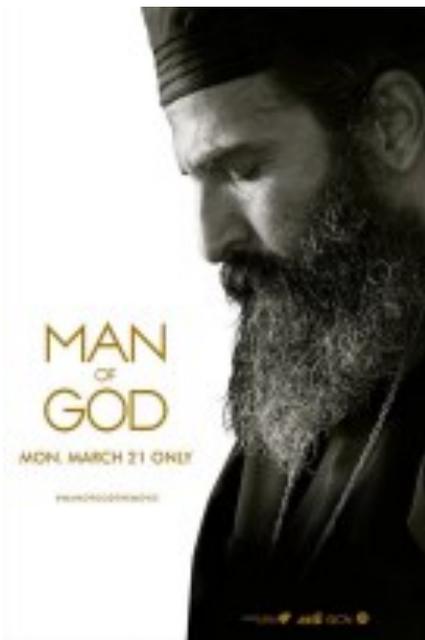
Day: Thursday 6:00 p.m.

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Attention all Parents: As a friendly reminder, please remember that no children are allowed on the stage, especially during coffee hour. Thank you!

St. John's Bookstore— Throughout Great Lent our bookstore will be offering a wide selection of books focused on the many ways we can grow spiritually during the Lenten period. Daily meditations, prayer books, lives of the Saints, guides to preparation for Confession, Holy Week service books, and Lenten cookbooks are just some of those featured.

Monday Night Bible Study - Fr. John's Bible Study meets on Monday night at 6:30 p.m. Join us in person or via Zoom to share your insights as we deepen our relationship with Christ.



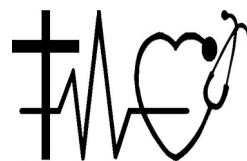
We are pleased to announce that "Man of God," the highly anticipated award-winning film based on the inspiring life of our beloved Orthodox saint, Saint Nektarios of Aegina, is coming to movie theaters across the United States on Monday, March 21st as a one night only Fathom Events release. Our parish is organizing an opportunity to see it together with our church community. Everyone is invited to attend this special screening.

If there is enough interest, we have been in contact with the manager at the Regal Citrus Park Theater to inquire about getting a block of seats in a private auditorium on Monday, March 21 at 7:00 PM. Tickets will cost approximately \$12-14 each.

Please email Donna Trakas at dptrakas@verizon.net by Monday, March 7th at 6:00 PM with the number of tickets you would like. More details will follow once we know we have enough interest.

We look forward to hearing from you!

With love in the Lord,
+Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis



Continuing this Sunday: Blood Pressure Screening in February- Your nursing ministry will be doing FREE blood pressure checks February 20, and 27. Come get your blood pressure checked and know your numbers!

Philoptochos Selling Spanakopita, Tyropita, and Trays of Baklava - The Philoptochos will continue selling Spanakopita, Tyropita, and Baklava after Divine Liturgy! You can ask a Philoptochos board member or call Lisa Alsina (813-728-1094) if you're interested in purchasing one!



Readings for the 17th Sunday of Matthew

Epistle Reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

Prokeimenon: Verse: The Lord is my strength and my song, and He became my salvation. The Lord chastened and corrected me, but He did not give me up to death.

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

Gospel Reading is from Luke 15:11-32

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants:

Metropolitan Alexios, Eva Coppalla; Christopher; Christopher; Elaine Daniels; Mary & Peter Nenos; Tony Ekonomou; Keith Lynn & Patrick Carroll; Daniel Hoss, 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, Toula 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, Matthew & Family, 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, Felix and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATE

Sunday, February 20

Topic: Prodigal Son
Prophora: 7-8 Grades
Confessions: 4-6 Grades

Sunday, February 27

Topic: Last Judgement
Confessions: 1-3 Grades

Sunday, March 6

Youth Sunday
Pre-Lenten Retreat - Forgiveness Sunday

Sunday, March 13

Topic: Icons/Sunday of Orthodoxy
Procession of Icons

Liturgical Notes

Sunday, February 20 - Sunday of the Prodigal Son - On this Sunday in the preparation for Great Lent, Orthodox Christians are to read Christ's parable about God's loving forgiveness (Luke 15:11-24). They are to see themselves as being in a foreign country far from the Father's house and to make the movement of return to God, where we truly belong. The parable gives assurance that the Father will receive them with joy and gladness in their journey through Great Lent, their journey home.

Wednesday, February 23 – Paraklesis - Service of Supplication to the Virgin Mary - We will continue to offer Paraklesis once a month, so that we can pray for all the members of our community by name, out loud. We will alternate some in the evening and some in the morning. For February, the Paraklesis will be offered on Wednesday Evening, February 23, from 6:00 --7:00 p.m.

First Saturday of Souls Divine Liturgy on February 26 to be held at Garden of Memories- After a one year hiatus we will again hold Divine Liturgy for Saturday of Souls at Garden of Memories Memorial Park at 4207 E. Lake Avenue in East Tampa. We will celebrate Divine Liturgy in the Chapel of the Funeral Home (different location than the past). Orthros will begin at 9:00 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m., with a memorial service at the end of the Liturgy. After Liturgy is concluded, Father Stavros will visit the graves of the relatives of all attendees of the Liturgy. This is the ninth year that we will be doing this liturgy at the Garden of Memories. Please come and join us praying for the souls of our loved ones, as we also pray for strengthening and inspiration for ourselves.

Altar Boy Schedule

February 20 (St. Mark)

Nicholas Carter
Zachary Carter
Harry Robinson
Prometheus Koutouzi
Leo Lenardos
PJ Zelatis
Niko Kyros

Captains

John Palios
Genaro Scarfoglio
Nicholas Akrotirianakis
Yanni Trimikliniotis
James Magos
Demetri Passalaris

February 27 (St. Luke)

Teddy Kafentaris
Andrew Thatcher
Kris Christopher
Vasilios Panos
Jonah Blankenbaker
Lucas Elly
Liam Elly

Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!

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

Birthdays

Namedays

February 20	Constance Santos	
February 21	Emory Brewer, Stephanie Florou, Joseph Hambos	
February 22	Mila Depasquale, Alex Halioytakis, George Panson, Mila Saliba, Jazmyn Singh	Anthousa, Thalassios
February 23	Anna Galin, Chris Maltezos, Andrew Mellon-Lynn, Stylianos Sheridan	Polychronis, Polykarpos
February 24	Alexandra Frantsvog, Margarita Kyros, Melanie Letobarone	
February 25	Christian Cole, Mia Lenardos, Penelope Markowski	Riginos, Tarasios, Tarsi
February 26	Lisa Gialamas, Katie Spirides, Kaitlin Zelatis	Anatoli, Photini, Porfirios, Sebastianos

Saturday of the Souls

Saturdays, February 26, March 5, and March 12



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, starting January 21, for 13 weeks, ending on Thursday, April 22. For February, GriefShare will meet February 3, 10 17 and 24. 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.

It is a Tradition in the Orthodox Church to offer prayers for the souls of all of our loved ones who have departed this life, in the hope of the Resurrection to Eternal Life. There are four Saturdays of the year that are dedicated specifically to this purpose. There are three Saturdays at the beginning of Lent and the Saturday before Pentecost. Everyone is encouraged to submit the names of their loved ones to be commemorated at the services (see enclosed form). Everyone is encouraged to attend one of these services (and bring Kolyva) if you are able, as a way of honoring the people in your family who have passed away, once a year.



Food Pantry Needs

Our Food Pantry is very active helping people near and far in the Tampa Community

- Pasta
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Tomato sauce/chopped tomatoes etc.
- All kinds of white flour
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Body Wash
- Gluten Free Foods and

- Flours
- Cereal
- Whole wheat rice and pasta
- Men's and Women's razors and shaving cream (travel size)
- Toothbrushes
- Granola & Protein Bars