

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

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		813-385-8205
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:	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 MAΣ, 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
	Elena Ketchum	813-229-0144

Daughters of Penelope:	Gary Ward	813-846-3898
Finance Committee:	Sheila Vukmer	412-719-1005
Food Pantry	Donna Hambos	813-843-8412
GriefShare:	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346
GOYA:	George & Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
Hope/Joy:	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
Joy Tweens	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-876-8830
Men's Fellowship:	Mary Ann Konstas	813-215-9862
MOMS:	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
Nursing Ministry:	Peggy Bradshaw	727-244-1374
Oratorical Festival:	Karina Findlay	813-476-9632
Photography Ministry:	Melissa Krinos	813-716-9975
Philoptochos:	Chris Kyros	757-672-1920
Stewardship:	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

November 20, 2022

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

(The Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple - Nov. 21)

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:
Forefeast of the Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple
Gregory the Righteous of Decapolis; Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople

Resurrectional Apolytikion (PL. 2nd Mode)

When the angelic powers appeared at the tomb and soldiers guarding You became as though dead and standing by Your sepulchre was Mary seeking Your pure and sacred Body. For You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the virgin woman bestowing the gift of Life. O You who rose from the dead, Lord, we give glory to You.

Kontakion of the Forefeast. (Fourth Mode):

On this day the whole wide world is filled completely * with great joy and merriment on the occasion of the feast * of the Theotokos and cries aloud: * "She is the heavenly tabernacle indeed."

Apolytikion for the Forefeast (Fourth Mode)

Today righteous Anna solicits joy for us all, * the opposite of pain and sorrow, having brought forth her fruit, * the only ever-virgin Maid; * and today in fulfillment of her prayer and her promise, * to the Temple of the Lord she joyfully leads her * who is truly the temple and pure * Mother of God the Word.

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.

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, November 20	Orthros 8:45 a.m. Men’s Group	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
Monday, November 21	Entrance of the Virgin Mary into the Temple Orthros 9:00 a.m. Bible Study	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 23	Thanksgiving Liturgy Orthros 5:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, November 24	HAPPY THANKSGIVING! - Office Closed	
Friday, November 25	St. Katherine Orthros 9:00 a.m. Office Closed	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, November 27	Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday, November 28	Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 29	Women’s Bible Study Come & See Dinner	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 30	St. Andrew Orthros 9:00 a.m.. Parish Council	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Education at St. John

Monday Night Bible Study
Leader: Fr. John
Day: **Monday** 6:30 p.m.

Women’s Bible Study
Women’s Bible Study will meet again on Tuesday, November 29

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 - Fr. Stavros' New Book!

"The Heart of Encouragement" Fr. Stavros's new book has been released for sale. A sample book is on hand so stop in and take a look. Our shipment is in route and orders are coming in quickly so reserve your copy in the bookstore today. Also, today is our last day for Thanksgiving items. St. John's Christmas shop opens next Sunday!!



Photo Ministry - Love to take photos? Come join our Photo Ministry!

It's a fun and creative way to serve and to show the community all of the beautiful services and wonderful activities we have here at St. John. All abilities are welcome! Please call or text at Karina Findlay at (813) 476-9632.

Community Outreach - Metropolitan Ministries Holiday Volunteering

Below, find the dates, times, address, and sign up website for St John Greek Orthodox Church volunteers. Anyone from our parish can volunteer by registering on the Metropolitan Ministries website below. First come, first served as the sign up slots fill up fast and our slots will be given to other people if we do not sign up.

Thanksgiving Holiday - November 22	2:00 - 5:30 PM
Christmas Holiday - December 22	3:00 - 6:30 PM



Philoptochos - Collecting donations for our troops through the end of November

We will be collecting items and sending them to our troops that need our thoughts and prayers. We will provide cards in the hall, please feel free to write them a note.

Food items such as: beef jerky, canned tuna/chicken, trail mix, granola bars, fruit snacks

Hygiene items such as travel size body wash and shampoo, deodorant, lip balm, wet wipes

Miscellaneous items such as: pens, pencils, travel games, cards, pads of paper, earbuds, footballs

Prohibited items such as: pork, tobacco, alcohol, bars of soap, aerosol sprays, nail polish, perfume

Good News of Great Joy!

We hope you are enjoying you're Good News of Great Joy gift bag, filled with items to help prepare you for the upcoming celebration of the Birth of Christ! Included are some resources to help guide your spiritual path during this season: the guidebook filled with prayers and daily scriptures and journaling space, a pamphlet on the Nativity, and the 2023 Archdiocesan calendar; seasonal items for you to use in your home: an ornament, small magnet, a votive candle, and a special letter to read on Christmas morning; and there are some useful, fun promotional items for you to proudly show off and use year round, too – a magnet, pen, post it notes – all with our updated St. John logo! Our Welcome Ministry is so thankful for the many volunteers and efforts of all our ministry heads to offer this gift from our parish family. Please let the office know if you did not receive a bag, or you'd like an extra one to share with a family member, friend neighbor, coworker! During this season of the Nativity Fast, may we grow in Christ's love, both individually and as a community and experience as a community the Good News of Great Joy!

Men's Group - Today at 5:00 p.m.!

Our men's group will meet today from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Any men of our community are welcome to join us for dinner, discussion. Please bring \$20—we will order in for dinner.

Readings for the Sunday, November 20

Prokeimenon: O Lord, save your people, and bless Your inheritance. To You, O Lord, I cry; O my God.

The reading is from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. (Eph. 2:4-10)

Brethren, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Gospel Reading according to the St. Luke (12:16-21)

The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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

November 20

Topic: Charity/Thanksgiving

November 27

Topic: No Class - Thanksgiving Break

Liturgical Notes

Monday, November 21 - Entrance of the Virgin Mary into the Temple The Entrance of the Virgin Mary (Ta Eisodia) Commemorates when the Virgin Mary entered into the Temple at age two to begin a life of ser-vice to God, in preparation for the awesome role she would play in the history of humanity as the Theotokos. This is one of the 12 Major Feastdays of the Orthodox Liturgical Year.

Wednesday, November 23 - Evening Liturgy for Thanksgiving In Greek the word for Thanksgiving is “Eucharistia,” so the Holy Eucharist is the “Holy Thanksgiving.” As we celebrate Thanksgiving with turkey and the Dallas Cowboys on Thursday, set aside Wednesday to receive the Holy Thanksgiving. As is our cus-tom at St. John, we will celebrate Divine Liturgy for Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 23 at 6:00 p.m.

Friday, November 25 - St. Katherine the Great Martyr St. Katherine was born in Alexandria, Egypt in the third century. She was very wise and eloquent, successfully arguing for Christianity in the face of tyran-nical rulers and philosophers. She was martyred in the year 305 and her relics were taken by Angels to Mount Sinai where they were discovered many years later. St. Katherine has the title “Pansophou” the “All-Wise.”

Wednesday, November 30 - St. Andrew the Apostle St. Andrew is the first-called of the Apostles. He is also the patron saint of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project
November 20-26

I will give to the Lord the thanks due to His righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High.
-Psalm 7:17

Thanksgiving is the main thing on everyone’s schedule this week. A meaningful feast, ostensibly set up around the concept of giving thanks, has be-come a feast of food and football and we’ve forgot-ten thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is not only offered for family and friends and things. And it’s not only offered even to thank God for our food. It should be offered to thank God for our very lives, for every-thing we are and everything we have. And even more so, it’s not about thanking God for what He has done for us, because perhaps this has been a bad year and we are more frustrated than thankful to-wards Him. This is thanksgiving for His righteous-ness, which abounds even when we think we have been deprived of it. God’s righteousness is everlasting. The consequences of living in a fallen world may at times make us feel that life is not fair or that God is not fair. His ways and our ways, they work differently. Faith is looking towards God as righteous even when life seems unfair. To give thanks for God’s right-eousness, His awesomeness, this is among the highest types of thanksgiving one can offer. We’ve all heard the phrase, “Keep Christ in Christmas.” We need to keep thanks in Thanksgiving, especially our thanksgiving to the Lord.

Hope/Joy Fall Food Drive

Sun, Nov 13th- Sun, Dec 11th.

"HOPE starts with a MEAL. HOPE starts with YOU!"

Metropolitan Ministries’ Holiday Tent helps 50,000+ families in need for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Let’s help them meet this years goal of 1,763,000 pounds of food.

Please join St. John’s Hope & Joy children’s ministry in providing a meal to families in need through Metropolitan Ministries. Make this your family project and help us put together Boxes of Hope filled with the items needed for a Christmas holiday dinner. There are many ways you can help provide a Box of Hope:

- Shop for any of the items below and bring to church **Sun, Nov 13th- Sun, Dec 11th.**
- Donate \$25 or more (cash/ check/ gift card) for a Box of Hope- Checks payable to Metropolitan Ministries

BOX OF HOPE contains:

• Gift certificate for a turkey or ham	• 2 cans of black beans
• 1 box of cereal (hot or cold)	• 2 cans of cranberry sauce
• 2 cans of fruit	• 1 bag of dried beans
• 1 jar of peanut butter	• 1 box or bag of rice
• 2 cans of vegetables	• 1 can or packet of gravy
• 2 cans of yams	• 1 box dessert mix
• 1 bag or box of stuffing	• 1 package cookies or pastries
• 1 box of potatoes	• 1 family box of Jell-O/Pudding

Only non-perishable food donations please. Call Zackie Ameres at 813-245-3813 or email at zackiec@yahoo.com with any questions. Thank you!

"He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will reward him for what he has done." Proverbs 19:17



Altar Boy Schedule

November 20
(St. Luke)

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

Captains

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

November 27
(St. John)

Christos Nenos
Constantine Ameres
Zachary George
Alex Findlay
Gianni Matassini
Nathan Moran
Michael Meadows