

**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:** Vasili Panagopoulos 414-254-5134  
**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:**  
**Altar Angels:**  
**Bible Study:**  
**Bookstore:**  
**Choir:**  
**College Ministry:**  
**Community Outreach:**  
**Dance Groups:**

Mathew Balasis 727-421-7376  
 Thomas Sakaris, President 201-819-2319  
 Kalliope Chagaris 813-789-4134  
 Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425  
 Pres. Denise Stefero 678-464-4833  
 Tara Swartzbaugh, Director 813-313-0439  
 Ruth Losovitz, Organist 727-688-2782  
 Vasili Panagopoulos 414-254-5134  
 Greg Melton 813-967-2074  
 Η ΧΑΡΑ ΜΑΣ, 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  
 Elena Ketchum 813-229-0144  
 Gary Ward 813-846-3898  
 Michael & Bessie Palios 813-523-0346  
 George & Zackie Ameres 813-245-3813  
 Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963  
 Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038  
 Marcelle Triantafilou 612-396-5026  
 Karina Findlay 813-476-9632  
 Melissa Krinos 813-716-9975  
 Chris Kyrus 757-672-1920  
 George Mitseas 813-748-1220  
 Vickie Peckham 813-758-3102  
 Pete Trakas 813-505-2193  
 Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425  
 Maria Xenick 813-765-3587  
 Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-876-8830  
 Aris Rogers 813-309-5525  
 Bill Manikas 813-716-8185  
 Dora Morgan 813-613-3738  
 Suzanne Pileggi 813-244-5855

**Sunday School:**  
**Ushers**  
**Veterans/1st Responders**  
**Welcoming Ministry:**  
**Women's Bible Study:**  
**Young Adults**  
**Young at Heart:**

**Youth Protection:**



## St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



**May 21, 2023**

**Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)**  
**Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)**  
**Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)**  
**SUNDAY OF STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN**

**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:**  
Sunday of the Blind Man; Constantine and Helen, Equal-to-the Apostles; Pachomios the Righteous New Martyr

**Resurrectional Apolytikion:**  
Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

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.

Co-eternal with the Father and Spirit is the Word Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation we the faithful both praise and worship Him. For in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the cross and death did He endure and He raised unto life the dead by His all Glorious Resurrection.

**Apolytikion of the Feast:**  
The sign of the Cross in the sky having beheld, and like Paul having received the call that did not come from men, Your Apostle, among all the Kings, O Lord, built his capital city and placed its care in Your hands; which, we ask You to guard in peace, forever, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, O only true friend of man.

**Hymn 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.

**Kontakion of Pascha:**  
Even though You descended into the grave You destroyed the Power of Hades and You rose as a Victor, O Christ our God, saying to the myrrh bearing women: Rejoice! And to Your Apostles granting peace and to the fallen, You also grant Resurrection.

**Hymn to the Theotokos:**  
The angel cried to her who is full of grace: Rejoice Holy Virgin and again I say rejoice, for your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day. Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has arisen over you. Dance now for joy O Zion and exult. Rejoice and be glad O pure Theotokos at the Resurrection of your Child.

**Communion Hymn:**  
Receive the Body of Christ and partake ye of Him. He is an Immortal Fountain. Alleluia.

**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



**Memorial:**  
William (Vasili) Krajewski (40 days); Elena Reilly ( 40 days); Mary Nenos (1yr); DeeAnn Athan (2 yrs); Azar & Naheel Hanhan (10 yrs & 4 yrs)

# Upcoming Services & Events

<b>Sunday May 21</b>	<b>Sunday of the Blind Man Sts. Constantine and Helen Orthros 8:45 a.m.</b> <div>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</div> Youth Sunday Last Day of Sunday School End of the year party Philoptochos Elections- Zaharias room Men’s Group 5:00 p.m.
<b>Monday May 22</b>	Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Parish Council 6:30 p.m. Chant Class 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.
<b>Tuesday May 23</b>	<b>Apodosis (Leave- Taking) of Pascha Orthros 5:00 p.m.</b> <div>Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m.</div> Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
<b>Wednesday May 24</b>	Choir Practice
<b>Thursday May 25</b>	<b>Ascension Orthros 9:00 a.m.</b> <div>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</div>
<b>Sunday May 28</b>	<b>Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council Orthros 8:45 a.m.</b> <div>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</div> <b>VETERANS MEMORIAL TRIBUTE</b>

**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

**Religious Education at  
St. John**

**Monday Night  
Bible Study**

Leader:  
Fr. John

May 22: **Monday** at  
6:30 p.m.

**Women’s  
Bible Study**

Leader:  
Fr. Stavros

May 23: **Tuesday** at  
10:00 a.m.

## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### St. John's Bookstore -Father Stavros' Newest Book Available Today!

"Unto the Healing of Soul and Body - Encouragement for Restoration and Reconciliation in a Broken World" by Fr. Stavros focuses on God's ability to heal our physical infirmities, but especially on how our souls can be healed along with our bodies. The book explores the Orthodox Sacrament of Holy Unction and its powerful impact on us.

### The American Foundation for Greek Language & Culture (AFGLC)

The American Foundation for Greek Languages & Culture (AFGLC) Scholarships are now available to High School Seniors and College Students. The AFGLC Dr. Demetrios G. Halkias, the AFGLC Peter & Sophia Kourmolis, the AFGLC Dr. Byron P. Palls Scholarships.

Deadline to apply **June 25th**.

For more information contact Kalliope at 813-789-4134 or [khalkias@afglc.org](mailto:khalkias@afglc.org).

### Men's Group

Our men's group will meet on **TODAY** -Sunday, May 21, 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. This will be our last meeting for the spring. We will resume meeting in August.



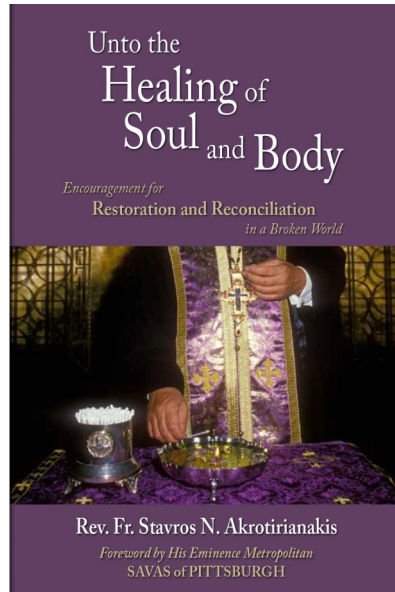
### Chant Class

Join us for our next 13- week introductory chant class offered at St. John's Church!

ALL ARE WELCOME

Next class will be Monday, May 22 from 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

Register for classes now at [vasili@stjohntpa.org](mailto:vasili@stjohntpa.org)



### Introducing the Newest Book by Fr. Stavros Unto the Healing of Soul and Body: Encouragement for Restoration and Reconciliation in a Broken World

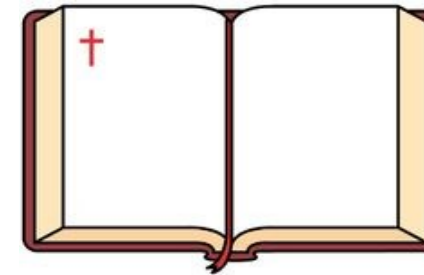
There has never been a greater need for healing in the world than there is today. The Orthodox Sacrament of Holy Unction is intended for the healing of soul and body. What makes this sacrament so powerful is not just the anointing that occurs at the end of the service, but the journey there—through seven Epistle readings, seven Gospel passages and seven powerful prayers. *Unto the Healing of Soul and Body* will serve as an aid on this journey, helping us understand our need for healing, as well as God's role and our own participation in spiritual healing.

## Readings for Sunday, May 21

**Prokeimenon: Their voice has gone out into all the earth. Psalm 18.4,1**

### The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 26:1, 12-20

IN THOSE DAYS, King Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense: "I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining round me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles—to whom I send you to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' "Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and perform deeds worthy of their repentance."



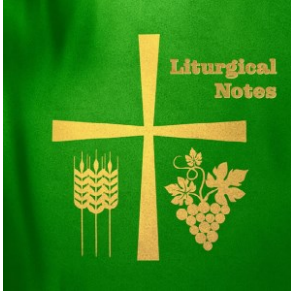
### The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to John 9:1-38

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

Continued on page 7



## Liturgical Notes



### **The Pentecostarion - The 50 Days After Pascha**

The period of 50 days between Pascha & Pentecost is referred to as the “Pentecostarion.” The period of forty days between Pascha Sunday and the day of the Ascension is known as the period of Pascha (or Easter). It is a period set aside by the Church for the specific celebration of Christ’s glorious resurrection. It is a celebration of “rebirth”. . . .The rebirth of God’s creation which surrounds us, and the rebirth of the spirit within each and every one of us! This period is not merely a ritualistic celebration but a celebration which can be seen, felt, heard and talked about. It is a very REAL celebration which CAN make our entire being jump with JOY. It is a celebration which offers us HOPE. It is a

celebration which offers us the TRUE FREEDOM found only in Jesus Christ! During the 40 days of Pascha, we are to greet each other with the greeting “Christ is Risen” or “Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη!,” to which the response is “Truly He is Risen” or “Ἀληθῶς Ἀνέστη!”

### **No Kneeling until Pentecost**

It is actually the Tradition in the Orthodox Church that we not kneel on Sundays in honor of the Resurrection of Christ. Because we do not worship on a daily basis in our church communities, priests have encouraged people to kneel on Sundays, the thought being that if we do not kneel on Sundays, that we’ll never kneel in church. It is a Tradition, that for 50 days after Pascha, we do not kneel in honor of the Resurrection. Continued... The next time we will kneel after April 15 is on the Feast of Pentecost (June 5) at the Vespers of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, when the priest says “Again and again on bended knees let us pray to the Lord.” Fast Free the week after Pascha - Having kept a fast for almost 8 weeks, including the week before Lent, Lent and Holy Week, the church gives us a “week off” from fasting the week after Pascha. During Bright Week, or Renewal Week, as that week is called each day is like a Sunday. Hence, there is no fasting during this celebratory week. Who, then, may receive Communion? Whoever wishes to, providing that they abstain from food the morning they are receiving. So, the Sunday after Pascha, everyone in the congregation may receive. There is no fasting on Wednesday or Friday of renewal week, or any other day of that week either.

### **Sunday, May 21 - Sts. Constantine and Helen**

May 21 commemorates the feast of Sts. Constantine and Helen. St. Constantine was the emperor of the Roman Empire who decided to make Christianity the official religion of the empire. For the first time in history, the Christian church would not fall under persecution. St. Constantine also moved the capital of the Empire from Rome to Constantinople (present day Istanbul, Turkey), where he inaugurated the Byzantine Empire which flourished from 325 until 1453. He also convened the first Ecumenical Council in Nicaea in the year 325, which inaugurated what is known as the “golden age of Orthodoxy,” and resulted in the writing of the Nicene Creed (edited to its current version in the year 381). St. Helen, the mother of St. Constantine, is recognized as being the person who found the true cross of Christ in Jerusalem. She went on a pilgrimage to the Holy City and searched diligently for the Cross, finding it under a patch of Basil (Vasiliko) on the Mountain of Golgotha. Sts. Constantine and Helen have the title Isapostolou, “Equal to the Apostles” because of the tremendous contributions they made to the Orthodox Christian Church.

### **Sunday, May 21 - Sunday of the Blind Man**

The theme of LIGHT! Commemoration of the healing of the blind man which leads us to the reality of the healing of our own spiritual blindness.

## Altar Boy Schedule

### May 21

Teddy Kafentaris  
Andrew Thatcher  
Kris Christopher  
Vasilios Panos  
Jonah Blankenbaker

### Captains

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

### May 28

Anyone attending  
may serve

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATE



### May 21

**Last Day of Sunday School - YOUTH SUNDAY**  
Sunday School Graduation Ceremony for all  
Students

Sunday School End of the Year Party on CAMPUS

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](mailto:vickiepeckham@gmail.com)



★ Please Join Us ★



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL** **END OF YEAR PARTY**

**Yard Games, Bounce House, Frozen Treats and  
More to Celebrate a Great Year and Summer!**

**ON THE MENU:  
ICONIC ALL-AMERICAN DISHES!**

**MAY 21 | AFTER CHURCH  
ON CAMPUS  
BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES**



**Let us know if you can make it  
by texting Zackie at 813.245.3813**

Readings for Sunday May 21 Cont.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him.



# 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.

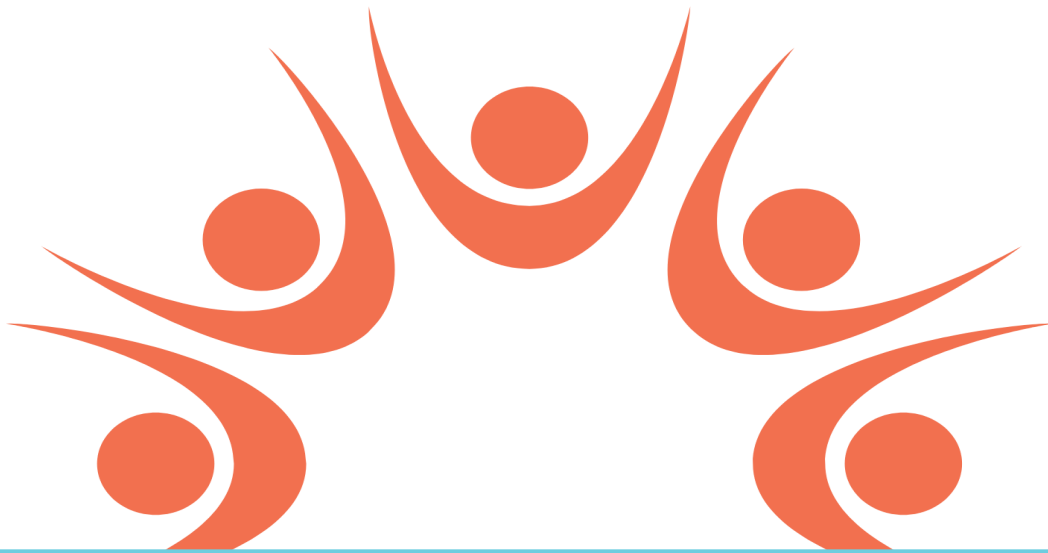
The BayCare helpline, 800-878-5470, is answered 24/7 by mental health professionals. Many BayCare therapists are also offering telephonic and virtual counseling sessions to help parishioners maintain their emotional wellbeing during these trying times. You can get more information on the BayCare Behavioral 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**





*Have a heart, lend a hand,  
and make a difference.*

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH 2023

OUR SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINING MONTHS OF 2023 IS  
AS FOLLOWS:

SATURDAY MAY 20, JUNE 17, JULY 15, AUGUST 19,  
SEPTEMBER 16, OCTOBER 21, NOVEMBER 18, DECEMBER 16.

TIME: 8:00 AM - 10 AM

PLACE: TAMPA HOPE  
3704 E. 3RD AVENUE  
TAMPA, FL. 33605



Sign up via **SIGNUP GENIUS**

## PHILOPTOCHOS ELECTIONS TO BE

HELD AFTER DIVINE LITURGY  
TODAY:  
MAY 21ST, IN THE ZAHARIAS ROOM  
Nominations will also be  
accepted from the floor during  
the meeting.

Thank you



**Prayer List:** Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants:  
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, Toulia Tsaros, Nellie Pringle, Yolanda Webb, Angela Bougas, Ron, Jason Vickers, Rex Garrison, Ann Demas, Christina Noel Kouzes Houck, Evangeline Xerotes, 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, 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.

### Fifty- Two Verses -In-

### Fifty- Two Weeks May 21-27

As He said this, He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

John 9:6-7

On the fifth Sunday after Pascha, we read the Gospel account of the healing of the blind man. His healing was made possible by two things. First, by Christ. Christ mixed His material (spittle) and material from creation (clay, which He created) and took the heavenly matter and the earthly matter and placed it on the eyes of the blind man. Jesus, however, told the man that his healing would be the result of going to the pool of Siloam and washing there. Siloam was some distance away from where the man was. The journey would have been an ordeal. The man would have needed to walk quite a distance, over unfamiliar territory. And he wouldn't have been able to count on much help. People thought that blind people were cursed, and people thought interacting with cursed people might rub off negatively on them. Imagine then, the faith that the man would have had, to walk in strange territory by being either derided or ignored. On top of that, Jesus didn't even promise healing. He just told him to go wash. Yet the man made the journey and was healed. Our healing comes from a combination of God's grace, our faith in it, and our work.