

**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 813-352-3972  
Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary 813-855-8678  
Gary Ward, Treasurer 813-846-3898  
Jim Armstrong 954-295-6665  
Alexis Scarfogliero 813-892-1599  
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:** HXAPA 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

**Daughters of Penelope:** Elena Ketchum 813-229-0144  
**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 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  
**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

**January 22, 2023**

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

**(Icon of Timothy the Apostle of the 70 - January 22)**

**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:**

15th Sunday of Luke; Timothy the Apostle of the 70 ; The Righteous Martyr Anastasius of Persia; Joseph the Sanctified

**Resurrectional Apolytikion (Grave Mode)**  
Lord by Your sacred cross You abolished death, and granted to the thief blessed paradise. The myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy; the apostles did preach the good news at Your command that You are risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.

**Apolytikion of the Saint: ( Mode 4)**  
Having learned kindness, and being always steady and sober, vested with a good conscience as befits a priest, you drew out from the Chosen Vessel the secrets of God. And having kept the faith, you have finished the fair race, O Hieromartyr Timothy. Intercede with Christ our God, entreating Him to save our souls.

**For the Martyr: (Mode 4)**  
Your Martyr, O Lord, was worthily awarded by You the crown of incorruption, in that he contested for You our immortal God. Since he possessed Your power, he defeated the tyrants, \* dashing the demons' powerless displays of defiance. \* O Christ God, at his fervent entreaties, save our souls.

**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.

**Kontakion:**  
O You Who sanctified by Your birth a Virgin womb, and blessed the hands of Simeon as seemed most appropriate, You came indeed to save us all, O Christ our God. Wherefore bring peace to our nation in time of hostility, and secure in strength, the rulers You have truly loved, as the only one Who loves mankind.

**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

**Trisagion:**

Evangline Leontsinis ( 6 month); Fr. George Burchill (40 days); Dionisios Labatos (20 yrs); Varvara Labatos (14 yrs); Steven Oster (40 days); Michael Skourellos (6 months); Stamatina Passalaris ( 8 yrs)

Upcoming Services & Events		
Sunday January 22	Orthros 8:45 a.m. AHEPA/Daughters	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday January 23	Orthodoxy 101 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday January 24	Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Parish Council 6:30 p.m.	
Wednesday January 25	St. Gregory the Theologian Orthros 9:00 a.m. Choir Practice 7:15 p.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Thursday January 26	Adult Greek School 6:00 p.m.	
Saturday January 28	Gasparilla Parking	
Sunday January 29	Orthros 8:45 a.m. Prayer for Teachers College Ministry JOY Tweens Men’s Group 5:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday January 30	Three Hierarchs Orthros 8:45 a.m. Orthodoxy 101 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday January 31	Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Veteran’s/ First Responders 6:30 p.m.	
Thursday February 2	Presentation of Christ Orthros 8:45 a.m. Adult Greek School	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.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 unaware.*  
HEBREWS 13:2

Education at St. John

<b>Monday Night Bible Study</b>	<b>Women’s Bible Study</b>	<b>Adult Greek School</b>
Leader: Fr. John	Leader: Fr. Stavros	Teacher: Magda Myer
January 23: Monday at 6:30 p.m.	January 24: Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.	January 26: Thursday 6:00 p.m.

## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### St. John's Bookstore

"Book of the Week"

Now available in our bookstore, "[Gratitude in Life's Trenches- How to Experience the Good Life Even When Everything is Going Wrong](#)" by Robin Phillips. God meets us in the pain and heartache of our present moment. Find out how to make the journey to personal wellbeing that transforms our hardship and suffering into an attitude of gratitude.

### Philoptochos

The Annunciation Chapter of Philoptochos wishes you and your family a very blessed and happy 2023! In January we will have several events:

January 22 - General meeting immediately after Divine Liturgy in the Zaharias Room - everyone is welcome to attend, please join us!

### **The S.S. St. John Needs All Hands On Deck!**

Ahoy!

Tampa's Gasparilla approacheth fast, and we need the Ye Holy Krewe of the SS St. John the Baptist to reconvene! We are looking for volunteers to help out on Saturday, January 28, to assist with parking. This endeavor has been a tremendous support to our parish in the past only made possible by you, our faithful crew!

We need your help once more!

If you are available to assist on Saturday, January 28, please e-mail or text

Alex Limberatos as soon as you can

(262)370-0586 / [chaplainalex1@gmail.com](mailto:chaplainalex1@gmail.com)).

Thanks for all your support, mateys!



### Prayer for Teachers on Sunday, January 29

On January 29, we celebrate the feast of the Three Hierarchs, who are also the patron saints of teachers. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we will offer a prayer for all teachers and anyone who works in education in our community.



### Men's Group

Our men's group will meet on Sunday, January 29, 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. Please mark down our dates for men's group for this academic year—

Sunday, January 29; Sunday, March 26; Sunday, April 30 and Sunday, May 21.

### **SAVE THE DATE—Men's Retreat**

hosted by St. John in Tampa on Saturday, February 18, from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Theme: "How Can I Be a Spiritual Leader If I'm Not Even a Follower: Getting Back to the Basics of Christianity." This retreat is open to any Orthodox men of the Tampa Bay area and any of your friends.

### College Student Ministry

Our college student group will meet on Sunday, January 29, following Divine Liturgy in the office building. Any college student who moved to the Tampa area to study at one of the many local colleges are welcome to join us for lunch and a discussion. Please RSVP to Vasili Panagopoulos so we know how many are coming at [vasili@stjohntpa.org](mailto:vasili@stjohntpa.org)

### Joy Tweens

Will meet with Fr. Stavros from 12:00 p.m.- 2:00 p.m. on January 29 for lunch, icebreaker and discussion.

## Readings for the Sunday, January 22

**Prokeimenon: The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace. Grave Mode. Psalm 28**

**The reading is from Paul's First Letter to Timothy. 1 Tim. 4:9-15**

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

**The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Luke 19:1-10**

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaio; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaio, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaio stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

**Prayer List:** Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Tina Chakonas, Felix Ramirez, 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; Konstantinos & 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 Evde-mon, 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

January 22

Topic: Zacchaeus- Youth Sunday

January 29

Topic: Presentation of Christ

Liturgical Notes

**Wednesday, January 25 - St. Gregory the Theologian** - One of the Three Hierarchs, also lived in the 4th century. He was a friend and contemporary of St. Basil and St. John Chrysostom. He was an accomplished speaker and writer, was the Bishop of Nazianzos and was one of the Bishops who presided at the Second Ecumenical Council of Constantinople in 381, which finalized the Nicene Creed that we recite to this day.

**Monday, January 30 - The Three Hierarchs-** The Three Hierarchs are St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom. Each had his own feastday and all are honored together on January 30, ironically because of a controversy over which was the greatest. (Imagine a church meeting where we de-bated which saints were the most important!) Each of them lived in the 4th Century, each was an accomplished writer and speaker, each was a Bishop, each authored a Liturgy and each is remembered prominently in the history of our church to this day. The Three Hierarchs are Patron Saints of Teachers and Education.

**Thursday, February 2 - The Presentation of Our Lord into the Temple**  
The Presentation of Christ is a major feastday of the church and commemorates the day, 40 days after the Nativity, when Christ was brought to the temple when He was 40 days old. According to the Law of Moses, every male child was brought to the temple on its 40th day, together with a sacrifice of pigeons or turtle doves by the parents, and the child was “consecrated Holy to the Lord.” Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the temple on His 40th day, because it was the law to do so. In the temple was a priest named Sime-on, who was an older man, who had been promised by God that he would not die until he saw the Christ. When Simeon saw the baby Jesus, he knew in his heart that this was the Lord’s Messiah. He took the child in his arms and prayed “Lord, now let your servant depart in peace according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light to enlighten the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel.” (Luke 2:29-32) This prayer is recited over every child in the Orthodox Church when they are brought to church for the first time when they are 40 days old. That’s where this beautiful tradition comes from.

Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project  
January 22-28

You whom I took from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest corners, saying to you,  
“You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off.”  
Isaiah 41:9

When I was a kid, I had to endure the humiliating experience of people choosing teams for a game and being the last one chosen. (Many of us, perhaps most of us have had this experience, it is not unique to me). When one is chosen last, there is the inference that they are not valued and not wanted, that everyone is better than them. It is not a good place to be. Isaiah 41:9 is God’s firm answer to the thought that we are not wanted. We are wanted, by God, always. He doesn’t have a hierarchy of who He picks first, He wants everyone. We need to hear the message from Isaiah in a personal way, and to believe it in a personal way. The Lord says that He has taken us, from the ends of the earth and called us from its farthest corners. This does not only mean geo-graphically. It is much more than that. The “farthest” corner means the one who works in obscurity in the office cubicle farthest from the window, the patient in the hospital who is the farthest from recovery, the one who is in prison who is the farthest from freedom, the one who is sad, who is the farthest from confident, the one who has failed and is the farthest from success—all of these and more, these are the ones God wants. If we are in any of these unenviable positions, we need to hear these words “You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off.” We have to believe that we are chosen, that we are not cast off, that we are not forsaken, that God will not send us away. This is part of what faith is, to believe in something that seems unbelievable, that God actually wants ME, that He actually wants ME to succeed, that He’s rooting for ME, that He values ME, despite who I am and what I’ve done.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT  
ORTHODOX CHRISTIANIANITY?  
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FOUR WEEK COURSE

Orthodoxy 101

OFFERED BY  
FR. STAVROS N. AKROTIRIANAKIS, PARISH PRIEST

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND  
ORTHODOXY 101?

- TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE  
BASICS OF THE ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIAN FAITH
- IF YOU ARE MARRIED TO (OR  
DATING) AN ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIAN AND WOULD LIKE TO  
BETTER UNDERSTAND THE FAITH  
OF YOUR ORTHODOX SPOUSE
- AS A PRE-REQUISITE FOR  
JOINING THE ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIAN FAITH
- AS A REFRESHER COURSE IN THE  
BASICS OF THE ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIAN FAITH

WHEN WILL THE  
CLASSES BE HELD?

- MONDAY, JANUARY 23  
A TOUR OF THE ORTHODOX  
CHURCH: WHAT WE SEE AND  
WHAT IT MEANS
- MONDAY, JANUARY 30  
INTRODUCTION TO THE  
SACRAMENTS—BAPTISM,  
CHRISMATION, CONFESSION,  
MARRIAGE, UNCTION
- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6  
THE DIVINE LITURGY—  
A “TEACHING” LITURGY
- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13  
ORTHODOX TRADITIONS—  
FASTING, ICONS, PRAYER AND  
LIVING AN ORTHODOX  
CHRISTIAN LIFE

WHAT FORMAT CAN I EXPECT?  
A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE WITH PRESENTATIONS, INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS,  
AND LOTS OF TIME FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.  
CLASSES WILL BE HELD FROM 6:30-8:30 P.M. IN THE CHURCH SANCTUARY.  
Please call the church office at 813-876-8830 for further information or if you have any questions.  
Please sign up by emailing Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com.  
There is no charge for this class.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH - 2418 W. SWANN AVENUE - TAMPA, FL - 33609

Altar Boy Schedule

<p><b>January 22</b> Thanos Kantaras Michael Galin Leo Sengsouvanna Kenny Kane Philip Kane Gabriel Gonzalez</p>	<p><b>Captains</b> John Palios Genaro Scarfogliero Nicholas Akrotirianakis Nicholas Carter James Magos Demetri Passalaris George Xenick Nicholas Magos PJ Zelatis</p>	<p><b>January 29</b> Michael Snyder Zachary Carter Dorian Setzer-Torres Prometheus Koutouzi Leo Lendaros Niko Kyros Josh Roby</p>
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