

**Parish Priest:**  
**Retired Priest in Residence:**  
**Retired Priest in Residence:**  
**Pastoral Assistant:**  
**Administrative Assistant:**  
**Bookkeeper:**

Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038  
Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski 813-876-8830  
Rev. Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425  
Vasili Panagopoulos 414-254-5134  
Kim Rojas 813-876-8830  
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:**

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

**College Ministry:**

**Community Outreach:**

**Dance Groups:**

H XAPA MAS, 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

**Sunday School:**

**Ushers**

**Veterans/1st Responders**

**Welcoming Ministry:**

**Women's Bible Study:**

**Young Adults**

**Young at Heart:**

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038  
Aris Rogers 813-309-5525  
Bill Manikas 813-716-8185  
Dora Morgan 813-613-3738  
Suzanne Pileggi 813-244-5855

**Youth Protection:**



## St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



**July 23, 2023**

**Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)**

**Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)**

**Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)**

**7th 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:**

7th Sunday of Matthew ; Phocas the Holy Martyr, Bishop of Sinope ; Ezekiel the Prophet ;  
Pelagia the Righteous of Tinos

**Resurrection Apolytikion:**

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.

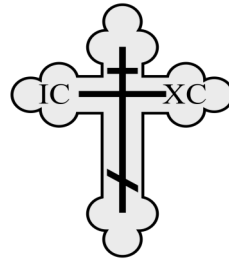
**Kontakion:**

A protection of Christians unshamable, intercessor to our Holy Maker unwavering, reject not, the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us for you are good, your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you. Hasten to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all time, Theotokos for those who honor you.

**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.

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 out of session the order for Holy Communion will be as follows:

1. Choir
2. Altar boys
3. Then the rest of the congregation

## Upcoming Services & Events

**Sunday July 23**

**Orthros 8:45 a.m.**  
**(Fr. Stavros Celebrant)**

**Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

**Monday July 24**

**Bible Study 6:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday July 25**

**Chant Class 6:00 p.m.— 8:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday July 26**

**St. Paraskevi**  
**Orthros 9:00 a.m.**  
**(Fr. John Celebrant)**

**Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday July 30**

**Orthros 8:45 a.m.**  
**(Fr. Stavros & Fr. John Celebrant)**

**Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

**Monday July 31**

**Bible Study 6:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday August 1**

**Beginning of the Dormition Fast**  
**Orthros 9:00 a.m.**  
**Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

**Wednesday August 2**

**Paraklesis 6:00 p.m.**  
**Choir Practice**  
**Parish Council 7:00 p.m.**

**Friday August 4**

**Paraklesis 6:00 p.m.**

**Saturday August 5**

**Young at Heart**

### **Religious Education at** **St. John**

**Monday Night**  
**Bible Study**

**Leader:**  
**Fr. John**

**July 24: Monday at**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Women's**  
**Bible Study**

**Leader:**  
**Fr. Stavros**

**Resumes until August**

### **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* UNAWARES.  
HEBREWS 13:2

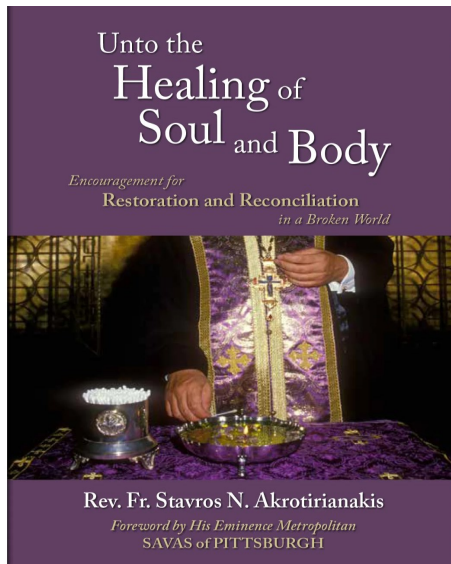


## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### **St. John's Bookstore - Chapter Books for Kids Ages 8-10**

This week our bookstore features two books to help kids deal with negative emotions. "Peter Clashes with Anger" and "Eleni looks at Jealousy" both focus on how Papou teaches Peter and Eleni to effectively deal with their passions through stillness. Heartwarming!

**Fr. Stavros will be out of the office from July 18-July 29 on vacation with his family. I will have very limited access to email. For any pastoral emergencies, please contact Fr. John Stefero at 678-637-4425.**



### **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.

### **Prayer for School Students**

Sunday, August 6 All school students and teachers (high school and below) are invited to participate in a special prayer that will be held at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on August 6, prior to the beginning of the public school year. Fr. Stavros will offer a special prayer for all of our students and teachers as they begin the new school year.

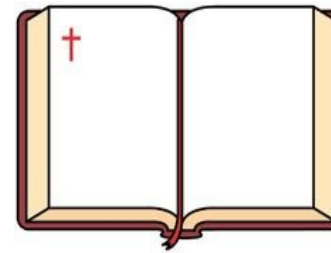


### **Grapes for the Feast of the Transfiguration**

We need enough grapes cut in small clusters so that we can give one small cluster to everyone in church on Sunday, August 6. If you are interested in donating, please contact Kim to let her know that you are donating, and please plan on purchasing and bringing the grapes to church. We will have a big bowl that you can cut them into cluster and put them in.

## Readings for Sunday, July 23

**Prokeimenon: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.  
Psalm 27.9,1**



### **The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 15:1-7**

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me."

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

### **The reading is from Matthew 9:27-35**

At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons."

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

Liturgical Notes

July 26-St. Paraskevi

St. Paraskevi lived in the second century. She was orphaned at the age of 20 and was left a large fortune by her parents. She sold all of her possessions to help heal human suffering and remained a version her entire life, leading a monastic life. She was strong in eloquence and spoke persuasively to Romans, converting many to Christianity. She was sentence to be martyred by the emperor Antoninus, by being thrown into a cauldron of oil and tar. When she was put in the cauldron, the material cooled instead of burning her. The emperor approached to see what was going on and the steam from the cauldron blinded him. St. Paraskevi then healed the emperor, who set her free. She was martyred by the Emperor Marcus Aurelius, Antoninus’ successor.

St. Paraskevi is the patron saint of our eyes, and optometrists.



**Prayer List:** Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Larry Maas; Konstantinos Triantafyllopoulos; Kostadinou 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, Toulia 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, 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.

Altar Boy Schedule

July 23rd

Anyone attending  
may serve

Captains

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

July 30th

Anyone attending  
may serve

Fifty- Two Verses  
-In-  
Fifty- Two Weeks  
July 23rd- July 29th

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.  
Matthew 13:44

Everyone has a finite amount of everything—time, money, talent, etc. Imagine if you walked by a vacant field, that was overgrown with weeds, and had no house on it, you probably wouldn’t sink your life savings into just the field because there would be no money left over to build a house on it. And what good is the field if you have no place to live? Imagine, however, if under the soil of that field was a box of treasure, more money that you’d ever need. You’d buy the field, and take the treasure and build the house and everything else you need with the treasure. The kingdom of heaven is like that buried treasure. The field may not be attractive, but what is underneath certainly is. If you went to buy a vacant lot and put everything you had into it, people might think you were crazy. You would comfort yourself knowing what lies beneath the soil of that field. So it is with the Christian life. There are parts of the Christian life that the world finds unattractive—morality, consistency, sacrifice, not instant salvation. Others may even ridicule Christians who seem to have bought the “empty field.” But we know what lies beneath the soil, we know that the treasure is worth more than anything, including life itself. And if we don’t know that, we should still invest in the field, trusting the others who believe the treasure that is underneath.  
The church and the Lord give us glimpses of that treasure—we just need to keep our eyes open.



St. John is responsible to have 6 volunteers sign up each month.

**SIGN UP!**

*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 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



## 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**





ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

# INTRODUCTION TO CHANT CLASS

A 13-Week introductory chant class  
offered at St. John's Church

REGISTER FOR CLASSES NOW AT  
[VASILI@STJOHNTPA.ORG](mailto:VASILI@STJOHNTPA.ORG)

All are welcome  
Tuesday's | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Next class: Tuesday, July 25

### Three Class Goals

- Being comfortable reading, intoning, and projecting your voice from the chanters stand
- Seeing and understanding the services from the perspective of the chanter
- Having the knowledge and ability to chant a Divine Liturgy or Sacrament by yourself



St. John the Baptist

## BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Open Registration

Sunday School  
Starts  
on August 2023

July 30th &  
August 6th

For your information please contact  
Vickie Peckham :

[vickiepeckham@gmail.com](mailto:vickiepeckham@gmail.com)

Thank you!