

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 813-760-6289
 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 Mathew Balasis 727-421-7376
AHEPA: Thomas Sakaris, President 201-819-2319
Altar Angels: Kalliope Chagaris 813-789-4134
Bible Study: Rev. Fr. John Stefero 813-876-8830
Bookstore: Pres. Denise Stefero 678-464-4833
Choir: Tara Swartzbaugh, Director 813-313-0439
 Ruth Losovitz, Organist 727-688-2782
 Vasili Panagopoulos 414-254-5134
College Ministry: Greg Melton 813-967-2074
Community Outreach: H XAPA MΑΣ, Alexandra De Maio 813-340-9668
Dance Groups: 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
 Sheila Vukmer 412-719-1005
 Michael & Bessie Palios 813-523-0346
 George & Zackie Ameres 813-245-3813
 Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963

Daughters of Penelope: Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-876-8830
Finance Committee: Marcelle Triantafilou 612-396-5026
Food Pantry: Karina Findlay 813-476-9632
GOYA: Melissa Krinos 813-716-9975
Hope/Joy: Chris Kyrus 757-672-1920
Joy Tweens: George Mitseas 813-748-1220
Men's Fellowship: Vickie Peckham 813-758-3102
Nursing Ministry: Pete Trakas 813-505-2193
Photography Ministry: Fr. John Stefero 813-876-8830
Philoptochos: Maria Xenick 813-765-3587
Stewardship: Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-876-8830
 Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-876-8830
 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



April 23, 2023

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

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:
Thomas Sunday ; George the Great Martyr and Triumphant

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

Apolytikion of the Feast:
With the tomb sealed securely, O Christ the Life, You rose from the grave, and with the doors tightly closed, You came to Your Apostles, O Resurrection of all, renewing in us a right Spirit through them, according to Your great mercy.

St. George Apolytikion:
As the liberator of prisoners, and the protector of those in poverty, physician of the sick, and defender of ruling kings, O George Triumphant Great Martyr, intercede with Christ our God, that our souls may be saved.



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:

- 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 April 23	Thomas Sunday St. George the Great Martyr Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday April 24	Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday April 25	St. Mark the Evangelist Orthros 9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday April 26	Paraklesis Service of Supplication to the Virgin Mary 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice	
Thursday April 27	Adult Greek School	
Saturday April 29	Community Outreach	
Sunday April 30	Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women Orthros 8:45 a.m. Youth Sunday Parea Dance Practice Men’s Group 5:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday May 1	Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday May 2	Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Veteran’s First Responders 6:30 p.m. Intro to Chanting Class 6:00 p.m.	
Thursday May 4	Adult Greek School	

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

Religious Education at St. John

Monday Night Bible Study	Women’s Bible Study
Leader: Fr. John	Leader: Fr. Stavros
April 24: Monday at 6:30 p.m.	April 24 : Monday at 10:00 a.m.

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore - Pouches for Antidoron Handmade in Greece

Do you carry Antidoron home after services and place it in a piece of foil, napkin, or tissue from the bottom of your handbag? Stop into our bookstore to see two designs of Antidoron pouches handmade in Greece and available in limited numbers. They are beautifully made and you'll love them! Great gift item for Mothers' Day.



Veterans & 1st Responders Meeting

While saying "thank you" to someone in uniform is a kind gesture, there's always room to make a real, positive impact. Valor is stability, not of legs and arms, but of courage and the soul.

Join us on **Tuesday, April 25th at 6:30 p.m.** in the Kourmoulis Hall.

Young Adults

The Young Adult Group will meet for dinner/ discussion on Thursday, April 27th from 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. in the Kourmoulis Center. The group also meets informally for social events.

If you are interested in getting notices via WhatsApp, contact Aris Rogers at (813)309-5525.

Community Outreach

Our Outreach will serve on : **April 29, 2023 from 8:00AM - 10:00AM**

@ Tampa Hope. Located at 3704 E. 3rd Avenue Tampa 33605

Please sign up via the Sign Up Genius barcode!

St John is responsible for 6 volunteers to serve every third Saturday of every month.



Parea Dancers

Our Parea Dance Group (GOYAns) will be having a monthly practice one Sunday each month after the Divine Liturgy.

Our **April practice** will be on **Sunday, April 30.**

Men's Group

Our men's group will meet on Sunday, April 30, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmoulis 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, April 30 and Sunday, May 21.



JOY TWEENS

On April 30, after the Divine Liturgy, JOY Tweens will have their last meeting with Father Stavros for the 2022-2023 school year.

We will start the meeting in the church at 12:30pm.

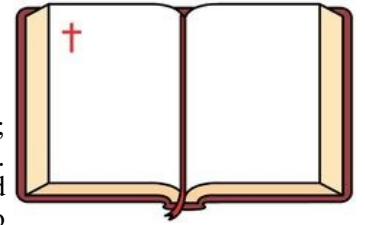
More details to follow in the JOY Tweens April Constant Contact.

SAVE THE DATE! On Friday, May 5, 2023, JOY Tweens will celebrate the end of the school year with dinner and a movie!



Readings for Sunday, April 23

Prokeimenon: The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. Psalm 63.11,1



The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11

About that time, Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword; and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church.

The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Wrap your mantle around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him; he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. And Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to John 20:19-31

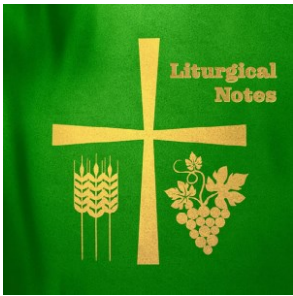
On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and My God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, you may have life in His name.

Dear Parishioners,



Vasili Panagopoulos, our Pastoral Assistant, will be offering a **13 week introductory class on chanting.** This course will **start on Tuesday, May 2** and will meet every Tuesday until Tuesday, July 25 with the exception of a few dates that are unavailable. The entire course with further information will be sent out via Constant Contact this week. Please RSVP to Vasili at vasili@stjohntpa.org by Friday, April 28.

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 “Χριστός Ανέστη!,” to which the response is “Truly He is Risen” or “Αληθῶς Ανέστη!”

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, April 23 - Sunday of St. Thomas

The Church brings to our mind the unbelief of Thomas followed by his belief after seeing the scars of Christ.

Sunday, April 23 – St. George

St. George the “Trophy Bearer” is one of the most famous saints of our church. He lived in the third century. He was a soldier, famously memorialized in icons as slaying a dragon. Symbolically, he “slayed” the “dragons” that opposed Christianity and was martyred for his faith. His relics were placed in the altar of our church when it was consecrated in 1986. St. George’s feast day is celebrated on the Monday after Pascha when Pascha falls on April 23 or later (when Pascha falls earlier than April 23, we celebrate his feastday on April 23). Thus, this year, we will celebrate his feastday on Sunday, April 23.

Tuesday, April 25 – St. Mark the Evangelist

St. Mark was the first Evangelist to write his Gospel. It’s important that we pause to remember the days of the four Gospel writers, after all, without their Spirit-inspired writings, we would not know the story of Jesus Christ.

Wednesday, April 26 – 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 April, the Paraklesis will be offered on Wednesday evening, April 26, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 30- Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women

They came to anoint Jesus’ body, but found an EMPTY tomb. We also commemorate Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus.

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

April 23
Teddy Kafentaris
Andrew Thatcher
Kris Christopher
Vasilios Panos
Jonah Blankenbaker

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

April 30
Christos Nenos
Constantine Ameres
Zachary George
Alex Findlay
Gianni Matassini
Nathan Moran
Michael Meadows

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATE

April 23
TOPIC: St. Thomas



April 30
TOPIC: Fruits of the Spirit
YOUTH SUNDAY

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



GIFT CARD DONATIONS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY
GIFT CARDS IN ANY AMOUNT FOR PUBLIX, WALMART OR SAVE-A-LOT ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!
FEEL FREE TO DROP THEM OFF TO OUR OFFICE ADMIN. ASSISTANT
MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM- 5PM OR MAIL THEM IN.
THANK YOU!

CHURCH DONATIONS & STEWARDSHIP CHECKS

There has been an increase of missing information on checks & donations.
We kindly ask to verify the following before submitting payment.

THANK YOU

- 1) IS THE NAME YOU USE TO PLEDGE / DONATE BEFORE, THE SAME AS WHAT IS WRITTEN ON YOUR CHECK?
IF NOT PLEASE WRITE IT ON THE CHECK
- 2) ON YOUR CHECK, ON THE **FOR/MEMO LINE**, PLEASE MAKE SURE TO STATE IF THE CHECK IS FOR STEWARDSHIP, CHRISTMAS, EASTER OR ANY OTHER DONATION.
- 3) IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE DON'T POST DATE CHECKS
- 4) WHEN MAKING A PAYMENT VIA **SUBSPASH**. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO SELECT THE **CORRECT YEAR** WHEN MAKING A STEWARDSHIP DONATION. IF MAKING A DIFFERENT TYPE OF PAYMENT/ DONATION, PLEASE WRITE IT IN THE MEMO BOX.