

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-876-8830
<b>Retired Priest in Residence:</b>	Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830
<b>Retired Priest in Residence:</b>	Rev. Fr. John Stefero	813-876-8830
<b>Pastoral Assistant:</b>	Alex Limberatos	262-370-0586
<b>Pastoral Assistant:</b>	Vasili Panagopoulos	414-254-5134
<b>Bookkeeper:</b>	Debbie Bowe	813-876-8830
<b>Parish Council:</b>		
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		781-888-3329
Amin Hanhan		813-846-2957
Nick Kataras		863-581-2430
Suzanne Pileggi		813-244-5855
Marcelle Triantafilou		612-396-5026
Mike Xenick		813-340-8737
<b>12 Disciples</b>	Mathew Balasis	727-421-7376
<b>AHEPA:</b>	Thomas Sakaris, President	201-819-2319
<b>Altar Angels:</b>	Engie Halkias	813-932-5859
	Kalliope Chagaris	813-789-4134
<b>Bookstore:</b>	Pres. Denise Stefero	678-464-4833
<b>Choir:</b>	Pauline Spencer, Director	813-390-1782
	Ruth Losovitz, Organist	727-688-2782
<b>Community Outreach:</b>	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
<b>Dance Groups:</b>	H XAPA ΜΑΣ, 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
<b>Daughters of Penelope:</b>	Diane Trimis	813-220-3389
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	Gary Ward	813-846-3898
<b>Food Pantry</b>	Sheila Vukmer	412-719-1005
<b>GriefShare:</b>	Donna Hambos	813-843-8412
<b>GOYA:</b>	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346
<b>Hope/Joy:</b>	George & Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
<b>Men's Fellowship:</b>	Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis	813-876-8830
<b>MOMS:</b>	Mary Ann Konstas	813-215-9862
<b>Nursing Ministry:</b>	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
<b>Oratorical Festival:</b>	Peggy Bradshaw	727-244-1374
<b>Photography Ministry:</b>	Karina Findlay	813-476-9632
<b>Philoptochos:</b>	Melissa Krinos	813-716-9975
<b>Stewardship:</b>	Chris Kyros	757-672-1920
	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102
<b>Ushers</b>	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
<b>Welcoming Ministry:</b>	Maria Xenick	813-765-3587
<b>Young Adults</b>	Alex Limberatos	262-370-0586
<b>Young at Heart:</b>	Bill Manikas	813-716-8185
	Dora Morgan	813-613-3738
<b>Youth Protection:</b>	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855



## **St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church**

**January 23, 2021 - 14th Sunday Of Luke**

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

**(St. Gregory the Theologian January 25 Above)**

**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:**

Hieromartyr Clement, Bishop of Ancyra; Agathangelus the Martyr; Righteous Father Dionysius of Olympus;

**Apolytikion of the Week (Pl. 2 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.

**Apolytikion for St. Clement (4 Mode):** O Clement, according to your all-sacred name, you grew as a branch of holiness, a stem of martyrdom, a most sacred flower, and a luscious fruit given by God to the faithful. We pray you, who ran with Martyrs and shared the throne with hierarchs: intercede with Christ our God, entreating Him to save our souls.

**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

**Apolytikion for St. John:** 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 (1 Mode):** 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.

**Upcoming Services & Events**

<b>Sunday, January 23</b>	<b>Orthros 8:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>
Monday, January 24	Women’s Bible Study Bible Study Orthodoxy 101	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
<b>Tuesday, January 25</b>	<b>St. Gregory the Theologian Orthros 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>
Thursday, January 27	Griefshare Adult Greek School	6:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
<b>Sunday, January 30</b>	<b>Three Hierarchs Orthros 8:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Monday, January 31</b>	<b>Orthodoxy 101 - Teaching Liturgy 6:30-8:30 p.m.</b>	

**Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project  
January 23-29**

*From that time Jesus began to preach, saying “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.”  
Matthew 4:17*

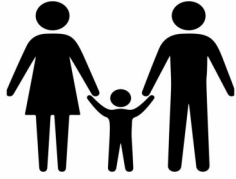
The first words of Jesus’ public ministry were these: “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” These words represent a call to ac-tion. To repent means to change direction. In Greek, the word repent is “metanoia”. This word “metanoia” is also the name given to the liturgical action when a bishop, priest, deacon or even lay person bends at the waist and touches the floor with one or both hands. This “metanoia” or change of direction allows the person to look within themselves. So many times we look at others with judgment. Jesus tells us not to look at ourselves in comparison with others, but for us to turn towards Jesus in our own personal repentance. And why? Because the kingdom of heaven is at hand. The Kingdom of heaven is present in the person of Jesus Christ, it is present in the Di-vine Liturgy as we receive Christ. The Kingdom of heaven is not just a far off reality to be experienced at the end of life. To the contrary, we experience small tastes of the Kingdom in this life. The first step toward encountering God is to turn towards Him, which is what it means to repent.

**Education at St. John 01/16 to 01/22**

<b><u>Monday Night Bible Study</u></b> <i>Leader:</i> Fr John Stefero <i>Day:</i> <b>Monday</b> 6:30 p.m.	<b><u>Women’s Bible Study</u></b> <i>Leader:</i> Fr. Stavros <i>Day:</i> <b>Monday</b> 10:00 a.m.	<b><u>Greek School</u></b> <i>Leader:</i> Magda Myer <i>Day:</i> <b>Thursday</b> 6:30 p.m.
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## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES



**Welcome Vasili, Moriah, and Anthony** - Today we welcome our new Pastoral Assistant, Vasili Panagopoulos, his wife Moriah, and their son Anthony into our community. Be sure to stop and meet the Panagopoulos family today at Coffee Hour!

**Welcome home George Steffens!** George Steffens has been a member of the U.S. military for many years, and has also been a faithful Orthodox Christian. He has participated in our parish from around the world via live-stream, in many instances it was his only connection with Orthodoxy as he served in remote areas. George has finished his military service and will be joining us in Tampa now on a full-time basis. Welcome back George! And we thank you for your service to our country!



**Men's Group January 23 CANCELLED-** Our men's group meeting scheduled for today is cancelled. We will hold our next meeting on Sunday, February 27

**St. John's Bookstore**— Have you decided to devote more time to studying Scripture this year? Our bookstore is full of resource materials for you. From Orthodox study Bibles to commentaries on particular books, we have a large selection to choose from. Stop in today and browse our selection.



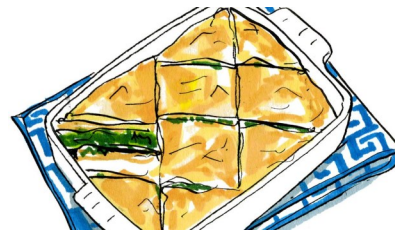
**Monday Night Bible Study** - Fr. John 's next Scriptural topic for discussion will be "The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm" (*The Lord is My Shepherd*) beginning this Monday at 6:30 pm. Join us in person or via Zoom to share your insights as we deepen our relationship with Christ.



**GriefShare Continues This Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.** - If you are struggling with a loss in your life, GriefShare is open to you to be vulnerable with this hurt. GriefShare is a Christian-based bereavement program open to those inside and outside our community. GriefShare groups meet weekly and has three distinct elements: Video seminar with experts, support group

discussion with focus and personal study and reflection. This thirteen session program will begin on January 13 and weekly will be held from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays. If you are interested or have any questions about GriefShare, please contact Donna Hambos at 813-843-8412 or the church office.

**Philoptochos Selling Spanakopita, Tyropita, and Trays of Baklava** - The Philoptochos will continue selling Spanakopita, Tyropita, and Baklava after Divine Liturgy! You can ask a Philoptochos board member or call Lisa Alsina (813-728-1094) if you're interested in purchasing one!



**Blood Pressure Screening in February-** YOUR nursing ministry will be doing FREE blood pressure checks February 13, 20, and 27. Come get your blood pressure checked and know your numbers!

## Readings for 12th Sunday of Luke

**Epistle Reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 1:15-17**

**Prokeimenon:** O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.  
To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

**Gospel Reading is from Luke 18:35-43**

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

**Prayer List:** Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Christopher; Christopher; Elaine Daniels; Mary & Peter Nenos; Tony Ekonomou; Keith Lynn & Patrick Carroll; Daniel Hoss, 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, Ron Myer, Toulia Tsaros, Fr. Pat Legato, 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, Matthew & Family, 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, Robert and Alice Stoccardo, John Alexander, Michael Romero, George Hambos, Dean Kondilis and Family, Bill and Nancy Manikas, Patricia Costello, Anastasia Smyrnakis, Ekaterina & Anna Shushaalykova, Dora Koudouna, Debbie Phelps, Mary Voykin, David Voykin, Denise Badrane, Don Payne, and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATE

Sunday, January 23

Topic: Making Moral Choices

Sunday, February 6

Youth Sunday

Topic: Presentation of Christ / Salvation

Sunday, January 30

Topic: Saints of the Orthodox Church

Prosphora: Grades 2-4

Sunday, February 13

Topic: Publican & Pharisee

Prosphora: 7th & 8th Graders

Liturgical Notes

**Tuesday, 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.

**Sunday, 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 debated 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.

Altar Boy Schedule

January 23  
(St. Mark Team)

Nicholas Carter  
Zachary Carter  
Harry Robinson  
Prometheus Koutouzi  
Leo Lenardos  
PJ Zelatis  
Niko Kyrus

Captains

John Palios  
Genaro Scarfogliero  
Nicholas Akrotirianakis  
Yanni Trimikliniotis  
James Magos  
Demetri Passalaris

January 30  
(St. Luke Team)

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

Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!

If you want to make sure we have your birthdate on file, please call the office.

Birthdays

January 23	Hunter Perry	Agathangelos; Dionysius;
January 24	Jaxon Horack	Filon; Xenii; Zosimas;
January 25	Arty Giallourakis; Niko Koulianos; Madeline Moran; Ana Mourer; Ellie Kate Papataros; Taytum Parker;	Gregory; Margaret;
January 26	Michael Mellon Lynn	Xenofon; Haris; Palladios;
January 27	Vasiana Christopoulos; Alec Papadakis;	
January 28		
January 29	Aphroditi Johnson;	Varsamia;

Namedays

Orthodoxy 101 Class  
Continues!

Fr. Stavros offers this class two times per year, in the spring and in the fall. This will be a Four-week course of study on Monday nights to make people aware of the basics of being an Orthodox Christian. The classes will be part lecture, part discussion, with lots of time for questions and answers.

**Who should attend the Orthodoxy 101 class?**

- Interfaith couples. This will help the non-Orthodox person understand more about what is going on in our church.
- Anyone who is considering joining our church. Going forward, this class will be a requirement for those who wish to join our Orthodox faith.
- New converts to Orthodoxy. For those who recently joined our church and who want to know a little bit more.
- Anyone who wants to know more about the basics of our faith, or who wants a refresher course in the basics of Orthodoxy is encouraged to attend.

The remaining sessions will be done as follows:

**Monday, January 24** Orthodox Spirituality—Introduction to the Sacraments

**Monday, January 31** The Divine Liturgy—This will actually be a “teaching” Liturgy on the solea of the church. If you have taken the class, or if you wish to only attend THIS session, please feel free to do so.

**Monday, February 7** Orthodox Traditions—fasting, icons, prayer, and separating Theology from “yiayialogy.” Classes will be held on these three Mondays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and will be held in the CHURCH Sanctuary.

Please sign up with Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com, so he has enough materials for everyone. There is no charge for this class.



**Gasparilla Park-  
ing Volunteers  
Needed** - After 15 years, John Kokkas is retiring from chairing our Gasparilla Parking fund-

raiser. For those who do not know, we sell parking spaces in our parking lots for the **January 29 (adults)**. If you are interested in helping the Gasparilla Parking fundraiser, please contact Alex Limberatos (alex@stjohntpa.org)



**Our Food Pantry is very active helping people near and far in the Tampa Community**

- ☐ Pasta
- ☐ Spaghetti Sauce
- ☐ Tomato sauce/chopped tomatoes etc.
- ☐ All kinds of white flour
- ☐ Canned Tuna
- ☐ Canned Chicken
- ☐ Canned fruits and vegetables
- ☐ Body Wash
- ☐ Gluten Free Foods and

- Flours
- ☐ Cereal
- ☐ Whole wheat rice and pasta
- ☐ Men's and Women's razors and shaving cream (travel size)
- ☐ Toothbrushes
- ☐ Granola & Protein Bars