

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
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

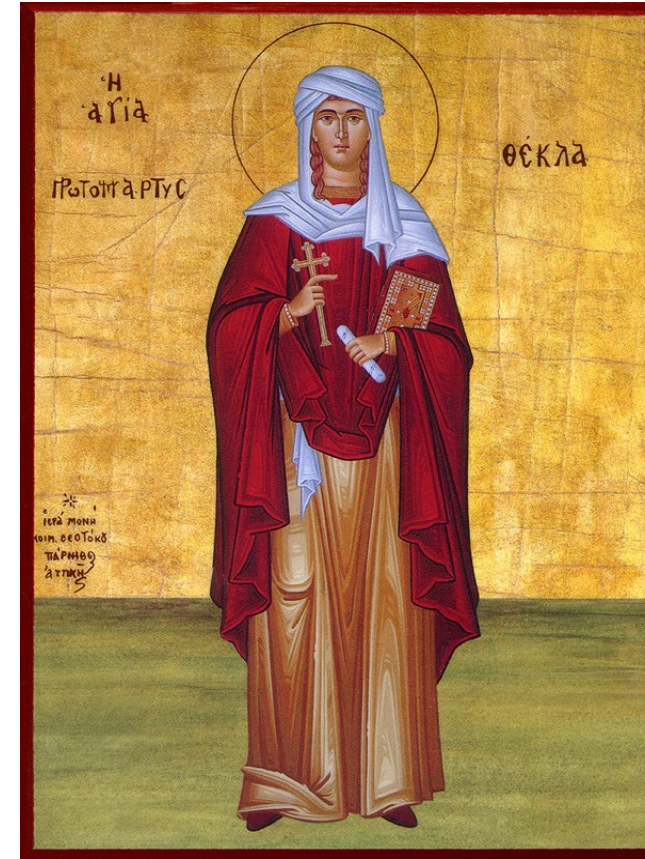
12 Disciples Mathew Balasis 727-421-7376
AHEPA: Thomas Sakaris, President 201-819-2319
Altar Angels: Kalliope Chagaris 813-789-4134
Bible Study: Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
Bookstore: Pres. Denise Stefero 678-464-4833
Choir: Tara Swartzbaugh, Director 813-313-0439
Ruth Losoviz, Organist 727-688-2782
College Ministry: Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
Community Outreach: Greg Melton 813-967-2074
Dance Groups: H XAPA MΑΣ, 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

Daughters of Penelope: Sandra Pappas 813-785-3747
Finance Committee: Michael & Bessie Palios 813-523-0346
Food Pantry: George & Zackie Ameres 813-245-3813
GOYA: Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963
Hope/Joy: Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
Joy Tweens Marcelle Triantafilou 612-396-5026
Men's Fellowship: Karina Findlay 813-476-9632
Nursing Ministry: Katherine Sakkis 813-309-1073
Photography Ministry: Chris Kyrus 757-672-1920
Philoptochos: George Mitseas 813-748-1220
Stewardship: Vickie Peckham 813-758-3102
Pete Trakas 813-505-2193
Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425

Sunday School: Maria Xenick 813-765-3587
Ushers Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-876-8830
Veterans/1st Responders Aris Rogers 813-309-5525
Welcoming Ministry: Bill Manikas 813-716-8185
Women's Bible Study: Dora Morgan 813-613-3738
Young Adults Suzanne Pileggi 813-244-5855
Young at Heart:
Youth Protection:



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



September 24, 2023

Thekla the Protomartyr & Equal-to-the-Apostles
Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)
Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)
Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)

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:

1st Sunday of Luke; Thecla the Protomartyr & Equal to the Apostles; Silouan of Athos; Stephen the Martyr

Resurrectional Apolytikion:

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.

Apolyikion of St. Thekla (3rd Tone)

All aflame with love for your Creator, * from the teachings of the sacred preacher, * you disregarded as fleeting all things mundane. * And being bold in the face of the penalties, * you gave yourself as a beautiful gift to God. * Thecla, glorious companion of the Apostle Paul, * we pray you entreat your Bridegroom, Christ, * and ask Him to grant us His great mercy.



Apolytikion of 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:

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.

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. 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

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday September 24

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

JOY Tweens 12:15 p.m.

Men’s Group 5:00 p.m.

Monday September 25

Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Orthodoxy 101 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday September 26

St. John the Theologian

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Veteran’s & 1st Responders 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday September 27

Choir Practice

Thursday September 28

Adult Greek School 6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

Saturday September 30

Young Adult Retreat 10:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.

Sunday October 1

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Dance Practice

Monday October 2

Orthodoxy 101 Teaching Liturgy 6:30 p.m.

**Donations for those affected during Hurricane Idalia & Fires in Hawaii.
Contribution basket is located in the front at the Baptistry Area.**

Religious Education at St. John

**Monday Night
Bible Study**

Leader:
Fr. John

September 25:
Monday at
6:30 p.m.

**Women’s
Bible Study**

Leader:
Fr. Stavros

September 25:
Monday at
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* UNAWARES.
HEBREWS 13:2

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore - A Boy's Journey to Sainthood

Volume 1 - Saint Paisios the Athonite and Volume 2 - Saint Porphyrios Kafsokalivia by Anna Iakovou are available in our bookstore. Full color books with beautiful illustrations and inspiring stories. The Saints of our Church, even the greatest elders and ascetics, were once children just like yours!



Greek Dance Groups



Y Hara Mas (3rd-6th grades) will not have Greek dance practice today. There will be dance practice next Sunday, October 1. Costume fittings will take place on Sunday, October 15 and 22, after dance practice. Please contact Maraquet Edquid (813-422-8963) with any questions.

WANT TO LEARN MODERN GREEK

ST. JOHN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



ADULT
GREEK
SCHOOL

TEACHER BORN, RAISED, AND EDUCATED IN
GREECE WITH 24 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
TEACHING THE GREEK LANGUAGE.

ADULT CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS TAUGHT @
ST. JOHN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

(2418 W. SWANN AVE, TAMPA, FL 33609). CLASSES
ARE HELD AT 6-8:30PM ON THURSDAY EVENINGS,
STARTING ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2023. THIS WILL BE
THE FIRST OF THREE SESSIONS, WITH EACH
SESSION LASTING THREE MONTHS

- SPEAK GREEK
- READ GREEK
- WRITE GREEK
- BASIC GRAMMAR & MORE.
- SOME GREEK HISTORY
- BOOK INCLUDED IN PRICE

PRICE PER SESSION IS \$150 FOR CHURCH MEMBERS
AND \$175 FOR NON-MEMBERS.
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING,
PLEASE REACH OUT TO MS. MAGDALINI MYER AT
ASPIS69@AOL.COM OR (813) 523-5771



Blood Donor HONOR ROLL

Thank you for participating in the blood drive at
St. John's Greek Orthodox Church on Sunday, September 17,

JOHNSTON ANGELICA
GRIMES DOLLY
WARD GARY
GALLOS GEORGIA
DEMAS JOHN
RIGGS KRISTIN
MAAS MARY ANN

APOSTOLOS CHERYL
DANIELS ELAINE
APOSTOLOS GEORGE
DALAKLIS JOANNE
STEFERO JOHN
ALIKAKOS MARIA
PILEGGI SUZANNE

Thank
you



facebook.com/myoneblood youtube.com/onebloodvideos twitter.com/my1blood oneblood.org

Readings for Sunday, September 24

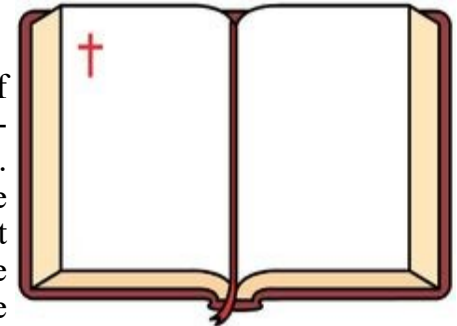
Prokeimenon: God is wonderful among his saints. Psalm 67.35,26

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15

TIMOTHY, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

**The reading is from The Gospel According to
Luke 5:1-11**

At that time, as Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.



Memorial:

John Plarinos (1 year); Sylvia Michos (40 days); Melpo Diamantides (5 years); Alex Kyriakis (5 years); Elpida Demias (5 years); Ioanna Christopetru (41 years)

It's Opa Time ~ November 3- 4, 2023 ~ Save the Date






Planning is Underway for our Annual Greek Festival! Mark your calendars for Opa time on Friday Nov. 3rd (4pm-10pm) & Saturday Nov. 4th (11am-10pm)

It takes the effort of our entire Church Community to host a successful Festival! We highlight our Greek Culture/Heritage but most importantly our Orthodox Christian Faith.

Many Opportunities will be Available for Participation; from Planning, Advertising, Cooking, Baking, Decorating, Dancing to the Hundreds of Volunteers Needed to Make it Happen!

Stay tuned for Bulletin Updates and Emails to include info for the Volunteer Signups, Cooking/Baking Dates, Promotional Info and more.



Altar Boy Schedule		
September 24th Christos Nenos Constantine Ameres Zachary George Alex Findlay Gianni Matassini Nathan Moran Michael Meadows	Captains Demetri Passalaris Nicholas Akrotirianakis Nicholas Magos Nicholas Carter George Xenick PJ Zelatis	October 1st Gabriel Gonzalez Michael Galin Philip Kane Leo Sengsouvanha Kenny Kane Peter Konstas
SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS		
September 24th The Creed		October 1st Reading the Bible
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		
Liturgical Notes		
	Tuesday, September 26 – St. John the Theologian St. John was one of the 12 disciples. He was the “beloved” Disciple we read about. He is the author of the Gospel of St. John, the Epistles of St. John and the Book of Revelation. He is the only one of the original 12 disciples to die naturally, reposing on the island of Patmos, where he had lived in exile, in the year 96 A.D. He was the youngest of the disciples and the last one to pass away.	
Monday, October 2- Teaching Divine Liturgy - St. Dionysios the Areopagite St. Dionysios converted to Christianity after hearing St. Paul preach in Athens, becoming one of the first Athenians to convert. He later became the first bishop of Athens, who was later martyred for his faith. AS part of the Orthodoxy 101 class, we will have a teaching Divine Liturgy on Monday, October 2, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on the solea of the church, and there will be periodic pauses in the service for people to ask questions and for Father Stavros to offer explanations.		
		

Community News

JOY Tweens

JOIN US! Our first JOY Tweens meeting of the year is **today!** All 4th to 6th graders are welcome. Please meet by the picnic tables following Divine Liturgy at 12:15pm.



PAREA DANCE GROUP (7th-12th graders)



PAREA's first dance practice to prepare for the festival will be held on **TODAY**, after church. We will have practice every Sunday after that unless there is a GOYA meeting that day (October 1, 15, 22 and 29). We are also planning to have a couple of Saturday practices given the limited time we have before the festival. Please email Marina Choundas at mchoundas@outlook.com if your child will be dancing in the Parea dance group this year and provide your child's name, age, grade and your (the parent/guardian's) email and cell number. Thank you!

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet on Sunday, September 24, at 5:00 p.m. We will walk to a nearby restaurant and have dinner and then come back to church for a discussion, concluding by 7:30 p.m. All men of the community are welcome to participate.



Join with Philoptochos in Supporting Two
Important Causes Today

*The Retired Clergy and Widows Benevolent
Fund*

(Retired Clergy Association)

Established to assist Retired Clergy and Presvyteres who find themselves struggling and in financial need after serving our Orthodox Church for many years

and

Holy Cross Seminary – Hellenic College

Providing scholarships to worthy and dedicated men and women at Hellenic College and Seminarians at Holy Cross Seminary to assist with their tuition expenses

Please be generous in your donations at our coffee hour today. Philoptochos thanks you!!

October is a Great time to JOIN THE CHOIR!

We sing Sunday Liturgy and
Special Services
Rehearsal Wednesday
Evenings

For more info Call or Text:

813-313-0439

Email:

TSwartzbaugh@ut.edu

Fifty- Two Verses

-In-

Fifty- Two Weeks

September 24th– September 30th

And Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19

Jesus, in one of the first acts of His ministry, called some men to be His disciples. It was not common for a Rabbi (a Jewish priest/teacher) to have disciples (students) that would follow him and study under him. In most instances, people would ask the Rabbi if they could follow. In this instance, Jesus called His own disciples to follow after Him. The men He chose were fishermen by trade, and in many instances, we see that they weren't even very good fishermen. He told them that He was going to make them “fishers of men.” Instead of catching fish, they would catch people. The net would not be one made of rope and twine, but it would be a “net” of Christianity. Ultimately, this net is the church. We, today, all of us, are disciples. We are students. Jesus is the Rabbi, the teacher, but He is also our Lord and Savior. He calls us to be “fishers of men,” to catch people for Christ. This is the call of each disciple, each student, to one day be an apostle, one who catches people for Christ. One must be a disciple before one can be an apostle, but the call is not just to be disciples, but to be Apostles, and when we stand in front of Christ at His awesome judgment seat, He will ask us not only if we were good students and what did we learn about Him, but were we good apostles, did we recruit people for Him, did we spread the word to them. The disciples, when initially called by Jesus, expressed feelings of inadequacy to do this awesome task. They didn't say they were lazy or disinterested, but they didn't think they could do it. And Jesus reassured them constantly that He was calling them, He believed that they could do this awesome task and that He was going to send the Holy Spirit down on them to help them. He does the same for us—He has called US. He believes in US, and our ability to spread the Gospel, and when we put faith in Him, He will in turn send down the Holy Spirit on us to help us in this most important work.

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Melissa Romero, Sandra Reyes, Miltiadis, Larry Maas; Konstantinos Triantafyllopoulos; Kostadinos 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; Eva Coppalla; Christopher; Christopher; Peter Nenos; 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, 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, and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

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

Orthodoxy 101

BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER & OFFERED BY
FR. STAVROS N. AKROTIRIANAKIS, PARISH PRIEST

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND ORTHODOXY 101?

· 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

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

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

WHEN WILL THE CLASSES BE HELD?

· MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
A TOUR OF THE ORTHODOX
CHURCH: WHAT WE SEE AND
WHAT IT MEANS

· MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
INTRODUCTION TO THE
SACRAMENTS—BAPTISM,
CHRISMATION, CONFESSION,
MARRIAGE, UNCTION

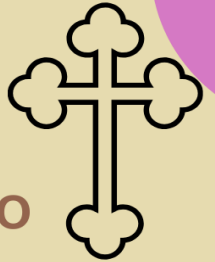
· MONDAY, OCTOBER 2
THE DIVINE LITURGY—
A "TEACHING" LITURGY

· MONDAY, OCTOBER 9
ORTHODOX TRADITIONS—
FASTING, ICONS, PRAYER AND
LIVING AN ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN LIFE

JOIN US FOR OUR

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Saturday, September 30
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Theme: Renewal of Mind and Soul: A Discussion with an
Orthodox Priest and an Orthodox Therapist

Presenters: Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis, priest of
St. John Greek Orthodox Church in Tampa, FL



Mary Ann Konstas, licensed Mental Health Counselor



\$15.00 (lunch included)

Retreat to be held at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox
Church, 2418 Swann Avenue, Tampa, FL

RSVP to kim@stjohntpa.org by Monday, September 25