

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
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
Joanne Dalaklis		813-385-8205
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
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
Community Outreach:	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
Dance Groups:	H XAPA ΜΑΣ, Alexandra De Maio	813-340-9668
	Bessie Palios,	813-523-0347
	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
	IIAPEA, Marina Choundas	813-877-6136
	IIANHΓYPI, Alexandra De Maio	813-340-9668
Daughters of Penelope:	Diane Trimis	813-220-3389
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
Men's Fellowship:	Fr. Stavros N. 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
Welcoming Ministry:	Maria Xenick	813-765-3587
Young Adults	Vasili Panagopoulos	414-254-5134
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

July 24, 2022

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

(Icon of St. Christina the Great Martyr of Tyre)

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:

Christina the Great Martyr of Tyre; Athenagorus the Apologist; Boris and Gleb, the Passion Bearers

Resurrectional Apolytikion (Plagal First Mode):

Co-eternal with the Father and Spirit is the Word Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation we the faithful both praise and worship Him. For in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the cross and death did He endure and He raised unto life the dead by His all Glorious Resurrection.

For the Fathers (Fourth Mode):

Your maiden Martyr, like a lamb, cries out, "O Jesus, for You, * my pure Bridegroom, I long; and seeking You I compete; * and I am crucified and buried with You in Your baptism. * I suffer for Your sake, that I may reign with You. * I die for You that I may also live in You. * Accept me as an unblemished sacrifice * as I offer myself to You with love." * At her entreaties and intercessions, * save our souls, O Merciful Lord.

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 (Second Mode):

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.

Please Be Reverent During Holy Communion We're asking everyone to refrain from speaking during Holy Communion. We are to approach the chalice "with fear of God, faith, and love" and have this time to focus our attention on the Lord and the Grace He pours out to us.

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

Memorial

Alexander Mourtakos (40 Days)

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, July 24	Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday, July 25	Monday Night Bible Study	6:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 28	Thursday Night Book Study	6:30 p.m.
Sunday, July 31	Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Fifty- Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project

July 24-July 30

So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all His work which He had done in creation.

Genesis 2:3

Summer is a time when many people take vacation. Vacation is an important thing. It is not necessary to spend a lot of mon-ey or go to an exotic place. What is necessary is that we stop to recharge and reenergize. It is important that we take time to rest on a weekly basis. God rested on the seventh day after the completion of the Creation. He called this day the Sabbath, a day of solemn rest, a day dedicated to the Lord and a day taken away from work. Later on, this would become one of the Ten Commandments. Again, it was not a suggestion, it was (and is) a commandment. Taking time off shouldn't make us feel guilty. Lots of people, myself included, have a hard time "shutting it down" for any amount of time. And yet, when I do take time away, I feel rejuvenated and ready to go back to work. When we go along and we are tired, we become inefficient and things take longer to accomplish. It is actually more efficient sometimes to take time off, and then come back and attack a project at peak efficiency. It actually might get done faster when we do it that way, rather than slogging through work when we are tired. Hopefully everyone will have the opportunity to stop this summer and just relax and breathe. And hopefully during the year, we are taking one day off each week, both to honor God and to rest as He has commanded us to do.

Education at St. John

Monday Night Bible Study

Leader: Fr. John Stefero

Date: Monday, July 25 - 6:30 p.m.

Book Study

Leader: Vasili Panagopoulos

Date: Thursday, July 28 -6:30 p.m.

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore - For our Moms-to-be and new Moms

We currently offer a new icon of *The Theotokos - Helper in Childbirth* specifically written for Moms-to-be and new Moms. Two different versions of the icon are available and it can be ordered in various sizes. These icons are on display in our bookstore today.



Fr. Stavros Gone this Week

Fr. Stavros will be returning on Sunday, July 31.

In the event of a Pastoral Emergency, please contact Fr. John Stefero by either his cell phone: (678) 637-4425, or email: jwstefero50@hotmail.com

Should you need to schedule a 40-Day blessing or memorial, please email Vasili at vasili@stjohntpa.org.

If you need to schedule a sacrament, please contact Fr. Stavros after he returns.

GriefShare to Resume in August

Thank you to Donna Hambos for finishing our fourth semester of GriefShare, our small group ministry dedicated to people who have lost loved ones. This group will resume either in later August or early September with another 13-week program. We know that there have been several people this spring who have lost loved ones. Please keep this very beneficial program in mind over the summer so that you can participate in the fall.

Readings for July 24

Prokeimenon: You shall guard us, O Lord; You shall preserve us. Save me, O Lord, for the holy man has ceased

The Epistle Reading is according to Paul's Letter to the Romans (12:6-14)

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

The Gospel Reading according to Matthew (9:1-8)

At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins," he then said to the paralytic—"Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Stavroula, George, Pam, and Liz; Roger Zesis; Christopher Labatos; Sylvia Michos; Eva Coppalla; Christopher; Christopher; Peter Nenos; Tony Ekonomou; Keith Lynn & Patrick Carroll; 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, 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 Evdemon, 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, and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

Liturgical Notes

Monday, July 25 - Saint Anna, the Mother of the Theotokos

Saint Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married Saint Joachim (September 9), who was a native of Galilee.

For a long time Saint Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter, Who would bring blessings to the whole human race.

The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching that the Mother of God was exempted from the consequences of ancestral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of Her Son. Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless, as Saint Ambrose of Milan teaches in Chapter Two of his Commentary on Luke. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in Her mortality, and in being subject to temptation, although She committed no personal sins. She was not a deified creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, She would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ took from Her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt.

The Conception of the Virgin Mary by Saint Anna took place at Jerusalem. The many icons depicting the Conception by Saint Anna show the Most Holy Theotokos trampling the serpent underfoot.

"In the icon Saints Joachim and Anna are usually depicted with hands folded in prayer; their eyes are also directed upward and they contemplate the Mother of God, Who stands in the air with outstretched hands; under Her feet is an orb encircled by a serpent (symbolizing the devil), which strives to conquer all the universe by its power."

There are also icons in which Saint Anna holds the Most Holy Virgin on her left arm as an infant. On Saint Anna's face is a look of reverence. A large ancient icon, painted on canvas, is located in the village of Minkovetsa in the Dubensk district of Volhynia diocese. From ancient times this Feast was especially venerated by pregnant women in Russia. (stjohndc.org)

Wednesday, July 27 - St. Panteleimon the Great Martyr & Healer

This Saint, who had Nicomedia as his homeland, was the son of Eustorgius and Eubula. His father was an idolater, but his mother was a Christian from her ancestors. It was through her that he was instructed in piety, and still later, he was catechized in the Faith of Christ by Saint Hermolaus (see July 26) and baptized by him. Being proficient in the physician's vocation, he practiced it in a philanthropic manner, healing every illness more by the grace of Christ than by medicines. Thus, although his parents had named him Pantoleon ("in all things a lion"), because of the compassion he showed for the souls and bodies of all, he was worthily renamed Panteleimon, meaning "all-merciful." On one occasion, when he restored the sight of a certain blind man by calling on the Divine Name, he enlightened also the eyes of this man's soul to the knowledge of the truth. This also became the cause for the martyrdom of him who had been blind, since when he was asked by whom and in what manner his eyes had been opened, in imitation of that blind man of the Gospel he confessed with boldness both who the physician was and the manner of his healing. For this he was put to death immediately. Panteleimon was arrested also, and having endured many wounds, he was finally beheaded in the year 305, during the reign of Maximian. Saint Panteleimon is one of the Holy Unmercenarys, and is held in special honor among them, even as Saint George is among the Martyrs. (GOA)

Sunday School Starts August 14!

Registration on
August 7 and 14th

We are excited to begin our
2022-2023 Sunday School Year

"The Chosen" Summer Viewing

What: A small group viewing and study of season two of the TV show: "The Chosen," a show that focuses on Jesus' ministry and His chosen people.

Who: Three separate groups for girls, boys (ages 10-18), and any adult interested.

Where: Girls group: School library
Boys group: Pre-school Classroom
Adults: The Zaharias Room

When: July 24, 31 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. (Light lunch provided)

See Vasili Panagopoulos or email him at vasili@stjohntpa.org to register and sign up!

Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!

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

Birthdays

Namedays

July 24	Gabrielle Malatin	Christina, Athenagoras, Boris
July 25	Christopher Scarfogliero	Anna, Ana, Ann, Efpraksia, Olympias
July 26		Paraskevi, Ermolaos, Ersi, Oreozili
July 27		Panteleimon, Pantelis
July 28	Lynn Valaes	Irene, Hrysovalantou, Afxentios, Akakios, Drosos, Drosoula, Timon
July 29	Maria Cauthorn, Eleni Damianakis, Jackson James, Peter Konstas	Kallinikos, Theodoti
July 30	Michelle Clipp, Dean Hampers, Nikolas Landiakos, Deana Milonas, Andrea Stingulescu	Adronikos, Silouanos

Altar Boy Schedule

Anyone attending may serve
All Summer



Captains

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

Anyone attending may serve
All Summer

