

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
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

Daughters of Penelope:

Finance Committee:

GOYA:

Hope/Joy:

Joy Tweens

Men's Fellowship:

Nursing Ministry:

Photography Ministry:

Philoptochos:

Stewardship:

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

Sunday School:

Ushers

Veterans/1st Responders

Welcoming Ministry:

Women's Bible Study:

Young Adults

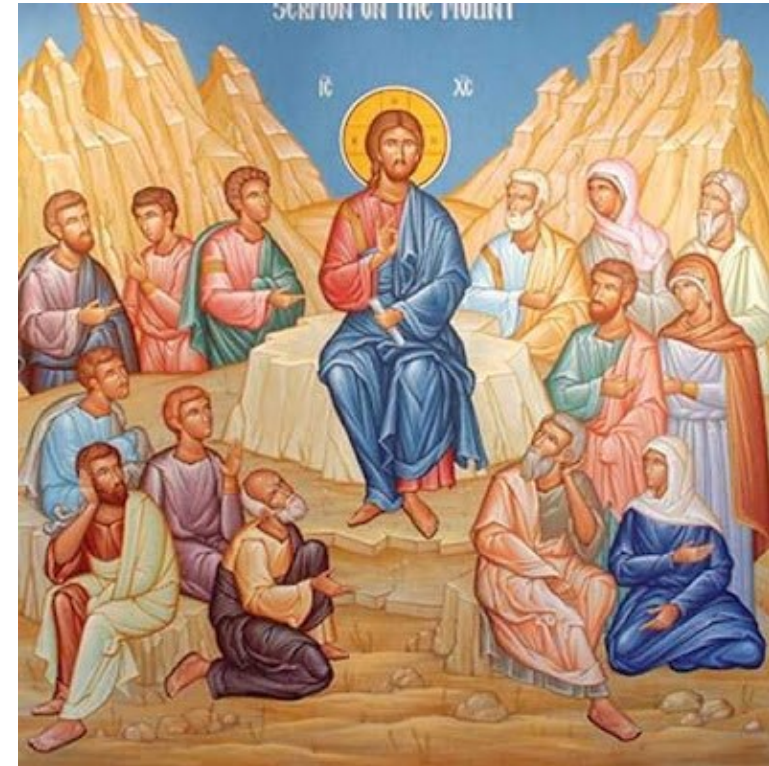
Young at Heart:

George Mitseas 813-748-1220
Vickie Peckham 813-758-3102
Pete Trakas 813-505-2193
Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
Maria Xenick 813-765-3587
Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-876-8830
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



June 25, 2023

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)

Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)

Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)

3rd 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:

3rd Sunday of Matthew ; Leave-taking of the Nativity of the Forerunner John the Baptist ; The Righteous Martyr Febronia

Resurrection Apolytikion:

When You descended to the realm of death, You as Life immortal, rendered to Hades a mortal blow, through Your Divine Radiance. And when You, from the depths of Hades and the darkness below, did raise the dead all the powers of heaven did proclaim and cry out: O life-giving Christ and our God we give glory.

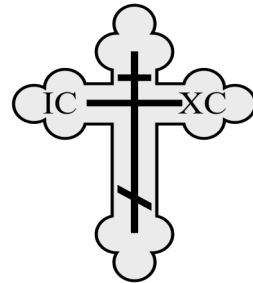
Hymn of St. John the Baptist:

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.

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 back in 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 June 25

Orthros 8:45 a.m.
AHEPA - Artoklasia

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday June 26

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday June 27

Chant Class 6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday June 28

Sts. Peter and Paul
Orthros 5:00 p.m.

Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m.

Friday June 30

Holy Apostles
Orthros 9:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Sunday July 2

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday July 4

Independence Day– Office Closed

Sunday July 9

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Religious Education at **St. John**

Monday Night
Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. John

June 26: **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 unaware.*
HEBREWS 13:2

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore -SUMMER READING

Summer isn't a time to take a vacation from your faith. Dig into God's Word and find deep refreshment for your heart, mind, and soul. Our bookstore is packed with books geared to all age levels. Stop in and stock up for your summer reading.

Presvytera Denise and Elaina

The American Foundation for Greek Language & Culture (AFGLC)

The American Foundation for Greek Languages & Culture (AFGLC) Scholarships are now available to High School Seniors and College Students. The AFGLC Dr. Demetrios G. Halkias, the AFGLC Peter & Sophia Kourmolis, the AFGLC Dr. Byron P. Palls Scholarships.

Deadline is **TODAY** to apply. **Applications are available at the Baptismal table upfront!**

For more information contact Kalliope at 813-789-4134 or khalkias@afglc.org.

Nursing Ministry

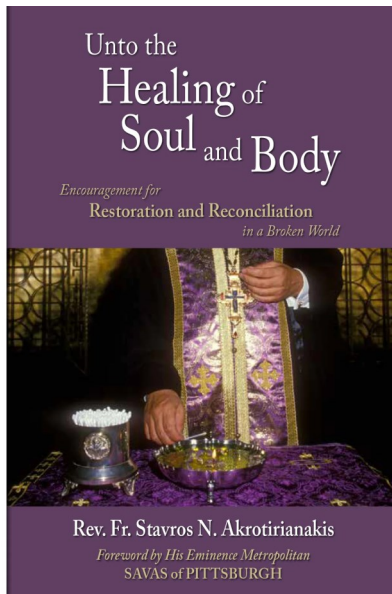
**We will be having a blood pressure clinic after
Liturgy today, Sunday June 25!**

**Stop by to find out more about high blood
pressure and ways to improve your heart health.**



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.



Readings for Sunday, June 25

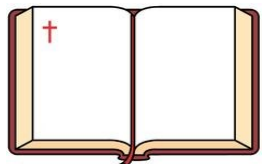
Prokeimenon: The Lord is my strength and my song. Psalm 117.14,18

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 5:1-10

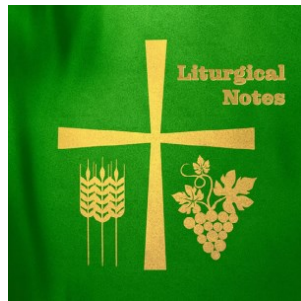
Brethren, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have obtained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us. While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we are now justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.

The reading is from Matthew 6:22-33

The Lord said, "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is not sound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."



Liturgical Notes



Wednesday, June 28, Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, the Paramounts of the Apostles (Evening Divine Liturgy)

Sts. Peter and Paul are the two greatest of the Apostles who were at one time two of the greatest sinners. St. Peter denied Christ and St. Paul was persecuting and killing Christians. God used these men for good despite their sins, a lesson for all of us. Their feast day is June 29. We will celebrate the Divine Liturgy the evening before, on Thursday, June 28.

Friday, June 30 – Synaxis of the Holy Apostles

On June 29, we commemorate the Paramounts of the Apostles, Sts. Peter and Paul. (We will have an evening Liturgy on June 28). On June 30, we honor ALL of the 12 Apostles. Each of the 12 have a separate feastday but on this day we honor all 12 together.

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Kostadinos Booras; Michael I, Anna Maria & Thomas Reilly; Jim Armstrong, Caliope 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

June 25th
**Anyone attending
may serve**

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

July 2nd
**Anyone attending
may serve**

12 DISCIPLES PROJECT

This has been very successful with many members of our congregation, daily praying “for, “the peace from above, and for the salvation of our souls...” intended for each of you and directed to God for the benefit of hundreds of members of our congregation.

**You may join us and become a true St. John Prayer Warrior,
what our Disciples are called.
Call the Church Office, 813-876-8830, and provide your email address, phone
number, and you will be added to the growing list of participating members of the
12 Disciples Project.**

**Fifty- Two Verses
-In-
Fifty- Two Weeks
June 25-July 1**

And a scribe came up and said to Jesus “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay His head.”
Matthew 8:19-20

Being a Christian is hard! There is no easy way to the Kingdom of God, or really to anything else worthwhile in life. A scribe was eager to follow Jesus, even saying to Him “I will follow WHEREVER you go.” That’s a bold statement. And Jesus response was cautious. Following is good, but be aware that this path is hard. Every -one wants a place, security, ease—the Christian works for the eternal place, and that means that on the journey, there might not be the earthly place (wealth), security or ease.



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

*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 JULY 15, 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

All are welcome

Tuesday's | 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Next class: Tuesday, June 27

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

TODAY

ST. JOHN

Artoklasia



Sponsored by AHEPA

Join us for

The Blessing of the
Five Loaves- June 25th