

Parish Priest:
Retired Priest in Residence:
Retired Priest in Residence:
Bookkeeper:

Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski 813-876-8830
Rev. Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
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 Losoviz, Organist 727-688-2782
Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
Greg Melton 813-967-2074

College Ministry:

Community Outreach:

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
Sandra Pappas 813-785-3747
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
Katherine Sakkis 813-309-1073
Chris Kyrus 757-672-1920
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
Dora Morgan 813-613-3738
Suzanne Pileggi 813-244-5855

Daughters of Penelope:

Finance Committee:

Food Pantry:

GOYA:

Hope/Joy:

Joy Tweens

Men's Fellowship:

Nursing Ministry:

Photography Ministry:

Philoptochos:

Stewardship:

Sunday School:

Ushers

Veterans/1st Responders

Welcoming Ministry:

Women's Bible Study:

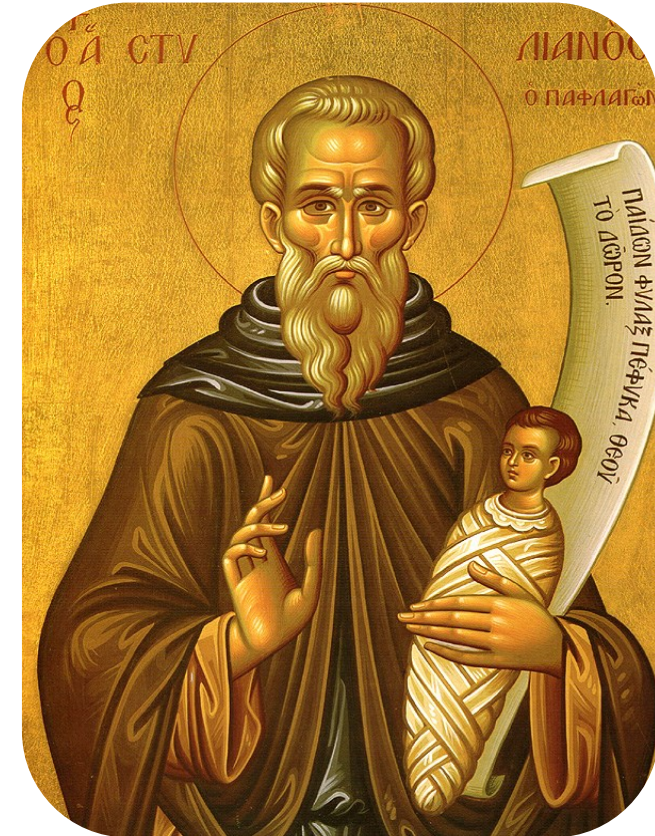
Young Adults

Young at Heart:

Youth Protection:



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



November 26, 2023

Icon of St. Stylianos the Monk of Paphlagonia

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:

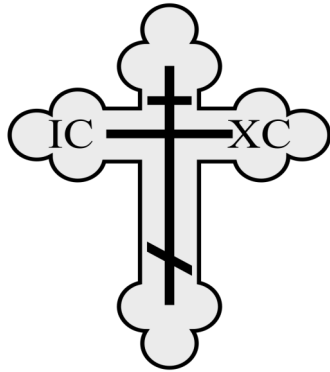
Love, Worship, Community, Learning, Service

SYNAXARION:

13th Sunday of Luke; Nikon Metanoieite; Stylianos the Monk of Paphlagonia

Resurrectional Apolytikion:

From Above did You descend O Christ our God. For us did You endure three days in the tomb, that we may be relieved from passions in this world. You who are our Resurrection and our Life: Glory to You, O Lord.



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:

On this day, the Virgin Maid goes to the cave to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, O you inhabited earth upon your hearing, Glorify, along with Angels and with shepherds, Him Who willed that He appear as a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.

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 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 (side areas then the main section)

Trisagion:

John Pappas (9 days)

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday November 26

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

No Sunday School
GOYA Christmas Card

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday November 27

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday November 28

Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday November 29

Choir Practice

Thursday November 30

St. Andrew

Orthros 9:00 a.m.

Adult Greek School 6:00 p.m.– 8:30 p.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Saturday December 2

St. Porphyrios

Orthros 9:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Sunday December 3

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

GOYA Christmas Card

GOYA 1:30 p.m.

Philoptochos Membership Christmas Brunch 12 p.m.– 3 p.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday December 4

St. Barbara

Orthros 9:00 a.m.

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday December 5

Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday December 6

St. Nicholas

Orthros 9:00 a.m.

Choir Practice

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Religious Education at **St. John**

Monday Night
Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. John

November 27 :
Monday at
6:30 p.m.

Women’s
Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. Stavros

November 28 :
Tuesday 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* UN-AWARE.
HEBREWS 13:2

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore

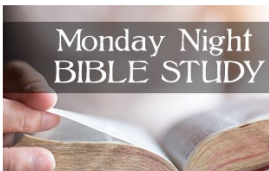


Our bookstore is currently featuring a special Christmas Shop where you can find inspiring and unique items for your celebration of the Nativity of Christ. Included are Icons of the Nativity of our Lord, Christmas cards in both English and Greek, Icon Ornaments, and many other Christmas gifts you just won't find in the shopping malls. Think of us when checking off those names on your gift list. Remember to shop early for the best selection!

Have a Joyous Nativity and a New Year filled with God's richest blessings!
Presvytera Denise and Elaina – Your Bookstore Staff

Monday night Bible study with Fr. John

Will continue meeting at 6:30 p.m. on most Monday evenings. Join us in person or via zoom for some very informative, lively and interactive discussions on how we apply Biblical principles in our everyday lives. See the Sunday bulletin for specific topics. For November, the dates are Monday, November 27.



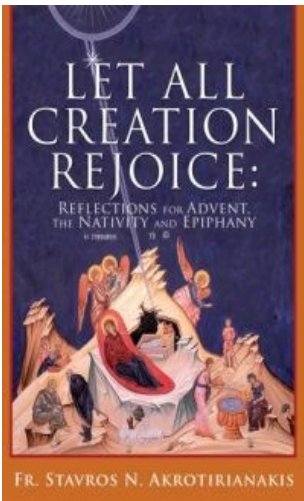
JOY Tweens

Sign-Up for Text Updates!

To get updates and other messages for JOY Tweens, text @783gc6 to 81010 on your mobile phone.



As we approach the season of Advent, I wanted to share with you a book I have written called, Let All Creation Rejoice: Reflections for Advent, the Nativity and Epiphany. The book is approximately 230 pages long. It contains a reflection to be read daily during the period of the Nativity Fast (November 15) through January 7. From November 15 through December 24, one verse of the Gospel accounts of the Nativity is examined in detail each day. It is practical inspiration written to be understood by the average Greek Orthodox Christian.
+Fr. Stavros



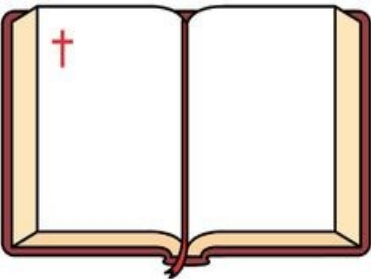
Although this book is written in an easy to read style - the concepts and application are very thought provoking! My husband and I have been reading it at meal time, as our Advent meditation. Each day's readings help me turn my mind to what's really going on and important this time of year - helping me refocus, and reflect on the events surrounding the Nativity, and what they mean for me! To-day's reading, for example, reflected on the angel telling the shepherds, "Don't be afraid," and following reflections on fear in my own life. Excellent book, and now that I am enjoying this one so much, I will be ordering the Lenten reflections, too.
-Amazon Customer

Readings for Sunday, November 26

Prokeimenon: Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.
Psalm 75.11,1

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:1-7

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.



The reading is from The Gospel According to Luke 18:18-27

At that time, a ruler came to Jesus and asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.' " And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 26TH
CHOIR

DECEMBER 3RD
YAH



St. John is responsible to have 6 volunteers sign up each month.
Have a heart, lend a hand, and make a difference.

Sign Up

COMMUNITY OUTREACH 2023

OUR SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINING MONTHS OF 2023 IS AS FOLLOWS:

**SATURDAY
 DECEMBER 16.
 TIME: 8:00 AM - 10 AM
 PLACE: TAMPA HOPE
 3704 E. 3RD AVENUE
 TAMPA, FL. 33605**



Sign up via SIGNUP GENIUS

Women's Bible Study

Our Tuesday morning women's Bible Study began in September. We meet on most Tuesdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. either in person or on zoom.

For November, the dates are Tuesday, November 28.



Men's Group

Any men of our community are welcome to join us for dinner, discussion. We meet at 5:00 p.m., walk to a local restaurant and get some food, then bring it back to the hall where we eat and have a discussion. Our Topic for November will be Thankfulness & Generosity.

Please mark down our dates for men's group for this academic year—Sunday, December 17; Sunday, January 28; Sunday, March 3; and Sunday, April 14.

Save the Date—Men's Retreat—Saturday, February 10—

Men's Retreat for Orthodox Men of the Tampa Bay Area.



Altar Boy Schedule

November 26th

Christos Nenos
 Constantine Ameres
 Zachary George
 Louis Mantzanas
 Gianni Matassini
 Nathan Moran
 Michael Meadows

Captains

Demetri Passalaris
 Nicholas Akrotirianakis
 Nicholas Magos
 Nicholas Carter
 George Xenick
 PJ Zelatis

December 3rd

Gabriel Gonzalez
 Michael Galin
 Philip Kane
 Leo Sengsouvanha
 Kenny Kane
 Peter Konstas
 Matthew Barba

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

November 26th
 No Class/ Thanksgiving Break



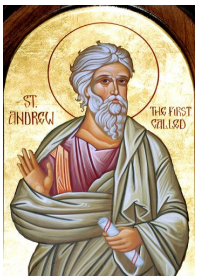
December 3rd
 Stewardship

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

Thursday, November 30 - St. Andrew the Apostle

St. Andrew is the first-called of the Apostles. He is also the patron saint of the Ecumenical Patriarchate.



Saturday, December 2 – St. Porphyrios of Kafsokalivia

St. Porphyrios was a monk on Mount Athos known for his gifts of spiritual discernment. He lived from 1906-1991, and was canonized in 2013. He was alive in most of our lifetimes. There have been several saints that have been canonized in recent years. And it important that we begin to remember and celebrate some of the them with a celebration of the Divine Liturgy.



Monday, December 4 - St. Barbara and St. John of Damascus

We celebrate the feastday of St. Barbara, a martyr for Christ who was martyred by her own father. On the same day, we celebrate the feastday of St. John of Damascus, a hymnographer of the church who also was a strong defender of iconography.

Community News

Young at Heart



Young at Heart is excited to be participating in a program to aid needy seniors called "Be a Santa to a Senior" sponsored through Home Instead.

Requested gifts will be purchased and gifted to those seniors who are normally alone and without presents during the Christmas Season. Getting involved in our community is an important aspect of any ministry. Come join us!



Join us on Saturday, December 9th for Our
Young at Heart
Christmas Breakfast and Gathering
Orthros 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:00 am
Breakfast 11:30 am

Followed by Gift Exchange and Christmas Caroling
Please bring a wrapped gift with a \$10 value that is appropriate for both male or female. Be considerate when choosing your gift and purchase something that you yourself would be happy to receive.
Breakfast will be catered so no need to bring a dish - \$10 per person

Reply no later than December 1st
Dora Morgan, Diane Trimis, Presvytera Denise

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our Community Outreach ministry has secured dates with Metropolitan Ministries to volunteer to help with the annual Holiday Tent for the needy.

Metropolitan Ministries Holiday Tent 2023
2609 N Rome Ave, Tampa, FL 33607

St John the Baptist GOC is requesting 12 amazing volunteers for both the Thanksgiving and the Christmas events.

Below are the dates, times and sign up website for St John the Baptist GOC.

It is imperative that each St John volunteer pre-registers for this opportunity as any unfilled slots are released 2 weeks prior to our scheduled dates.

Christmas Holiday: Thursday December 21— 2:00 to 6:00 PM
Sign-up Link: <https://metromin.volunteerhub.com/vv2/lp/stjohngreekorthodox/>



Bags of Love

The *Ladies of Philoptochos* will have Bags of Love available for distribution today. These bags are filled with items needed by the homeless. Pick up a bag today to give to the next person you see in need. All are welcome to participate!



Love to take photos? Come join our Photo Ministry!

It's a fun and creative way to serve and to show the community all the beautiful services and wonderful activities we have here at St. John.

All abilities are welcome. Please call or text
Karina Findlay at
(813) 476-9632.

Adult Greek School

Will restart on Thursdays at 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
You all will do the "Registration" for the 1st Session and pay only for the "Half of the Session", because you missed half of it (6 lessons): \$75 for the parishioners and \$87 for non Parishioners. Write the check on my name: Magdalini Myer and the memo line: for Adult Greek School. Call me at my cell phone: (813) 523-5771 or email aspis69@aol.com, if you have any questions.
The classroom will be on the 2nd floor of the Bridge Prep Academy School Building, Room 205.



Veterans/1st Responders Ministry:

Will sponsor the following event!

Collection for the US Marines' program "Toys for Tots."
Please deposit brand new toys in the original packaging in the three boxes in the church hall. We will collect toys through at least December 3rd.
These will be distributed to needy families in our local area.

Thanks,
Fr. John

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, 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.



St Johns Pageant Rehearsal and Youth

Christmas Party

Saturday | **16** | Kourmolis Hall
December

10:30 am: Speaking Parts Rehearsal
11:15 am: All Participants Rehearsal
12pm: Lunch
12:30 pm: Boxes of Hope Service Project, Crafts & Party

RSVP to Zackie Ameres at 813.245.3813



Hope & Joy Fall Food Drive

Through- Sun, Dec 16th.

"HOPE starts with a MEAL. HOPE starts with YOU!"

Metropolitan Ministries' Holiday Tent helps 50,000+ families in need for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Let's help them meet this years goal of 1,763,000 pounds of food.

Please join St. John's Hope & Joy children's ministry in providing a meal to families in need through Metropolitan Ministries. Make this your family project and help us put together Boxes of Hope filled with the items needed for a Christmas holiday dinner. There are many ways you can help provide a Box of Hope:

- Shop for any of the items below and bring to church **Through- Sun, Dec 16th.**
- Donate \$25 or more (cash/ check/ gift card) for a Box of Hope-
- Checks payable to Metropolitan Ministries

BOX OF HOPE contains:

Gift certificate for a turkey or ham	2 cans of black beans
1 box of cereal (hot or cold)	2 cans of cranberry sauce
2 cans of fruit	1 bag of dried beans
1 jar of peanut butter	1 box or bag of rice
2 cans of vegetables	1 can or packet of gravy
2 cans of yams	1 box dessert mix
1 bag or box of stuffing	1 package cookies or pastries
1 box of potatoes	1 family box of Jell-O/Pudding

Only non-perishable food donations please. **Call Zackie Ameres at 813-245-3813 or email at zackiec@yahoo.com with any questions.** Thank you!

"He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will reward him for what he has done." Proverbs 19:17

