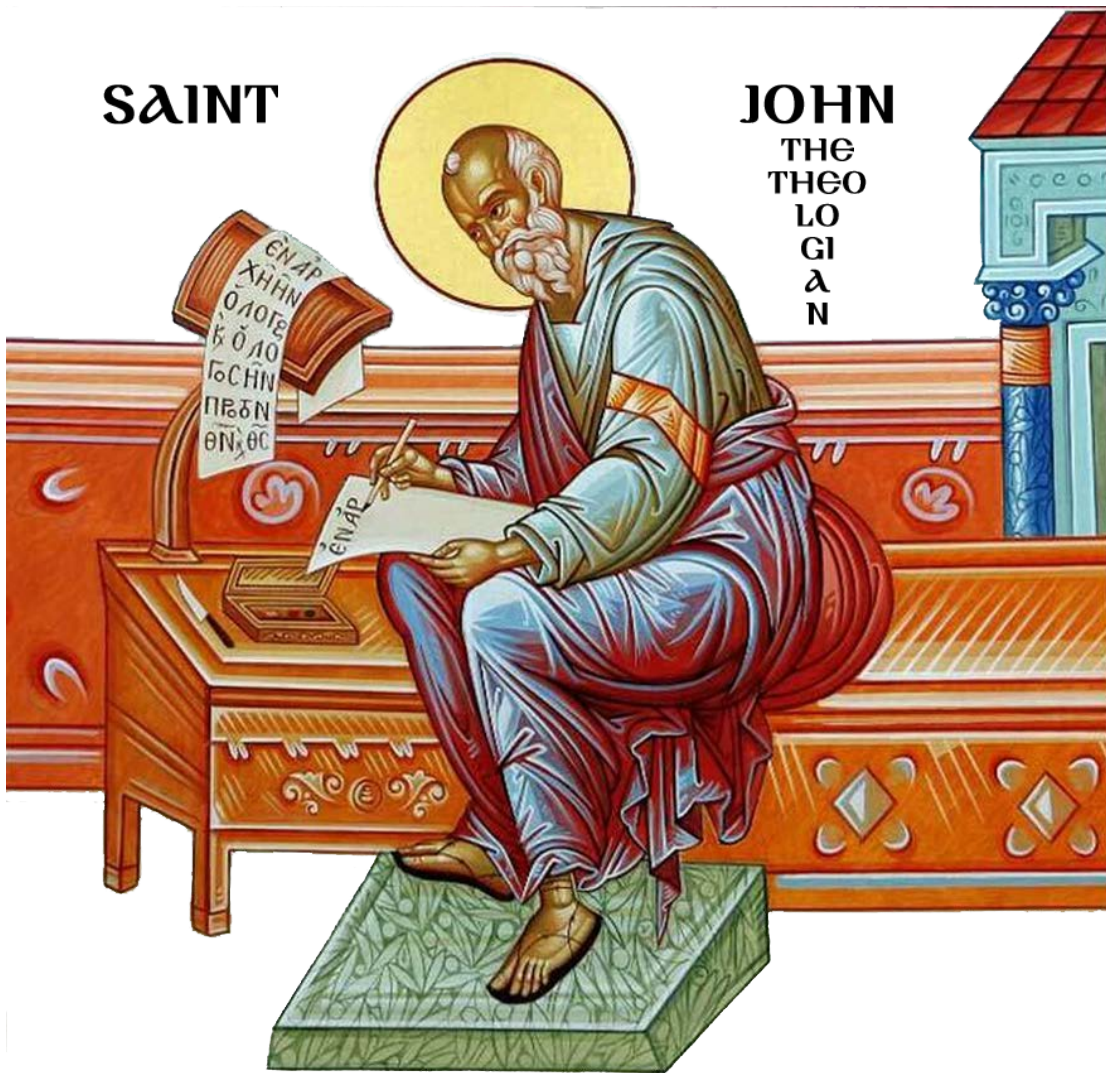


SAINT

**JOHN
THE
THEO
LOGI
AN**



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

**Falling Asleep of St. John the Evangelist & Theologian
September 26, 2021**

**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:

The Falling Asleep of St. John the Evangelist and Theologian,
Removal of the Honorable Head of Apostle Andrew the First-Called

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION

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.

APOLYTIKION OF TRANSLATION OF JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN

O Apostle of Christ our God, the beloved, hasten the deliverance of the defenseless people; for He who allowed you to lean on His bosom accepts you as supplicant. Him do you beseech o Theologian, to dissolve the persistent cloud of idolatry, by asking for peace for all of us, and the great mercy.

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

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 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 (lined up in the middle aisle before Communion)
4. Sunday School students (lined up in the middle aisle before Communion behind the teachers)
5. The rest of the congregation

Readings for the Day

Epistle Reading is from St. John's First Universal Letter 4:12-19

No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his own Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we know and believe the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. In this is love perfected with us, that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and he who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because he first loved us.

Gospel Reading is from John 19:25-27; 21:24-25

At that time, standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home. This is the disciple who is bearing witness to these things, and who has written these things; and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Liturgical Notes

Sunday, September 26 – Falling Asleep of St. John the Evangelist and Theologian

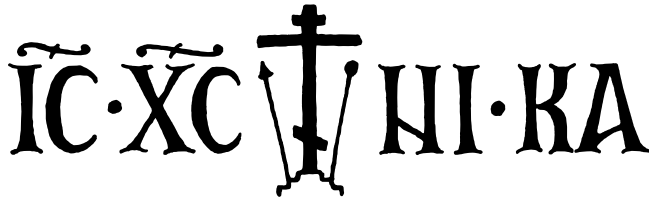
St. John was one of the 12 disciples. He was the "beloved" disciple we read about. He is the author of the Gospel of St. John, the Epistles of St. John, and the Book of Revelation. He is the only one of the original 12 disciples to die naturally, reposing on the island of Patmos, where he had lived in exile, in the year 96 A.D. He was the youngest of the disciples and the last one to pass away.

Prayer List: *Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Irina, Marina, Yuri, and Christophoros; Ashley Snyder; Evangelos & Caroline Critkas; Constantinos & Kalotina Klimis; Christine Alex, June, Lillian Thomas; Scotty; Desi Serriera; Ashley Kladaakis; Dora Kallas, Kathy & Andrew Bouzinekis; Anastasia; Amanda, Andrew, Colton, Miranda, Charlotte Elizabeth, Nuha, Nabeel, Michael, Amal, John, Elaine, Olga, 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, Alex Martinez, Adriana Martinez, Aaron Martinez, Christina Noel Kouzes Houck, Evangeline Xeroteris, Nichole Ross, Daniel Ross, Daniella Ross, 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, Ana Mourer, Debbie Phelps, Mary Voykin, David Voykin, Anne Sakellaris, Denise Badrane, Sia Blankenship, Don Payne, Zhana Temelkova, Stanislava Terzieva, James, Jude and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.*

Memorial Service: Barbara Akrotirianakis (40 days)

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, Sep. 26	The Falling Asleep of St. John the Evangelist and Theologian Orthros: 8:45am Divine Liturgy: 10:00am <i>Altar Boy Captains & St. Matthew: George Xenick, Nicholas Magos, Michael Galin, Leo Seng-souvanna, Kenny & Philip Kane, James Betza</i>	
Monday, Sep. 27	Orthodoxy 101 - Teaching Liturgy 6:30pm - 8:30pm	
Tuesday, Sep. 28	Women's Bible Study 10:00am	
Thursday, Sep. 30	Greek School 6:00pm - 8:30pm	
Saturday, Oct. 2	Young at Heart	Lock-In for oldest GOYAns
Sunday, Oct. 3	Second Sunday of Luke & Sunday School Class Picture Day Orthros: 8:45am Divine Liturgy: 10:00am <i>Altar Boy Captains & St. Mark: Nicholas & Zachary Carter, Harry Robinson, Prometheus Koutouzi, Leo Lenardos, PJ Zelatis, Niko Kyrus</i>	
Monday, Oct. 4	Bible Study 6:30pm	Orthodoxy 101 6:30pm
Tuesday, Oct. 5	Women's Bible Study 10:00am	
Wednesday, Oct. 6	Paraklesis 10:00am	
Thursday, Oct. 7	Adult Greek School 6:00pm	



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATE

Sunday, September 26

Topic: The Creed

Sunday, October 10

Topic: The Church Building & Sacred Vessels

Sunday, October 24

Topic: Liturgy / Holy Communion

Sunday, October 3

Topic: The Bible (*Class Picture Day*)

Sunday, October 17

Topic: The Ten Commandments

Sunday, October 31

Topic: Saints Cosmas & Damian:
Serving with Love

Philoptochos & Sunday School: Today during Sunday School, Philoptochos and our Sunday School kids (Grades 3-6) will be assembling fifty "Bags of Love." Bags of Love is a mobile ministry providing non-perishable food and personal items for our local brethren. Please stop by our assembly table and pick up a bag, keep it in your car, and when you see a person, offer them a bag. We hope you will consider taking a "bag of love" to someone in need.

BIBLE STUDIES RETURNING

Philoptochos: Philoptochos will be meeting this Sunday, September 26 after Divine Liturgy in the Hall.

Monday Night Bible Study: There will be *NO Bible Study* this Monday, Sep. 27. We will resume the following Monday, October 4 at 6:30pm. The discussion will focus on the second Beatitude: *“Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted.”* Join us for this interactive discussion.

Orthodoxy 101 has begun! Fr. Stavros offers this class two times per year, in the spring and in the fall. This class is 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.

The remaining two sessions will be from 6:30 - 8:30pm and held in the CHURCH Sanctuary:

- Mon., Sep. 27** The Divine Liturgy (A “teaching” Liturgy from the solea)
If you have already taken the class, or if you wish to only attend THIS session, please feel free to do so.
- Mon., Oct. 4** Orthodox Traditions: Fasting, Icons, Prayer, and Separating Theology from “Yiayiaology”

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

Orthodoxy 201 (The Deep Dive) You’ve experienced Orthodoxy 101, now there’s an opportunity to experience more treasures of our rich faith! Orthodoxy 201 will be offered by our Pastoral Assistant, Alex Limberatos, following the completion of Orthodoxy 101. All are encouraged to continue on into Orthodoxy 201, even if you’ve taken Orthodoxy 101 in years past, as new topics will be covered.

- October 11:** Iconography, the Cross, and Symbols **October 25:** Prayer & Ritual
October 18: Metaphysics, Angels, Demons, and Saints **November 8:** The Human Person (Mind, Body, Spirit)

If you are interested in taking this class, please email Alex Limberatos directly at alex@stjohntpa.org

Men’s Group - The Men’s Group will meet Sunday, October 10 at 5pm. We will walk to a nearby restaurant and have dinner, coming back to the church afterwards for discussion, concluding by 7:30pm. All men of the community are welcome to participate.

Book Group: This October, our new pastoral assistant James Harritos will be leading a book group on *The Mountain of Silence: A Search for Orthodox Spirituality* by Kyriacos Markides, in which an acclaimed expert in Christian mysticism travels to a monastery high in the Mountains of Cyprus and offers a fascinating look at the Greek Orthodox approach to spirituality. Join us weekly for a guided group reading! Starting Tuesday October 26 at 6:30pm.

Men’s Group

w/ Fr. Stavros
Sunday, October 10 5:00pm

Monday Night Bible Study

w/ Fr. John Stefero
Mondays 6:30pm

Orthodoxy 101

w/ Fr. Stavros
Mondays 6:30pm

Women’s Group

w/ Fr. Stavros
Tuesdays 10am

Book Group

w/ James Harritos II
Tuesdays 6:30pm, starting Oct 26

Orthodoxy 201

w/ Alex Limberatos
Tuesdays 6:30pm, starting Oct 11

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore: Do you have questions about specific aspects of the Orthodox faith? Available in our bookstore, *The Orthodox Church: 455 Questions and Answers* by Fr. Stanley S. Harakas. In a matter of seconds you'll be able to find answers to the questions most often asked about the Orthodox Church, its faith, and its life. Simply written and indexed for easy reference. Stop in to our bookstore today.

HOPE & JOY Fall Harvest Celebration **Sunday, October 17 from 4-6pm in The Kourmoulis Center**

All children Pre-K through 6th Grade are invited to join us for an afternoon of games, dinner, crafts, and fellowship!

Come in Costume (no witches or devils, please)

Please bring an item to stock our St. John's Food Pantry, which supports those most in need.

Items most in need are: socks, hats, and single-serve food items (cereal bars, granola bars, nuts or trail mix, individual tuna)

Kindly RSVP by October 10

Zackie (text 813-245-3813 or email zackiec@yahoo.com)

Please let us know if you would like to volunteer during the event.

GOYAns, parents, and grandparents are all welcome.

YAH Bus Trip to Greek Orthodox Monasteries in Ocala, FL - Saturday, November 13.

Everyone is invited to join the Young-at-Heart Bus Trip to the Greek Orthodox Monasteries in Ocala.

Panagia Vlahernon Greek Orthodox Ladies Monastery

Annunciation of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Men's Monastery

Join us on Saturday, November 13. We will depart from the St. John parking lot at 10:30 am sharp.

Sign up as soon as possible to determine the size bus. We already have 21 of the maximum of 56 seats signed up. Contact Mike Trimis, YAH President at 813-784-4872 or TrimisM@gmail.com.

Community Outreach at a NEW Location **Saturday, October 16 - We Want You to Serve with Us!**

On the 3rd Saturday of every month, we volunteer our time to provide for those of our community in need in downtown Tampa. We partner with Matthew 25 local charity, USF Medical School, and Metropolitan Ministries to serve breakfast, provide clothing, and care for the medical needs of our guests.

Place: Beulah Baptist Church - 1006 West Cypress St, Tampa, FL

Parking available in lot across street from church on Cypress St.

Time: 8:00am - 10:30am, every 3rd Saturday of the month

Volunteer Check-in Process:

1. Sign in and choose the job you want on the Duty Sheet
2. Prepare and wear your name tag
3. Don't be shy... if not sure where to go or what to do to get started, ask someone
4. Set-Up & Preparation (8 - 9am), Serving (9 - 10:15am), Clean-Up (10:15 - 10:30am)

Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/2XPL0wG>

Contact Greg Melton with any questions (813-967-2074 or gsmelt12@gmail.com)

Stewardship 2021 Update

As of Wednesday, September 22, we have received 352 stewardship forms, with a pledged amount of \$471,918 for 2021.

The Parish Assistance Program (PAP) Continues

Since May 1, 2020, we have been offering a Parish Assistance Program (PAP) with BayCare Behavioral Health. The PAP program provides 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 who are sensitive to the values and beliefs of those they serve and provide compassionate care to children, adults, parents, and seniors. Parishioners can contact BayCare to request up to three free and confidential counseling sessions from a licensed mental health professional. The BayCare helpline (800) 878-5470 is answered 24/7 by mental health professionals.



Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project September 26 - October 3

We love, because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

Why love others? Is it out of obligation? The simple answer for why we are to love is Christ's example. We love because He first loved us. We are created out of God's love. God created the world, and God created people out of His overabundance of love. We have His love as our example for how to love. He loved us so much that God sent His Son to die for us. Christ loved us so much that He endured the Cross and death for us. We've all seen stories of inspiring people that we use to inspire and motivate us. For instance, when we read about someone running with artificial legs, we might be inspired to run with our natural legs. We might think, "If he or she can do it, I most certainly can." We look with inspiration to cancer survivors and others who have overcome adversity. While doing this, we should look at Christ on the Cross and reflect on His love. And we should be inspired that, if He can love us to the degree that He was willing to die like that for us, then we should be able to love one another despite mistakes that occur between us.

Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!

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

*Χρόνια
πολλά!*

	Birthdays	Namedays
SEP 26	Sophia Boomgarden, Spero Renaud, Addison Schad	
SEP 27	Foti Kwansy, Nicolette Tsiabasis	Akylini, Epicharis, Kallistratos, Zinon
SEP 28	Nicholas Freeman, Demetrios Kolovos	Hariton
SEP 29	Vasili Sotiropoulos	Kyriakos
SEP 30	Katerina Papaefstathiou, Ava Spirides	Stratonikos
OCT 1	Alexios Diniaco, Andrew Roy	Ananias, Romanos, Thiresia
OCT 2	Penelope Kremydas, Victoria Mekras	Cyprianos, Iousta, Justine

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 Assistants:	Alex Limberatos	262-370-0586
	James D. Harritos II	401-527-8203
Bookkeeper:	Debbie Bowe	813-876-8830
Parish Council:	Jim Armstrong, <i>President</i>	954-295-6665
	Euripides Panos, <i>Vice President</i>	813-352-3972
	John Zelatis, <i>Secretary</i>	813-727-2271
	Gary Ward, <i>Treasurer</i>	813-846-3898
	George Chagaris	727-420-1920
	Amin Hanhan	813-846-2957
	Nick Katzaras	863-581-2430
	Jimmy Konstas	813-220-7352
	Marilyn Sandborn	813-855-8678
	Mike Xenick	813-340-8737
12 Disciples:	Matthew Balasis	727-421-7376
AHEPA:	Thomas Sakaris, <i>President</i>	201-819-2319
Altar Angels:	Engie Halkias	813-932-5859
	Kalliope Chagaris	813-789-4134
Bookstore:	Pres. Denise Stefero	678-464-4833
Choir:	Pauline Spencer, <i>Director</i>	813-390-1782
	Ruth Losovitz, <i>Organist</i>	727-688-2782
Community Outreach:	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
Dance Groups:	<u>H XAPA MAΣ</u> : Alexandra De Maio,	813-340-9668
	Bessie Palios,	813-523-0347
	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
	<u>ΠΑΡΕΑ</u> : Marina Choundas	813-877-6136
	<u>ΠΑΝΗΓΥΡΙ</u> : 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:	Jeanie Nenos	813-451-9116
Stewardship:	Chris Kyrus	757-672-1920
	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
Sunday School:	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102
Welcoming Ministry:	Maria Xenick	813-765-3587
Young Adults:	Alex Limberatos	262-370-0586
Young at Heart:	Mike Trimis, <i>President</i>	813-784-4872
	Mary Nenos, <i>Vice President</i>	813-935-2096
Youth Protection:	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855