

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

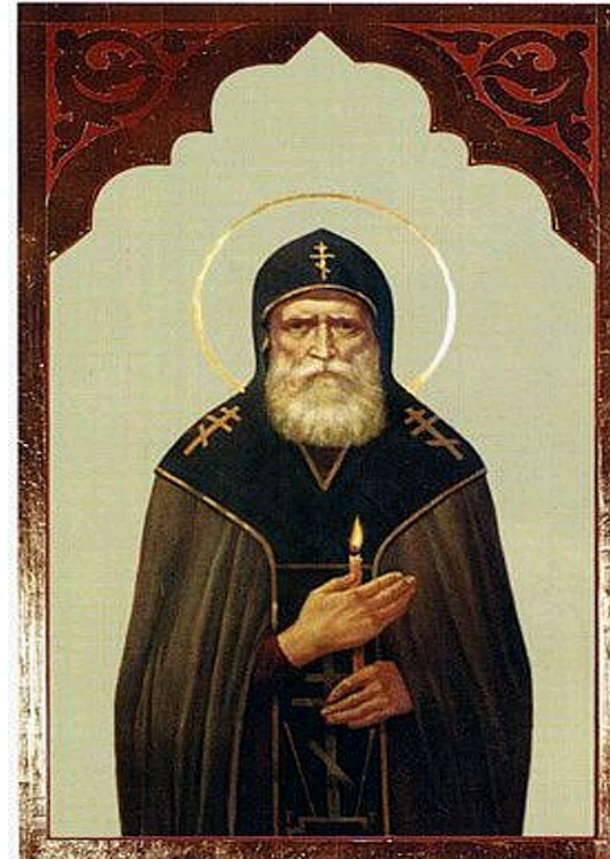
12 Disciples Mathew Balasis 727-421-7376
AHEPA: Thomas Sakaris, President 201-819-2319
Altar Angels: Kalliope Chagaris 813-789-4134
Bible Study: Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
Bookstore: Pres. Denise Stefero 678-464-4833
Choir: Tara Swartzbaugh, Director 813-313-0439
 Ruth Losovitz, Organist 727-688-2782
College Ministry: Vasili Panagopoulos 414-254-5134
Community Outreach: Greg Melton 813-967-2074
Dance Groups: Η ΧΑΡΑ ΜΑΣ, 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

Daughters of Penelope: Gary Ward 813-846-3898
Finance Committee: Sandra Pappas 813-785-3747
Food Pantry: Michael & Bessie Palios 813-523-0346
GOYA: George & Zackie Ameres 813-245-3813
Hope/Joy: Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963
Joy Tweens Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
Men's Fellowship: Marcelle Triantafilou 612-396-5026
Nursing Ministry: Karina Findlay 813-476-9632
Photography Ministry: Katherine Sakkis 813-309-1073
Philoptochos: Chris Kyros 757-672-1920
Stewardship: George Mitseas 813-748-1220

Sunday School: Vickie Peckham 813-758-3102
Ushers Pete Trakas 813-505-2193
Veterans/1st Responders Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
Welcoming Ministry: Maria Xenick 813-765-3587
Women's Bible Study: Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-876-8830
Young Adults Aris Rogers 813-309-5525
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



August 27, 2023

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)
Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)
Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)
Icon of Pimen the Great

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday August 27

Orthros 8:45 a.m.
 Fanouropita Fundraiser
 Altar Boy Meeting
 Dance Practice
 Men's Group 5:00 p.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday August 28

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday August 29

Beheading of St. John the Baptist
Orthros 9:00 a.m. **Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**
 Ministry Heads Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday August 30

Choir Practice

Sunday September 3

Orthros 8:45 a.m. **Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Monday September 4

Labor Day– Office Closed

Tuesday September 5

Parish Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.
 Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday September 6

Choir Practice

Thursday September 7

Philoptochos Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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:

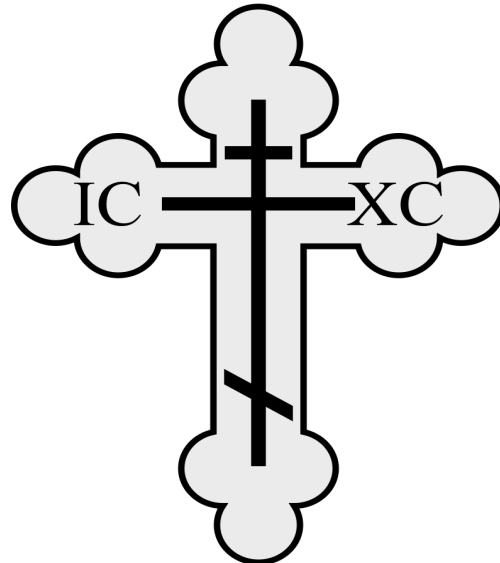
Love, Worship, Community, Learning, Service

SYNAXARION:

12th Sunday of Matthew; Pimen the Great; Holy Martyr Phanurius; Anthousa the Martyr

Resurrectional Apolytikion:

Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and first born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted 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.

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

Religious Education at St. John

Monday Night Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. John

August 28: Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Women's Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. Stavros

Resumes until September

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 - New Children's Books from Greece

A new shipment of 110 books is displayed in our bookstore today. These mini books by Paterikon for Kids feature a multitude of Saints as well as books highlighting major feast days, martyrs, etc. Saints from Aegina, Cyprus, Chios, Ioannina, Kephallonia, and many other areas are available.

Greek Dance Groups




Are you ready to dance? Y Hara Mas (3rd-6th grades) will have Greek dance **practice today**. Please meet by the stage in the Kourmoulis Center at 12:15pm (during coffee hour). Please get your snacks before practice! We will continue practices every Sunday following the Divine Liturgy, from 12:15 to 12:45pm, until our Greek Festival in November. Please contact Maraquet Edquid (813-422-8963) with any questions.

Philoptochos Fanouropita Sunday

TODAY, The Ladies Philoptochos Society will sponsor Fanouropita Sunday honoring St. Fanourios the Great Martyr. The Saint has become known for revealing lost things, hidden spiritual matters of the heart, actions that should be taken, and even restoring health. The sweet cake (Fanouropita) will be blessed by Fr. Stavros with prayers for the faithful. Afterwards the cake will be served and offered for purchase in the fellowship hall with all proceeds earmarked for our Metropolis Youth.

Thank you to Jeanie Nenos for chairing the event.



DONATE BLOOD

St. John's Greek Orthodox Church
Sunday, September 17
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Donors Receive

All donors receive*:
- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **OneBlood T-shirt**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.




Fact: One in three of us will need a blood transfusion.

Sign up here!

Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code 14583

ID REQUIRED
*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/details.

oneblood
Share your power.



Readings for Sunday, August 27

Prokeimenon: Sing praises to our God, sing praises. Psalm 46.6,1

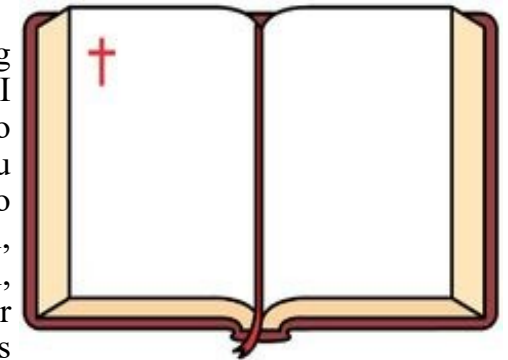
The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 15:1-11

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast -- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

The reading is from Matthew 19:16-26

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, 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." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."



Liturgical Notes



Tuesday, August 29 - Beheading of St. John the Baptist

St. John the Baptist, according to the Gospel accounts, was beheaded in prison. St. John had spoken out against Herod Antipas, the son of Herod the Great. This man had a lawful wife, the daughter of Arethas, the King of Arabia. Without any cause, and against every commandment of the Law, he put her away and took to himself Herodias, the wife of his deceased brother Philip, to whom Herodias had borne a daughter, Salome. He would not desist from this unlawful union even when John, the preacher of repentance, the bold and austere accuser of the lawless, censured him and told him, "It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife" (Mark 6: 18). Thus Herod, besides his other unholy acts, added yet this, that he apprehended John and shut him in prison; and perhaps he would have killed him straightway, had he not feared the people, who had extreme reverence for John. When Salome, Herodias' daughter, had danced in order to please him and those who were

supping with him, he promised her -- with an oath more foolish than any foolishness -- that he would give her anything she asked, even unto the half of his kingdom. And she, consulting with her mother, straightway asked for the head of John the Baptist in a charger. Hence this transgressor of the Law, preferring his lawless oath above the precepts of the Law, fulfilled this godless promise and filled his loathsome banquet with the blood of the Prophet. So it was that that all-venerable head, revered by the Angels, was given as a prize for an abominable dance, and became the plaything of the dissolute daughter of a debauched mother. As for the body of the divine Baptist, it was taken up by his disciples and placed in a tomb (Mark 6:21 - 29). We commemorate this event each year on August 29, which is also a strict fast day. As St. John the Baptist is the patron saint of our parish, we honor this feast day, and we pray for his intercessions over each of us and our parish.

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; 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, 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

August 27th
Gabriel Gonzalez
Michael Galin
Philip Kane
Leo Sengsouvana
Kenny Kane
Peter Konstas

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

September 3rd
**Anyone attending
may serve**

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

August 27th
The Lord's Prayer



September 3rd
NO CLASS

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

**Fifty- Two Verses
-In-
Fifty- Two Weeks
August 27th– September 2nd**

**Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord, keep watch over the door of my lips!
Psalm 141:3**

The part of us that gets us into the most trouble is our mouths. That's why it's good we only have one of them. God gave us two ears, with which to hear, two eyes with which to see and two hands with which to do His work, and two feet with which to walk as we do His work. But we only have one mouth. The mouth is our greatest tool to praise God, and to praise and help others. It is also our greatest weapon. Because the mouth is the part of us that can cause the most destruction. Therefore we need to be careful what we do with our mouths, what we say, and how we say it. There is also another thing that our mouths are doing, and that is that we use our mouths to overindulge in food and drink. So the guard we pray will be over our mouths must also guard not only what is coming out of us, but what is going into us as well.

Community News

Meeting of Ministry Heads on August 29-

The meeting will be on Tuesday, August 29 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This one will be in person, so we can discuss ministry issues for the fall. Each ministry is asked to have a least one representative present at each respective meeting.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet on **TODAY**, August 27, 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.



ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗΣ ΓΛΩΣΣΑΣ ΚΑΙ
ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΜΟΥ
SCHOOL OF GREEK LANGUAGE AND
CULTURE

We are excited to inform you all that the School of Greek Language and Culture of Tampa will start again on Saturday, September 9th.

The lessons will take place at the building of Bridgeprep Charter School (behind Saint John's Church) every Saturday from 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

Our school will have classes from K-8th Grade. Registrations will start on Saturday, September 9th at 12:00 pm.

Information: Ioannis Giavaras
igiavaras@gmail.com
Tel. 718 419 4413

IOCC Needs Your Help to Rebuild Areas of Florida damaged by Hurricane Ian

International Orthodox Christian Charities has received a grant from The National Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society to assist in the rebuilding of areas of Florida devastated by Hurricane Ian. Teaming with Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity, IOCC will be rebuilding from now through October 2023 and are looking for volunteers to assist in this task.



The contribution per person is \$75 per week which includes local transportation, room & board, 3 meals a day, materials, supplies, tools, and site supervision.

Meals and travel to and from the destination would be at your own expense. For more detailed information, contact Krista Hamann US Admin. Project Asst. at (667)331-9812 or volunteercoordinator@iocc.org.

This can be an excellent way to gather a group from your Ministry and **PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION!**

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

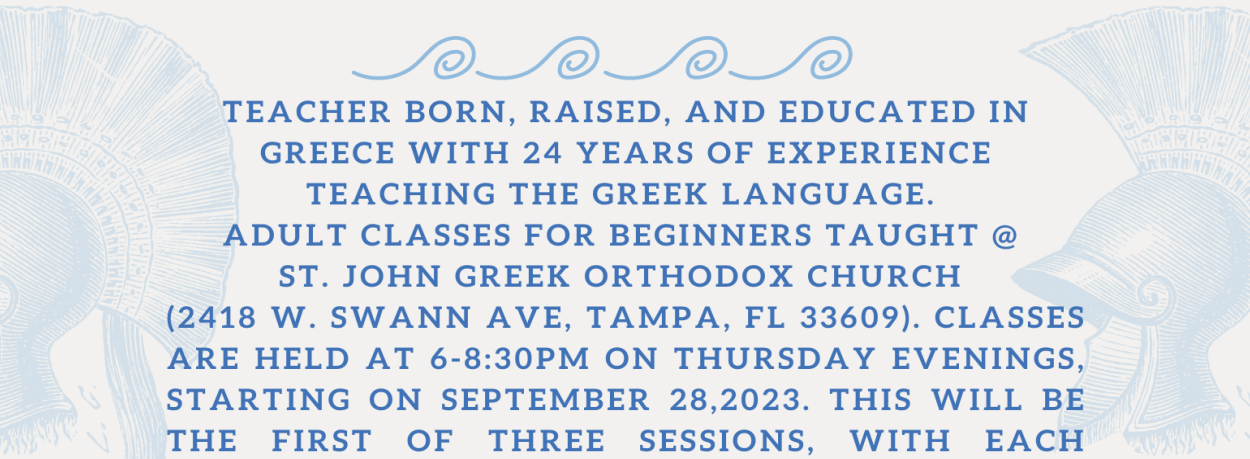




WANT TO LEARN MODERN GREEK
 ST. JOHN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



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 YOUR INTERESTED IN JOINING, PLEASE REACH OUT TO MS. MAGDALINI MYER AT ASPIS69@AOL.COM OR (813) 523-5771



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 Heal 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