

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:	Alex Limberatos	262-370-0586
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		781-888-3329
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:	Pauline Spencer, Director	813-390-1782
	Ruth Losovitz, Organist	727-688-2782
Community Outreach:	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
Dance Groups:	H XAPA MAS, 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 Kyros	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	Alex Limberatos	262-370-0586
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

February 27, 2022 - Judgement Sunday

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

(Icon of The Last Judgement Above)

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:

Procopius the Confessor of Decapolis, Raphael of Brooklyn, Stephen the Monk

**Apolytikion of the Week
(Third Mode):**

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 for 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 (First Mode):

When You come O God, upon the earth with glory, and the universe will tremble, and the river of fire will bring men before Your judgment seat, and the books will be opened and the secrets are disclosed; then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, and count me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O Most Righteous Judge.

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. 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

Memorials:

Hippocratis Bournelis (40 Days)

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, February 27

Judgement Sunday
Orthros 8:30 a.m.
1st-3rd Grade Confessions

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Men’s Group 5:00 p.m.

Monday, February 28

Bible Study

6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 3

Adult Greek School
GriefShare

6:00-8:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 5

2nd Saturday of the Souls
Orthros 9:00 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Young Adult Retreat

Sunday, March 6

Forgiveness Sunday
Orthros 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School Pre-Lent Retreat

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Forgiveness Vespers

6:00 p.m.

**Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project
February 27-March 5**

“You have heard that it was said, “You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Matthew 5:43-44

These verses are in line with our verse from last week, about outdoing one another with love. These verses go so far as to tell us we are to love our enemies. It seems natural to love our neighbors (or those who love us) while hating our enemies. Jesus tells us not to take this “natural course”. Because, in fact, the course isn’t natural. The ability to love is innate. The desire to hate is learned. So Christ tells us to return to our “natural state” and love without condition, to love those who love us and to love those who hate us. Interestingly, during the Divine Liturgy, right before the Great Entrance, the priest bows to the congregation and says “for those who love us and those who hate us, may God forgive us.” He doesn’t pray for forgiveness only for those whom he loves or who love him. He prays for all to have forgiveness, those we love and those we don’t. For how can we come to Communion with hate toward anyone in our hearts? We are supposed to love all, whether they deserve it or not. This is the ideal. Of course we will fall short of the ideal. But the ideal can’t be love some people some of the time. Christ sets the ideal as loving all the people all of the time. Because He died for all people, even those who didn’t love Him, even the ones that were killing Him. He died for them too.

Education at St. John

Monday Night Bible Study
Leader: Fr. John
Day: Monday 6:30 p.m.

Women’s Bible Study
Leader: Fr. Stavros
Day: Monday Retreat


Greek School
Leader: Magda Myer
Day: Thursday 6:00 p.m.

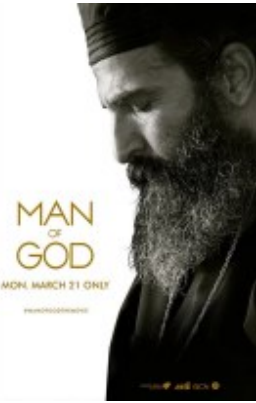
MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES


Attention all Parents: As a friendly reminder, please remember that no children are allowed on the stage, especially during coffee hour. Thank you!

St. John’s Bookstore— Throughout Great Lent our bookstore will be offering a wide selection of books focused on the many ways we can grow spiritually during the Lenten period. Daily meditations, prayer books, lives of the Saints, guides to preparation for Confession, Holy Week service books, and Lenten cookbooks are just some of those featured.

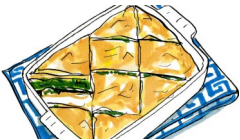
Monday Night Bible Study - Fr. John 's Bible Study meets on Monday night at 6:30 p.m. Join us in person or via Zoom to share your insights as we deepen our relationship with Christ.

 GriefShare meets every Thursday In-Person at 6:30 p.m. It may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. If you’ve lost a spouse, child, family member, or friends you’ve probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions. “Going to GriefShare feels like having warm arms wrapped around you when you’re shivering.” GriefShare groups meet weekly to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Each GriefShare session has three distinct elements: Video seminar with experts, support group discussion with focus and personal study and reflection. We will meet from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Thursdays, starting January 21, for 13 weeks, ending on Thursday, April 22. For February, GriefShare will meet February 3, 10 17 and 24. For more information please contact Donna Hambos at 813-843-8412 or dhambos@msn.com. Books for the program will be provided. Donation for the book suggested but not required. Open to all family and friends. Griefshare remains open enrollment with support towards healing and hope. You can begin at any time.

 We are pleased to announce that “Man of God,” the highly anticipated award-winning film based on the inspiring life of our beloved Orthodox saint, Saint Nektarios of Aegina, is coming to movie theaters across the United States on Monday, March 21st as a one night only Fathom Events release. Our parish is organizing an opportunity to see it together with our church community. Everyone is invited to attend this special screening. If there is enough interest, we have been in contact with the manager at the Regal Citrus Park Theater to inquire about getting a block of seats in a private auditorium on Monday, March 21 at 7:00 PM. Tickets will cost approximately \$12-14 each. **Please email Donna Trakas at dptrakas@verizon.net by Monday, March 7th at 6:00 PM with the number of tickets you would like.** More details will follow once we know we have enough interest. We look forward to hearing from you! With love in the Lord, +Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis

 **Last Sunday: Blood Pressure Screening in February-** Your nursing ministry will be doing FREE blood pressure checks today! Come get your blood pressure checked and know your numbers!

Philoptochos Selling Spanakopita, Tyropita, and Trays of Baklava - The Philoptochos will continue selling Spanakopita, Tyropita, and Baklava after Divine Liturgy! You can ask a Philoptochos board member or call Lisa Alsina (813-728-1094) if you’re interested in purchasing one!



Readings for the 17th Sunday of Matthew

Prokeimenon: Verse: Great is our Lord, and great is His strength. Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.
Epistle Reading is from St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians (8:8-13; 9:1-2)

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Gospel Reading is from Matthew (25:31-46)

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Metropolitan Alexios, Eva Coppalla; Christopher; Christopher; Elaine Daniels; Mary & Peter Nenos; Tony Ekonomou; Keith Lynn & Patrick Carroll; Daniel Hoss, 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, Ron Myer, Toula Tsaros, Fr. Pat Legato, 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, 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 Stocco, John Alexander, Michael Romero, George Hambos, Dean Kondilis and Family, Bill and Nancy Manikas, Patricia Costello, Anastasia Smyrnakis, Ekaterina & Anna Shushaalykova, Dora Koudouna, Debbie Phelps, Mary Voykin, David Voykin, Denise Badrane, Don Payne, Felix and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATE

Sunday, February 27

Topic: Last Judgement
Confessions: 1-3 Grades

Sunday, March 6

Youth Sunday
Pre-Lenten Retreat - Forgiveness Sunday

Sunday, March 13

Topic: Icons/Sunday of Orthodoxy
Procession of Icons

Sunday, March 20

Topic: Being a Good Friend
Second Sunday of Lent – Paralytic

Liturgical Notes

Sunday, February 27 – Judgment Sunday (Meatfare)

Judgment Sunday is also called - Meatfare Sunday because it is the last Sunday, according to the fasting canons, that the faithful eat meat before Easter. During the following week, we do not fast on Wednesday and Friday (except for meat, of course). On this Sunday, we call to mind something that has not even happened yet: the Second Coming of Christ. Our Lord has promised us that He will come again, “to judge the living and the dead, and His Kingdom will have no end” (from the Nicene Creed). We call to mind the “criteria” of our entrance into Paradise, as our Lord said in today’s Gospel: “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.”

Saturday of the Souls – Saturday, March 5

It is a Tradition in the Orthodox Church to offer prayers for the souls of all of our loved ones who have departed this life, in the hope of the Resurrection to Eternal Life. There are four Saturdays of the year that are dedicated specifically to this purpose. There are three Saturdays at the beginning of Lent and the Saturday before Pentecost. Everyone is encouraged to submit the names of their loves ones to be commemorated at the services. Everyone is encouraged to attend one of these services (and bring Kolyva) if you are able, as a way of honoring the people in your family who have passed away, once a year.

Altar Boy Schedule

February 27
(St. Luke)

Teddy Kafentaris
Andrew Thatcher
Kris Christopher
Vasilios Panos
Jonah Blankenbaker
Lucas Elly
Liam Elly

Captains

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

March 6
(St. John)

Christos Nenos
Constantine Ameres
Zachary George
Alex Findlay
Gianni Matassini
Grayson Borgeas-Beech
Gryphon Borgeas-Beech
Nathan Moran

Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!

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

Birthdays

February 27	
February 28	
March 1	Suzanne Pileggi
March 2	Julia Blankenbaker, Dean Makris, Euripides Panos
March 3	Juliana Stingulescu
March 4	
March 5	Christopher Nicolaou, Gary Speegle

Namedays

Asklipios, Nisios
Kyra, Marianna, Casianos
Endokia, Harisios, Parashos, Paraskevas
Efthalia, Troadios
Kleonikos
Gerasimos
Arhelaos, Evlogios, Konon

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Saturday, March 5 | 10am - 4pm
St. John the Baptist | 2418 W. Swann Ave. Tampa, FL 33609

Theme: Getting Encouraged in Our Faith as We Begin Great Lent

- All Young Adults Ages 18 - 35
- No Fees
- Lunch Provided

Divine Liturgy | 10am
Session One | 11:30pm
Lunch
Session Two | 1:30pm
Q&A - Final Thoughts | 3pm
Closing Prayer | 4pm

Please RSVP by March 1 to frstav@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

March 5 - Young Adult Retreat
March 7 - First Day of Lent
March 21 - Man of God Film

Wednesday Pre-Sanctified Liturgies

March 9
March 16
March 23
March 30
April 6
April 13



Our Food Pantry is very active helping people near and far in the Tampa Community

- ☐ Pasta

☐ Spaghetti Sauce

☐ Tomato sauce/chopped tomatoes etc.

☐ All kinds of white flour

☐ Canned Tuna

☐ Canned Chicken

☐ Canned fruits and vegetables

☐ Body Wash

☐ Gluten Free Foods and
- Flours

☐ Cereal

☐ Whole wheat rice and pasta

☐ Men's and Women's razors and shaving cream (travel size)

☐ Toothbrushes

☐ Granola & Protein Bars