

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 Katzaras		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 ΜΑΣ, Alexandra De Maio	813-340-9668
	Bessie Palios,	813-523-0347
	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
	ΠΑΡΕΑ, Marina Choundas	813-877-6136
	ΠΑΝΗΓΥΡΙ, 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 Kyrus	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

March 27, 2022 - Sunday of the Holy Cross

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)

Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)

Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)

(Icon of Christ Dragged towards the Crucifixion)

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:

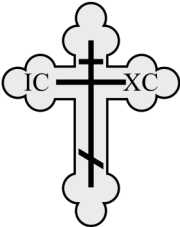
Matrona the Martyr of Thessalonica, Paul the Bishop of Corinth

Apolytikion of the Week (Barys Mode):

Lord by Your sacred cross You abolished death, and granted to the thief blessed paradise. The myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy; the apostles did preach the good news at Your command that You are risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.

Apolytikion for the Feast (First Mode):

Save O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.



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 (Plagal Fourth Mode):

Victorious Lady, mighty champion, defending us, we your servants, now inscribe to you this hymn of thanks, for you rescued us from suffering and tribulation. Theotokos, with your power that can never fail, keep us safe from every danger our whole life long. That we may cry to you: Rejoice, O Bride unwedded.

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

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, March 27	Sunday of the Holy Cross Orthros 8:30 a.m. Men’s Group	Divine Liturgy 9:45 a.m. 5:00 p.m.
Monday, March 28	Great Compline Bible Study	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 29	Women’s Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 30	9th Hour 5:30 p.m.	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m. (Lenten Dinner/Discussion to follow)
Thursday, March 31	Greek School Griefshare	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
Friday, April 1	Fr. Stavros Out of Town April 1-2 - Please contact Fr. John for Pastoral Emergencies 9th Hour 9:30 a.m. Salutations - 4th Stanza	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 3	Sunday of St. John Climacus Orthros 8:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 9:45 a.m.
Monday, April 4	Great Compline Bible Study	5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.

Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project
March 27-April 2

And if you be unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.
Joshua 24:15

The theme for this week is “Intentionally choose Him.” This state-ment of Joshua is very unequivocal. Addressed to people who were forsaking God and following different “gods,” Joshua was emphatic that “as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” We live at a time when people have forsaken our God and follow other “gods.” In this case, a “god” is whatever one worships, whatever is at the front of one’s life. Many people are worshiping popularity and popular peo-ple. Many people have made the phone or nice clothes their idol. Many see themselves as the center of the universe—they have made themselves gods. It takes a good amount of intentionality to choose God and to choose to run the race of Christianity, especially when it seems like fewer and fewer people are doing it. We have to come to the place where Joshua was, where is said with zeal, boldness and intentionality, “as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!”

Education at St. John

Fr. John’s Bible Study

Leader: Fr. John
Day: Monday 6:30 p.m.

Women’s Bible Study

Leader: Fr. Stavros
Day: Tuesday 10:00 a.m.

Greek School

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

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Greek Independence Day Celebration - April 3, 2022



On Sunday, April 3, we will be having our annual Greek Independence Day Celebration, an event we have not been able to have since March 2019. Following Divine Liturgy, please join us in the hall for lunch and a Greek Independence Program!



St. John's Bookstore - now Available! The latest release by Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis

Commissioned to Be Apostles: Love, Worship, Community, Learning, Service. 151 short reflections offering practical instruction on what it means to be an apostle of Christ. Stop by our bookstore today and pick up



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.

New Church Directory Photo Shoot

Dear parishioners,
It's time for a new church directory! We will have two photographers at our church taking photos of our parishioners for our new church directory. Please mark down the following dates and times in your calendar to coordinate with your families.
-April 15 (Friday) & 16 (Saturday): 11:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
-April 29 (Friday) & 30 (Saturday): 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Everyone photographed will receive a free directory!
The sign-up link can be found here: <https://www.ucdir.com/schedule/login.php>
For any questions, please reach out to Alex Limberatos, Jim Armstrong, or Marilyn Sandborn.

March is *Θαλασσαιμία*/Cooley's Anemia Month ST JOHN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH and AHEPA Tampa Chapter #12

Cooley's anemia or *Θαλασσαιμία*/Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder which mostly affects people of Mediterranean descent.
How can you help?

- Get tested since it affects people of Mediterranean descent
 - Educate others to be tested and understand the need for financial support
 - Register to be a prospective marrow donor
 - Please Donate
1. Please make checks payable to "AHEPA Cooley's Anemia Foundation" with "Cooley's Anemia" in the "Note" section of the check and send check to: AHEPA Treas, Tom Georgas, 506 Lantern Circle, Tampa, FL 33617
 2. Or by Credit Card; Call Tom Georgas (813) 985-0236 or Mike Trimis (813) 784-4872
- [Cooley's Anemia Drive** will have screening for the donor program by gathering sample cheek tissue swabs in the Church hall during Coffee Fellowship hour.
- The donor program for "Be The Match Registry" is on behalf of Cooley's Anemia on **Sunday March 27** after the liturgy in the social hall.
 - We have an incredible opportunity to add more willing, committed and available new members to "Be The Match Registry".
 - If you are between ages 18-40, please consider getting screened to be a potential donor and save a life.
- Additional swabs will be available to take home for family and friends.]

Pascha Bakesale - April 16 & 17

First come... first serve... while supplies last!
Spanakopita 2lb pan \$20
Spanakopita/Tyropita Triangles 48 pieces \$30
Tsoureki \$10
Koulourakia \$7
Paximathia \$5
South Tampa Sugar Mama Easter Cookie \$4

Palm Sunday Luncheon - April 17

Join us for a traditional Palm Sunday Luncheon
Adults \$15.00
Children \$5
*all proceeds go to Philoptochos charities

Help Needed

Many hands make light work! We need volunteers to make skorthalia and desserts. We also need help setting up, serving and cleaning up. If you can help, please contact Lisa Alsina: (813) 728-1094 - lisaalsina@gmail.com

Readings for the Sunday of the Holy Cross

Prokeimenon: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance. To You, O Lord, I cry; O my God, may You not pass over me in silence.

The Epistle Reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Hebrews (4:14-16; 5:1-6)

Brethren, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Gospel Reading is from Mark (8:34-38; 9:1)

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Felix; Sylvia Michos; Eva Coppalla; Christopher; Christopher; Mary & Peter Nenos; Tony Ekonomou; Keith Lynn & Patrick Carroll; 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, Toulia 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, 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, Debbie Phelps, Mary Voykin, David Voykin, Denise Badrane, Don Payne, and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATE

Sunday, March 27

Topic: Holy Cross - Third Sunday of Great Lent
Prosphora: Pre-K, 3 & 4
Sunday, April 3
Topic: Faith - Fourth Sunday of Great Lent - St. John the Ladder
Prosphora: High School Boys

Sunday, April 10

Youth Sunday (7th-12th Grade Music at 11:40 a.m.)
Topic: Holy Week - Fifth Sunday of Great Lent
Sunday, April 17
Topic: Holy Week - Palm Sunday
All Students Involved in Palm Sunday Procession

Liturgical Notes

Divine Liturgy to begin at 9:45 a.m. on the Sundays of Great Lent

Since the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is offered on each Sunday of Lent, and this Divine Liturgy is slightly longer than the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, the Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:45 a.m. from March 13-April 17. The Choir will begin the Doxology at 9:40 a.m.

Mondays of Lent - Great Compline

The service of the Great Compline will be read on the following Mondays of Lent—March 28, April 4 and April 11. This service lasts about an hour and consists of Psalms and hymns of repentance. Service Books for this service will be available.

Wednesdays of Lent – 9th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

The Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (also called Pre-Sanctified Liturgy) will be held on the Wednesdays during Great Lent. This service consists of Vespers with Holy Communion that was “Pre-Sanctified” the previous Sunday. It is an opportunity to receive Holy Communion frequently during the season of fasting. The Pre-Sanctified Liturgy is preceded by the reading of the 9th Hour, a short service with penitential prayers as well as the recitation of the Creed, a pre-requisite for the reception of Holy Communion. Service books for this service will be available. The Pre-Sanctified Liturgy will be celebrated on the following Wednesdays of Great Lent: Wednesday, March 30; Wednesday, April 6; and Wednesday, April 13. Each ministry is encouraged to attend one Pre-Sanctified Liturgy as follows:

Wednesday, March 30 Philoptochos
Wednesday, April 6 Sunday School
Wednesday, April 13 Parish Council

Fridays of Lent - 9th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

The Pre-Sanctified Liturgy has Traditionally been celebrated on Wednesdays AND Fridays of Great Lent. The 9th Hour will begin at 9:30 a.m., with the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy from 10:00-11:15 a.m. The Pre-Sanctified Liturgy will be held on the Fridays of Lent as follows: Friday, April 1; Friday, April 8; and Friday, April 15.

Fridays of Lent - The Salutations to the Virgin Mary (Heretismoï)

This service also lasts about an hour and is a series of prayers and devotions that invoke the intercessions of the Virgin Mary for our salvation. It will be held on April 1 and April 8. Service Books for this service will be available.

Sunday, March 27 - Third Sunday of Lent - Veneration of the Holy Cross

On the 3rd Sunday of Great Lent we celebrate the Veneration of the Cross; the Cross helps us to prepare for the Crucifixion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are not just witnessing from afar the passions of our Lord, but we participate in them. In the Synaxarion we read, “Through the forty-day fast, we too are in a way crucified, dying to the passions.” Our efforts to keep up with the Fast, through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, might take a toll over our bodies; we need help and encouragement, and the help and encouragement comes from the power of the Cross. In the middle of Great Lent, the Church gives its faithful a sign of victory, one that can bring strength to them in this time of fasting. The Sunday of the Holy Cross is one that brings everything into perspective, especially with the Gospel reading (Mark 8:34-9:1), the Lord saying to all His disciples: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" A special procession of the Holy Cross, on a tray covered with flowers, will be held at the end of the Divine Liturgy.



ST. JOHN'S GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
2418 W. SWANN AVE. TAMPA, FL 33609

9th Hour - 5:30 p.m.
Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00 p.m.
Lenten Dinner - 7:15 p.m.
Presentation offered by Fr. Stavros - 7:45 p.m.
Small Group Discussion - 8:15 p.m.
Wrap Up - 8:45 p.m.



Each Wednesday of Great Lent

LENTEN
PRESANCTIFIED
SERIES

H. Have A Plan 3/9
A. Affirm your Faith 3/16
B. Be a Friend 3/23
I. Intentionally Choose Him 3/30
T. Trust Him 4/6
S. Surrender to Him 4/13

New Instagram Page & Contest

Our church now has its own Instagram page, so be sure to go give it a follow, and also tag us in any picture you take here at the Church! Our username is: stjohntpa



To kick off our new page, we are having an Instagram contest.

Enter to win a signed copy of Fr. Stavros’ new book: “Commissioned to be Apostles.”

- 1.) Follow St. John’s on Instagram
- 2.) Post a picture of yourself (or with others) at the Church, about Church in general, etc. and tag St. John’s @stjohntpa
- 3.) Entries will be accepted until April 30, and the winner will be announced May 1

Happy Birthday and Happy Nameday!

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

Birthdays

Namedays

March 27	Theodore Kafantaris, Matthew Robinson	Filitas, Leeda, Lidia, Matrona, Gregory, Sosthenes
March 28		
March 29		
March 30	Nikolas DeJesus	Sosthenes, John
March 31	Jovan Lakic	Ypatis
April 1		
April 2	Julie Konstas, Teresa Miller, Samuel Rodriguez	Titos

Altar Boy Schedule

March 27

All GOYAns May Serve



Captains

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

April 3
(St. Luke)

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