

Parish Priest:
Retired Priest in Residence:
Retired Priest in Residence:
Pastoral Assistant:
Administrative Assistant:
Bookkeeper:

Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
 Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski 813-876-8830
 Rev. Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
 Vasili Panagopoulos 414-254-5134
 Kim Rojas 813-876-8830
 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:

College Ministry:

Community Outreach:

Dance Groups:

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 Losovitz, Organist 727-688-2782
 Vasili Panagopoulos 414-254-5134
 Greg Melton 813-967-2074
 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
 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
 Melissa Krinos 813-716-9975
 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
 Bill Manikas 813-716-8185
 Dora Morgan 813-613-3738
 Suzanne Pileggi 813-244-5855

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



May 28, 2023

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)

Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)

Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)

SUNDAY OF HOLY FATHERS OF THE 1ST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

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:
Holy Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council; Hieromartyr Eutychius, Bishop of Melitene; Nikitas

Apolytikion of the Ascension:
You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, cheering up the Disciples, by the promise of the Holy Spirit; by assuring them through Your divine blessing, that You are indeed the Son of God, and the Redeemer of the world.

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.

Resurrectional Apolytikion:
When the angelic powers appeared at the tomb and soldiers guarding You became as though dead and standing by Your sepulchre was Mary seeking Your pure and sacred Body. For You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the virgin woman bestowing the gift of Life. O You who rose from the dead, Lord, we give glory to You.

Kontakion of Pascha:
Having fulfilled the dispensation for us, and uniting the earthly with the heavenly, You ascended in glory, O Christ, our God; being in no way separated, but remaining inseparable, and calling out to those who love You: I am with you, and no one can be against you.

Apolytikion of the Feast:
Supremely praised are You, O Christ our God, Who established on earth, our Fathers as luminaries; and through them You have guided all of us to the true faith, most Compassionate One, glory to You.

Communion Hymn:
God ascended with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Alleluia.

Hymn 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

Memorial Day :
God bless America, land that I love.
Stand beside her, and guide her,
Through the night with the light from above.
From the mountains to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home.
God bless America, my home sweet home.

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 May 28	Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. VETERANS MEMORIAL TRIBUTE
Monday May 29	MEMORIAL DAY– Office Closed
Tuesday May 30	Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Chant Class 6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday May 31	Choir Practice
Thursday June 1	Adult Greek School
Saturday June 3	Saturday of the Souls Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Young At Heart
Sunday June 4	Pentecost Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:45 a.m. Kneeling Vespers 11:00 a.m. GOYA 5:00 p.m.

Religious Education at St. John

Monday Night Bible Study	Women’s Bible Study
Leader: Fr. John	Leader: Fr. Stavros
May 30: Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.	Resumes until August

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-AWARES. HEBREWS 13:2

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore -VINTAGE GREEK COOKBOOKS

I'm on the lookout for used Greek cookbooks that we can offer for sale in our bookstore. Many of us have books we haven't used for years and I thought it might be fun to do a fundraising swap.

Please see us with any books you'd like to donate.

Presvytera Denise and Elaina

The American Foundation for Greek Language & Culture (AFGLC)

The American Foundation for Greek Languages & Culture (AFGLC) Scholarships are now available to High School Seniors and College Students. The AFGLC Dr. Demetrios G. Halkias, the AFGLC Peter & Sophia Kourmolis, the AFGLC Dr. Byron P. Palls Scholarships.

Deadline to apply **June 25th.**

For more information contact Kalliope at 813-789-4134 or khalkias@afglc.org.



Chant Class

Join us for our next 13- week introductory chant class offered at St. John's Church!

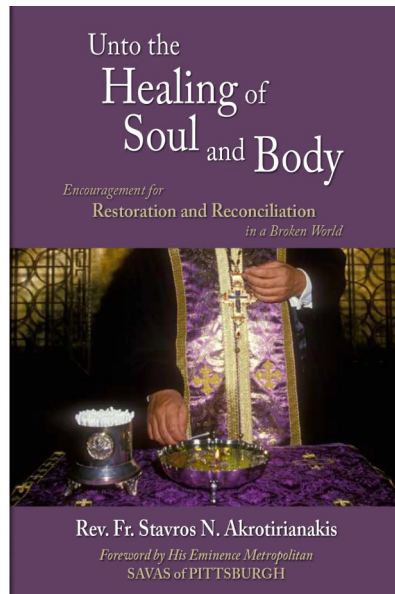
ALL ARE WELCOME

Next class will be Tuesday, May 30 from 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

Register for classes now at vasili@stjohntpa.org

COLLEGE STUDENT NIGHT

Tuesday, June 6—we are planning a summer get together at the church for any college students in the area for Tuesday, June 6, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. There is no cost. Please RSVP to Fr. Stavros by Thursday, June 1 at frstav@gmail.com



Introducing the Newest Book by Fr. Stavros Unto the Healing of Soul and Body: Encouragement for Restoration and Reconciliation in a Broken World

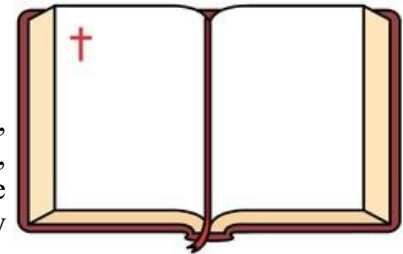
There has never been a greater need for healing in the world than there is today. The Orthodox Sacrament of Holy Unction is intended for the healing of soul and body. What makes this sacrament so powerful is not just the anointing that occurs at the end of the service, but the journey there—through seven Epistle readings, seven Gospel passages and seven powerful prayers. *Unto the Healing of Soul and Body* will serve as an aid on this journey, helping us understand our need for healing, as well as God's role and our own participation in spiritual healing.

Readings for Sunday, May 28

Prokeimenon: Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers. Daniel 3.26,27

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18, 28-36

IN THOSE DAYS, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesos, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletos he sent to Ephesos and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.' " And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.



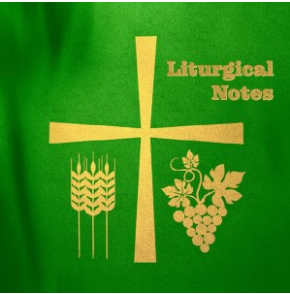
The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to John 17:1-13

At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made.

"I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves."

Liturgical Notes



The Pentecostarion - The 50 Days After Pascha

The period of 50 days between Pascha & Pentecost is referred to as the “Pentecostarion.” The period of forty days between Pascha Sunday and the day of the Ascension is known as the period of Pascha (or Easter). It is a period set aside by the Church for the specific celebration of Christ’s glorious resurrection. It is a celebration of “rebirth”. . . .The rebirth of God’s creation which surrounds us, and the rebirth of the spirit within each and every one of us! This period is not merely a ritualistic celebration but a celebration which can be seen, felt, heard and talked about. It is a very REAL celebration which CAN make our entire being jump with JOY. It is a celebration which offers us HOPE. It is a

celebration which offers us the TRUE FREEDOM found only in Jesus Christ! During the 40 days of Pascha, we are to greet each other with the greeting “Christ is Risen” or “Χριστὸς Ανέστη!,” to which the response is “Truly He is Risen” or “Αληθῶς Ανέστη!”

No Kneeling until Pentecost

It is actually the Tradition in the Orthodox Church that we not kneel on Sundays in honor of the Resurrection of Christ. Because we do not worship on a daily basis in our church communities, priests have encouraged people to kneel on Sundays, the thought being that if we do not kneel on Sundays, that we’ll never kneel in church. It is a Tradition, that for 50 days after Pascha, we do not kneel in honor of the Resurrection. Continued... The next time we will kneel after April 15 is on the Feast of Pentecost (June 5) at the Vespers of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, when the priest says “Again and again on bended knees let us pray to the Lord.” Fast Free the week after Pascha - Having kept a fast for almost 8 weeks, including the week before Lent, Lent and Holy Week, the church gives us a “week off” from fasting the week after Pascha. During Bright Week, or Renewal Week, as that week is called each day is like a Sunday. Hence, there is no fasting during this celebratory week. Who, then, may receive Communion? Whoever wishes to, providing that they abstain from food the morning they are receiving. So, the Sunday after Pascha, everyone in the congregation may receive. There is no fasting on Wednesday or Friday of renewal week, or any other day of that week either.

Sunday, May 28, Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

We pay homage to the col-lective triumph of the Church over false doctrine. The first Ecumenical Council authored the Creed. It took place in Nicaea in the year 325. This is why we call the Creed “The Nicene Creed.” This Council also estab-lished the date of Pascha and decided on which books would comprise the Bible. This commemoration is al-ways done the Sunday after Ascension.

Saturday, June 3, Saturday of the Souls

There are four Saturdays set aside during the year for us to honor our loved ones who have fallen asleep. One of them is the Saturday before Pentecost, this year on June 11. We will have Divine Liturgy and a memorial service that day. Please send the list of names of those whom you would like to have commemorated (separate sheet provided). You may bring kolyva as you wish. We will not be having a communal kolyva (hopefully this will resume next year), so each family will take their own back.

Altar Boy Schedule

May 28
Anyone attending
may serve

Captains
John Palios
Genaro Scarfogliero
Nicholas Akrotirianakis
Nicholas Carter
James Magos
Demetri Passalaris
George Xenick
Nicholas Magos
PJ Zelatis

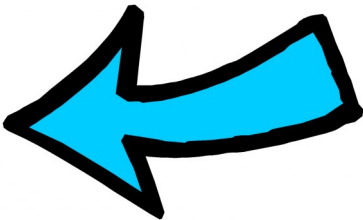
June 4th
Christos Nenos
Constantine Ameres
Zachary George
Alex Findlay
Gianni Matassini
Nathan Moran
Michael Meadows

Names to be Commemorated for Saturday of Souls

Please write the names of all those who you wish to be commemorated in the Saturday of Souls Service, June 3.

Please mail into the office or bring to the church as soon as possible.

From June 9th– 11th, St. John will be hosting the annual GOYA Junior Olympics. We will be hosting GOYANS from around North & Central Florida for a weekend of athletic competition. A **BIG THANK YOU** to **Dwight Forde** for organizing this event!!!



Come out and cheer on the teams!

GOYA JUNIOR OLYMPICS

JUNE 9TH-
11TH
@ ST. JOHN THE
BAPTIST

ACTIVITIES

DODGEBALL PING PONG
BASKETBALL CORN HOLE
VOLLEYBALL and more!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
SIGN UP VIA SIGNUP GENIUS



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



JOIN US FOR THE

Young at Heart June Gathering



REMEMBER YOUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES IN WORSHIP AT THE DIVINE LITURGY
AND SATURDAY OF SOULS MEMORIAL SERVICE FOLLOWED BY OUR MONTHLY
GATHERING WITH POTLUCK LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM.

ORTHROS - 9:00 AM
DIVINE LITURGY - 10:00 AM
MEMORIAL SERVICE FOLLOWING
YOUNG AT HEART GATHERING - 11:30 AM
POTLUCK - NOON
PROGRAM TO FOLLOW

GROUP DISCUSSION WITH FR. JOHN

WHY DO WE PRAY FOR THE DEAD?

PLEASE LET PRESVYTERA DENISE KNOW YOUR ATTENDING
AND WHAT FOOD ITEM YOU'D LIKE TO BRING FOR THE
POTLUCK LUNCHEON
@ DENISES54@HOTMAIL.COM OR (978)464-4833

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: 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, Alice Stoccardo, 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.

Fifty- Two Verses

-In-

Fifty- Two Weeks

May 28-June3

**Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.
John 15:13**

The last weekend of May is reserved for honoring those who have given their lives in the service of our country. Memorial Day is a day to remember the supreme sacrifice that people have made to secure the freedom we enjoy. This week's verse was said by Jesus shortly before His Passion. He was teaching His disciples about the greatest expression of love, and foreshadowing that He would lay down His life for them. There is no greater expression of love than to give the ultimate sacrifice for someone, to die for them. Soldiers who have died in battle have not only laid down their lives for friends, but for total strangers. This is why we honor them for their supreme sacrifice. May God rest the souls of all of our soldiers who have fallen asleep in the defense of our country, our freedom and our world. May He comfort their grieving families as well. And may we appreciate their sacrifice. May we also appreciate those who serve now as soldiers and first responders—they live with the potential of laying down their lives at any time for friends and strangers.