

Parish Priest:
Retired Priest in Residence:
Retired Priest in Residence:
Bookkeeper:

Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski 813-876-8830
Rev. Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425
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:

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 Losoviz, Organist 727-688-2782

College Ministry:

Community Outreach:

Dance Groups:

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038
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
Sandra Pappas 813-785-3747

Daughters of Penelope:

Finance Committee:

Food Pantry:

GOYA:

Hope/Joy:

Joy Tweens

Men's Fellowship:

Nursing Ministry:

Photography Ministry:

Philoptochos:

Stewardship:

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
Katherine Sakkis 813-309-1073
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
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



October 29, 2023

Icon of Anastasia the Martyr of Rome

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:

7th Sunday of Luke; Anastasia the Martyr of Rome; Our Righteous Father Abramius

Resurrectional Apolytikion:

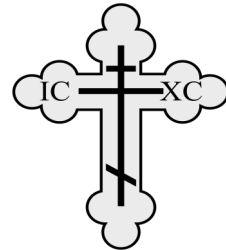
When the tidings of the Resurrection from the angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples, and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the apostles, with boasting did they proclaim: that death is vanquished evermore and Christ our God is risen from the dead, granting to the world His great 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.

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 the Divine Liturgy.

Order for Holy Communion—With Sunday School 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 (side areas then the main section)

Memorial:

FOUNDERS OF AHEPA/ DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday October 29

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

AHEPA Founder’s Day

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday October 30

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday October 31

Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday November 1

Sts. Cosmas & Damian

Orthros 9:00 a.m.

Choir Practice

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Friday November 3

Festival Liturgy

Orthros 9:00 a.m.

Greek Festival 4:00 p.m.– 10:00 p.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Saturday November 4

Festival Liturgy

Orthros 8:00 a.m.

Greek Festival 11:00 a.m.– 10:00 p.m.

Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Sunday November 5

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Orthros 8:45 a.m.

No Sunday School

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday November 6

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday November 7

Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday November 8

Archangels

Orthros 9:00 a.m.

Choir Practice

Paraklesis 6:00 p.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Religious Education at **St. John**

Monday Night
Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. John

October 30 :
Monday at
6:30 p.m.

Women’s
Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. Stavros

October 31 :
Tuesday at
10:00 a.m.

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

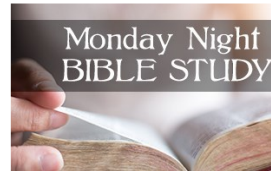
MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore

As Orthodox Christians, we are baptized with the name of one of the saints of the church. What do you know about your patron saint? Our bookstore offers an extensive selection of books on the saints at both youth and adult levels. Check them out today!

Monday night Bible study with Fr. John

Will continue meeting at 6:30 p.m. on most Monday evenings. Join us in person or via zoom for some very informative, lively and interactive discussions on how we apply Biblical principles in our everyday lives. See the Sunday bulletin for specific topics. For November, the dates are Monday, November 6; Monday, November 13; Monday, November 20; and Monday, November 27.



Greek Dance Groups

Y Hara Mas (3rd-6th grades)

will have Greek dance practice to-day for one hour, from

12:15 to 1:15pm. Y Hara Mas will perform at the Greek Festival on Saturday, November 4, 2023, at 1:30pm and 4:30pm. All dancers are to meet in the school administration building at 12:30pm and 3:30pm, one hour prior to their performances. Y Hara Mas will also perform at our community party in the Kourmolis Center on Sunday, November 5, following the Divine Liturgy. Please contact Maraquet Edquid (813-422-8963) with any questions.



Y Hara Mas Dancers (K-2 GRADE)

Greetings dancers and parents!

Our very last practice will be held this Sunday 10/29 after church in the hall. We have had costume fittings several Sundays in a row. If you still need a costume please see me this Sunday.

Our dancers have been practicing every Sunday and look great! Reminder we are performing on Saturday 11/4 at 1:30pm and 4:30pm.

Please try to be there an HOUR in advance to dress your child and get ready for line up. Please go to the Admin Bldg through the double glass doors (next to the church office). Changing rooms should be the first 2 rooms on your left.

Also on Sunday 11/5 after Divine Liturgy our dancers will have the chance to perform one of our dances in the church hall in regular church clothes.

Any questions : Alexandra DeMaio 813 340 9668

See you soon! Opa!

PAREA DANCE GROUP (7th-12th graders)

We will have practice, October 29. Please email Marina Choundas at mchoundas@outlook.com if your child will be dancing in the Parea dance group this year and provide your child's name, age, grade and your (the parent/guardian's) email and cell number. Thank you!



JOY Tweens

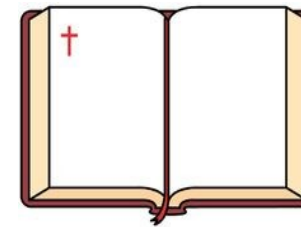
Junior Orthodox Youth (JOY) Tweens, in grades 4th - 6th, who are interested in volunteering their time and talents at the Greek Festival on Saturday, November 4, 2023, may contact Maraquet Edquid (813-422-8963) for information on how they can help.

Readings for Sunday, October 29

Prokeimenon: O Lord, how manifold are your works. You have made all things in wisdom. Psalm 103.24,1

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to Galatians 2:16-20

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.



The reading is from The Gospel According to Luke 8:41-56

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As he went, the people pressed round him. And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living upon physicians and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter and those who were with him said, "Master, the multitudes surround you and press upon you!" But Jesus said, "Some one touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While he was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when he came to the house, he permitted no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and he directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 29TH
AHEPA

NOVEMBER 5TH
FESTIVAL CELEBRATION

St. John’s 12 Disciples Project

"Prayer needs no teacher. It requires diligence, effort and personal ardor, and then God will be its teacher." - St. Meletius the Confessor
Several years ago, St. John’s community instituted a Project intended to help us to strive toward developing a regular, personal, private, and meaningful prayer discipline. This guidance is called the 12 Disciples Project. This has been very successful with many members of our congregation, daily praying “for, “the peace from above, and for the salvation of our souls...” intended for each of you and directed to God for the benefit of hundreds of members of our congregation.



Early next month, November, all participating “Disciples” will receive a refreshed list of names.
Participating “12 Disciples” will also receive a prayer with the short list of names. Each participant will receive a few names, so that all members of the Project collectively pray for each member of the St. John’s Congregation. Combined, each member of our Congregation is prayed for daily by no fewer than 6 other individual members of the 12 Disciples Project! There is power in prayer and there is much power in collective, combined, directed, and daily prayer.

You may join us and become a true St. John Prayer Warrior, what our Disciples group is called. Call the Church Office, 813-876-8830, or contact Mathew Balasis, 727-345-4855 (mathewbalasis@verizon.net) and provide your own email address, phone number; you will be added to the growing list of participating members of St. John the Baptist’s 12 Disciples Project.

FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for the support of our St. John Food Pantry. We gathered over 15 bags of donations the past few months for Metropolitan Ministries and have created 10 ‘bags of groceries’ for local families in need. As a reminder the First Sunday of Each Month (Nov. 5th) is our primary collection day (but donations are welcome anytime). Every little bit helps!

Men’s Group



Our men’s group will meet on Sunday, November 19, from 5:00 -7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Any men of our community are welcome to join us for dinner, discussion. We meet at 5:00 p.m., walk to a local restaurant and get some food, then bring it back to the hall where we eat and have a discussion. Our Topic for November will be Thankfulness & Generosity.

Please mark down our dates for men’s group for this academic year—Sunday, November 19; Sunday, December 17; Sunday, January 21; Sunday, March 3; and Sunday, April 14.

Save the Date—Men’s Retreat—Saturday, February 10—Men’s Retreat for Orthodox Men of the Tampa Bay Area.

Altar Boy Schedule

October 22nd
Gabriel Gonzalez
Michael Galin
Philip Kane
Leo Sengsouvanha
Kenny Kane
Peter Konstas
Matthew Barba

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

November 5th
*Anyone attending
may serve*

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

October 29th
St. Cosmas & St. Damian



November 5th
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL—
FESTIVAL

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

Liturgical Notes

**Wednesday, November 1 –
Feast of Sts. Cosmas and Damian, the Unmercenary Healers**
Sts. Cosmas and Damian are the Patron Saints of the Philoptochos, as they went from place to place healing people and not taking any money for their services. Sts. Cosmas and Damian (called the Agii Anargyri) are also saints we pray to for intercession when we are sick, and are also patron saints of doctors (in addition to St. Luke).



**Friday, November 3 and Saturday, November 4 -
Divine Liturgy on BOTH DAYS OF THE FESTIVAL**
The Divine Liturgy can be celebrated any day of the year except Good Friday. As we have done in previous years, all days of the Greek Festival begin with the Spiritual Glendi, which is the Divine Liturgy. Before we welcome one guest or serve one meal, we invite the most important guest, the Holy Spirit, down on the most important meal, the Eucharist. The Divine Liturgy on Friday, November 3 will be held at 10:00 a.m. (Orthros 9:00 a.m.) and on Saturday, November 4 at 9:00 a.m. (Orthros 8:00 a.m.). On Sunday, November 5, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at the regular time, 10:00 a.m.

Community News



Ladies Philoptochos Society

It's never too early to plan. Mark your calendars for our Christmas Brunch to be held at 717 South on Sunday, December 3rd. Look for a flyer in your email next month.



Young Adult Dinner/Discussion-Thursday, November 9-
Our young adult group meets once a month for dinner/discussion (and other times for fellowship and service). The meeting for November will be on Thursday, November 9, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. All young adults, ages 18-40, are invited to participate. We will be having a monthly discussion based on some set topics. The Topic for November is how Thanksgiving & Generosity bring meaning to life. Group Members use What's App for communication. Please contact Aris Rogers to be added to our what's app for young adults at 813-309-5525.

College Student Monthly Luncheon

We invite **all college students** for lunch after Liturgy on Sunday, November 12. We will have a lunch/discussion in the library. There is no cost.



Young at Heart News

Mark your calendars for our next get together on *November 11th*. We're planning a presentation on *The Ranks of Angels* - as well as an early Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner. Regulars, look for a flyer in your email. If you've never joined us. This is a perfect time to start. See Dora Morgan, Diane Trimis, or Presvytera Denise for details.



Love to take photos? Come join our Photo Ministry!

It's a fun and creative way to serve and to show the community all the beautiful services and wonderful activities we have here at St. John. All abilities are welcome. Please call or text Karina Findlay at (813) 476-9632.



Sign Up

Have a heart, lend a hand, and make a difference.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH 2023

OUR SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINING MONTHS OF 2023 IS AS FOLLOWS:
SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 18, DECEMBER 16.
TIME: 8:00 AM - 10 AM
PLACE: TAMPA HOPE
3704 E. 3RD AVENUE
TAMPA, FL. 33605

Sign up via SIGNUP GENIUS

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; Eva Coppalla; Christopher; Christopher; Peter Nenos; 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, and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

~November 3-4, 2023~



~Countdown to Opa 5 Days~ Time to share our Faith & Culture~

Volunteer - This is our single largest fundraiser! We remain VERY short of where we need to be with Volunteers and **HELP IS NEEDED FROM EVERYBODY**. We have only reached 43% of our total Volunteer Needs for the weekend. Please go to the Signup Genius and select a shift or two or three. *Encourage your friends and family to volunteer TODAY!*

Scan Here to Volunteer



Promote – You can find us at *Tampa Greek Festival* on FB and *TampaGreekFestival* on IG. Share the Festival Logo, Poster or *That's So Tampa* article. We still have Yard Signs and Posters – consider placing one in high traffic local areas.

Areas of Need – **Critical NEED** - We need somebody, *or a team to* oversee the **Kids Area**. Or we can break this up into Shifts. We promise it will bring lots of smiles. Please contact Mike Xenick #813-340-8737 or mxenick@gmail.com if you're able to help.

Other Critical Areas – **Parking, Clean Up/Trays, Bar Carts and Buffet.**

Admission & Parking: *There is no fee* for Admission and parking, however we will accept donations at the door and throughout the weekend. If you're unable to attend the festival this year, please consider making a donation of support.

Help Needed on the Following Dates:

- ◆ Food Prep – Sunday, 10/29 - Pastitsio – 12:30p after Liturgy
 - ◆ Festival Setup - 10/30 & 10/31 – 9a – 2p
 - ◆ Pastry Prep – 11/1 - 12:30p
 - ◆ Decorating – 11/1 & 11/2 – 2-9p

Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody (Help Us Avoid this Situation)

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

www.TampaGreekFestival.com

TAMPA GREEK FESTIVAL
eat dance & be greek
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD
4:00 pm - 10:00 pm
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH
11:00 am - 10:00 pm
WWW.TAMPAGREEKFESTIVAL.COM

*Let's get excited to
share our faith and
our culture with
the Tampa Bay
area!*

ENJOY:

- Outdoor Cafe & Children's Play Area
- Orthodox Bookstore, Icons and Gifts
- Live Music, Church tours, and Choir Concerts
- Greek Food, Dancing, and Music
- Bakaliko (Greek Food Market) and Mediterranean Goods



**WE SUPPORT
MANY
CHARITABLE
ORGANIZATIONS
WITH OUR
FESTIVAL
PROCEEDS.
THANK YOU FOR
YOUR
DONATIONS.**



**SIGN UP TO
VOLUNTEER
EACH SUNDAY**

AFTER LITURGY

CONTACT MIKE XENICK AT
MXENICK@GMAIL.COM OR 813-340-8737 TO
FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED!

**St. John Greek Orthodox Church - 2418 W. Swann Avenue - Tampa, FL 33609
(813)876- 8830 - www.stjohntpa.org**