

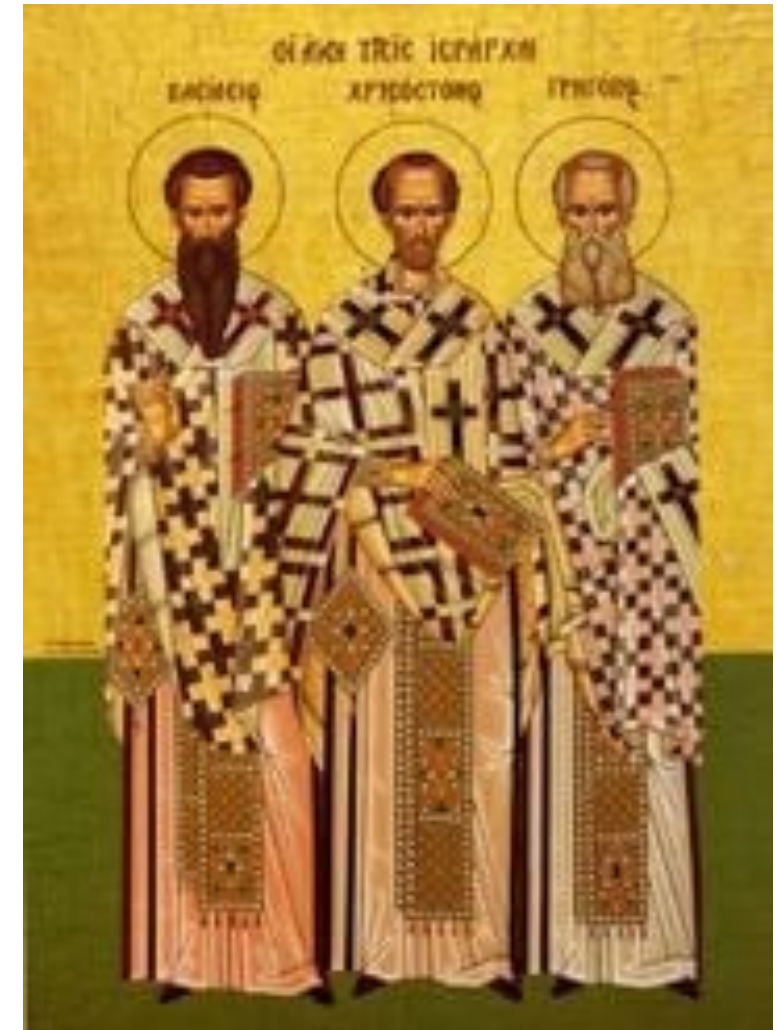
**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-876-8830  
**Retired Priest in Residence:** Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski 813-876-8830  
**Retired Priest in Residence:** Rev. Fr. John Stefero 813-876-8830  
**Pastoral Assistant:** Vasili Panagopoulos 414-254-5134  
**Bookkeeper:** Debbie Bowe 813-876-8830  
**Administrative Assistant:** Kim Rojas 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  
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  
**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:** HXAPA ΜΑΣ, Alexandra De Maio 813-340-9668  
Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963  
IIAPEA, Marina Choundas 813-877-6136  
Genie Carter 813-363-2362  
IIANHΓYPI, Alexandra De Maio 813-340-9668

**Daughters of Penelope:** Elena Ketchum 813-229-0144  
**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  
**Joy Tweens** Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963  
**Men's Fellowship:** Fr. Stavros 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  
**Veterans/1st Responders** Fr. John Stefero 813-876-8830  
**Welcoming Ministry:** Maria Xenick 813-765-3587  
**Young Adults** Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-876-8830  
**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

**January 29, 2023**

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

**(Icon of Sunday of The Three Hierarchs- January 30)**

**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:**

Sunday of the Canaanite; Removal of the Relics of Ignatius the God-bearer; Ignatius and Nicandrus of Sinai

**Resurrectional Apolytikion (Pl. 4)**

From Above did You descend O Christ our God. For us did You endure three days in the tomb, that we may be relieved from passions in this world. You who are our Resurrection and our Life: Glory to You, O Lord .

**Apolytikion of the Saint: ( Mode 4)**

Becoming a partner with the Apostles in way of life and successor to their thrones, O God-inspired Saint, in the active life you found an entrance to contemplation. Hence you rightly expounded the word of truth, and you shed your blood in struggling for the faith, O Hieromartyr Ignatius. Intercede with Christ our God, beseeching Him to save our souls.

**Apolytikion 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 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:**

O You Who sanctified by Your birth a Virgin womb, and blessed the hands of Simeon as seemed most appropriate, You came indeed to save us all, O Christ our God. Wherefore bring peace to our nation in time of hostility, and secure in strength, the rulers You have truly loved, as the only one Who loves mankind.

**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

**Trisagion:**

Evangeline “Engie” Halkias ( 1 year)

## Upcoming Services & Events

**Sunday January 29**

**Orthros 8:45 a.m.**

Prayer for Teachers  
JOY Tweens 12:45 p.m.- 2:15 p.m.  
Men’s Group 5:00 p.m.

**Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

**Monday January 30**

**Three Hierarchs**

**Orthros 8:45 a.m.**  
Orthodoxy 101 6:30 p.m.  
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

**Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

Tuesday January 31

Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  
Veteran’s/ First Responders 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday February 2**

**Presentation of Christ**

**Orthros 8:45 a.m.**  
Adult Greek School 6:30 p.m.

**Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday February 5**

**Beginning of Triodion- Sunday of Publican & Pharisee**

**Orthros 8:30 a.m.**

**Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**

Monday February 6

Orthodoxy 101 - Teaching Liturgy 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday February 7

Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.  
Philoptochos Board Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday February 8

Choir Practice 7:15 p.m.

Thursday February 9

Greek Adult School  
Young Adult Discussion 6:30 p.m

**Friday February 10**

**St. Haralambos**  
**Orthros 9:00 a.m.**

**Divine Liturgy 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 unaware.*  
HEBREWS 13:2

### **Religious Education at** **St. John**

**Monday Night**  
**Bible Study**

Leader:  
Fr. John

January 30:  
**Monday** at 6:30  
p.m.

**Women’s**  
**Bible Study**

Leader:  
Fr. Stavros

January 31:  
**Tuesday** at 10:00  
a.m.

## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### St. John's Bookstore - Book of the Week

Do you ever find yourself feeling bored in church? You are not alone but there is hope! Now available in our bookstore,

**"Help, I'm Bored in Church!"** by Fr. David R. Smith. This book will help you see church as the best place you could possibly be and the place you most want to be. See this and many other books in our bookstore today.

### The Twelve Disciples Project

"Let us come to know every member of our Church by their name and in their dignity as a child of God. Let us honor every name within our Church. Let us open our own hearts to learn from one another."

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America Homily at the Divine Liturgy, Sunday of the Canaanite Woman, February 14, 2021, Denver Colorado



### Joy Tweens

Will meet with Fr. Stavros in the library from 12:45 p.m.- 2:15 p.m. on January 29 for icebreaker and discussion. Grab lunch in the hall first.

### Prayer for Teachers on Sunday, January 29

On January 30, we celebrate the feast of the Three Hierarchs, who are also the patron saints of teachers. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we will offer a prayer for all teachers and anyone who works in education in our community.



### Men's Group

Our men's group will meet on Sunday, January 29, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Any men of our community are welcome to join us for dinner, discussion. Please bring \$20—we will order in for dinner. Please mark down our dates for men's group for this academic year—  
Sunday, January 29; Sunday, March 26; Sunday, April 30 and Sunday, May 21.

### Veterans & First Responders Gathering

While saying "thank you" to someone in uniform is a kind gesture, there's always room to make a real, positive impact.

Valor is stability, not of legs and arms, but of courage and the soul.

Join us on Tuesday January 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the Kourmoulis Hall



### SAVE THE DATE—Men's Retreat

hosted by St. John in Tampa on Saturday, February 18, from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Theme:

"How Can I Be a Spiritual Leader If I'm Not Even a Follower: Getting Back to the Basics of Christianity." This retreat is open to any Orthodox men of the Tampa Bay area and any of your friends.

## Readings for the Sunday, January 29

**Prokeimenon: Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.**

**Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel**

**The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1**

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

**The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 15:21-28**

At that time, Jesus went to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

**Prayer List:** Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Tina Chakonas, Felix Ramirez, Konstantinos Triantafyllopoulos; 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; Konstantinos & Kalotina Klimis; 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, 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, Alice Stoccardo, John Alexander, Michael Romero, George Hambos, Dean Kondilis and Family, Bill and Nancy Manikas, Patricia Costello, Ekaterina & Anna Shushaalykova, Dora Koudouna, Debbie Phelps, Mary Voykin, David Voykin, Denise Badrane, Don Payne, Vasili, Moriah, Andoni, and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATE

January 29

Topic: Presentation of Christ

February 5

Topic: Beginning of the Triodion-Publican and Pharisee

Liturgical Notes

**Monday, January 30 - The Three Hierarchs-** The Three Hierarchs are St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom. Each had his own feastday and all are honored together on January 30, ironically because of a controversy over which was the greatest. (Imagine a church meeting where we debated which saints were the most important!) Each of them lived in the 4th Century, each was an accomplished writer and speaker, each was a Bishop, each authored a Liturgy and each is remembered prominently in the history of our church to this day. The Three Hierarchs are Patron Saints of Teachers and Education.

**Thursday, February 2 - The Presentation of Our Lord into the Temple**

The Presentation of Christ is a major feastday of the church and commemorates the day, 40 days after the Nativity, when Christ was brought to the temple when He was 40 days old. According to the Law of Moses, every male child was brought to the temple on its 40th day, together with a sacrifice of pigeons or turtle doves by the parents, and the child was “consecrated Holy to the Lord.” Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the temple on His 40th day, because it was the law to do so. In the temple was a priest named Simeon, who was an older man, who had been promised by God that he would not die until he saw the Christ. When Simeon saw the baby Jesus, he knew in his heart that this was the Lord’s Messiah. He took the child in his arms and prayed “Lord, now let your servant depart in peace according to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light to enlighten the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel.” (Luke 2:29-32) This prayer is recited over every child in the Orthodox Church when they are brought to church for the first time when they are 40 days old. That’s where this beautiful tradition comes from.

Fifty-Two Verses in Fifty-Two Weeks: The Bible Project

January 29-February 4

If Thou, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you. Psalm 130:3-4

It’s a good thing that the Lord doesn’t mark iniquities, because if He did, no one could stand. I can say for certain that there are certain people I’ve sinned against a finite amount of times. For instance, there is someone I’ve made exactly one mistake with. There are others that I’ve made so many mistakes, I can’t count. Each time we sin against someone, we are also sinning against the Lord. Which means that if you total up all of our sins, against God and against one another, the total is incalculable, that’s how high it is. If the Lord kept a record of all those sins and couldn’t forgive any of them, then no way does anyone stand before Him, no way does anyone get into the Kingdom of God. We only make it because of His forgiveness and mercy. Now, if we expect mercy from God, it stands to reason that we should have mercy on one another. If we expect the Lord to forgive our sins, which are incalculable, we should be able to forgive one another. If we marked iniquities of others toward us, we would have no friends. We’d hate everyone. The only way that any relationship lasts, whether with God or with someone else, is through forgiveness, which is based on patience and mercy. We all have some growing to do in this area.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT  
ORTHODOX CHRISTIANIANITY?  
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FOUR WEEK COURSE

*Orthodoxy 101*

OFFERED BY  
FR. STAVROS N. AKROTIRIANAKIS, PARISH PRIEST

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND  
ORTHODOXY 101?

- TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE BASICS OF THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH
- IF YOU ARE MARRIED TO (OR DATING) AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN AND WOULD LIKE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE FAITH OF YOUR ORTHODOX SPOUSE
- AS A PRE-REQUISITE FOR JOINING THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH
- AS A REFRESHER COURSE IN THE BASICS OF THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN FAITH

WHEN WILL THE  
CLASSES BE HELD?

- MONDAY, JANUARY 23  
A TOUR OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH: WHAT WE SEE AND WHAT IT MEANS
- MONDAY, JANUARY 30  
INTRODUCTION TO THE SACRAMENTS-BAPTISM, CHRISMATION, CONFESSION, MARRIAGE, UNCTION
- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6  
THE DIVINE LITURGY-A "TEACHING" LITURGY
- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13  
ORTHODOX TRADITIONS-FASTING, ICONS, PRAYER AND LIVING AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LIFE

WHAT FORMAT CAN I EXPECT?

A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE WITH PRESENTATIONS, INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS, AND LOTS OF TIME FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.  
CLASSES WILL BE HELD FROM 6:30-8:30 P.M. IN THE CHURCH SANCTUARY.

Please call the church office at 813-876-8830 for further information or if you have any questions.  
Please sign up by emailing Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com.  
There is no charge for this class.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH - 2418 W. SWANN AVENUE - TAMPA, FL - 33609

Altar Boy Schedule

January 29

Michael Snyder  
Zachary Carter  
Dorian Setzer-Torres  
Prometheus Koutouzi  
Leo Lendaros  
Niko Kyrus  
Josh Roby

Captains

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

February 5

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