

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038  
**Retired Priest in Residence:** Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski 813-876-8830  
**Retired Priest in Residence:** Rev. Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425  
**Pastoral Assistant:** Vasili Panagopoulos 414-254-5134  
**Administrative Assistant:** Kim Rojas 813-876-8830  
**Bookkeeper:** Debbie Bowe 813-876-8830

**Parish Council:**  
 John Zelatis, President 813-727-2271  
 Euripides Panos, Vice President 813-352-3972  
 Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary 813-760-6289  
 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:** Mathew Balasis 727-421-7376  
 Thomas Sakaris, President 201-819-2319  
**Bible Study:** Kalliope Chagaris 813-789-4134  
**Bookstore:** Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425  
**Choir:** Pres. Denise Stefero 678-464-4833  
 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:** H XAPA MAS, 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

**Daughters of Penelope:** Gary Ward 813-846-3898  
**Finance Committee:** Sandra Pappas 813-785-3747  
**Food Pantry:** Michael & Bessie Palios 813-523-0346  
**GOYA:** George & Zackie Ameres 813-245-3813  
**Hope/Joy:** Maraquet Edquid 813-422-8963  
**Joy Tweens**  
**Men's Fellowship:** Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-394-1038  
**Nursing Ministry:** Marcelle Triantafilou 612-396-5026  
**Photography Ministry:** Karina Findlay 813-476-9632  
**Philoptochos:** Katherine Sakkis 813-309-1073  
**Stewardship:** Chris Kyrus 757-672-1920  
 George Mitseas 813-748-1220  
 Vickie Peckham 813-758-3102  
 Pete Trakas 813-505-2193

**Sunday School:** Fr. John Stefero 678-637-4425  
**Ushers**  
**Veterans/1st Responders**  
**Welcoming Ministry:** Maria Xenick 813-765-3587  
**Women's Bible Study:** Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-876-8830  
**Young Adults**  
**Young at Heart:** Aris Rogers 813-309-5525  
 Bill Manikas 813-716-8185  
 Dora Morgan 813-613-3738  
 Suzanne Pileggi 813-244-5855

**Youth Protection:**



## St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



**July 30, 2023**

**Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)**  
**Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)**  
**Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)**  
**Icon of the Apostle Silas**

**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:**

8th Sunday of Matthew ; Silas, Silvan, Crescens, Epenetus and Andronicus the Apostles of the 70 ;  
Julitta of Caesaria

**Resurrection Apolytikion:**

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.

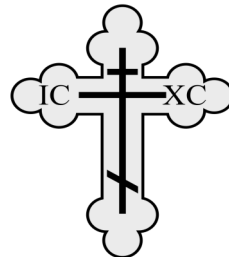
**Hymn of St. John the Baptist:**

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 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 out of session the order for Holy Communion will be as follows:

1. Choir
2. Altar boys
3. Then the rest of the congregation

**Memorial:**

Michael Skourellos (1 year)

## Upcoming Services & Events

**Sunday July 30**

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

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

**(Fr. Stavros & Fr. John Celebrant)**

**Monday July 31**

**Bible Study 6:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday August 1**

**Beginning of the Dormition Fast**

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

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

**Wednesday August 2**

**Paraklesis 6:00 p.m.**

Choir Practice

Parish Council 7:00 p.m.

**Friday August 4**

**Paraklesis 6:00 p.m.**

**Sunday August 6**

**Transfiguration of our Savior**

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

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

**Back to school prayer for K-12 students**

**Monday August 7**

**Paraklesis 6:00 p.m.**

Meeting of Ministry Heads via Zoom 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday August 8**

**Bible Study 6:30 p.m.**

**College Student Dinner**

### **Religious Education at**

### **St. John**

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

Leader:  
Fr. John

July 31: **Monday** at  
6:30 p.m.

#### **Women's** **Bible Study**

Leader:  
Fr. Stavros

**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

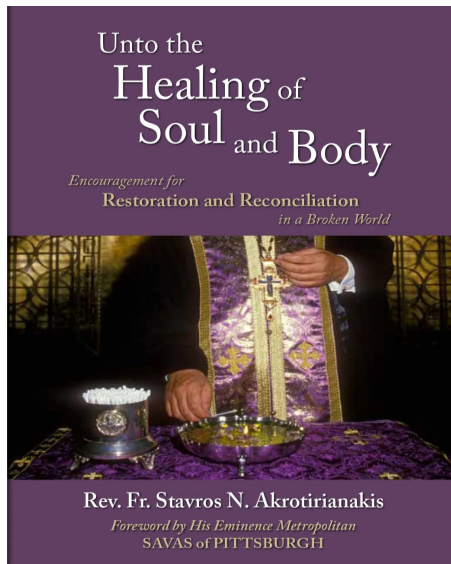
DO NOT NEGLECT TO SHOW *hospitality* TO STRANGERS.  
FOR THEREBY SOME HAVE ENTERTAINED *angels* UN-AWARE.  
HEBREWS 13:2

## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

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

"God's Path to Sanity " by Dee Pennock - Lessons from Ancient Holy Counselors on How to Have a Sound Mind.

**Fr. Stavros will be out of the office from July 18-July 29 on vacation with his family. I will have very limited access to email. For any pastoral emergencies, please contact Fr. John Stefero at 678-637-4425.**



### 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.

### Prayer for School Students

Sunday, August 6 All school students and teachers (high school and below) are invited to participate in a special prayer that will be held at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on August 6, prior to the beginning of the public school year. Fr. Stavros will offer a special prayer for all of our students and teachers as they begin the new school year.



### Grapes for the Feast of the Transfiguration

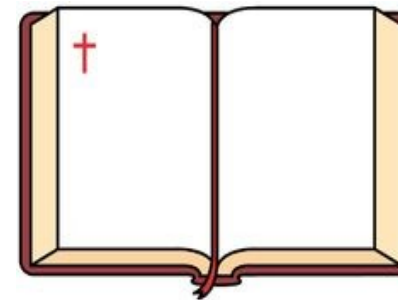
We need enough grapes cut in small clusters so that we can give one small cluster to everyone in church on Sunday, August 6. If you are interested in donating, please contact Kim to let her know that you are donating, and please plan on purchasing and bringing the grapes to church. We will have a big bowl that you can cut them into cluster and put them in.

## Readings for Sunday, July 30

**Prokeimenon: The Lord will give strength to his people. Psalm 28.11,1**

### The reading is from **St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians 1:10-17**

Brethren, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispos and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.



### The reading is from **Matthew 14:14-22**

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.



Liturgical Notes



Tuesday, August 1 –  
Procession of the Holy Cross

This feast day was established in the middle ages, to thank God for simultaneous victories that the Greeks have over the Saracens and the Russians had over the Bulgars. In both battles, the soldiers carried crosses. It then become a tradition for the Holy Cross to be carried in procession in Constantinople on August 1, to be placed in Haghia Sophia from August 1-13 and then to be returned to the

church of the imperial court where it was kept on August 14. This feastday is also a great way to begin the fast of the Dormition. Each year, we try to do a few different feastday liturgies, and this is one of them. It is one of three feastdays of the Holy Cross (though not often celebrated), along with September 14 and the third Sunday of Great Lent.

**Prayer List:** Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: 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; 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, Toulas 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.

Altar Boy Schedule

July 30th

Anyone attending  
may serve

Captains

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

August 6th

Anyone attending  
may serve

Fifty- Two Verses  
-In-  
Fifty- Two Weeks  
July 30th– August 5th

And they all ate and were satisfied.  
And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over.  
Matthew 14:20

This quote comes from the end of the story of miracle where Jesus multiplied five loaves and two fish and fed five thousand men. Here is what makes this miracle even more amazing—the Bible says that five thousand men, besides women and children. So let’s say conservatively that each family has three people—this would account for some being single, some being married with-out children and some being married with several children. That would put the crowd at 15,000 people. I wonder how many of those children were teenagers—we all know how much teens eat. This verse tells us that all ate and were satisfied. Except the word that is translated as satisfied is the Greek word “hortasthise,” which means “stuffed.” They were satisfied in the sense of having enough to hold them over for a little while. They were stuffed to the point of being uncomfortable. Think about how you feel when you eat too much. Then to top it off, there were twelve baskets left over—these were not the baskets of bread we get in restaurants. The word in the Bible is “cofinous” which means objects the size of coffins, think the Kouvouklion that we use on Good Friday. That was a massive amount of food left over. And this happened because of two things. Someone offered something—there were five thousand people, and someone had the faith and the courage to offer up five loaves and two fish. And Jesus took what was offered and multiplied it exponentially. This is what happens when we offer ourselves with faith and with courage to Christ. He takes what we offer and multiplies it on us and on others.

# FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

St. John's Food Pantry is being reorganized and revitalized! Our mission is to properly collect, maintain, and distribute food items in a timely manner to those in need. We will support four main quarterly Food Drives throughout the year. These will include St. John's HOPE/JOY Food Drive around Thanksgiving time and three other drives to benefit Metropolitan Ministries, Feeding Tampa Bay, and families at the Bridgeprep Academy located on our campus. We will receive these items (a partial specific list is shown below) on an ongoing basis throughout the year. Please donate items from the list below being careful not to donate items that are expired or near expiration. If you are interested in being a part of this Ministry, please contact **Sandra Pappas at (813)785-3747** and she will contact you. Have an enjoyable summer and we thank you in advance for your support and cooperation!

## Requested Food Pantry Items

- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Canned beans (Pinto, etc.)
- Canned Meat (including Vienna sausage, spam, chicken, and tuna)
- Cans of soup
- Cereal
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Jell-O/Pudding
- Macaroni & cheese
- Oatmeal
- Pasta
- Peanut Butter & Jelly (in plastic jars)
- Ramen noodles
- Rice
- Spaghetti sauce
- Dry goods
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper



## 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

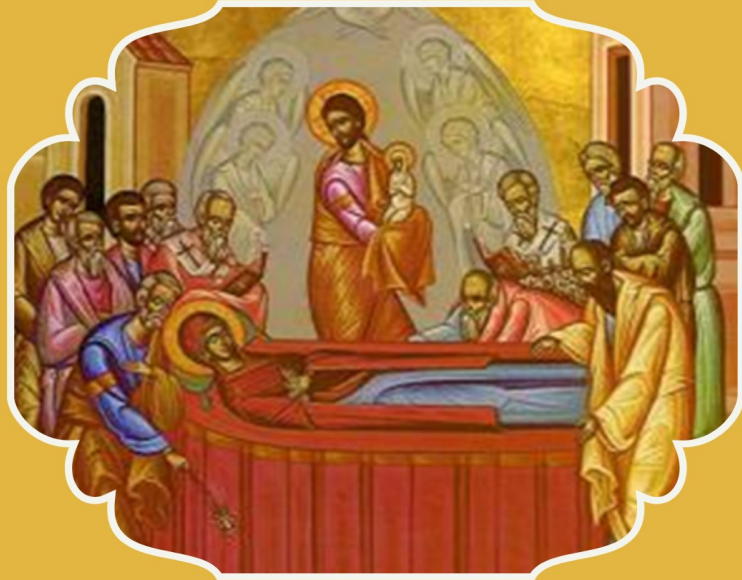
**This service is completely confidential between parishioner and a BayCare Christian Therapist**





JOIN US FOR THE

# Young at Heart August Gathering



SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2023

YOUNG AT HEART GATHERING - 11:30 AM

POTLUCK LUNCHEON - 12 NOON

PROGRAM TO FOLLOW

VIDEO AND GROUP DISCUSSION WITH FR. JOHN

THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

PLEASE RESPOND NO LATER THAN AUGUST 13TH WITH  
THE NUMBER ATTENDING AND  
THE ITEM YOU WILL BRING FOR THE POTLUCK LUNCHEON

PRESVYTERA DENISE - [DENISES54@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:DENISES54@HOTMAIL.COM) -

(678) 464-4833

BILL MANIKAS - [WMANIKAS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WMANIKAS@GMAIL.COM) - (813) 716-8185

St. John the Baptist



## BACK TO SUNDAY SCHOOL



Open Registration

Sunday School  
Starts  
on August 2023

July 30th &  
August 6th

For more information please contact  
Vickie Peckham :

[vickiepeckham@gmail.com](mailto:vickiepeckham@gmail.com)

Thank you!