

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

Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis 813-876-8830
Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski 813-876-8830
Rev. Fr. John Stefero 813-876-8830
Vasili Panagopoulos 414-254-5134
Debbie Bowe 813-876-8830
Kim Rojas 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
Rev. Fr. John Stefero 813-876-8830
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

College Ministry:

Community Outreach:

Dance Groups:

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 813-876-8830
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

Daughters of Penelope:

Finance Committee:

GOYA:

Hope/Joy:

Joy Tweens

Men's Fellowship:

Nursing Ministry:

Photography Ministry:

Philoptochos:

Stewardship:

Sunday School:

Ushers

Veterans/1st Responders

Welcoming Ministry:

Women's Bible Study:

Young Adults

Young at Heart:

813-340-9668
813-229-0144
813-846-3898
813-523-0346
813-245-3813
813-422-8963
813-876-8830
612-396-5026
813-476-9632
813-716-9975
757-672-1920
813-748-1220
813-758-3102
813-505-2193
813-876-8830
813-765-3587
813-876-8830
813-876-8830
813-716-8185
813-613-3738
813-244-5855

Youth Protection:



St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church



April 30, 2023

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)

Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)

Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

Love God, Love your neighbor and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ as an Orthodox Christian community.

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.

Love, Worship, Community, Learning, Service

Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women; Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women; Argyra the New Martyr

world.

Kontakion of Pascha:

Even though You descended into the grave You destroyed the Power of Hades and You rose as a Victor, O Christ our God, saying to the myrrh bearing women: Rejoice! And to Your Apostles granting peace and to the fallen, You also grant Resurrection.

Hymn to the Theotokos:

The angel cried to her who is full of grace: Rejoice Holy Virgin and again I say rejoice, for your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day.

Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has arisen over you. Dance now for joy O Zion and exult. Rejoice and be glad O pure Theotokos at the Resurrection of your Child.

Communion Hymn:

Receive the Body of Christ and partake ye of Him. He is an Immortal Fountain. Alleluia.

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



Spyridon Grapsas (40 days); Ioannis Adrahpas (6 months); Kyriakos (Ron)Myer (1 yr); John Koutouzis (1 yr); Grace Harikleia (1 yr); Sophia Karas (2 yrs); Anthony Karas (7 yrs); Fr. Peter Lambert (8 yrs); Angie Eliopoulos (8 yrs); Johnny Anthony Karas (8 yrs); Dennie Denosios (14yrs)

Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Youth Sunday
Parea Dance Practice
Men's Group 5:00 p.m.

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Intro to Chant Class 6:00 p.m.

Adult Greek School

St. Irene

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

JOY Tween's- Movie Night

Young at Heart

Sunday of the Paralytic

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Philoptochos General meeting- Zaharias Room
AHEPA/ Daughters
GOYA 5:00 p.m.

St. John the Theologian/ St. Arsenios

Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

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

Monday Night Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. John

May 1: Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Women's Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. Stavros

**May 2 : Tuesday at
10:00 a.m.**

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore - Pouches for Antidoron Handmade in Greece

Do you carry Antidoron home after services and place it in a piece of foil, napkin, or tissue from the bottom of your handbag? Stop into our bookstore to see two designs of Antidoron pouches handmade in Greece and available in limited numbers. They are beautifully made and you'll love them! Great gift item for Mothers' Day.



Parea Dancers

Our Parea Dance Group (GOYAns) will be having a monthly practice one Sunday each month after the Divine Liturgy.
Our **April practice** will be **TODAY-Sunday, April 30**.

Men's Group

Our men's group will meet **TODAY**, 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, April 30 and Sunday, May 21.



JOY TWEENS

TODAY, after the Divine Liturgy, JOY Tweens will have their last meeting with Father Stavros for the 2022-2023 school year. We will start the meeting in the church at 12:30pm.

More details to follow in the JOY Tweens April Constant Contact.

SAVE THE DATE! On Friday, May 5, 2023, JOY Tweens will celebrate the end of the school year with dinner and a movie!



Dear Parishioners,

Vasili Panagopoulos, our Pastoral Assistant, will be offering a **13 week introductory class on chanting**. This course will **start on Tuesday, May 2** and will meet every Tuesday until Tuesday, July 25 with the exception of a few dates that are unavailable. The entire course with further information will be sent out via Constant Contact this week. Please RSVP to Vasili at vasili@stjohnntpa.org



Young
at *Heart*

Join us on **Saturday May 6th from 11 am- 2:30 pm**
for a delicious potluck luncheon
and presentation from Fr. John & Prez. Denise in the Kourmolis Center .

We'd love to see everyone come out!
Those who are young at heart, never grow old!

Readings for Sunday, April 30

Prokeimenon: The Lord is my strength and my song. Psalm 117.14,18

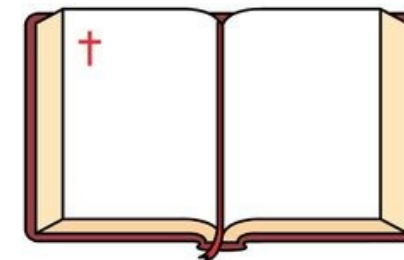
The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

In those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "it is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

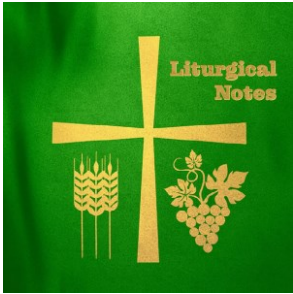
The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where he was laid.

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.



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 Ἀνέστη!,” to which the response is “Truly He is Risen” or “Ἀληθῶς Ἀνέστη!”

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.

Friday, May 5 - Feast of St. Irene

St. Irene was a martyr of the 4th century. Many miracles have been attributed to her. She is the patron saint of law enforcement officers.

Sunday, May 7 - Sunday of the Paralytic

The healing of the paralytic who was afflicted for many years. This event bears witness to Christ’s authority over the human body: He who can overcome death in His own body has power over all human flesh.

Monday, May 8 - Feast of St. John the Theologian and St. Arsenios

On May 8, we celebrate the feast days of St. John the Theologian, the author of the fourth Gospel, as well as the Epistles of St. John and the book of Revelation, and also celebrate the feast of St. Arsenios, a monk of the 5th Century.

Wednesday, May 10 – Feast of Mid-Pentecost

The icon depicts Christ the teacher, foreshadows the teaching to the Samaritan Woman, celebrated the following Sunday, and it is the feast day of teachers. About the middle of the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus went up again to the Temple and taught. The Jews, marveling at the wisdom of His words, said , “How does this man know letters having never learned?” But Christ first reproached their unbelief an lawlessness, then proved to them by the Law that they sought to slay Him unjustly, supposedly as a despiser of the Law, since He had healed the paralytic on the Sabbath. This feast is held mid-way between Pascha and Pentecost.

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

Altar Boy Schedule

April 30 Christos Nenos Constantine Ameres Zachary George Alex Findlay Gianni Matassini Nathan Moran Michael Meadows	Captains John Palios Genaro Scarfogliero Nicholas Akrotirianakis Nicholas Carter James Magos Demetri Passalaris George Xenick Nicholas Magos PJ Zelatis	May 7 Thanos Kantaras Michael Galin Leo Sengsouvananna Kenny Kane Philip Kane Gabriel Gonzalez Andreas Stefanou
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SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & UPDATE

April 30
TOPIC: Fruits of the Spirit
YOUTH SUNDAY

A logo for Sunday School featuring a group of diverse children smiling and holding a blue banner that says "Sunday School" with a cross on either side.

May 7
TOPIC: Ascension

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

An illustration of two hands, one green and one blue, holding a red heart.

GIFT CARD DONATIONS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

GIFT CARDS IN ANY AMOUNT FOR PUBLIX, WALMART OR SAVE-A-LOT ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED! FEEL FREE TO DROP THEM OFF TO OUR OFFICE ADMIN. ASSISTANT MONDAY - FRIDAY 8AM- 5PM OR MAIL THEM IN. THANK YOU!

CHURCH DONATIONS & STEWARDSHIP CHECKS

There has been an increase of missing information on checks & donations. We kindly ask to verify the following before submitting payment.

THANK YOU

1) IS THE NAME YOU USE TO PLEDGE / DONATE BEFORE, THE SAME AS WHAT IS WRITTEN ON YOUR CHECK?
IF NOT PLEASE WRITE IT ON THE CHECK

2) ON YOUR CHECK, ON THE **FOR/MEMO LINE**, PLEASE MAKE SURE TO STATE IF THE CHECK IS FOR STEWARDSHIP, CHRISTMAS, EASTER OR ANY OTHER DONATION.

3) IF POSSIBLE, PLEASE DON'T POST DATE CHECKS

4) WHEN MAKING A PAYMENT VIA **SUBSPASH**. PLEASE MAKE SURE TO SELECT THE **CORRECT YEAR** WHEN MAKING A STEWARDSHIP DONATION. IF MAKING A DIFFERENT TYPE OF PAYMENT/ DONATION, PLEASE WRITE IT IN THE MEMO BOX.