

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

THE MESSENGER

“Behold I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You. The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight.” Mark 1:2-3

October 2013

MISSION STATEMENT:

St. John Greek Orthodox Church is dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church.

VISION:

The church shall seek to fulfill its mission by:

1. Embracing the Spiritual Life of the Orthodox Church through regular prayer, worship, and frequent participation in the sacraments.
2. Supporting the Church through stewardship of time and talent and sacrificial giving.
3. Providing a welcoming, caring, loving environment.
4. Having its members exemplify Orthodox Christian character and morals.
5. Supporting ministries that facilitate the overall mission of the Church
6. Exemplifying commitment to community service and charitable outreach.
7. Creating an environment which encourages members to grow in their faith.

Father Stavros' Message

For those of you who are not football fans, I'll make an apology—there will be several football-related themes in this month's message.

As I write this message on the morning of September 16, if you are keeping score for the last two Sundays, our hometown Tampa Bay Buccaneers are 0-2. The St. John Greek Orthodox Christians are 2-0. In the first two Sundays of the football season, our team has suffered two heart-breaking losses at the last minute. But in the first two Sundays of our Sunday school season, our church team has had two resounding victories. Some statistics from the first two Sundays of the season:

- Average attendance—well over 300 people
- Average amount of time spent distributing Holy Communion—25 minutes (it IS a GOOD thing that so many people are receiving Holy Communion. What is difficult is that only one person is distributing it.)
- Church was standing room only on September 8, and extra chairs were brought in for September 15
- Nearly 150 students registered for Sunday school

- Attendance at our first two GOYA meetings—25 on August 25 and 27 on September 8.
- Attendance at GOYA lock-in on September 14—45 GOYAs from around our area
- In the first week of small group Bible Study, the total attendance was 72! The first gathering of the women's Bible study had 20 women; the men's had 8, the YAL last week had 11; the South Tampa group had 17, the East Tampa group had 8 and the North Tampa group had 8. And there were several people who were not able to attend the first session, so that number is expected to go up.

And while statistics aren't everything, numbers tend to show trends. While it is possible to win a football game without a quarterback completing a high percentage of passes, generally the higher percentage of passes completed, the better the team will do. We have a full church almost every Sunday all year round, but the bursting at the seams attendance the past couple of Sundays, combined with the momentum of both youth and adult ministries definitely has our church trending in a very positive direction and for that I thank God and I thank you.

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On Sunday, September 8, we kicked off the “Just Say YES!” campaign by handing out magnets for cars and refrigerators. But more than just giving away some free materials, I hope we kicked off a campaign towards a new attitude towards our Christian life and our involvement in our church community, both individually and collectively. The Church is at its best when we are all positive. When we all give our best effort, and this is not even necessarily what others believe is our best effort but what GOD knows is our best effort, generally good things will happen.. When we are positive and give a good effort, generally good things will happen. Following my message, you will find an inspiring message by Mary Lore which talks about the difference between motivation and inspiration. It certainly is an “inspiring” article.

On September 8, the Sunday we kicked off the “Just Say YES!” campaign, I gave a sermon about my dreams for this parish, inspired by the aforementioned article. My hope in that sermon was not to motivate but to inspire. Motivation is when the impetus to do something comes from outside of us, and sometimes motivation includes cajoling, encouraging, forcing or manipulating. Inspiration, which includes the phrase “In the spirit” is where the impetus to do something comes from within us, because WE want to do it. In my sermon, I mentioned the following as “my dream” for our parish:

I have a dream—

- Where people come to church on time every Sunday
- Where they sing as one
- Where they lift up one another in prayer, on Sundays and on other days
- Where people see our church as a team, whose goal is to bring as many souls as possible to know Jesus Christ
- Where people choose kindness
- Where people look at one another’s strengths and gifts as opposed to their weaknesses
- Where people speak positively about one another rather than gossiping about each other
- Where people are willing to try new ways of doing things
- Where people want to see the church grow
- Where people are nice at the festival
- Where people give sacrificially and joyfully, where this gift comes from inspiration, not motivation, guilt or anything else
- Where we help bear one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.

And then I asked the very personal question of “will you share in my dreams.” I didn’t ask “Can we all share in this dream?” because the answer is, of course we can. The more appropriate question is “Will you share in my dream?” Whoever you are who is reading this article today, will YOU share in this dream? Will you join with me in the journey down this road?

I am very inspired by what I have seen in the early days of September. I know that October and November and December are going to be challenging months. Not only is my schedule and our schedule as a community one an ambitious one because of all the ministries we have going. There is the added challenge of the festival in October and November, and stewardship in December where we hope to raise enough money to bring Charlie Hambos back to us as our Pastoral Assistant. I know that we can rise to the challenges that face us and that we will become an even stronger and more cohesive community when we do, and not only that, we will grow in Christ, both individually and as a community when we do. And when we are growing in Christ, there will be two benefits—our lives will become more enriched, and we will draw others to us and what we are doing. We will INSPIRE THEM TO FOLLOW HIM!

The Festival

As we know, we are using a Festival Advisory Board (FAB) to chair our festival this year. None of the FAB have run our festival before, nor have we run a festival this way in the past. These five people—Mike Xenick, Florin Patrasciou, Perry Katsamakis, Alkis Crassas and Theodore Panopoulos, accepted an invitation from me to do this for us this year. They are volunteers. They are putting in extra time and effort from their lives, which I appreciate. They are going to try some new things this year. I’m sure that they will have successes and probably some less than successful things along the way as well. As I outlined in my “I have a dream for our parish” sermon above, I hope that we all work to make the festival a positive experience for everyone involved in the festival this year. I want everyone from the FAB to each parishioner to have a positive experience. St. Paul tells us to “avoid stupid controversies” in the Epistle to Titus. He says that are not profitable or fruitful. So let us avoid undue criticism, let us exercise patience and let’s focus on teamwork—this is a team. We are a team! To the one who makes the greatest contribution to the one who does the least, when the team wins, everyone on the team wins. If the Rays make the playoffs (and hopefully by the time you get the October Messenger they will), if the goal in the season is to make the playoffs, and they have one pitcher who wins 20 games and another who wins only one, who is the more valuable? Well, if they make the playoffs with one game to spare, then both pitchers are equal, because without the ONE win, they would have not made the playoffs. And if you miss the playoffs by one game or by twenty, what’s the difference, you didn’t make your goal? So, everyone who participates in the festival is important. Let us build up the body of Christ, and our church and our confidence by appreciating the efforts made by everyone. If you want to be a part of the Festival Advisory Board in future years, as one person has already indicated to me, please let me or them know.

Of course we know from our theology that when we try to do the right thing, this is when the devil is most likely to attack us. This is what we call spiritual warfare. And it is very real. So, in our efforts to do the right thing in our parish, expect that the devil will challenge us, with innocuous things like gossip, or stupid controversy. Let’s all be on high alert to follow after what is good and avoid that which is not beneficial. I’m reminded of one petition from the Divine Liturgy, which says “For all that is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world, let us ask of the Lord.” Let us work hard to base not only decisions but comments with this standard—is it good and beneficial to your soul, and does it promote peace—in the world, or even in our own parish. And let us act accordingly.

The only statistic that matters to the real “team” is the score at the end of the game—it shouldn’t matter in football if a team wins with passing, running, kicking or defense so long as they win. When we get too concerned with style points, how we win, who contributes to the win, etc., this is when we lose sight of the final goal, which is winning. The goal in our church, the focus in our Church, is Christ. Keep Him as the focal point, and everything else will fall into place. Keeping Christ in the festival will promote peace and harmony as well. Every festival in every church generates issues among church members, which lead to friction and often hurt feelings. The only solution to this problem is to not have a festival—something perhaps for future debate. The other solution, since we need to have a festival (I hope our stewardship goal for next year will include getting the festival out of the operating budget, thus making it more fun and less stressful, but that is a debate for another day), is to keep Christ at the center of the festival, and to measure out what we say and do as if we are doing it for Christ or to Christ. Again, I have high hopes for this year’s event—much optimism based on our early meetings. But we’ve also got to do a lot of work in a short amount of time and I know

there will be a certain level of stress which hopefully will not lead to controversy. When we all move in the same way at the same time, it's a beautiful thing. Let us all pray for a beautiful festival, not just for the people who patronize our event, but for those who work at it.

Every Good Gift is From Above

Everything that is good in life is a blessing from God. I try to see good things in that way. If I earn a decent salary, it's because I work hard, and that's because I have a gift, and that gift was given to me by God. God is the beginning and end of all that is good. So, if I have something that is good, the origin of that thing goes back to God Himself. As a sports fan, I enjoy watching a good game between two good teams. Yes, I have my favorite teams and my favorite players. And yes, I do enjoy the feel good story where the "good guy" wins. Everyone knows that I'm not a UF fan when it comes to college football. But I couldn't help but root for Tim Tebow and his now-failed journey to NFL stardom. Here was someone who personified giving God the glory.

When I was a kid, and I'm sure if most of us reflect on our childhoods you would remember, I had "dreams" about being a professional athlete. Many an afternoon, I would go out in the yard and swing the baseball bat, imitating the swing of my favorite player or the throwing motion of my favorite pitcher. In point of fact, I wasn't a very good baseball player and even if I was, when you are 5'7" tall like I am, my genetic makeup would never have merited a serious look from anyone anyway. You hate to say that to a small child who comes from a family with short genes but it's true.

But what if I was a gifted athlete who was a little taller? What if, as the years went by, I had seen my "fantasy" move closer to reality? Would I have seen my impending stardom as a gift, or as an entitlement? I guess we'll never know. There are the few exceptional kids who are incredible athletes, whose backyard fantasies become large stadium realities. Take the case of Johnny Manziel, the first freshman quarterback to win the Heisman Trophy. Unlike Tim Tebow, he didn't spend his summer doing missionary work in the Philippines. He spent it highlighting the pages of tabloid magazines, getting kicked out of football academies and bounced from college parties, telling us "I'm just a college kid who wants to do the typical college things." Except that he is not the typical college kid—he's got a talent the likes of which has never been seen at his age. He's received an award at an age where no one has ever received that award. He's got a "pulpit" larger than anyone his age has ever had—a following, a fan base, a popularity. And he's got an opportunity to make a difference in the world that few other people could make. After all, how many 20 years old are known by name in almost every house in our country? And that's why it saddens me that instead of Johnny "Football", college superstar and young adult inspiration, we are hearing him called "Johnny Goofball", college punk.

I often think of the prayer we offer towards the end of the Liturgy, which reads "Every good gift is from Above, coming down from You the Father of Lights." This is a reminder to us, as we are about to leave our worship service and reenter the world each Sunday, that not only does everything good come as a blessing from God but that we are supposed to show our gratitude and appreciation of these blessings with the way we conduct ourselves. If I could talk to Johnny Manziel, I'd tell him "son, you've got a larger pulpit than I'll ever have—use it to do some good. Tell kids to do well in school, tell college students you can have a good time in college without having to drink yourself through four years. No question should you enjoy the limelight and being the star, but you don't have to taunt people and rack up personal foul penalties to do so. Instead of pointing your fingers at the opposing team, why not point them towards the sky and say 'I give God the glory for this

talent I have, which has led me to the experience I now enjoy."

More football musings: The world's most refreshing. . . CAN?!

As we settle on our couches for the long football season, we will not only see great games, but a plethora of commercials. Now, as a disclaimer, I'm not a beer drinker, but I have no problem with people who want to enjoy a cold one or two (but not 10 or 12) while watching a football game. I don't know the nuances of beer either, so I don't know if the "punch top" can or the vortex bottle that Miller Lite advertises has a "better pour" makes the beer taste any better once it is in a glass. I certainly wonder if it makes any difference in taste if the "pour" is directly into your mouth. I'm also not a marketing person so I don't know how they come up with these slogans. And yes, I watch football games for the games, not the commercials.

There is one commercial that just makes me shake my head every time I see it—the Coors Light commercial that advertises "the world's most refreshing can." Now, you might say, it's implied that the meaning here is "the world's most refreshing can of beer," and perhaps that is the intent. But when the commercial breaks down the qualities of the can, tells us how the can is able to take its own temperature, tells us that the can is "frost-brewed" which makes me wonder, "was it brewed at the North Pole?" it would seem to the casual observer that the Coors Beer company is telling us that its product is the best one on the market because of the can in which the product is sold.

Again, as neither a professional marketer or a beer drinker, I say to myself, "it's not the can that makes the product good, it's what's IN THE CAN. If they advertised "Drink Coors Light, the world's most refreshing beer," I could understand the meaning. But if they advertise "Drink Coors Light, the world's most refreshing can," I think to myself, how much refreshment can be found in consuming a piece of aluminum? Obviously, no refreshment at all. Consume an aluminum can and you're destined for a trip to the hospital, or worse. It's not the can that counts, it's what is IN the can that counts. Because if the can is empty, it's just a useless piece of aluminum, good for not much at all.

Which brings me to my final point—We could advertise our church as the world's "most refreshing church." But what we have that offers refreshment for those who thirst for relief from our world is not the walls of our church, it's not the icons, or even the beautifully restored stained glass windows. It's the people of the church that make the church a place of refreshment. It's when people help each other carry the heavy burdens we all carry. It's when people get on their knees and "lift up" the needs of their fellow man. We have a great looking church—it's beautiful to look at. I enjoy going into it each day when I come to work here. I enjoy talking about the iconography and other nuances of our church interior in Orthodoxy 101 classes or welcoming school groups or festival visitors. But what makes our church beautiful is YOU, the people. After all, if the church is empty, it's just a building with some nice artwork on the walls. What makes our church beautiful is YOU, the people. And it's not just entering the building that make the church beautiful or you beautiful. It's when you enter the building and worship together. It's when you raise your voices and your hearts to the Lord. And what makes the church the most beautiful of all, is when the service is over and you re-enter the world, inspired to serve others and make the world better. There is certainly nothing wrong with leaving the church on a Sunday and watching an NFL game or two. But in between Sunday morning encounters with God in worship, we need to focus on our daily encounters with other people, giving thanks to God for all of His gifts by using those gifts to help one another carry our burdens, by shining the Light of Christ in each of us on the corners of our world and our town where it isn't shining so bright.

There is nothing wrong with enjoying the world's most refreshing can, well, what's in the can, trust me, even I know you shouldn't eat aluminum. But don't forget to enjoy the world's most refreshing CUP, the CUP of Salvation. This cup is not raised only 8 times per year (and there is no blackout if there is no sellout), nor does it have an off-season. This Cup is raised on Sundays and many other days throughout the year. But it's not the gold or silver that makes the Cup beautiful. It's the contents of the Cup—the Body and Blood of Christ—that provide the spiritual refreshment and nourishment that we need to help us make the journey across the field of life, to avoid the linebackers and the landmines, so that we can cross the goal line into everlasting life. And just like nothing gets accomplished looking at the field, you actually have to get on the field to do something—not much is accomplished the looking at the Cup. It's when we partake of the Cup with joyful

anticipation, and we walk away from our encounter with inspiration and determination, that's when we are ready to make the plays that advance us to our goal of eternal victory.

Will you be in church next Sunday? On time? Just Say YES!!! Let's keep a good thing going!

With love in the Lord,

+Fr. Stavros

Book Review

“Wonder” by RJ Palacio, a 2012 New York Times Bestseller

Reviewed by Fr. Stavros

As I have said many times in the past, I have never been a good reader. This past summer though, I was given three different books which I read and all three left a profound impact on me. The first one, which I reviewed last month, was “The Five Love Languages” by Gary Chapman. The second book I read is called “Wonder” by RJ Palacio. This book is written at a 6th grade reading level so it is an easy read for adults and will be for most teenagers. It is targeted towards a middle school audience. While this book is fictional, it is based on a compilation of real characters and tells a story that is played out in the hallways and classrooms of school all across our country. It is the story of a kid who is “different” and how he goes about his life and how others react to him.

Auggie Pullman was born with a major facial deformity. He is the new kid at a private middle school. He is subjected to taunts and prejudice because of his facial deformity. He fights his own self-doubt about his self-worth. He struggles to make friends. Those who befriend him are scorned by others. Some teachers are helpful and some are not. His parents struggle. His sister writes part of the story from her perspective. The story is told multiple times

form multiple perspectives. At the end there is a measure of redemption for nearly everyone and vindication for Auggie. It is a story that will make you cry, but will leave you with a smile and some faith in human goodness. Every middle school student should read this book. Every parent of a student should read this book. Anyone with any kind of disability will find comfort in this book. On a personal note, in the book Auggie has a cleft lip and palate, among his other issues. And there is a scene in the book when he asks his mother “Why did God make me ugly?” And she says, of course, “You are beautiful.” And he says “No, I’m ugly.” I relived part of my childhood through this book, I saw what I used to be. I saw conversations I have had in the past, and inadequacies that I have felt. I’m well removed from those years and those feelings but it was a reminder of where I came from, and the thoughts in this book will inspire me to be more patient and empathetic to others, whether they be a new person in town, someone with a disability, or just someone who is trying to find where they fit in. I highly recommend this book!

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Inspiration versus Motivation

—a Reflection of the “I Have a Dream” Speech

By Mary J. Lore, President & Founder, Managing Thought

Hello Friends,

Today marks the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s “I Have a Dream” speech.

I remember when I first heard it. Even though I was a young girl, it had quite an impact on me.

I didn't blink. I got the chills. I knew I was hearing something very powerful. I remember looking forward to being an adult and being able to fully grasp what I had just heard.

Today, when I look at the essence of his words, I see why his speech was of such significant influence and serves as a powerful example of how we can inspire ourselves and others to effect profound change.

He focused on what he wanted, not what he didn't want.

What I feel and what I experience depends on what I am focused on in each moment. The direction I take and the decisions I make also depend on what I am focused on in each moment. When I am focused on what I want, on what matters, on what has meaning and purpose, I become inspired and I inspire others.

When I am focused on what I don't want, what I did wrong, what could be better, what is irritating, angering, frustrating, sad, what holds me back, what I don't have, can't do, what isn't fair, or is overwhelming, I am not inspired.

It is when we are inspired that we achieve significant results.

He inspired others vs. motivated.

We often think that when we're leading or selling, we have to persuade, convince, and motivate others to achieve results.

Motivation does not work—not in the long run. And neither does persuading or convincing. That's the reason we find ourselves continually needing to persuade, convince and motivate ourselves and others.

When I am trying to motivate myself or others, I am actually in a state of force; and in the long run, there is no power in force. Often, it brings about an equal and opposite reaction.

Martin Luther King Jr. didn't tell others what they should or shouldn't do. Or what we needed to make happen or be better.

He said, “I have a dream” and shared his highest vision -- authentically, sincerely.

Inspiration is power.

Inspiration, which means to be infused with spirit, ignites a power within. When I am inspired, there is no stopping me, and remarkable things start to happen. When I am inspired, I am in touch with my highest awareness and

creativity. I get all kinds of ideas on how to create and expand what I have envisioned.

And others want to help.

Vision, purpose, hope, thankfulness, wonder, and possibility all bring about inspiration.

He shared his dream.

When I work with business owners and managers, I ask them to tell me what their dream is for their organization. Nine times out of ten, they don't have one. They wax on and on about providing value to their customers, being an employer of choice, and maximizing returns for their investors.

When they finish, I tell them I am not inspired. Because I am not inspired. They weren't inspired, so they weren't inspiring, and I wasn't inspired.

When I ask them to tell me their dream for their life, they look at me with a blank stare because they don't have one. They haven't thought about it.

Their first assignment, then, is to write their “I have a dream” speech.

Sometimes it's hard to get started. Once they start, they can't stop. They write their dream for their organization, their employees, their customers, their suppliers, their investor, the community.

They see and feel the difference they are making, and they become inspired—mightily.

When they share that vision with their teams, their customers, suppliers, and investors, they too become inspired. And they write their dream speech for their role and contribution to creating that vision.

Remarkable things start to happen.

They can't wait to get together with their partners and families and write the dream speech for their life, their career, their marriage, their family, their retirement....

What's Your Dream?

I invite you to listen to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech again. And then write your “I Have a Dream” speech for your life and your work.

See what happens.

Rekindle the Gift of God within you, Now!

By Charlie Hambos

Last month, when I was given the opportunity to give the homily before I returned to Boston, I mentioned 2 Timothy 1:6-7. The passage states, "For this reason, I remind you to revivify that special gift for service that God gave you through the laying on of my hands. God did not give us a spirit of cowardice. He gave us a spirit of power, of love, and of self-control (Anchor Yale Bible Translation)." This was the passage that I chose to study and present before some of the faculty members at Holy Cross in order to receive the exorasson (large sleeve clerical robe). I also wanted to share some of the key things that I found with my St. John's family. Please enjoy.

As a young Boy Scout, I learned how to build a fire. First, you begin with kindling, which are small pieces of twigs, moss and leaves, things that are easy to light. Then you put the bigger things on top of the kindling and soon enough there will be a roaring fire. To keep the fire going, wood must be added continuously. If wood is not added, only cinders will remain and those cinders must be rekindled in order for the fire to grow again. If the cinders are not rekindled then the fire will go out permanently.

In 2 Timothy 1:6-7, Paul, writing from prison in Rome, encourages Timothy to rekindle the fire that is burning within him. This fire exists in all of us. Christians have been given this charisma, translated as the gift of the Holy Spirit at our Baptism. We must rekindle the fire and not let the gift given to us go to waste. The Holy Spirit gives us the Spirit of power, of love and of self-control. If we let it go to waste, we will have fear and will not be able to fight for Gospel of Jesus Christ. As Paul encourages Timothy in this passage, we must encourage, our brothers and sisters in Christ to rekindle their fire so it does not go out. Paul presents himself as a model for Timothy, because he was also being persecuted for spreading the Gospel. He urges Timothy to continue to teach the things he heard from Paul concerning the faith in Christ and to rely on the Holy Spirit.

Digging deeper into the passage at hand, there is a word in the beginning of verse 6 that we can only find in this passage and nowhere else in the New Testament. The word is, $\nu\alpha\zeta\omega\pi\upsilon\rho\epsilon\ \nu$, a compound infinitive, present active verb from $\nu\acute{\alpha}$, "again," "up," and $\zeta\omega\pi\upsilon\rho\epsilon\ \nu$, "to kindle" a fire. It is also translated as "revivify," "set on flame again," and "to fan into a flame." There is a sense that there is a certain amount of attention that the gift, charisma, requires for it to remain active in the life of the one who bestows it. It does not stay on fire by itself. In fact, in his Homilies on 2 Timothy 1, St. John Chrysostom had this to say about the attention necessary, "For it requires much zeal to stir up the gift of God. As fire requires fuel, so grace requires our alacrity, that it may be ever fervent. . . . For it is in our power to kindle or extinguish this grace. . . . For by sloth and carelessness it is quenched, and by watchfulness and diligence it is kept alive." Paul is encouraging Timothy to continue his ministry and therefore increases the zeal in Timothy necessary to stir up the gift of God.

Let's take a look at the gift, charisma, that needs to be rekindled and where it is derived. Some translators see charisma as a "special gift for service," based on its other uses in Paul. For example, Rom 1:11, "For I am longing to see you so that I can convey to you some spiritual gift that will be a lasting strength." Another example, 1 Cor 12:4-5, "There are many different gifts, but the same Spirit; there are many different ways of serving, but it is always the same Lord." This gift according to 2 Tim 1:6, was given by the laying on of hands. Both 1 Tim 4:14 and 2 Timothy 1:6 we see proof for the laying on of hands

in early Christianity. We see many times, not only Jesus Christ, but also his apostles using their hands in order to heal the sick and the blind as well as to bestow a blessing upon them. Laying on of hands was also the act of ordination, as in 1 Tim 5:22, "Do not be too quick to lay hands on anyone (NJB)." Not only has the gift been given to him through the laying on of hands but his mission as also been designated by the same action. Paul reminds Timothy of this time to rekindle the fire that was there when he was ordained. For all Christians, through baptism, we have received the laying on of hands. Thus, the gift, that charisma of God is within each and every one of us.

In the beginning of verse 7 we learn, "God did not give us a spirit of timidity (cowardice)." Cowardice is not a result of the spirit within us. Jesus Christ does not want us to fear, because he conquered all things through His death. In fact there is no room for fear, only love. In 1 John 4:18 it says, "In love there is no room for fear, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear implies punishment and whoever is afraid has not come to perfection in love." In 1 John, we see that we must come to perfection in love, in order to not be afraid. It is a process and we must continually be encouraged to keep the faith just as Paul encouraged Timothy. Timothy may be afraid to suffer for the Gospel or perhaps his suffering has made him weak. St. Theodoret of Cyrus also reminds us how grace plays an important part in that process in his Interpretation of the Second Letter to Timothy, "Grace was given to us so that we might not be afraid but love all more steadily." In Rom 8:15 Paul again contrasts one "spirit" from the Holy Spirit, "All who are guided by the spirit of God are sons of God; for what you received was not the spirit of slavery to bring you back into fear; you received the spirit of adoption, enabling us to cry out, 'Abba, Father! (NJB)'" It is not something that forces us back to our master out of fear, but rather gives us the opportunity to call upon our Heavenly Father for help.

So, we now know that we have the spirit of God, like a fire, within each of us. It is our job to keep on adding wood to that flame so it does not go out. The problem is that sometimes the flame will weaken but it will never go out. We must remind ourselves on a daily basis to rekindle the gift of God within us and not ignore it. If we ignore it, we will fear and we will not be able to have the power, love and self-control that is afforded to us by the Spirit of God. I today, like St. Paul am urging you to do this. Step into the presence of God with all of your fears and anxiety and give it all to him. He will take care of it. Put yourself in the shoes of Timothy and receive the encouragement from Paul. I know I did. If you would like to contact me, please e-mail me at Charlie.hambos@gmail.com or my address is 50 Goddard Avenue, Box 016, Brookline, MA 02445. My prayers are with all of you and thank you for keeping me in yours.

Charlie Hambos is in his fourth and final year of studies at Holy Cross Seminary.

Small Group Bible Study Update

As was mentioned in Father Stavros' message, our first week of small group Bible Studies kicked off with 72 people in attendance. Anyone is welcome to join a group at any time. Our fall schedule is as follows:

Women's Group (for adult women of any age)

Location: Meets at the home of Debbie Kavouklis, 3315 Jean Circle, Tampa, FL 33629—Debbie lives in South Tampa, a mile or so from the church.

Group Leader: Debbie Kavouklis—you can email Debbie at dkavouklis1@verizon.net, or call her at 690-0155.

Meeting time: Tuesday mornings from 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Fall meeting dates: October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; November 5 and 19 (no women's Bible study on November 12 and 26); December 3 and 10

Men's Group (for adult men of any age)

Location: St. John Greek Orthodox Church in the Administration Building in the meeting room—there will be signs the first week directing you where to go

Group Leader: Father Stavros for the first one but we are going to rotate this among group members. Please email Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com or contact him at 813-394-1038.

Meeting time: Wednesday mornings from 7:00-8:00 a.m.

Fall meeting dates: October 2, 9, 16, 23; (no group on October 30); November 6, 13, 20 (no group November 26); December 4 and 11

South Tampa Mixed Group (for any adults)

Anyone can attend this group but obviously this will be most convenient for those who live in South Tampa

Location: Home of Ellen Karaku, 4610 S. Ferdinand Avenue (South Tampa near Dale Mabry and Bay to Bay), Tampa, FL 33611. Ellen's home number is 813-835-0691 and her cell number is 813-240-3687. Her email is ekaraku@verizon.net.

Group Leader: Bessie Palios—Her email is bmp1126@yahoo.com, and her cell number is 813-523-0347. If you are going to attend this group, please RSVP to Ellen, Bessie and Fr. Stavros

Meeting time: Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Fall meeting dates: October 1, 8, 15, 29 (no group on October 22); November 5, 12, 19 (no group on November 26); December 3, 10

North Tampa Mixed Group (for any adults)

Anyone can attend this group but obviously this will be most convenient to those who live in North Tampa, Lutz, Land O'Lakes, Wesley Chapel and Carrollwood

Location: Home of Michael and Artemis Conner. They live in Lutz near George Steinbrenner High School off of Lutz Lake Fern. Their address is 5524 Reflections Blvd, Lutz, FL 33558. Their number is 813-920-4404 and Michael's cell is 813-784-0182. Michael's email is conner.mike.01@gmail.com, and Artemis' email is artemis004@yahoo.com. Please contact them

before you attend the first meeting to get the gate code to their community.

Group Leader: Michael Conner

Meeting time: Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Fall meeting dates: October 3, 10, 17, 24 (no group on October 31); November 7, 14, 21 (no group on November 28); December 5 and 12

East Tampa Mixed Group (for any adults)

Anyone can attend this group but obviously this will be most convenient to those who live on the East side of town—Riverview, Brandon, Valrico, Seffner, Lakeland

Location: Home of George and Donna Hambos—They live in Valrico at 2604 Herndon Street, Valrico, FL 33596. Their home number is 813-651-9226 and Donna's cell number is 813-843-8412, and Donna's email is dhambos@msn.com

Group Leader: Donna Hambos

Meeting Time: Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Fall meeting dates: October 1, 8, 15, 29 (no group on October 22); November 5, 12, 19 (no group on November 26); December 3, 10

Young Adult Group (for adults ages 18-40)

Location: Homes of group members, this one rotates, contact group leader for location each week

Group Leader: Mary Ann Konstas, who can be reached at 813-215-9862 or at mapkonstas@gmail.com. Please contact Mary Ann if you are interested in joining this group so she can tell you where the next meeting will take place.

Meeting time: Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Fall meeting dates: October 2, 9, 16, 30 (no group on October 23—group members encouraged to attend St. James Liturgy on October 22 at 6:00 p.m.); November 6, 13 (service project/retreat the week of the 20th, no group on November 27); December 4, 11, 18

THE GREEK FESTIVAL IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

November 8, 9 and 10

And we need everyone's help to make it a success!

DID YOU SAY YES?

The goal of the Greek Festival is to:

1. Raise funds to sustain, maintain, and grow St. John's Greek Orthodox Church
2. Create an opportunity for fellowship among our community

How can we as a community achieve these goals to make this the most profitable and enjoyable Greek Festival yet?

Just say yes!

Say yes to:

Giving your time by volunteering. You can also sign up by going to this link <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EA8AE2DAB9-2013> or scanning the code below or stopping by our table in the Kourmoulis Center after church:



Promoting the sale of raffle tickets! Tell your friends, co-workers, and neighbors, our grand prize is a new car! See the Greek Festival webpage and the bulletin for more details. Tickets will be available at \$60 for 1 ticket or \$100 for 2 tickets.

Helping to complete the festival album by selling an ad, purchasing an ad to commemorate a loved one or promote your business. This year's album will be full of coupons and Greek recipes, sure to catch our guests' eye.

We look forward to saying yes as a community to make this the most successful and positive festival ever!

For any questions contact greekfestival2013@gmail.com.

Weekly announcements in the bulletin will keep you informed of baking dates and other preparations needed as the Festival approaches.

Baking dates that have been set so far include:

Koulourakia	October 9-10
Kourembiethes and Finikia	October 16
Tsoureki	October 23

The above sessions will all begin at 10:00 a.m.

MORE DATES WILL BE ANNOUNCED—Check the weekly bulletin

All are welcome to join us, no baking experience is necessary. So if you've got some time, please come and join us. We're always looking to welcome new people! Any questions, please contact Lisa Alsina at 813-935-2096.

In addition, the preparation of the Dolmathes will be Monday, October 14 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and Tuesday, October 15, from noon to 3:00 p.m.

Dear Parishioners,

The annual St. John Greek Festival is an important event in the life of our community. First, it is a major fundraiser that we hold in order to meet our budget each year. Secondly, it is an opportunity to bring together the people of our community to work together for the good of the whole. Katherine Sakkis did a wonderful and masterful job in running our festival the past two years. Since it is unreasonable to expect the Parish Council President of the church to be expected to run the festival each year, after two great years, a group of people has stepped forward to chair the festival. It doesn't seem fair to expect any one person to run the festival, so this year we are using a different leadership approach.

A Festival Advisory Board has been created. This group consists of Mike Xenick, Alkis Crassas, Florin Patrasciou, Theodore Panopoulos and Perry Katsamakis. Each area of the festival will be put under one of them. Where changes are needed or being made at the festival, these individuals will exercise a greater deal of oversight. In areas where there has been strong leadership and success in the recent past, these individuals will exercise less oversight, giving more autonomy to the leaders of each component of the festival. These individuals will be coordinating with our "area heads" to insure the smooth operation of the festival.

We are in need of lots of manpower before, during and after the festival. If you are interested in helping with the baking days (to be announced soon), selling ads, selling raffle tickets, helping with advertising, or other odds and ends, please let us know. Volunteer forms with the various needs will be found in the bulletin, the Messenger, at the baptistery of the church, and will be sent through Constant Contact. If you are interested in advertising in our commemorative album or buying a banner to display during the festival, please contact Theo Panopolus at

248-867-3697. Here is the contact information for the Festival Advisory Board:

Mike Xenick	813-340-8737	Mxenick@gmail.com
Alkis Crassas	813-690-3867	Alkaime@aol.com
Florin Patrasciou	813-817-4070	Florinp@gmail.com
Theodore Panopoulos	248-867-3697	tp2@me.com
Perry Katsamakis	516-403-3118	Perrykatsamakis@gmail.com
Betty Katherine Palios, manpower	813-468-1596	bettypalios@gmail.com

Let's all rally together to make this a profitable and positive experience for everyone!

With love in the Lord,

Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis

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Liturgical Schedule for October

Sunday, October 6 Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Altar Boys: Altar Boys: Captains and St. Matthew (Karter Lenardos, Gregory Koutroumanis, Harry Koutroumanis, Brigham Sibley, Benny Hidermichel, James Kavouklis)
Ushers: Greg Tisdale, Demetrios Halkias, George Trimikliniotis
Coffee Hour: Choir

Sunday, October 13 Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Altar Boys: Captains and St. Mark (John Karamitsanis, Lukas Karamitsanis, Andrew Mellon-Lynn, Dominic Garcia, Demetri Karounos, Grayson Borgeas)
Ushers: Brett Mourer, Christopher Kavouklis, Amin Hanhan
Coffee Hour: Community Outreach

Sunday, October 20 Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Special Prayer for Medical Personnel to be offered at the end of the Divine Liturgy
Altar Boys: Captains and St. Luke (Christos Nenos, Dean Mitseas, James Katzaras, Nicholas Katzaras, Nicholas Yotis)
Ushers: David Voykin, Ed Gerecke, Pete Trakas
Coffee Hour: AHEPA/Daughters—Founders' Day

Tuesday, October 22 Evening Liturgy for St. James
Orthros 5:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 26 Feast of St. Demetrios
Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 27 Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Altar Boys: Captains and St. John (George Hambos, Alexios Diniaco, Nicholas Alsina, Thomas Shearer)
Ushers: Mike Trimis, George Mitseas, Chris Kavouklis
Coffee Hour: Kyriaki Mellon Memorial—Sunday School

Sunday, November 3 Orthros 8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Altar Boys: Captains and St. Matthew (Karter Lenardos, Gregory Koutroumanis, Harry Koutroumanis, Brigham Sibley, Benny Hidermichel, James Kavouklis)
Ushers: Florin Patrasciou, Kavin Fentress, John Alexander
Coffee Hour: Young Adults

Early Liturgies because of the Greek Festival—Divine Liturgy will be held on November 8, 9 and 10 but will begin one hour earlier because of the Greek Festival.

Friday, November 8 Feast of the Archangels
Orthros 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, November 9 Feast of St. Nectarios
Orthros 8:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, November 10 Orthros 7:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.
Altar Boys: anyone attending may serve
Ushers: Nick Kavouklis, Perry Katsamakis, Peter Theophanous
Coffee Hour: No Coffee Hour because of Greek Festival

Liturgical Notes for October

Special Prayer for Medical Personnel on October 20—St. Luke, Apostle, Evangelist and also Physician, has his feastday celebrated on October 18. In conjunction with this, as he is the patron saint of doctors, we are going to offer a prayer for everyone in the medical field on Sunday, October 20, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. All doctors, nurses, dentists, researchers, students and anyone connected to the medical field is encouraged to attend.

Liturgy of St. James—to be celebrated Tuesday, October 22 The Orthodox Church celebrates four different Divine Liturgies throughout the liturgical year. The most prominent is the Divine Liturgy written by St. John Chrysostom, which is celebrated almost every Sunday and on most feast days. The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated 10 times a year—on the eve of Christmas, the eve of Epiphany, on the five Sundays of Lent, Holy Thursday morning, Holy Saturday morning, and on the feast of St. Basil, which is January 1. The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is celebrated on Wednesday and Fridays of Great Lent and the mornings of Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday and Holy Wednesday. The Divine Liturgy of St. James is celebrated only once a year, on his feastday, which is October 23. The Liturgy of St. James will be celebrated on Tuesday evening, October 22, the evening before his feastday.

The Divine Liturgy of St. James is the oldest of the Divine Liturgies and is also the longest. It was written around 70 A.D. making it the oldest Eucharistic service in the entire Christian world. Among the interesting things about this service is that by the end of the first century, the structure of the Liturgy we celebrate today was already loosely in place. The Liturgy begins not in the altar, but in the Narthex of the church, as was the custom of the early church. The priest and faithful enter the church together from the narthex, and the next part of the service is conducted on the solea, with the priest facing the people. The priestly prayers, while very long in the liturgy, reveal a beauty and completeness which would later be shortened by St. Basil and even more by St. John Chrysostom. The most unique part of this service comes at the reception of Holy Communion. In this liturgy and this liturgy only, it has become the custom for the faithful to receive Holy Communion in separate elements, in similar fashion with how the clergy commune. The communicants first receive the Holy Body of Christ in their

hands and consume it, and then drink from the Holy Chalice. This is a special beautiful tradition which will be continued at St. John, and it is encouraged that all who attend this service fast beforehand and prepare to receive Holy Communion at this Liturgy.

The Liturgy of St. James will be held on Tuesday, October 22 at 6:00 p.m.

Feast of St. Demetrios—October 26—St. Demetrios was born into a wealthy and distinguished Christian family in the Greek City of Thessaloniki in the late 3rd century. Demetrios was noted for his wisdom, and was a good speaker and polished orator. St. Demetrios was also a distinguished soldier. Thessaloniki was known for popular gladiatorial games which attracted the local pagans. Travelling with the Emperor Galerius after a military victory, Demetrios stopped in Thessaloniki, where many pagans, who were jealous of his successful life, denounced him as a Christian before the emperor, who ordered Demetrios put in prison. A man named Nestor befriended Demetrios in prison. The Emperor went to the arena to see his favorite gladiator, Lyaivos and offered a reward to whomever could defeat him. Nestor accepted the challenge, and through the prayers of St. Demetrios, defeated the giant. When Nestor refused to kill Lyaivos, because he had been helped by the “God of Demetrios”, the Emperor ordered that both be killed. This occurred in the year 306. We commemorate St. Demetrios on October 26 and St. Nestor on October 27.

Parish Registry

Wedding—Athanasios Komninos and Gina Rosato were married on Sunday, September 1. Spiro Komninos was the Koumbaro. Congratulations!

Condolences to Dorothy Bush, on the passing of her brother, EJ Parton. May his memory be eternal!

Condolences to Steve and Eleni Maltezos and family, on the passing away of their sister-in-law, Eleni. May her memory be eternal!

COMMUNITY NEWS

Get Acquainted Sunday-October 6—In an effort to get to know one another better, we are going to continue our “get acquainted Sundays” one Sunday of each month. We will have nametags and markers in the entry way of the Kourmolis Center and will ask that each person put one on during coffee hour and introduce yourself to at least one person that you do not know. This will serve to help us increase our fellowship and sense of community. Our “Get Acquainted Sunday” for October will be Sunday, October 6.

Congregational Singing—October 20—On June 30, for those who were in church, our choir sang from among the congregation, encouraging us all to sing together in the true spirit of Orthodox worship. We have some new Liturgy books (see separate article on that) which are very “user-friendly” and will allow us to sing along with the choir on Sundays. To encourage this, we are going to have two additional congregational singing Sundays—September 29 and October 20. The choir will sing amidst the congregation, like a flash mob at the mall, and everyone will be encouraged to use the new books to sing along with them.

The YAL wants your JUNK!! The Young Adults of St. John’s are organizing a parish wide yard sale to take place on Saturday, October 12th in our church parking lot. All of the proceeds from this event will go towards restoring one of our beautiful stained glass windows. If you have items to donate for the sale, please contact Mary Ann Konstas at mapkonstas@gmail.com

Constant Contact and Email Updates—Our church is using “constant contact” for email blasts, especially notices about funerals and other time-sensitive information. We have sent out several email blasts over the summer. If you have NOT received one from the office, please call or email the office and make sure that the email address we have on file for you is current. And when you change your address, please keep us up to date.



Scan to like St. John on Facebook
facebook.com/StJohnGOCTampa

St. John has a Facebook page. Please “like” our page and suggest it to your friends. Announcements are put on their frequently and we will also be posting photos in the near future.

Donation Needed for altar boy robes—we have an ever-increasing amount of altar boys. When we ordered the altar boy robes seven years ago, we ordered 18 of various sizes, based on the boys we had at the time. For each size, we have one gold robe, one white robe, and six stoles (red, white, blue, green, gold and purple). We need to order an additional robe in the small size, one more in the medium and one more in the large. They are about \$1,000 per set—that’s for the two robes and six stoles in each size. So we need a total of \$3,000 for this project. The good news is that the robes we have, thanks to the donations for dry cleaning that we have received, look as good as new. The robes are excellently made and will last at least 20-25 years because we take such good care of them. We just need a few more for the additional boys and their additional sizes.

Get Daily Bible Readings Sent to your Email or Phone—One of the best ways to start each day is by reading from the Bible. There are prescribed readings for every day of the year in the Orthodox Church. You can go on the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America website at www.goarch.org, go into the search box and type in “Receive Daily Readings,” follow the prompts and have this valuable resource sent right to your phone or email. Reading the Bible is so important and for those of us who don’t make the time or are lazy to reach for the Bible, have the readings sent in a way that is easy to remember. Spend some time this new ecclesiastical year in God’s Word, the sacred Scriptures!

Introducing this year’s Philoptochos Board—The following Philoptochos Board Members received the oath of office recently in church: JoAnn Hartung, Melissa Krinos, Kay Kladakis, Ellen Karaku, Ana Mourer, Cindy Xenick, Denise Bedrane, Lisa Alsina and Edie Kavouklis. We congratulate them and wish them all of God’s blessings in the new year!

Scholarship Opportunities—St. John’s Greek Orthodox Church is pleased to announce the AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope Scholarship Committee are now accepting applications. The scholarship’s purpose is to promote, encourage, and advance education at the college, university and graduate school levels. Please contact Edie Kavouklis at 813.758.0305 or Marina Paras at 813.966.9527 for additional information. The deadline for submission is November 30th, 2013.

Meeting Schedule for October

Tuesday 1	Young at Heart	11:00 a.m.	TBA
Sunday 6	GOYA	5:00 p.m.	Kourmolis Center
Tuesday 8	Parish Council	6:15 p.m.	Meeting Room-Admin building
Sunday 13	Philoptochos	After Church	Meeting Room-Admin Building
Sunday 13	AHEPA/Daughters of Penelope	After Church	Zaharias Room
Sunday 27	JOY/HOPE Fall Festival	4:00 p.m.	Lunch Area

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

	September 15, 2013	September 15, 2012
Number of Steward Families	277	283
Amount Pledged	\$308,731	\$279,291
Total Collected	\$212,256	\$230,283

*For those who have pledged this year, thank you for your generous support of St. John Greek Orthodox Church. For those who have not pledged, please send in your pledge form today. Extra forms are available in the church office. **As you can see, we are a little behind last year's pace in terms of forms received and money collected, so if you haven't pledged for 2013, please do so today. If you are new in the community, it is important to pledge for the remainder of 2013.** Remember, the church relies on your generosity to not only keep it's door open, but to offer it's many ministries. We all benefit from the church. We all must do our part in support of our church! THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF ST. JOHN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH IN TAMPA*



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MINISTRIES

HOPE/JOY

Fall Harvest Festival—On October 27, our HOPE/JOY (ages 3-6th Grade) will have a fall harvest festival. Please see enclosed flyer for details.

CHOIR

Sunday, October 6th is Church Musicians Sunday. On this day, the feast day of St. Romanos, the patron saint of music, all choir members and psaltis are honored and recognized. A special tray will be passed. We sincerely thank our choir, under the direction of Artie Palios, as well as Nick Andreadakis, our chanter, for their tireless work in chanting the beautiful services of our church. The Choir will also sponsor the coffee hour.

GOYA

October Meeting—The GOYA Meeting for October will be held on Sunday, October 6 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner, as always, will be provided.

Volleyball Tournament in St. Pete—St. Stefanos Greek Orthodox Church in St. Petersburg is sponsoring a volleyball tournament from October 18-20. Our GOYAns will be attending. Please bring your registration forms to the GOYA meeting on October 6.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY (YAL)

The Young Adults resumed Bible study/small group on Wednesday August 21st. Bible study will be held every Wednesday at 6:30pm and dinner will be provided. The meeting place will vary each week. Even if you have not been able to make prior meetings, join us if you can! To be added to the email list for this and other YAL events, please contact Mary Ann Konstas at mapkonstas@gmail.com or 813-215-9862. Most announcements regarding this group go out through email, so please contact Mary Ann to be added to the email list.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our Community Outreach ministry to serve the homeless and those in need. For those who don't know, we serve breakfast at First Presbyterian Church on the third Saturday of each month from 8:00-10:30 a.m. Upcoming dates are Saturday, October 19 and Saturday, November 16. For more information or to sign up to serve one Saturday, please contact, please contact Betty Katherine Palios at bettypalios@gmail.com or 813-468-1596.

ADULT GREEK SCHOOL

The Adult Greek School program will start at 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 10, 2013. The teacher Mrs. Magda Myer will use the same text book for beginners. Those interested in learning Greek, please contact Mrs. Myer at (813)909-2327, aspis69@aol.com or contact the church office at (813) 876-8830.



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(813) 353-4222 Office
peggyk65@verizon.net
peggy.k.bradshaw@gmail.com

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SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

What a great start to the 2013-2014 Sunday School year. We've had record attendance thanks to all the teachers, parents, and children who are committed to our program.

We are very excited about our Weekly Topics that each classroom will include into their curriculum/program this year. The topics for the month of September were, PRAYER, SIGN OF THE CROSS, HOLY COMMUNION, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER. We would like to thank Fr. Stavros for providing the teachers with weekly information about each topic.

Our SUNDAY SCHOOL STAIN GLASS WINDOW PROJECT is moving right along with \$1923 raised. Our goal is to raise \$4500 for our very own window. The Sunday School sponsored the Coffee Hour and an EVOS'S luncheon which was held on September 8th. Fifty percent of the proceeds went towards this project. We would like to thank EVO'S and the Crassas Family for their generosity.

Our YOUTH SUNDAY SERVICE is back for a second year. On September 22nd our students sang the Liturgical Hymns with the choir. Our Sixth Graders made the Prospora for this service the week before, and one of our High School Students read the Epistle. The congregation of St. John's is truly blessed to have such wonderful children.

We would like to CONGRATULATE our 2012-2013 Attendance Recipients:

Perfect Attendance: Yanni Trimikliniotis, Nicholas Yotis, Arianna Krinos

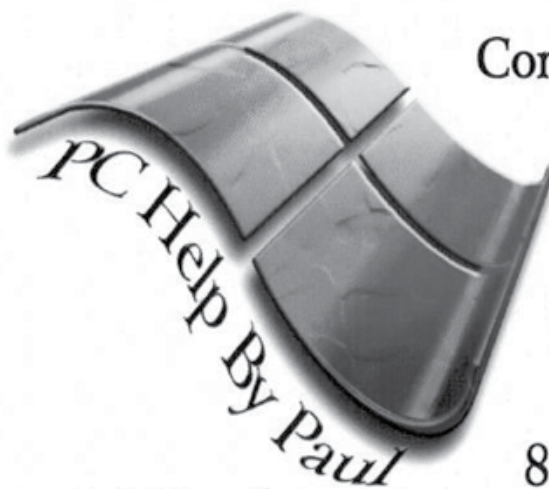
Absent Only One Day: George Xenick, Elizabeth Xenick, Artemis Xenick

Absent Only Two Days: Ariana Choundas Thatcher, Andrew Choundas-Thatcher, Larissa Krinos

For the 2013-2014 school year, we will acknowledge students with perfect attendance on a monthly basis. Every student should be able to achieve this goal at least once. We will keep track of Perfect Attendance for the year and award those students at our Graduation Ceremony. This year we had three students accomplish this...Could we have more next year?

The Sunday School has been busy collecting travel size toiletries for our own food pantry and to First Presbyterian Church's Homeless Ministry. If you would like to help our cause, please drop off your donations in our church hall.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions, suggestions, or comments regarding St. John's Sunday School Program. Parents: If you do not receive our weekly e-mails about our Sunday School Program, please contact Vickie Peckham at 406-5626 or e-mail her at rpeckham@tampabay.rr.com.



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Leave the Church in Your Will

Part of our life's legacy is the inheritance we leave our children. By leaving an inheritance, a part of us lives on through them. When preparing your will, you should consider leaving money to our church—this is the church of your children and part of their future can be positively impacted by leaving some of your inheritance to the church. The ability of the church to spread the Word of God is facilitated by everyone's stewardship. By leaving a portion of your inheritance to the church in your will, you remain a steward in perpetuity, but more importantly, you help cement a solid financial future for the church for your children and your grandchildren. If you are interested in leaving the church in your will, please contact Russell Sibley (church member) at rsibleylaw@gmail.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Recognition of a Gift received via a trust

A kind person who wishes to remain anonymous passed away recently. She was not a member of our parish but a member at one of the area churches who had visited our church in the past. She left a lot of her estate to a combination of several churches, including ours, as well as our Seminary. We were both surprised and blessed that our church received this gift of \$23,000. That's the good news. The bad news—thankfully we received that money because we didn't have enough money to pay our own bills that month. Every contribution to the church counts not only in the eyes of the church, but the eyes of God. Let us work hard to learn the value of generosity.

Friends of St. John-Some of you who receive The Messenger do not live in the Tampa Bay area or are members of other Greek Orthodox parishes. We would like to ask for your support of our parish as a "Friend of St. John". Your contribution as a "Friend" will help offset the cost of mailing The Messenger, among other things. Being a "friend" does not make one a steward of St. John or afford membership rights and responsibilities, but gives one who is a member elsewhere, an opportunity to make a gesture of financial support to our parish. If you are interested in being a "Friend of St. John", please fill out and return the form below. Thank you for your consideration of our parish.

FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I wish to be a "Friend of St. John". I am enclosing a contribution in the amount of:

_____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ Other

Please mail this form and check to: St. John Greek Orthodox Church 2418 Swann Avenue, Tampa, FL 33609

What We Believe

by Rev. Fr. Dean Panagos

Orthodoxy holds that the eternal truths of God's saving revelation in Jesus Christ are preserved in the living Tradition of the Church under the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Scriptures are at the heart of the Tradition and the touchstone of the faith. While the Bible is the written testimony of God's revelation, Holy Tradition is the all-encompassing experience of the Church under the abiding guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit. Essentially, Orthodox Christians consider that their beliefs are very similar to those of other Christian traditions, but that the balance and integrity of the entire Apostolic faith once delivered to the Saints has been preserved inviolate.

We believe that God is One in substance and Triune in persons. We worship One God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance. Creation is the work in time of the Blessed Trinity. The world is not self-created, neither has it existed from eternity, but it is the product of the wisdom, the power, and the will of the One God in Trinity. God the Father is the prime cause of creation and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit took part in creation, God the Son perfecting creation and God the Holy Spirit vivifying creation.

We believe that Our Lord Jesus Christ is truly God. He is Jesus, that is, the Savior and Christ, the Lord's Anointed, a Son not created of another substance, as is the case with us, but a Son begotten of the very substance of the Father before all time, and thus consubstantial with the Father. He is also truly man, like us in every respect, except sin. The denial either of His divinity or of His humanity constitutes a denial of His incarnation and of our salvation. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father. The faith of the Church about the procession of the Holy Spirit was confirmed by the Second Ecumenical Council, which added to the Creed the following clause: "And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father." The Church is the holy institution founded by our Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of men, bearing his holy sanction and authority, and composed of men having one and the same faith, and partaking of the same sacraments. It is divided into the clergy and laity. The clergy trace their descent by uninterrupted succession from the Apostles and through them from our Lord Jesus Christ. The Church is ONE because our Lord Jesus Christ founded not many, but only one Church; HOLY because her aim, the sanctification and salvation of her members through the sacraments, is holy; CATHOLIC because she is above local limitations; and APOSTOLIC because she was "built upon the foundation of the Apostles, Jesus Christ Himself being the cornerstone" (Eph. 2:20). The Head of the Church is our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We recognize seven sacraments: Baptism, Chrism or Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Confession, Ordination, Marriage and Holy Unction. Baptism is the door through which one enters into the Church. Confirmation is the completion of Baptism. In the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, with the bread and wine, we partake of the very Body and the very Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for remission of sins and eternal life. Both the New Testament and Sacred Tradition bear witness to the real Presence of our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. In the sacrament of Confession Jesus Christ, the founder of the sacrament, through the confessor, forgives the sins committed after Baptism by the person who confesses his sins and sincerely repents of them. In the sacrament of Ordination through prayer and the laying-on of hands by a bishop, divine grace comes down on the ordained enabling him to be a worthy minister of the Church. Apostolic succession is fundamental to the

Church. Without it there can be no continuity of the Church. In the sacrament of Marriage, divine grace sanctifies the union of husband and wife. In the sacrament of Holy Unction the sick person is anointed with sanctified oil and divine grace heals his bodily and spiritual ills.

At death man's body goes to the earth from which it was taken, and the soul, being immortal, goes to God, who gave it. The souls of men, being conscious and exercising all their faculties immediately after death, are judged by God. This judgment following man's death we call the Particular Judgment. The final reward of men, however, we believe will take place at the time of the General Judgment. During the time between the Particular and the General Judgment, which is called the Intermediate State, the souls of men have foretaste of their blessing or punishment. Further, we venerate and honor the saints and we ask their intercession with God, but we adore and worship God the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Of all saints, we honor exceedingly the Mother of our Lord because of the supreme grace and the call which she received from God. Though she was not exempt from original sin, from which she was cleansed at the time of the Annunciation, we believe that by the grace of God she did not commit any actual sin. We venerate the sacred icons and relics. Yet this veneration, according to the decisions and canons of the Seventh Ecumenical Council, relates not to the sacred images as such, but to their prototypes, or to the persons whom they represent.

Rev. Fr. Dean Panagos is the Proistamenos of St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in New London, CT.

Football vs. faith -- can you love football and still be a good Christian?

by Rick McDaniel

Football season officially began this week. The most popular sport in America will once again headline sports pages, influence workplace conversations and impact family life.

Many Americans love their football and many love their faith. For some, football is a religion, but for many more, football and their faith are perfect partners.

Some of the most famous and successful NFL players are men of strong Christian faith. Players like Aaron Rodgers, Robert Griffith III, Adrian Peterson, Drew Brees, and of course, Tim Tebow, are all very devout Christians. Are these two loves at odds?

In the February 4, 2013 Sports Illustrated Super Bowl issue, Mark Oppenheimer wrote an article entitled, "In The Fields Of The Lord." One of the essential messages of the scriptures is that Jesus wants us to be servant oriented. This is exactly what football teaches players. His essential thesis was that for Christian players and coaches, football is bad. Oppenheimer claims football will likely corrupt their Christian values, and thus all who love and follow football are corrupted as well. He argues the violence, physicality and adulation in playing football is "deeply at odds with Jesus' message." But this is simply not true.

First we must examine the message of Jesus. Oppenheimer says Jesus preferred the loser to the winner, the weak over the strong and the poor over the rich, but this is not an indictment against football.

In fact, the essential message of these scriptures is that Jesus wants us to be servant oriented. This is exactly what football teaches players. A football team requires every player to put his personal agenda below the teams. He learns that unless each player fulfills his role on offense, defense and special teams, the entire team will suffer. Self-centeredness must give way to serving the team.

There is much in the Bible that supports the qualities needed for playing football. Many stories in the Bible tell of battles, of perseverance and of commitment. Romans 8:29 tells us God wants our character to be formed like Jesus, and football is a character building enterprise.

Learning how to win and lose gracefully happens by playing football.

Working hard toward a worthy goal and paying the price of self-sacrifice is learned playing football.

Getting along with people who are different from you and appreciating their differences is learned playing football.

The concept of stewardship is paramount in the Bible. I Corinthians 4:2 tells us that we are stewards (managers) of all that God gives us, and we are to be faithful. Football players are given special gifts of size, speed and strength.

They are given a huge platform of the most popular sport in America. When they faithfully use their gifts and excel at their sport, they are being good stewards of what God has given them.

Oppenheimer says there are special temptations that football players face, but they are not exclusive to football.

The temptation of materialism is simply a challenge many other Christ followers face. Business leaders, entertainers and other successful people have the same temptation to serve money instead of God, and it is not unique to NFL players and coaches. The massive list of men who have played the game and are faithful Christ followers is a testament to the fact that it can be done.

What is most disconcerting about Oppenheimer's article is the shadow truth behind his thesis: Christian football players are not meek, nice and gentle. The problem is that for too long, many people have used Christianity to make men less manly. If you are a tough working guy, a high-achieving Alpha male or a fun-loving adventurer, you can't be a real Christ follower according to some. This is why Sports Illustrated had the Super Bowl cover article proclaim that football and Christianity just don't belong together.

Moses, David, Daniel, Peter and Paul were all true leaders, and tough guys who got things done for God. Jesus' bold leadership, blunt honesty and strong actions are what drew so many followers to Him. Jesus went into the temple and cleaned house, and that is no meek and mild man.

How the Church and Christianity got to this place is a story too long to detail here. Suffice to say that this has created a situation where aggression, which is so natural to a man, is viewed with disdain. Football appeals to many men because it is aggressive, tough and filled with risk. Christianity appeals to me for exactly the same reasons.

I want to be in the battle between good and evil; I want to fight for what is right, and I enjoy the challenge of doing it. The sport of football did not unmake me as a Christian; it made me a better one as it has done for hundreds of thousands of other men.

Pastor Rick McDaniel is the author of "Comeback: Overcoming The Setbacks In Your Life."

2013 TAMPA GREEK FESTIVAL

Album & Banner Advertising Rates

Advertise your business or include well wishes from your family in the 2013 Tampa Greek Festival Album and support the community! We are producing a high quality album this year, complete with recipes for our delicious food and information about Greek culture. Festival attendees will receive a copy of the program that they can take home and share. The album will be an easy reference 5x7 size; suitable to carry in a purse or pocket. Research shows this size to have a longer use since it is easy to carry; particularly if the ad includes a coupon.

WHEN: November 8, 9, 10 (Friday through Sunday)

WHERE: St. John Greek Orthodox Church; 2418 Swann Ave., Tampa, FL 33629

ADVERTISING RATES:

a. ALBUM Advertisement or COUPON

_____	Back outer cover- \$500
_____	Front inside cover - \$300
_____	Back inside cover - \$300
_____	Full page - \$200
_____	Half page - \$125
_____	Quarter page - \$75
_____	Eighth page business card size- \$40

b. BANNER

_____	Hung inside the Kourmolis center- \$200
_____	Hung outside in the tents- \$100

- All three days included
- Pre-made Vinyl Banners only
- Banners must be provided by the individual or business

CONTACT:

- a. **Mary Ann Konstas** at tampagreekfestalbum@gmail.com or 813-215-9862 for your advertising orders.
- b. Please make your donation check payable to: **St. John Greek Orthodox Church**.
Credit card payments can be made by calling Christine Bostrom 813-876-8830.
Mail all checks to:
Christine Bostrom – Tampa Greek Festival
2418 Swann Avenue
Tampa, FL 33609
- c. Artwork Deadline – ALL artwork **MUST BE HIGH RESOLUTION, CAMERA-READY** artwork, or it will **NOT** be included. Email a high resolution image of your business card or ad to tampagreekfestalbum@gmail.com. Please send JPGs or PDFs.
- d. We must receive your check AND ad by the deadline (below) or your ad will not run.

Deadline: Friday, October 18th, 2013

Contact Name: _____ Email _____

Business Name: _____ Phone _____

The undersigned agrees to pay the sum of \$ _____ for their Greek Festival advertisement(s), subject to the terms of this contract.

Sign _____ **Date:** _____

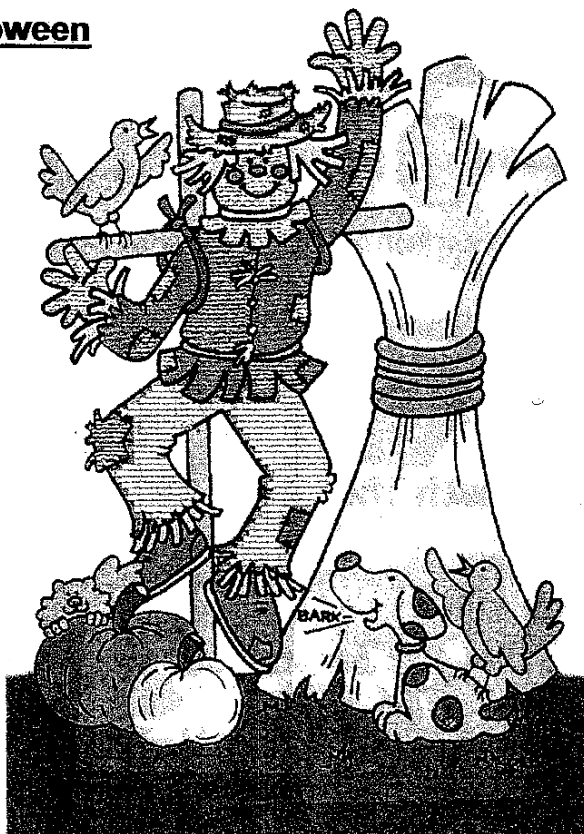
Thank you for your support!

Observing Halloween

It's mid October already and Halloween decorations are hanging on people's homes. In just a few days, the doorbell will ring and the cry of "trick or treat," will be heard.

Believe it or not, Halloween is the second largest observance, after Christmas, for selling of cards, candy, and gifts. It also is a confusing observance due to its roots in pagan occult, the ancient Druids and the (unchristian) concept of "tricking" someone if they don't give you what you want (i.e. a treat).

The bad side of Halloween is that some people like the gruesome and the fear factor, the skeletons the gore, the ghosts and the horror movies. This is what makes me dislike Halloween for many people just simply can't refrain from this aspect - they go overboard on the spooky side - what is there to gain in scaring someone is beyond me?



The good side of Halloween is the dressing up in pleasant costumes for innocent fun and sharing something sweet. That's what we should stress if we feel inclined to observe Halloween at all.

So there is the good and bad in Halloween like in most everything else. Hopefully each of our households will avoid the spooky, the occult, the haunted and do only the good and the fun aspect of the observance in simplicity and have an extra piece of candy.

Halloween Tips about the Treats

One tip I read recently for saving money and calories over Halloween is - buy the candy at the last minute (on October 30 or 31st) when it's bound to be on sale, don't buy something you like (and thus be tempted to eat the candy yourself) and don't take the leftovers to work (where you'll more than likely eat it.)

Another tip is - at the last hour of your town's allotted time for "tricker treating", give all that's leftover to the last trick or treator (so there will be no leftovers in your home)!

Fr Andrew[†]

Rev. Fr. Andrew George is the Proistamenos of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation in Cranston, Rhode Island.



Hope/Joy Fall Harvest Carnival

Sunday, October 27

4:00 – 6:00 PM

on the Day School Lunch Patio

(In case of rain we will be in the Kourmolis Center)



Please join us for an afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship!

ALL children ages 3 - grade 6 are invited to attend.

Moms, dads, grandparents, friends – please sign up to help!

Please come in costume!
(no witches or devils please)

We will have games, crafts, prizes for all!
Dinner will be served

RSVP to Maria Xenick at mpxenick@tampabay.rr.com or 839-9897



List of Pledged Stewards for 2013— as of September 15, 2013

Akrotirianakis, Fr. Stavros & Lisa
 Abramis, John & Nicky
 Alexander, John & Anetta
 Alikakos, Maria
 Alithinos, Maria & Kathy
 Alsina, Angel & Lisa
 Ambrozy, Edward & Philip
 Anagnost, Deno
 Andreadakis, Nicholas & Doris
 Andros, George & Maria
 Antonakakis, Nickolas & Judith
 Argyros, Harry & Linda
 Armstrong, James & Myra
 Assimiadis, Paul
 Axelrod, Christine
 Badrane, Denise
 Bakirdgi, Joan
 Balasis, Matthew & Suzy
 Bedran, Rita
 Betinis, Giovanna
 Blackburn, Robert & Kathryn
 Blakenbaker, James & Michelle
 Blankenship, Wayne, Athanasia, & Alexander
 Borgeas, Heidi & Ken Beach
 Bouglas, Constantine & Angela
 Bradshaw, Pelagia & Harold
 Brown, Chrysanthi
 Bush, Dorothy
 Calamunci, Alex
 Calamunci, Catherine
 Calamunci, Chris & Crystal
 Cantonis, George & Maria
 Carter, John & Georgia
 Cauthorn, Ken & Helen
 Chagaris, George & Kalliope
 Chakonas, Ethel Athena
 Charalabakis, Terry
 Cherpelis, Basil & Alyssa Zwarych
 Choundas, Marina & Greg
 Thachter
 Choundas, Peter
 Christodoulou, Louis & Maryann
 Christou, Tammy
 Circello, Vincent & Tamara
 Colado, David & Alexandria
 Colado, Mary & Hector
 Conner, Michael & Artemis
 Cotterman, Sandy
 Courialis, Telly & Toula
 Crassas, Alkis & Aime
 Cunavelis, Frances

Cunavelis, John
 Dalaklis, Joanne
 DeJesus, Roy & Anna Tataris
 De Maio, Alexandra
 Demas, Anna
 Demas, John
 Diamantakes, Georgia
 Diamantides, Melpo
 Dimas, Gregory & Evelyn Patsavos
 Diniaco, Peter & Rebecca
 Doucas, Deborah
 Drossos, Patricia
 Edquid Marc & Maraquet
 Eggleston, Charles & Catherine
 Evdemon, Stan & Maryellen
 Fallieras, George N.
 Fallieras, Lauren
 Fallieras, Nicholas & Susan.
 Farkas, John
 Fellios, George
 Fentress, Andrew Kevin & Maria K.
 Ferarolis, Alexandra
 Ferarolis, Stamatis & Cheryl
 Ferekides, Christos & Debbie
 Forde, Dwight & Ewana
 Fotopoulos, Anthony & Carole
 Frazier, Chris
 Frinmenko, Mary
 Gallos, Peter & Vasiliki
 Gallos, Spiros
 Garcia, Mark & Anastasia
 Garcia, Richard & Stamie
 Garos, Victoria
 Georgas, Thomas & Janet
 Georgiou, Aristos & JoAnna
 Georgiou, Speros & Eleanor
 Gerecke, Edward & Terri
 Gombos, Jack & Harriet
 Gorter, Maria
 Halikoytakis, Alex
 Halikoytakis, Michael
 Halkias, Evangeline
 Halkias, George & Elaine
 Hambos, George & Donna
 Hanhan, Amin & Gloria
 Hartsfield, Christine
 Hartung, Mark & JoAnn
 Harvie, Andrew & Krista
 Harvie, Evan
 Henderson, Nickollet & Kenneth
 Higdon, Skip
 Hoppenstand, Anna
 Horack, Scott
 Horrigan, Paulette
 Iraklianos, Michael
 Irwin, Jon & Pam
 Jacobsen, Anne
 James, Arthur
 Jennewein, Georgia
 Johnson, Aphrodit
 Joseffy, Justin & Valerie House-

man
 Kabougeris, Pete & Voula
 Kaburis, George & Kathy
 Kafantaris, Michael & Amy
 Kalojiannis, Nic & Alicia
 Kane, Lance & Georgia
 Kantzios, Ippkratis
 Kapetan, Martha
 Karagiannakis, Keith & Katerina
 Karaku, Ellen
 Karas, Anthony & Sophie
 Maria Karounos
 Karpelenia, Loretta & Daniel
 Katsadourous, Konstantin & Katherine
 Katsamakias, Perry
 Katsifis, John & Margaret
 Katzaras, George & Elina
 Katzaras, Nick & Helen
 Katzaras, Stefan & Kara
 Kavakos, Estelle
 Kavouklis, Chris & Debbie
 Kavouklis, Laz & Maria
 Kavouklis, Nicholas & Edie
 Kladakias, Katherine
 Kladis, George
 Kladis Theodore
 Koch John & Cathie
 Kokkas, John
 Komninos, Tom & Gina
 Konstas, Demetrios & Maryann
 Korakis, Alexander
 Korakis, Alexandros & Louise
 Korakis, Tina
 Kostaris, Irene
 Koudouna, Dora
 Kouimanis, Despina & Frank
 Bartos
 Krinos, John
 Krinos, Dimitri & Melissa
 Kwasny, Foti & Fatin
 Kyrusm Chris & Katherine
 L'Hommedieu, Timothy & Tia
 Laliotis, Stavros & Adriana
 Laskey, Fred & Coleen
 Lavdas, Steve
 Lenardos, Steve & Melissa
 Leontsinis, Nicole
 Letobarone, Domenic & Melanie
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 Liakos, Nicholas
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 Luter, Thomas
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 MacLaury, Kathryn
 Madiill, Chad
 Maltezos, Stephen
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 Manikis, Clara & Nicholas
 Martin, Tyson & Marissa
 Matassini, Nicholas & Christina

McKinnon, Joseph & Christina
 Mellon, Andria, Keith Lynn & Andrew
 Melton, Gregory & Victoria
 Metcalf, Maria
 Milligan, David & Mary
 Milonas, Lula
 Milonas, Taso & Thay
 Mitchell, John & Edith
 Mitseas, George & Catherine
 Moran, Andy & Stefanie
 Morgan, Theodora & Christopher
 Mourer, Brett & Ana
 Moutsatsos, Spero
 Mueller, William Jeffrey
 Myer, Ronald & Magdalini
 Nakis, Betty Ann & Emmanuel
 Nenos, Byron & Jeanie
 Nenos, Mary
 Nenos, Peter
 Neyland, Bill & Marilyn
 Nicklow, Thomas & Demetra
 Nicolaou, Chris & Dee
 Nolen, Pamela
 Nolas, George & Cheryl
 Norcross, Diane
 Olsen, Scott & Elpida
 O'Malley, Rachel & Zaharis,
 Constantine
 Palios, Artie
 Palios, Betty Katherine
 Palios, George & Julie
 Palios, Michael & Bessie
 Paloumpis, Athanasios & Jenny
 Panos, Euripides & Denise
 Papadakis, Alec & Lauren
 Papadeas, Venetia
 Papadopoulou, John
 Papakosta, Peter & Vasiliki
 Papas, George
 Pappas, Paul & Georgia
 Passalaris, Isidoros
 Passavanti, Anthony & Brittany
 Osgood
 Passavanti, Robert & Debba
 Patellis, Theophilos
 Patracoiau, Florin & Marenca
 Pavlopoulos, George
 Payne, Georgia
 Peckham, Richard & Victoria
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 Plakas, Theodore & Kyriakoula
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 Quinn, Toula
 Rindone, Ryan & Megan
 Rogers, Aris
 Rogers II, Aris
 Rose, Mary
 Roussos, Archie & Eleftheria
 Royack, Florian & Jeanie

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 Sakkis, John & Katherine
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 Scourtes, Christine
 Serbanos, Michael & Patricia
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 Skourellos, Petros
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 Trakas, Andrew & Adrienne
 Trakas, Pete & Donna
 Trimis, Michael & Diane
 Tsibris, John
 Valaes, James & Lynn
 Vasilopoulos, Kostadinos & Toula
 Voykin, David
 Voykin, Mary
 Wade, Deborah
 Wagner, Christine
 Ward, Gary & Sandra
 Whallen, Donald
 Worley, Chistene
 Xenick, Emanuel & Maria
 Xenick, George & Cindy
 Xeroteris, Evangeline
 Yohai, Eleni
 Yotis, Victor
 Yotis, William & Eleonora
 Zabetakis, Maria
 Zeban, Peter
 Zoumberos, Stavros & Kathy

****If your name doesn't appear on this list and you have filled out a pledge form for 2013, please contact the office**



October 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Young at Heart 11:00 am Bible Study South Tampa 6:30 pm Bible Study East Tampa 6:30 pm	2 Men's Bible Study 7:00 a.m. YAL Bible Study 6:30 pm Fast Day	3 Bible Study North Tampa 6:30 p.m.	4 Fast Day	5
6 Orthros 8:40 a.m. Liturgy 10:00 a.m. GOYA 5:00 p.m.	7	8 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Parish Council 6:15 p.m. Bible Study South Tampa 6:30 pm Bible Study East Tampa 6:30 pm	9 Men's Bible Study 7:00 a.m. Festival Baking 10:00 a.m. YAL Bible Study 6:30 pm Fast Day	10 Festival Baking 10:00 a.m. Bible Study North Tampa 6:30 p.m. Adult Greek School 6 pm	11 Fast Day	12 YAL Rummage Sale
13 Orthros 8:40 a.m. Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Youth Sunday	14 Dolmaches Preparation 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	15 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Dolmaches Preparation 12-3 pm Bible Study South Tampa 6:30 pm Bible Study East Tampa 6:30 pm	16 Men's Bible Study 7:00 a.m. Festival Baking 10:00 a.m. YAL Bible Study 6:30 pm Fast Day	17 Bible Study North Tampa 6:30 p.m. Adult Greek School 6 pm	18 GOYA Volleyball Tournament in St. Pete Fast Day	19 Community Outreach GOYA Volleyball Tournament in St. Pete
20 Orthros 8:40 a.m. Liturgy 10:00 a.m. Congregational Singing	21	22 Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Evening Liturgy for St. James Orthros 5:00 p.m. Liturgy 6:00 p.m.	23 Men's Bible Study 7:00 a.m. Festival Baking 10:00 a.m. Fast Day	24 Bible Study North Tampa 6:30 p.m. Adult Greek School 6 pm	25 Fast Day	26 St. Demetrios Orthros 9:00 a.m. Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
27 Orthros 8:40 a.m. Liturgy 10:00 a.m. JOY/HOPE Fall Festival	28	29 Women's Bible Study 10:00 am Bible Study South Tampa 6:30 pm Bible Study East Tampa 6:30 pm Fr. Stavros at Clergy Retreat 10/29-11/1	30 YAL Bible Study 6:30 pm Fast Day	31 Adult Greek School 6 pm		

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2418 W. Swann Avenue

Tampa, FL 33609-4712

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Timetable of Services

Sundays: Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.
Weekdays: Orthros 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy: 10:00 a.m.

Parish Priest: Rev.Fr.Stavros Akrotirianakis

813-876-8830 (office) 394-1038 (cell)

frstav@gmail.com

Parish Council:

Katherine Sakkis, President 813-309-1073

Bill Manikas V. President 813-716-8185

Diane Trimis, Secretary 813-968-9038

Skip Higdon, Treasurer 813-831-9021

Nick Antonakakis 813-477-6639

Alexandra De Maio 813-340-9668

Carole Fotopoulos 813-982-0947

Byron Nenos 813-789-0729

Dante Skourellos 813-765-9534

Despina Sibley 813-251-5384

David Voykin 727-415-5603

Stewardship Chairperson:

Bill Manikas 813-716-8185

.....

Office Staff:

Christine Bostrom, Operations Coordinator 813-876-8830

Office Fax: 813-443-4899

•Choir: Artie Palios, Director 813-831-1294

Jim Leone, Organist 813-254-7844

•Chanter: Nick Andreadakis 813-876-8830

•Sunday Sch.: Victoria Peckham 813-406-5626

Maria Xenick 813-839-9897

•Finance Committee: Mike Xenick 813-340-8737

•Adult Greek School: Magda Myer 813-909-2327

•AHEPA: Mike Trimis 813-968-9038

•Community Outreach: Chairperson

Betty Katherine Palios 813-215-9862

•Daughters: Diane Trimis 813-220-3389

•Food Pantry: Anetta Alexander 863-224-3001

•GOYA Adv. Elaine Halkias 813-968-9129

Byron Nenos 813-789-0729

•JOY/HOPE: Maria Xenick 813- 839-9897

•Young Adults (YAL) Mary Ann Konstas 813-215-9862

•Philoptochos: JoAnn Hartung, Pres. 727-432-0228

•Oratorical Festival Chairperson

Peggy Bradshaw: 727-244-1374

•Young at Heart: Nick Antonakakis 813-477-6639

Mary Nenos 813-935-2096

•Jr Olympics: Byron Nenos 813-789-0729

•Ushers: Tom Georgas 813-985-0236

•Altar Angels:

Engie Halkias, Viorica Kirby &
Sia Blankenship. 813-932-5859

•Bookstore: Jon & Pamela Irwin 813-679-4113

•H XAPA ΜΑΣ Dance Group:

Alex De Maio & 813-340-9668

Marina Choundas 813-877-6136

•Glendi Dancers:Jenna Mingledorff 813-610-7365

•Panigyri Dancers: Vanessa Aviles 813-221-2194

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church is a parish under the spiritual and ecclesiastical oversight of His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios of the Metropolis of Atlanta, of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

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The *Messenger* of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church is published on a monthly basis. Publication is the first of each month. Deadline for notices and announcements for the Messenger is the 15th of each month. You may send announcements to the church office or through **email to: stjohngoctampa@gmail.com**

Website: www.greekorthodoxchurchtampa.com

“May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.” From the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom