

Parish Priest:	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
Retired Priest in Residence:	Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830
Retired Priest in Residence:	Rev. Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
Bookkeeper:	Debbie Bowe	813-876-8830

Parish Council:	John Zelatis, President	813-727-2271
	Euripides Panos, Vice President	813-352-3972
	Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary	813-760-6289
	Mike Xenick, Treasurer	813-340-8737
	George Ameres	941-720-3494
	Peggy George	813-727-5587
	Peter George	781-910-9971
	Amin Hanhan	813-846-2957
	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855
	Alexis Scarfogliero	813-892-1599
	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026

12 Disciples		
AHEPA:	Thomas Sakaris, President	201-819-2319
Altar Angels:	Kalliope Chagaris	813-789-4134
Bible Study:	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
Bookstore:	Pres. Denise Stefero	678-464-4833
Choir:	Tara Swartzbaugh, Director	813-313-0439
	Ruth Losoviz, Organist	727-688-2782
College Ministry:	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
Community Outreach:	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
Dance Groups:	Η ΧΑΡΑ ΜΑΣ, Alexandra De Maio	813-340-9668
	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
	ΠΑΡΕΑ, Marina Choundas	813-877-6136
	Genie Carter	813-363-2362
	ΠΑΝΗΓΥΡΙ, Alexandra De Maio	813-340-9668
	Elena Ketchum	813-229-0144
	Gary Ward	813-846-3898
	Sandra Pappas	813-785-3747
	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346
	George & Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
	Karina Findlay	813-476-9632
	Katherine Sakkis	813-309-1073
	Chris Kyros	757-672-1920
	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102
	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
	Maria Xenick	813-765-3587
	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-876-8830
	Aris Rogers	813-309-5525
	Dora Morgan	813-613-3738
	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855

Daughters of Penelope:		
Finance Committee:		
Food Pantry:		
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:		
Youth Protection:		

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

2418 Swann Avenue – Tampa, FL 33609 – 813-876-8830 (office) - office@stjohntpa.org



Sunday, January 28, 2024
St. Ephraim the Syrian, St. James the Ascetic

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

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

MISSION:
The mission of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church is to welcome and serve people with love, truth, joy and peace, and to create an environment that encourages all to seek salvation through Orthodox Christianity.

CORE VALUES:
Love, Worship, Community, Learning, Service

SYNAXARION:
St. Ephraim the Syrian, St. James the Ascetic

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Judeans and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred Body. O Savior, the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life. Whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the Giver of Life: Glory unto our Resurrected Christ; Glory unto Your Kingdom; Glory to Your dispensation, O You Who alone loves all.

praise; for you O Forerunner the witness of the Lord is sufficient. You have proved to be truly more venerable than the prophets. Since you were granted to baptize in the river, the One Whom they proclaimed. Therefore, you strove for truth, proclaiming with joy the Good News, even to those in Hades: that God was manifested in the flesh, and takes away the sins of the world, and grants to us His great mercy.

Apolytikion of St. Ephraim the Syrian-With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O Ephraim, our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.

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

Apolytikion of St. John the Baptist: The memory of the just is observed with hymns of

Memorial:
Engie Halkias (2 Years)

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, January 28	Orthros 8:45 a.m. Prayer for Teachers (Before Holy Communion) JOY Tweens (After Liturgy) Men’s Group 5:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday, January 29	Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Orthodoxy 101 6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, January 30	Three Hierarchs Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, January 31	Choir Practice	
Thursday, February 1	Adult Greek School	
Friday, February 2	Presentation of Christ in the Temple Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Saturday, February 3	Children’s Greek School	
Sunday, February 4	Orthros 8:45 a.m. Youth Sunday College Discussion after Liturgy (in the Library)	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday, February 5	Orthodoxy 101—Teaching Liturgy 6:30-8:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, February 6	Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	

Religious Education at
St. John

Monday Night Bible Study	Women’s Bible Study
Leader: Fr. John	Leader: Fr. Stavros
January 29: Monday at 6:30 p.m.	January 29: Monday at 10:00 a.m.

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

If you are new to the Tampa Bay area or just visiting, we would love to get to know you better.

PLEASE TEXT THE WORD
"WELCOME" TO 813-790-5950

FOLLOW THE PROMPTS TO GIVE US
YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION AND FROM THERE
YOU WILL BE DIRECTED TO OUR ONLINE CONNECTION CARD

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

Altar Boy Schedule

January 28	Captains	February 4
Gabriel Gonzales	Demetri Passalaris	Michael Snyder
Michael Galin	Nicholas Akrotirianakis	Zachary Carter
Philip Kane	Nicholas Magos	Dorian Setzer-Torres
Leo Sengsouvana	Nicholas Carter	Leo Lenardos
Kenny Kane	George Xenick	Niko Kyrus
Peter Konstas	PJ Zelatis	Josh Roby

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

January 28		February 4
Traditions 7th-12th Stay in Church		Presentation of Christ YOUTH SUNDAY
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		

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Melissa Romero, Sandra Reyes, Miltiadis, Larry Maas; Konstantinos Triantafyllopoulos; Kostadinos Booras; Michael I, Anna Maria & Thomas Reilly; Jim Armstrong, Calliope Herman; Delaney & Alexis Johnson; Ron & Linda Ledet; Helen & Mike Mitchell, Elena, Ricky & Michael Gordenina, Tina Chakonas, Felix R., Ivco; George Joseph; Anna, Stavroula, George, Pam, and Liz; Christopher Labatos; Eva Coppalla; Christopher; Christopher; Peter Nenos; Patrick Carroll; Ourania Tziotis, Irina, Marina, Yuri, and Christophoros; Ashley Snyder; Evangelos & Caroline Critkas; Christine Alex, June, Lillian Thomas; Scotty; Desi Serriera; Ashley Kladakis; Dora Kallas, Kathy & Andrew Bouzinekis; Anastasia; Virginia Georgiou, Toulia Tsaros, Nellie Pringle, Yolanda Webb, Angela Bougas, Ron, Jason Vickers, Rex Garrison, Ann Demas, Christina Noel Kouzes Houck, Evangeline Xeroteris, Ashley Henderson, Natalie Henderson, Chris, Debbie, James, Avery, Lily, Jacob, Jesse, Ann, Rosario, Alissa, John, Angela, Joey, Christine Scourtes, Steven, Phyllis, John Zelatis, Reagan, Peter Zaharis, Alexandra Ferrarolis, Leon & Despina Botham, Cindy Xenick, Mary Ellen Evdemon, Marie Sofia Panagopoulos, Maria Hursey, Chris Vamvakias, Mike Trimis, Michael Romero, George Hambos, Dean Kondilis and Family, Bill and Nancy Manikas, Patricia Costello, Ekaterina & Anna S. Dora K., Debbie P., Mary V., David V., Don Payne, Valery, Jimmy, Timoleon and Elias Kapadoukakis and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

Readings for Sunday, January 28

Epistle Lesson: Verse. Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have hope in you. Rejoice greatly in the Lord, O righteous ones; praise is fitting for the upright.

The reading is from St. Paul’s First Letter to Timothy (1 Timothy 4:9-15)

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 19: 1-10

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.”

- Welcome to all of our Visitors** “Welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Romans 15:7 We pray that your worship experience with us today will be inspirational and uplifting. Please introduce yourself to an usher or a member of the Welcoming Ministry and pick-up a “welcome packet” as you exit the church. We are happy that you are with us today!
- Holy Communion** is offered only to Orthodox Christians who are in good canonical standing with the church and who have prepared through prayer and fasting. Everyone is invited to receive the Antidoron (Blessed Bread) at the end of the Divine Liturgy.
- Order for Holy Communion**—*With Sunday School in session the order for Holy Communion will be as follows:*
1. Choir
 2. Altar boys
 3. Sunday school teachers (who will line up in middle aisle (right) before Communion).
 4. Sunday school students (who will line up in the middle aisle (left) before Communion).
 5. Then the rest of the congregation (side areas then the main section).
 6. Parents with recently Baptized children can line up before the Sunday School Teachers.

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Looking for HELP in the Office

We currently have no Administrative Assistant. We are looking for help in the office, and we are also looking to hire someone to take this position. If interested, please contact Fr. Stavros or John Zelatis (jzelatis@zomesa.com/813-727-2271).



Hope & Joy Souper Bowl of Caring

Sunday, Feb 11th is not only the BIG game where we cheer for our favorite football team, but also “**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**” Sunday a nationwide, youth-led initiative to TACKLE hunger! Pick your favorite team and join our HOPE & JOY Youth ministry collect donations to benefit **Hope Children’s Home**- a Tampa Christian home that takes orphaned children and is entirely supported by churches, private individuals, clubs, and organizations.

Visit our table on Sunday, Feb 12th to fill the pots with your cash donation or food item. Pick your favorite team’s pot to donate to! **The BIG winner: Hope Children’s Home.**

The Children’s Home biggest needs this year: Canned Diced Tomatoes, Dish Soap, Canned Black Beans. Please find complete list of needs at: <https://hopechildrenshome.org/>

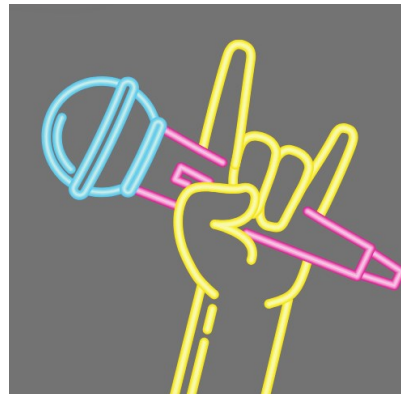
Please Join us for

KARAOKE GLOW PARTY

JOY 3RD-6TH GRADERS ARE INVITED
FOR PIZZA, SINGING, DANCING AND
GLOW MUCH FUN!

FRIDAY, FEB 9TH
KOUVOLIS CENTER
6:30-8:30 PM

Please RSVP to Zackie at (813) 245-3813



MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

*Today’s Coffee Hour is Sponsored by the Chagaris/Halkias Family
In Memory of Engie Halkias*

FEBRUARY 4
Joy Tweens/Hope & Joy

FEBRUARY 11
Philoptochos—Super Bowl of Caring

JOY TWEENS-

Our January meeting is today, January 28 following the Divine Liturgy. We will meet in the school library on the first floor of the Sunday School building at 12:30pm. All tweens in 4th - 6th grade and their parents are welcome.

Sign-Up for Text Updates! To get updates and other messages for JOY Tweens, text @783gc6 to 81010 on your mobile phone.



MEN’S GROUP-

Our January Men’s Group meeting is today, Sunday, January 28 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. We will grab dinner, and have a discussion. For those who are able, please come at 3:30 p.m. to take down the Christmas lights from the trees in front of the church.

COLLEGE STUDENTS-

College student monthly lunch - February 4—We invite all college students for lunch after Liturgy on Sunday, February 4. We will have a lunch/discussion in the library. There is no cost.

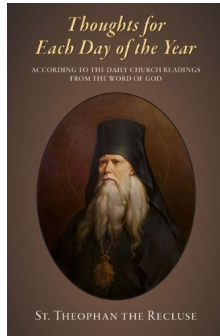
YOUNG AT HEART-

At Young at Heart we aim to set a foundation to motivate, encourage, and spiritually uplift our members and those around us. We meet for fellowship and fun but are also involved in charitable work such as bags for the needy and visiting and calling on the homebound. We welcome all adults 55 and older and encourage you to join us at our next function on Saturday, February 17th at 11:30am in the parish fellowship hall. For more information on Young at Heart see Dora Morgan, Diane Trimis, or Presvytera Denise.

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore

"Thoughts for Each Day of the Year"



Available now in our bookstore, *"Thoughts for Each Day of the Year"* by St. Theophan the Recluse. St. Theophan (1815-1894) was one of the most prolific and beloved spiritual writers of nineteenth-century Russia. In this book, he takes us through the yearly cycle of Gospel and Epistle readings offering brief but powerful daily

SAVE THE DATE - FEB 11th *following Divine Liturgy*



Ladies Philoptochos and our Nursing Ministry team up to sponsor the

"SOUPER BOWL SALAD BOWL LUNCHEON"

*All donations will benefit Autism Awareness
via the Autism Assistance Fund
More information to follow in
upcoming bulletins*

Philoptochos Membership Drive 2024

Our Ladies Philoptochos Society has kicked off its membership drive for 2024. Please consider becoming a member and assisting us in our many philanthropic missions locally, nationally, and internationally. Membership forms have been emailed to all current members. Please complete the form and return. Prospective members can pick up a membership form in our church bookstore. *Please contact Presvytera Denise Stefero - Membership Chair - with any questions and to complete your enrollment. New this year - submit your Philoptochos Stewardship donation online - <https://bit.ly/3tTEyF6>*

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

Orthodoxy 101

BEGINS IN JANUARY & OFFERED BY
FR. STAVROS N. AKROTIRIANAKIS, PARISH PRIEST

WHY SHOULD I ATTEND ORTHODOXY 101?

- INTERFAITH COUPLES. THIS WILL HELP THE NON-ORTHODOX PERSON UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON IN OUR CHURCH.
- ANYONE WHO IS CONSIDERING JOINING OUR CHURCH. GOING FORWARD, THIS CLASS WILL BE A REQUIREMENT FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO JOIN OUR ORTHODOX FAITH.
- NEW CONVERTS TO ORTHODOXY. FOR THOSE WHO RECENTLY JOINED OUR CHURCH AND WHO WANT TO KNOW A LITTLE BIT MORE.
- ANYONE WHO WANTS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE BASICS OF OUR FAITH, OR WHO WANTS A REFRESHER

WHEN WILL THE CLASSES BE HELD?

- *MONDAY, JANUARY 22
A TOUR OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH: WHAT WE SEE AND WHAT IT MEANS
- *MONDAY, JANUARY 29
INTRODUCTION TO THE SACRAMENTS- BAPTISM, CHRISTMATION, CONFESSION, MARRIAGE, UNCTION
- *MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5
THE DIVINE LITURGY - A "TEACHING" LITURGY
- *MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12
ORTHODOX TRADITIONS - FASTING, ICONS, PRAYER AND LIVING AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LIFE

WHAT FORMAT CAN I EXPECT?

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

Please sign up with Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com, so he has enough materials for everyone.
There is no charge for this class.

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

BUILDING A SPIRITUAL LIFE:
*PRAYER, WORSHIP, SCRIPTURE, AND
GENEROSITY.*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

ALL MEN ARE WELCOME, ORTHODOX OR NOT

\$15 (COVERS LUNCH)

**STARTING WITH DIVINE LITURGY, FOLLOWED BY
PRESENTATIONS AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

**FR. STAVROS
AKROTIRIANAKIS**



**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

2418 W. Swann Ave. Tampa, FL 33609

Kindly RSVP by February 5 to frstav@gmail.com

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Did you know...



Someone needs a blood transfusion every two seconds.
One in three people will need a transfusion at some point in their life.
One blood donation can save up to three lives.

Nursing Ministry will host a blood drive on
Sunday, February 4th after Liturgy and will go till 3:30.

Please register at oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code 14583.

To donate, you must be at least 16 years old, weigh 110+ pounds, and be in generally good health. Donating blood is one way you can be a hero and help save lives. Please consider donating.

REACH OUT TO YOUR NURSING MINISTRY WITH ANY QUESTIONS