

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

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



Presentation of Christ in the Temple—February 2

Sunday, February 4, 2024

St. Isidore of Pelusium; St. Nicholas the Confessor

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. Isidore of Pelusium; St. Nicholas the Confessor

Second Antiphon: *Save us o Son of God, Who were held in the arms of the righteous Simeon, to Thee we sing: Alleluia. So-son i-mas I-e The-ou, o en an-ga-les tou di-ke-ou Si-me-on vas-tak-this, psa-lon-tas Si: Allilulia.*

Apolytikion of the Presentation of Christ: *Hail o Theotokos, Virgin full of grace: for from you has shone forth the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, giving Light to those in darkness. Be glad, also you righteous Elder, for you have received in your arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who bestows upon us resurrection.*

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: *When You descended to the realm of death, You as Life immortal, rendered to Hades a mortal blow, through Your Divine Radiance. And when You, from the depths of Hades and the darkness below, did raise the dead all the powers of heaven did proclaim and cry out: O life-giving Christ and our God we give glory.*

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

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

Welcome to all of our Visitors “Welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Romans 15:7 We pray that your worship experience with us today will be inspirational and uplifting. Please introduce yourself to an usher or a member of the Welcoming Ministry and pick-up a “welcome packet” as you exit the church. We are happy that you are with us today!

Holy Communion is offered only to Orthodox Christians who are in good canonical standing with the church and who have prepared through prayer and fasting. Everyone is invited to receive the Antidoron (Blessed Bread) at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

Order for Holy Communion— *With Sunday School 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.

Readings for Sunday, February 4

Epistle Lesson: Verse. The Lord is my strength and my song, and He became my salvation. The Lord chastened and corrected me, but He did not give me up to death.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (4: 6-15)
Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 22:35-46

At that time, a lawyer asked him a question, to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think of Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I put your enemies under your feet'? If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Megalinarion:

1. *Past the understanding of, all the angels, mortals, too
Virgin Mother, Lady pure, is that which occurred in you.*
2. *In his arms the Elder one, Simeon embraced You,
The Creator of the Law, and the Governor of all.*
3. *Wishing Adam to be saved, He who fashioned us abode,
In the womb immaculate, of the Virgin Lady pure.*
4. *Ev'ry generation of, mortal nature praises you,
And as Mother of our God, gives you glory Lady Pure.*
5. *Come and see the Christ Who is, Lord and Master of all
things, Who today by Simeon, to the temple is now borne.*
6. *You look down upon the earth, and thereby You make it
quake, How then does a worn old man, hold You now
within his arms?*
7. *Simeon lived many years, till the Christ he was to see Then
to Him he cried aloud, now let me depart in peace.*
8. *You indeed O Miriam, have become the mystic tongs
Which enclosed the burning coal, Christ conceived within
your womb.*
9. *You, the pre-eternal God, willed that You would take on
flesh, And so after forty days, to the temple You were
brought.*
10. *Having come from heav'n above, is the Master of all things,
He is welcomed to His home, by Simeon the priest.*

11. *Make my soul to shine O Lord, with the light perceptible,
That I purely look on You, and proclaim You as my God.*
12. *Virgin Mother, Lady pure, to the Temple what bring you?
I now offer my new Babe, to the arms of Simeon.*
13. *Now departure do I seek, from my Lord and Fashioner,
For I saw You O my Christ, You Who are my saving Light.*
14. *Him, who liturgists above, trembling praise in litany,
Now below does Simeon, hold embracing in his arms.*
15. *You by nature are but One, yet in persons Trinity,
Set a guard around those who, serving do believe in You.*
16. *Theotokos as the hope, of us Christians one and all,
Guard and shelter and protect, all those who put their
hope in you.*
*The-o-to-ke i el-pis pan-ton ton Chris-ti-a-non
Ske-pe, frou-ri fi-la-te, tous el-pi-zon-tas is se.*

O believers, come let us perceive, a type in the Law, and the shadow and the letter. Every child that opens the womb shall be holy to God. So the unoriginate Father's firstborn Logos and Son, Who is the firstborn of the Mother who knew not man we magnify.

Communion Hymn: (Psalm 116:13) *Po-ti-ri-on so-ti-ri-ou
li-pso-me ke to o-no-ma Ki-ri-ou e-pi-ka-le-so-me. Alleluia.*
*I will receive the cup, receive the cup of salvation, I will
receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.
Alleluia.*

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/floridaneeds/>

Please Join us for

KARAOKE GLOW PARTY

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



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

Please RSVP to Zackie at (813) 245-3813





SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



Refereed by Philoptochos and The Nursing Ministry

- Who:** The **Winning** Teams of Philoptochos and the Nursing Ministry of St. John's, working together.
- What:** The Souper Bowl of Caring is a luncheon to enrich minds with awareness of Autism and awareness of healthy eating habits, and to benefit your body with a healthy meal. You will enjoy a soup (vegan, chicken, or meat), a salad (tossed or pasta), bread, a dessert, and water or coffee. It will be served with a SMILE!
- Where:** In the church Kourmolis Hall.
- When:** Our designated event is on Sunday, February 11, 2024. Kickoff time is After the Divine Liturgy.
- Why:** This is a National effort sponsored at a grassroots level in Tampa to help others. It is to benefit The Autism Assistance Fund. There is no designated charge for the fellowship and the meal, but **please be generous** with a thoughtful and meaningful donation. The GOAL of this Souper Bowl event is \$1,000. If you want to donate to the event but cannot stay, please text or message *Ourania Stephanides (chair)* at (813) 546-4711. Helping others is always appreciated!

**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

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore— Book of the Week

"The Lord of the Spirits"



An Orthodox Christian Framework for the Unseen World and Spiritual Warfare by Fr. Andrew Stephen Damick.

"The modern world is haunted by spirits - angels, demons, and saints. Many yearn to break free to materialism and know reality as it truly is. What is this spiritual reality like? How do we engage with it? How do we permeate everyday life with spiritual presence?"

Young at Heart February Gathering



Theme: "Love Is"

Saturday, February 17th – 12 Noon
in the Parish Fellowship Hall

Join us for a catered Italian meal
Price - \$15 per person due with your reservation no later than Feb 11th

For reservations see Presvytera Denise -
denises54@hotmail.com

A fun Valentine Game will follow the Luncheon!!

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>*

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Today's Coffee Hour is Sponsored by Joy Tweens/Hope & Joy

FEBRUARY 11

Philoptochos—Super Bowl of Caring

FEBRUARY 18

Coffee Hour Sponsored by The Balasis Family
In Memory of Mathew Balasis

Teaching Divine Liturgy—Monday, February 5 -

We will celebrate Divine Liturgy as part of the Orthodoxy 101 class. This will actually be a “teaching” Liturgy on the solea of the church. If you have taken the class, or if you wish to only attend THIS session, please feel free to do so.

Paraklesis Service of Supplication to the Virgin Mary—February 7 -

We will continue to offer Paraklesis once a month, so that we can pray for all the members of our community by name, out loud. For February, the Paraklesis will be offered on Wednesday evening, February 7, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 10—St. Haralambos -

St. Haralambos was a Saint of the first century and lived in Greece. He was a priest who was martyred. Our parish has a special connection to St. Haralambos since his relics were interred in our altar table when the church was consecrated in 1986.

Wear Red for Healthy Hearts—Sunday, February 11-

On Sunday, February 11, we will have our annual “Wear Red Sunday” and the theme will be healthy hearts. Our Philoptochos is going to have a healthy lunch for everyone following services. So wear red on February 11.

GOYA Lock-In—Saturday, February 10 -

We will be having our spring lock-in on Saturday, February 10, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Young Adults—Thursday, February 8 -

Our young adult group meets once a month for dinner/discussion (and other times for fellowship and service). The meeting for February will be Thursday, February 8, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Our topic will be a continuation of last month's discussion on setting spiritual goals for this year. Group Members use What's App for communication. Please contact Aris Rogers to be added to our what's app for young adults at 813-309-5525.

Altar Boy Schedule

February 4

Michael Snyder
Zachary Carter
Dorian Setzer-Torres
Leo Lenardos
Niko Kyrus
Josh Roby

Captains

Demetri Passalaris
Nicholas Akrotirianakis
Nicholas Magos
Nicholas Carter
George Xenick
PJ Zelatis

February 11

Teddy Kafentaris
Andreas Stefanou
Kris Christopher
Vasilios Panos
Jonah Blakenbaker
Theodore Edquid

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

February 4

Presentation of Christ
YOUTH SUNDAY
Confessions 4th-6th



February 11

The Church Building and
Sacred Vessels
7th-12th Stay in Church

**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: Athena Felley, Melissa Romero, Sandra Reyes, Miltiadis, Larry Maas; Konstantinos Triantafyllopoulos; Kostadinis 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.

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, February 4	Orthros 8:45 a.m. Youth Sunday	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. Parish Council Planning Meeting 6:30 p.m.	
Wednesday, February 7	Paraklesis 6:00 p.m.	
Thursday, February 8	Adult Greek School 6:00-8:30 p.m. Young Adult Discussion 6:30-8:30 p.m.	
Friday, February 9	JOY Tweens Karaoke Glow Party 6:00-8:30 p.m.	
Saturday, February 10	St. Haralambos Orthros 9:00 a.m. Men's Retreat 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Children's Greek School GOYA Lock-In 5:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, February 11	Orthros 8:45 a.m. Wear RED Sunday Souper Bowl of Caring Philoptochos Salad Luncheon	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Religious Education at St. John

Monday Night Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. John

February 6:
Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Women's Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. Stavros

February 6:
Tuesday 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 EXPECT TO MEET Hospitality TO STRANGERS
FOR THERE IS NO HIGHER AUTHORITY *angels & humans*

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
	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:	H XAPA 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
Daughters of Penelope:	Elena Ketchum	813-229-0144
Finance Committee:	Gary Ward	813-846-3898
Food Pantry:	Sandra Pappas	813-785-3747
GOYA:	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346
Hope/Joy:	George & Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
Joy Tweens	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
Men's Fellowship:	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
Nursing Ministry:	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
Photography Ministry:	Karina Findlay	813-476-9632
Philoptochos:	Katherine Sakkis	813-309-1073
Stewardship:	Chris Kyrus	757-672-1920
	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
Sunday School:	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102
Ushers	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
Veterans/1st Responders	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
Welcoming Ministry:	Maria Xenick	813-765-3587
Women's Bible Study:	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-876-8830
Young Adults	Aris Rogers	813-309-5525
Young at Heart:	Dora Morgan	813-613-3738
Youth Protection:	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855