

# St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

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



Blaise the Hieromartyr of Sebastia — February 11

Sunday, February 11, 2024

*Blaise the Hieromartyr of Sebastia, Theodora the Empress, Finding of  
the Relics of Zachariah the Prophet, Father of the Forerunner*

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:**

*Blaise the Hieromartyr of Sebastia, Theodora the Empress,  
Finding of the Relics of Zachariah the Prophet, Father of the Forerunner*

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:** *Let all things proclaimed. Therefore, you strove for truth, above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below proclaiming with joy the Good News, even to those on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of in Hades: that God was manifested in the flesh, His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. and takes away the sins of the world, and grants to Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by us His great mercy.*

*death, and first born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great mercy.*

**Apolytikion of St. John the Baptist:** *The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for good, your loving help bring unto us, who are you O Forerunner the witness of the Lord is crying in faith to you. Hasten to intercede and sufficient. You have proved to be truly more speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all venerable than the prophets. Since you were time, Theotokos for those who honor you. granted to baptize in the river, the One Whom they*

**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 11

**Epistle Lesson:** Verse. Sing praises to God; sing praises; sing praises to our King; sing praises. Oh, clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with the voice of rejoicing.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (6:1-10)

Working together with Him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For He says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 25:14-30

The Lord said this parable: "For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.'"

### Memorial Services:

Presbytera Helen Kalamaras (1 year); Fr. Sam Kalamaras; Robert Cale (40 days);  
Angeliki Sodina Krinos Fiser (20 years); John Stefero (56 years)

## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES



### Hope & Joy Souper Bowl of Caring

**TODAY—Sunday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>** 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 TODAY, Sunday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup> 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/>



### JOY Tweens



The JOY Tweens offsite is **Sunday, February 25**, following Divine Liturgy.

All 4th-6th graders and their families are welcome!



Our tweens will be getting outside to enjoy some fun winter activities together at Snowcat Ridge Snow Park!



*Please check your email for more details or contact Maraquet Edquid at 813-422-8963.*



# 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:** **Kickoff Time Today 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!

## MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### **St. John's Bookstore— Book of the Week**

***"Brave, Faithful, and True"***



*"Brave, Faithful, and True", by Katherine Bolger Hyde, retells the stories of twelve Biblical children (6 Old Testament and 6*

*New Testament) from their own point of view. These stories of encounters with God can impact the lives of our own children.*

### **Young at Heart February Gathering**



**Theme: "Love Is"**

Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> – 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 Today

For reservations see Presvytera Denise -  
[denises54@hotmail.com](mailto: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

### ***Love thy Neighbor through our Monthly Community Outreach***

We have the privilege to help serve the needs of our homeless community in East Tampa on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. We partner with Matthew 25 (a local Charity), Metropolitan Ministries and USF to serve breakfast, provide clothing and medical needs for our guests. ***Our next date(s) are February 17<sup>th</sup>, March 16<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup> & May 18<sup>th</sup>.***

**What to expect:** *A rewarding experience and we welcome new volunteers!*

**To Volunteer:** [ClickHere](#) (Link also below) or scan our QR code to access our Signup Genius - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48A5A62DA3F49-community1/8067245#/>



**Place:** Tampa Hope @ 3704 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.—Tampa East

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

**Questions on Arrival:** Look for Matthew 25 founders, Peggy & Mike Kanter or Greg & Victoria Melton, our dedicated parishioners that organize this ministry. They can help answer any questions or if you need direction when you arrive.

**You may also call Greg directly at 813-967-2074.**

*‘Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men’  
Colossians 3:23*

## MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

*Today's Coffee Hour is Sponsored by Philoptochos-Souper Bowl of Caring*

#### FEBRUARY 18

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

#### FEBRUARY 25

Choir

#### ***Wear Red for Healthy Hearts—Sunday, February 11-***

*TODAY, 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. Come and 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!*

#### ***HOPE & JOY Souper Bowl of Caring—Sunday, February 11—***

*TODAY, Sunday, February 11, Visit our table TODAY, Sunday, Feb 11<sup>th</sup> 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.***

#### ***Young at Heart February Gathering—Saturday, February 17—***

*On Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon in the Parish Fellowship Hall, join us for a catered Italian meal. \$15 per person due with your reservation **no later than TODAY.** For reservations see Presvytera Denise—[denises54@hotmail.com](mailto:denises54@hotmail.com).*



# A BIG FAT GREEK THANK YOU!

*To all who generously donated*

*Blood last Sunday!*

*We saved 26 lives*



## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ we welcome 2024 with great joy and appreciation for our loyal Stewards.

**In 2023, our St John's Community gave a total of \$712,000.**

A total of 361 families and individuals contributed a portion of their treasure to help our community reach this record amount of giving. This support allows us to offer a wide variety of ministries and other offerings, while meeting the financial obligations of our church. It is your giving that enables us to sustain our beautiful church, enjoy fellowship, and worship together.

***Thanks again to ALL of our St John's 2023 Stewards.***

Please help us start the New Year meeting our goal to have every parishioner of St. John the Baptist complete a 2024 pledge form before the end of February.

**'Do I need to complete a Pledge Form each year?' – YES!** – per our Bylaws to participate & vote at Parish Assemblies. Additionally, our office retains key information including address, ministry interests and your talents that are needed throughout the year. Putting our pledge in writing helps us think about the sacrifice and commitment.

If you have any questions regarding Stewardship, please contact the Stewardship Committee at 813-748-1220. We happily accept all calls.

We will also have a table setup in the hall today!

## Altar Boy Schedule

### February 11

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

### Captains

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

### February 18

Christos Nenos  
Constantine Ameres  
Zachary George  
Louis Mantzanas  
Gianni Matassini  
Nathan Moran  
Michael Meadows

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

### **February 11**

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



### **February 18**

Sacraments of the 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](mailto: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; Kostadinou 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, Toulou 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 11**

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

Wear RED Sunday

Souper Bowl of Caring

Philoptochos Salad Luncheon

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

**Monday, February 12**

Orthodoxy 101 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, February 13**

Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, February 14**

Choir Practice

**Thursday, February 15**

Adult Greek School 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Saturday, February 17**

Community Outreach

Children's Greek School

Young at Heart

**Sunday, February 18**

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

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

**Tuesday, February 20**

Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.

Parish Council 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

## Religious Education at

### St. John

#### Women's Bible Study

Leader:  
Fr. Stavros

February 13:  
**Tuesday** at 10:00 a.m.

#### Tuesday Night Bible Study

Leader:  
Fr. John

February 13:  
**Tuesday** at 6:30 p.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 LOVE THAT KNOWS NO STRANGERS

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

<b>Parish Council:</b>	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

<b>AHEPA:</b>	Thomas Sakaris, President	201-819-2319
<b>Altar Angels:</b>	Kalliope Chagaris	813-789-4134
<b>Bible Study:</b>	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
<b>Bookstore:</b>	Pres. Denise Stefero	678-464-4833
<b>Choir:</b>	Tara Swartzbaugh, Director	813-313-0439
	Ruth Losoviz, Organist	727-688-2782
<b>College Ministry:</b>	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
<b>Community Outreach:</b>	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
<b>Dance Groups:</b>	H XAPA MAΣ, 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

<b>Daughters of Penelope:</b>	Elena Ketchum	813-229-0144
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	Gary Ward	813-846-3898
<b>Food Pantry:</b>	Sandra Pappas	813-785-3747
<b>GOYA:</b>	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346
<b>Hope/Joy:</b>	George & Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
<b>Joy Tweens</b>	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
<b>Men's Fellowship:</b>	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
<b>Nursing Ministry:</b>	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
<b>Photography Ministry:</b>	Karina Findlay	813-476-9632
<b>Philoptochos:</b>	Katherine Sakkis	813-309-1073
<b>Stewardship:</b>	Chris Kyrus	757-672-1920
	George Mitseas	813-748-1220

<b>Sunday School:</b>	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102
<b>Ushers</b>	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
<b>Veterans/1st Responders</b>	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
<b>Welcoming Ministry:</b>	Maria Xenick	813-765-3587
<b>Women's Bible Study:</b>	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-876-8830
<b>Young Adults</b>	Aris Rogers	813-309-5525
<b>Young at Heart:</b>	Dora Morgan	813-613-3738
<b>Youth Protection:</b>	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855