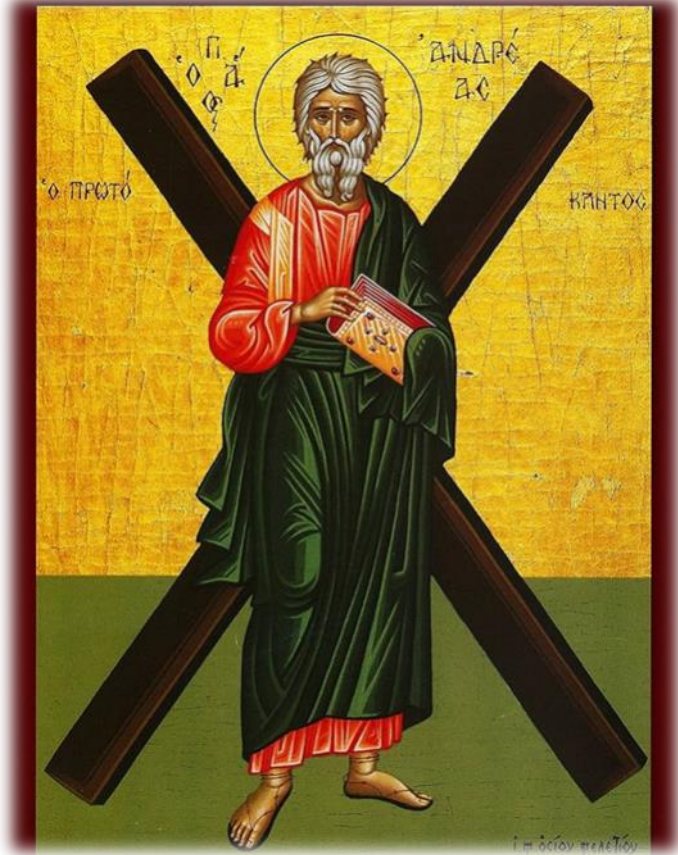


ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~St. Andrew, The first Called – November 30~

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024

14th Sunday Of Luke –
Nahum the Prophet ; Philaret the Merciful of Amnia

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:

*14th Sunday Of Luke—
Nahum the Prophet ; Philaret the Merciful of Amnia*

Apolytikion of the Resurrection:

When the angelic powers appeared at the tomb and soldiers guarding You became as though dead and standing by Your sepulchre was Mary seeking Your pure and sacred Body. For You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the virgin woman bestowing the gift of Life. O You who rose from the dead, Lord, we give glory to You.

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:

On this day, the Virgin Maid goes to the cave to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, O you inhabited earth upon your hearing, Glorify, along with Angels and with shepherds, Him Who willed that He appear as a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.

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, DECEMBER 1

EPISTLE LESSON:

O LORD, SAVE YOUR PEOPLE AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE.

VERSE: TO YOU, O LORD, I HAVE CRIED, O MY GOD.

THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS 2:4-10

Brethren, God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE CHRISTMAS SHOP



Our bookstore is currently featuring a special Christmas Shop where you can find inspiring and unique items for your celebration of the Nativity of

Christ. Included are Icons of the Nativity of our Lord, Christmas cards in both English and Greek, Icon Ornaments, and many other Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers that you just won't find in the shopping malls. Think of us when checking off those names on your gift list. Remember to shop early for the best selection!

CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



Monday, December 16,
Liturgy By Candlelight

Orthros at 5:00 p.m.
Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m.

A memorial will be held at the end of the Divine Liturgy for all those who have passed away in 2024. If you lost a loved one in 2024, there will be a basket that you can place their names in.

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

OFFICE UPDATE

We expect the office situation to last another 1-2 weeks, so thank you for your patience.

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN EASILY MAKE DONATIONS ONLINE?

Simply scan the following QR Code with your phone's camera and select your fund of choice, Stewardship, General, Memorial etc. You can include notes to provide more detail.

Thank you for your Generosity and Support!



DID YOU KNOW:

Our St. John App, has been updated with our own choir's playlist "**O Come Let Us Adore Him**" album. Be sure to download it today to help you get in the Christmas Spirit!



MEMORIAL SERVICE

Marina Simitses Paras (40 days)

YOUNG AT HEART



Join us on Saturday, **December 7th** for the **Young at Heart**

Christmas Gathering

Meet and Greet
11:45 am
Potluck Luncheon
12 Noon

Followed by Gift Exchange and Christmas Caroling

Please bring a wrapped gift with a \$10 value appropriate for either guy or gal.

Contact Presvytera Denise no later than Dec 1st with the number attending and the item you will share for the potluck.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS!

DECEMBER CALENDAR!

12/1 - Christine Scourtes 100th Birthday Party—after divine liturgy—Open to the entire community. Please come and celebrate. Lunch buffet and birthday cake. Sponsored by Philoptochos and the Parish Council. We will be accepting donations to Lighthouse for the blind, that will be given in Christine's name.



12/8 & 12/15 — Christmas Bake Sale—after divine liturgy—spanakopita, tiropita, vasilopita as well as baklava & kourambiethes, will be available for sale Dec 8 and 15th. First come, first serve.



Christmas Meals for Needy — We are partnering with the Sunday School and Joy/Hope to provide Christmas meals to the needy. In particular, Philoptochos is collecting \$15.00 gift cards for turkey. If you want to donate gift cards please give them to Katherine Sakkis. If you would rather donate money, see Katherine or Tina Andre and we will purchase the gift cards for you.



MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Bible Study – Women’s Bible Study with Fr. Stavros will take place on most Tuesdays from 10:00-11:30a.m. either in person (in Father’s office) or zoom. For December the dates are Tuesday December 3, Tuesday December 10 & Tuesday December 17. We will NOT have Bible Study on Tuesday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 31.

Tuesday night Bible study with Fr. John will continue meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Zaharias Room. Join us in person or via zoom for some very informative, lively and interactive discussions on how we apply Biblical principles in our everyday lives. For December, the dates are Tuesday December 10 & Tuesday December 17. We will NOT have Bible Study on Tuesday December 3, Tuesday December 24 and Tuesday December 31.

GOYA – The GOYA Meeting for December will be Sunday, December 8 from 5:00-7:30p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner, as always, will be provided.

Food Pantry Update – We appreciate your ongoing contributions to our Food Pantry! We are gathering items to prepare ‘Snack Bags’ for the residents of Tampa Hope. We are asking for the following to fill these bags; individual apple sauce/fruit cups, small packs of tissue packs/wipes, Canned Meat & Fruit (with easy pull access), Bars – Granola/Protein. We welcome donations anytime and have a dedicated drop-off, to the left, inside the church hall entrance. If you know of someone in need or wish to take a bag of groceries to go, we can make that happen! Please call or text Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747.

Diving for the Cross at Epiphany- Attention all young men ages 16-18 (if you will be 16-18 on January 6, 2025) – you are eligible to dive for the cross at the Epiphany celebration in Tarpon Springs. Applications are due on December 10 at 5:00 p.m. No exceptions. There are several requirements that need to be fulfilled in order to participate. If you are interested in diving for the cross, please visit <https://stnicholastarpon.org/diverapp> for more information and to apply.

MY WORD 2025 -For the past four years, we’ve encouraged parishioners to identify one word that will shape their year. With 2025 now a month away, it’s time to start thinking of the word that will define you in 2025. Towards the end of December, Father will send out a request for individual words to define you for 2025.

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; Kostadinos Booras; Michael I, Anna Maria & Thomas Reilly, Calliope Herman; Delaney & Alexis Johnson; Ron & Linda Ledet; Helen & Mike Mitchell, Elena, Ricky & Michael Gordenina, Tina Chakonas, Felix R., Ivco; Anna, Stavroula, George, Pam, and Liz; Christopher Labatos; Eva Coppalla; Christopher; Christopher; Peter Nenos; Patrick Carroll; Irina, Marina, Yuri, and Christophoros; Ashley Snyder; Evangelos & Caroline Critkas; Christine Alex, June, Lillian Thomas; Scotty; Desi Serriera; Ashley Kladakis; 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, Elias, Anna, Damynos, Anna C., Anthony Welker, John Bella, Michele Blankebaker, Jonah, George Voulgaris, Carol Cretekos and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

VETERANS/1ST RESPONDERS MINISTRY

- Our Veterans/1st Responders Ministry will support the US Marines ‘Toys for Tots’ Program again this year!
- Donations of unwrapped new toys may be dropped off at the Church Hall in the ‘Toys for Tots’ containers. The drive will run from November 10th through December 8th.
- Monetary donations will also be accepted. Checks can be made out to ‘St. John Greek Orthodox Church’ - ‘Toys for Tots’ on the Memo Line.
- Please share your love to help make this a special Christmas for kids!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEMPORARY ROOM ASSIGNMENTS:

Toddler Twos & Pre-K3 - Rm. 100

Pre-K4 - Rm. 204

Kindergarten - Rm. 101

1st Grade - Rm. 104

2nd Grade - Rm. 106

3rd Grade - Rm. 108

4th Grade - Rm. 201

5th Grade - Rm. 205



6th Grade - Rm. 207

7th-8th Grade - Rm. 208

High School Girls - Rm. 213

High School Boys - Media Center

If you do not receive our weekly Sunday School Constant Contact every Friday afternoon, please email **Vickie Peckham** at vickiepeckham@gmail.com to let her know.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

ORTHROS 8:45A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.

(ALTAR BOYS TODAY—ST. MARK)

CHRISTINE SCOURTES 100 YEARS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

ST. PORPHYRIOS

ORTHROS 9:00A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:00A.M.

NO BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. JOHN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

ST. BARBARA

ORTHROS 9:00A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.
7:15P.M.

CHOIR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

ST. NICHOLAS

ORTHROS 9:00A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

ADULT GREEK SCHOOL

YOUNG AT HEART

11:30A.M.

CHILDREN'S GREEK SCHOOL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

ORTHROS 8:45A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.

(ALTAR BOYS —ST. LUKE)

PHILOTOCHOS BAKE SALE

DOP-YIAYIA TABLE

GOYA

5:00 P.M.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

Women's Bible Study

Leader: Fr. Stavros

December 3: Tuesday at 10:00am

Tuesday Night Bible Study

Leader: Fr. John

December 3: **NO Bible Study**

Hope & Joy Fall Food Drive

Sun, Nov 3rd- Sun, Dec 15th

"HOPE starts with a MEAL. HOPE starts with YOU!"

Metropolitan Ministries helps 50,000+ families in need for Thanksgiving and Christmas and this year they need our help more than ever after hurricanes.

Please join St. John's Hope & Joy children's ministry in providing a meal to families in need through Metropolitan Ministries. Make this your family project and help us put together Boxes of Hope filled with the items needed for a Christmas holiday dinner. There are many ways you can help provide a Box of Hope:

- Shop for any of the items below and bring to church **Sun, Nov 3rd- Sun, Dec 15th.**
- Donate \$25 or more (cash/ check/ gift card) for a Box of Hope- **Checks payable to Metropolitan Ministries**

A BOX OF HOPE contains

Gift certificate for a turkey or ham	2 cans of black beans
1 box of cereal (hot or cold)	2 cans of cranberry sauce
2 cans of fruit	1 bag of dried beans
1 jar of peanut butter	1 box or bag of rice
2 cans of vegetables	1 can or packet of gravy
2 cans of yams	1 box dessert mix
1 bag or box of stuffing	1 bag cookie mix
1 box of potatoes	1 family box of Jell-O/ Pudding

BOLD items are Most Needed Items

Only non-perishable food donations please. Call Zackie Ameres at 813-245-3813 or email at zackiee@yahoo.com with any questions. Thank you!

"He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will reward him for what he has done." Proverbs 19:17



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 unawares*.

PARISH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



PAP provides free and confidential counseling services when life's challenges become overwhelming. The PAP utilizes a network of faith-based providers that are sensitive to the values and beliefs of those they serve and provides compassionate care to children, adults, parents, and seniors. Parishioners can confidentially contact BayCare directly to request up to three free counseling sessions by a licensed mental health professional. BayCare helpline, 800-878-5470, is answered **24/7 by mental health professionals.**

GOYA CHRISTMAS CARD

Our GOYA will be doing their annual parish Christmas card. Donation is \$25. You can reserve your space after church on Sunday, **December 1;** and Sunday, **December 8.**

In our effort to support efforts for improved mental health, our parish is proud to support the 988 suicide hotline. Spread the word and you might help save a life!



Parish Priest:	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (frstav@gmail.com)	813-394-1038
Retired Priest in Residence:	Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830
Retired Priest in Residence:	Rev. Fr. John Stefero (jwstefero50@hotmail.com)	678-637-4425
Ministry Coordinator/Chanter:	Maria Xenick (Mariapxenick@stjohntpa.org)	813-765-3587
Bookkeeper:	Debbie Bowe (debbie!@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830
Administrative Assistant :	Elli Kehagias (office@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830
Parish Council:	Euripides Panos, President	813-352-3972
	John Zelatis, Vice President	813-727-2271
	Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary	813-760-6289
	Alexis Scarfogliero, Treasurer	813-892-1599
	George Ameres	941-720-3494
	Peggy George	813-727-5587
	Peter George	781-910-9971
	Amin Hanhan	813-846-2957
	Tony Magos	813-957-3206
	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855
	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
AHEPA:	James Sakaris	301-529-8857
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
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
Daughters of Penelope:	Ouranía Stephanides	813-546-4711
Festival:	Mike Xenick	813-340-8737
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