

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR~

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

*Ecclesiastical New Year–  
Symeon the Stylite; Synaxis of the Recovery of the Icon  
of the Most Holy Theotokos of Miasenae*

**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:**

*Ecclesiastical New Year—*

*Symeon the Stylite; Synaxis of the Recovery of the Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos of Miasenae*

**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.*

**Apolytikion of the New Ecclesiastical Year:**

*O Creator of all the universe, Who have placed times and seasons under Your own authority; Bless, O Lord, the crown of this year of Your kindness, keep in peace Your leaders and Your city; by the intercessions of the Theotokos, O only true friend of man.*

**Apolytikion of Panagia:** *Rejoice, O Full of Grace, Virgin Theotokos, refuge and protection of the human race; for from you was incarnate all the world's Redeemer; only you alone are Mother and also Virgin, forever being blessed, and truly glorified. Intercede with Christ our God, His peace to grant to the world's habitations.*

**Apolytikion of St. Symeon:** *You became a pillar of patience, O devout one, emulating the forefathers, Job in his sufferings and Joseph in his temptations,*

*and the manner of the bodiless, though you were still in body. O devout father Symeon, intercede with Christ God, to save our souls.*

**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 the Maker and Lord of the ages, the God of all and truly super-substantial; Give Your blessing to the year's period, saving O Compassionate, through Your endless mercy, all those who worship You, as the only true Master, and to You, the Redeemer, cry in awe: Richly abundant, grant the year to all.*

**Communion Hymn:** *Ev-lo-gi-son ton ste-fa-non tou e-ni-af-tou tis chri-sto-ti-tos Sou, Ky-ri-e. Alleluia.*

*Bless the crown of the year, O Lord, with Your goodness. Alleluia.*

**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, SEPTEMBER 1

### EPISTLE LESSON:

*Verse: Great is our Lord, and great is his power.  
Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.*

### THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO TIMOTHY 2:1-7

*Timothy, my son, first of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way. This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony to which was borne at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.*

### GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 4:16-22

*At that time, Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the sabbath day. And he stood up to read; and there was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke well of him, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth.*

### **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, Toula 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.





# MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

## UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by Nursing Ministry / Greek School / Youth Protection

September 8  
Parish Council

September 15  
Philotochos

### 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 ENTERED AND *angels in disguise*.

## SAVE THE DATE – NOV 1-2, 2024



We are **60 Days** away from our Opa Kickoff Weekend! Planning is underway but help is needed in many areas. If you like working with children, love to see kids having fun and wish to help your church, please consider leading our Kid's Area! Setup for the area is being handled and we will provide support and training. We simply need 'a dedicated person' to oversee the area (with the help of volunteers) for our short festival weekend! Stay tuned for our details on our next meeting, the volunteer sign-up and baking/cooking days.

Please contact Mike Xenick at 813-340-8737, [mxenick@gmail.com](mailto:mxenick@gmail.com)

### YOUNG AT HEART SEPTEMBER GATHERING



Learn more about:

*The Feast of the  
Elevation of the  
Venerable and Life  
Giving Cross*

Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>

Gather - 11:45 am  
Lunch - Noon

Enjoy a catered lunch  
featuring Roast Chicken,  
Sides, Salad and Dessert.  
(Cost \$10 per person.)

See Presvytera Denise for  
reservations no later than  
September 1<sup>st</sup>.

### ADULT GREEK SCHOOL



St. John Greek  
Orthodox

**Church Adult Greek School**  
Want to Learn Modern Greek?  
Teacher born, raised, and  
educated in Greece with 25 years  
of experience teaching the Greek  
language. Adult classes for  
beginners taught @ St. John  
Greek Orthodox Church (2418 W.  
Swann Ave, Tampa, FL 33609).  
Classes are held at 12:30-3:00pm  
on Saturday afternoon, starting  
on September 14, 2024. This will  
be the first of three sessions, with  
each session lasting three  
months.

Price per session is \$125 for  
church members and \$150 for  
non-members.

Contact Ms. Magdalini Myer: at  
(813) 523-5771, [aspis69@aol.com](mailto:aspis69@aol.com)  
or the church office at  
(813) 876-8830

- Speak Greek
- Read Greek
- Write Greek
- Basic Grammar & more.
- Some Greek History
- BOOK INCLUDED IN PRICE

### COLLEGE STUDENT OUTREACH

Kathy Kaburis is once again leading our college Student Outreach Ministry. We want to connect with our college students who are in school away from home as well as those students who attending college here at one of our local schools in Tampa from other areas around the country who are new to our St. John community.

**TO OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS**— Please join our mailing list to stay connected! Please send your name, current email, mailing address and phone number so you can be placed on our list!

**TO OUR COLLEGE PARENTS**— Please confirm with your student that we have their contact information! You can send your information to **Kathy at** [kkaburis2000@yahoo.com](mailto:kkaburis2000@yahoo.com) and or (813)240-6513

## MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### Bible Study

**Tuesday morning Bible Study with Fr. Stavros** will resume September 10th at 10:00am, we will be studying I Corinthians.

**Tuesday night Bible study with Fr. John** will continue meeting at 6:30 p.m. on most Tuesday evenings. 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 **September**, the dates are; **Tuesday September 10, Tuesday September 17 and Tuesday September 24**. There will be **NO BIBLE STUDY** on Tuesday September 3.

### Food Pantry Update

We appreciate the ongoing contributions to our Food Pantry! Today we are preparing 'Snack Bags' for residents of Tampa Hope after liturgy and welcome helping hands. Look for information about the charities we support including Tampa Hope, Metropolitan Ministries and Matthew 25. 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

### Panigyri Dancers—Greetings! Opa!

The adult Greek dance group Panigyri will begin dance practices **Wednesday July 10th 7pm** in the church hall for our Greek festioal performances. We will continue every Wednesday night **EXCEPT for the dates of 8/14/24 and 9/11/24**. We will not have dance practices those nights.

The **Greek Festival dates are November 1st and 2nd**. Please look for any further updates in the Messenger or weekly Bulletins. Any questions pls contact **Alex DeMaio 813 340 9668** or email [Alexandra.DeMaio@libertymutual.com](mailto:Alexandra.DeMaio@libertymutual.com).

**Children's Greek School**— We are excited to inform you all that the School of Greek Language and Culture of Tampa will start again on **Saturday, September 7th**. The lessons will take place at the building of Bridgeprep Charter School (behind Saint John's Church) **every Saturday from 1:00 - 3:00 pm**. Our school will have classes from K-8th Grade. Registrations will start at School on Saturday, September 7th at 12:00 pm.

**Information: Ioannis Giavaras [igiavaras@gmail.com](mailto:igiavaras@gmail.com) Tel. 718 419 4413**

### Dance Practices will be starting again in preparation for our Greek Festival

Greek dance practices for Y Hara Mas (3rd-6th grades) start on September 15 at 12:15pm in the Kourmoulis Center (during coffee hour). Practices will continue every Sunday from 12:15 to 12:45pm for the whole October until our Greek Festival on November 1-2, 2024. Please contact **Maraquet Edquid (813-422-8963)** with any questions. OPA!

**GOYA St. Pete Volleyball Tournament**— Our GOYAns will be participating in the volleyball tournament sponsored by St. Stephanos Greek Orthodox Church in St. Pete on September 7.

**GOYA**— The GOYA Meeting for September will be Sunday, September 15, from 5:00pm-7:30pm.

Dinner, as always, will be provided.

**Senior Lock-In** On September 21, we will be having our "Senior Lock-in" for GOYAns in 10-12th grade. This event will begin at 5:00 p.m.

### Kitchen (plus) Tidy/Organize Day – Wednesday September 25th, at 10am!

Thank you to the many helping hands that assisted this past Wednesday. Please mark your calendars for next month to join our dedicated volunteers. We meet on the last Wednesday of each Month and target areas of need which may include the Kitchen, Storage areas or other. We start at 10am and work a few hours. Many helping hands make for light work. Please call or text Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747.

### JOY Tweens Group

Our first JOY Tweens meeting will be on Sunday, September 29, from 12:15-2:00 p.m. We will have lunch, play some games, and have a discus-sion with Fr. Stavros. Maraquet Edquid is in charge of this ministry and her number is 813 -422-8963. This group is open to all 4-6th graders.

## ALTAR BOY SCHEDULE

### SEPTEMBER 1

Anyone attending may serve

### CAPTAINS

Nicholas Akrotirianakis  
Nicholas Magos  
Nicholas Carter  
George Xenick  
PJ Zelatis  
Leo Lenardos

### SEPTEMBER 8

Teddy Kafentaris  
Andreas Stefanou  
Kris Christopher  
Vasilios Panos  
Andrew Fellios  
Theodore Edquid  
Demetri Roussos  
Nathaniel Molina

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

### September 1

No Class



### September 8

Prayer  
CLASS PHOTOS for  
-Toddler 2's, 5th and 6th Grade

*If you do not receive our weekly Sunday School Constant Contact every Friday afternoon, please e-mail Vickie Peckham at [vickiepeckham@gmail.com](mailto:vickiepeckham@gmail.com) to let her know.*

## UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

<b>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1</b>	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.
<b>MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2</b>	LABOR DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)	
<b>TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3</b>	PARISH COUNCIL	6:30P.M.
<b>WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4</b>	GREEK DANCE CHOIR	7:00P.M. 7:15P.M.
<b>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5</b>	PHILOTOCHOS BOARD MEETING( ZOOM)	7:00P.M.
<b>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7</b>	CHILDREN'S GREEK SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT ST. PETE YOUNG AT HEART	1:00P.M. -3:00P.M.
<b>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8</b>	ORTHROS 8:45A.M.	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

### Women's Bible Study

Leader: Fr. Stavros  
Resumes on September 10

### Tuesday Night Bible Study

Leader: Fr. John  
September 3: **NO BIBLE STUDY**

## Stewardship Update

*Your Stewardship/Gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure is the foundation of our beautiful church. Allowing us to keep our doors open, worship and enjoy fellowship together through a wide variety of ministries and other offerings. We recently mailed Mid-Year Stewardship Updates and kindly remind you to review your pledge for 2024. If you have not pledged, or made a commitment, it is not too late! Pledge forms are available in the Narthex and Online at [stjohntpa.org](http://stjohntpa.org). We have many upcoming general assembly meetings. To participate in these meetings and have your voice heard, please ensure you're up to date on your Stewardship commitment 30 days prior to the date of each meeting. Contributions can be made online for convenience. For any questions, please call or text **George Mitseas at 813-748-1220.***



**ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE —  
BOOK OF THE WEEK**

***"Habitation of Holiness" — Selections from the  
Writing of St. Nektarios***

*An English translation of selected writings of St. Nektarios with subjects ranging from "The Privilege of Loving and Worshiping God" to "The Nature and Mission of the Church" and "The Relation of True Freedom with Moral Freedom".*

*See this and other titles in our bookstore today!*

**PHILOPTOCHOS**

*Special Thanks to everyone who baked and helped with our **Fanouropita Sale** and all those who generously donated! We raised **\$500** for the Metropolis Youth Programs thanks to committee chair **Jeanie Nenos**. Thank you!!!*

**ORTHODOXY 101**

*Fr. Stavros offers this class two times per year, in the spring and in the fall. This will be a Four-week course of study on Monday nights to make people aware of the basics of being an Orthodox Christian. The classes will be part lecture, part discussion, with lots of time for questions and answers.*

**Who should attend the  
Orthodoxy 101 class?**

- 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 course in the basics of Orthodoxy is encouraged to attend.*



**The four sessions will be done as follows:**

**Monday, September 9** A Tour of the Orthodox Church: What we see in the Church and what it means

**Monday, September 16** Orthodox Spirituality—Introduction to the Sacraments

**Monday, September 23** The Divine Liturgy—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.

**Monday, September 30** Orthodox Traditions—fasting, icons, prayer, and separating Theology from "viology." Classes will be held on these three Mondays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and will be held in the CHURCH Sanctuary.

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

**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:**

*Your items miss you! Please check out the Lost & Found Cart (by the refrigerator) in the Church Kitchen. Our Kitchen Tidy Team works hard to keep things clean and organized, as we find random or miscellaneous items, they make their way to the Lost and Found!*

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (frstav@gmail.com)	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 (jwstefero50@hotmail.com)	678-637-4425
<b>Ministry Coordinator/Chanter:</b>	Maria Xenick (Mariapxenick@stjohntpa.org)	813-765-3587
<b>Bookkeeper:</b>	Debbie Bowe (debbie!@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830
<b>Administrative Assistant :</b>	Elli Kehagias (office@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830
<b>Parish Council:</b>	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
	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855
	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
<b>AHEPA:</b>	Vasil(Bill) Zaferos	414-737-9103
<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>Community Outreach:</b>	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
<b>Dance Groups:</b>	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
<b>Daughters of Penelope:</b>	Ourania Stephanides	813-546-4711
<b>Festival:</b>	Mike Xenick	813-340-8737
<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