

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~ Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – Wednesday, August 6~

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2025

8th Sunday of Matthew; Isaacius, Dalmatus, & Faustus, Ascetics of the Dalmation Monastery; Salome the Holy Myrrhbearer

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)

Fr. John Stefero (Associate Priest)

Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (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:

*8th Sunday of Matthew; Isaacius, Dalmatus, & Faustus, Ascetics of the Dalmation Monastery;
Salome the Holy Myrrhbearer*

Resurrectional Apolytikion:

Lord by Your sacred cross You abolished death, and granted to the thief blessed paradise. The myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy; the apostles did preach the good news at Your command that You are risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.

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:

Upon the Mount, You were Transfigured and Your Disciples beheld Your Glory, as far as they were able to, O Christ our God; so that when they would see You crucified, they would know that You suffered willingly; and thus proclaim to all the world: that You are truly the One who is the Father's Radiance.

Communion Hymn:

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. 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:

1. Choir
2. Altar boys
3. Parents with recently Baptized children
4. Then the rest of the congregation (side areas then the main section).

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

The Lord will give strength to his people.

Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 1:10-17

Brethren, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispos and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 14:14-22

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and He had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to Him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to Him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And He said, "Bring them here to me." Then He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish He looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then He made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds.

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Available for someone to host

August 10

Available for someone to host

August 17

Available for someone to host

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!



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.**

*Save the date to donate blood! The Big Red Bus is coming on **August 24** after Divine Liturgy for blood donations. Anyone 18 years or older can donate and save lives! Please consider donating.*



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 *angels in a wave*

YOUNG AT HEART

Join us on Friday, August 15th for the Commemoration of The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary

Orthros - 9am
Divine Liturgy - 10am

Potluck Brunch/Lunch to follow
Bagels and spreads provided

Contact Presvytera Denise if you plan to attend and to specify the item you will provide for our meal
(Fasting restrictions for the day apply- meatless, dairy allowed)



ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE

The Theotokos and Ever- Virgin Mary is eternally present at the throne of God interceding for mankind. Knowing this, we pray for her love, guidance, and protection. Every year the Orthodox Church sets aside the first fourteen days of August for the Dormition Fast in her honor. The fast period is culminated on **August 15th** when the Church gathers to celebrate the Feast of the Dormition (Falling Asleep of the Theotokos). In commemoration of this Great Feast, throughout August our bookstore will offer many items honoring the Theotokos – Icons, Akathist and Prayer books, jewelry etc. Stop in. We are open every Sunday following Divine Liturgy.

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Tuesday morning Bible Study with Fr. Stavros will be on hiatus for the summer. It will resume on September 9.

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 August the dates are: Tuesday August 5, Tuesday August 12, Tuesday August 19 & Tuesday August 26.**

TWO Meetings of Ministry Heads in August—There will be two meetings of Ministry Heads during the month of August, one on Zoom and one in person. The first meeting will be on Monday, August 4 at 7:30pm. This will be a single subject meeting. This meeting will be held via Zoom, so that we can look at the calendar on a shared screen. If you have specific calendar dates, please send those ahead of time to Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com. The second meeting will be on Monday, August 25 at 6:30pm. This one will be in person, so we can discuss ministry issues for the fall. Each ministry is asked to have at least one representative present at each respective meeting.

Prayers for School and College students—All school students and teachers (high school and below) are invited to participate in a special prayer that will be held at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on August 10, prior to the beginning of the public school year. Fr. Stavros will offer a special prayer for all of our students and teachers as they begin the new school year. All college students and professors are invited to celebrate the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 3 with us. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Fr. Stavros will offer a prayer for all college students as they begin a new school year.

Kitchen (Plus) Tidy & Organize Day —Deeply grateful to our dedicated team that showed up and made a difference this past week! Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 27 at 10:00 AM, the next opportunity to help clean, organize, and refresh our Community Kitchen and other areas that need attention. With our many events your help will make a big difference in keeping things running smoothly. For more info or to volunteer, call or text Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747.

Food Pantry Update—We appreciate the ongoing donations to our Food Pantry. We filled 10 boxes for distribution to Metropolitan Ministries and have provided donations to many within our parish. We completed an inventory/ cleanup this past week and recognized a need for the following - Jelly, Mac & Cheese, easy 'Grab & Go' items, Bars, Cans with pull tops, single serving items etc. If you or someone you know is in need—or if you'd like to take a bag of groceries to share—we're here to help. Please call or text Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747.

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Athena Felley, Melissa Romero, Sandra Reyes, Miltiadis, Kostadinos Booras; Michael I, 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, 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, Tina, Bob, Bonnie, Pelagia & family, Michael Spithoyanis, Maggie Trakas, Marcelle Triantafyllou, Mary Speegle and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS



**No Sunday School
Have a great summer!**



If you do not receive our **weekly Sunday School Constant Contact** every Friday afternoon, please email Zackie Ameres at zackiee@yahoo.com to let her know.

We look forward to welcoming back our students to Sunday School on **Sunday, Aug 18th.**
Online registration is now open using this Google Form: [2025 2026 Sunday School Registration - Google Forms](#)

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, August 3	Orthros Divine Liturgy	8:45a.m. 10:00a.m.
Monday, August 4	Paraklesis Meeting of Ministry Heads (Zoom)	6:00p.m. 7:30p.m.
Tuesday, August 5	Bible Study with Fr. John	6:30p.m.
Wednesday, August 6	<u>TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR SAVIOR</u> Orthros Divine Liturgy Paraklesis	9:00a.m. 10:00a.m. 6:00p.m.
Friday, August 9	Paraklesis	6:00p.m.
Sunday, August 10	Orthros Divine Liturgy	8:45a.m. 10:00a.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

Women's Bible Study
Leader: Fr. Stavros
NO Bible Study

Tuesday Night Bible Study
Leader: Fr. John
Tuesday, August 5 at 6:30pm.

VISITATION MINISTRY

*The **Philoptochos** encourages parishioners to visit our homebound seniors from St. John's. If you are interested in visiting and/or know of one of our seniors who would like some company, please e-mail Vickie Peckham at vickiepeckham@gmail.com*



ARISE & BUILD

**Have you made your
commitment?**



**A donation to St. John Arise & Build Capital
Campaign will bring much-needed renovations
to the sanctuary, church grounds and new
Ministry Building. We encourage all
parishioners to give what they can, with a goal
of 100% participation!**

www.ariseandbuild.com

Parish Priest:	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (frstav@gmail.com)	813-394-1038
Associate Priest:	Rev. Fr. John Stefero (jwstefero50@hotmail.com)	678-637-4425
Retired Priest in Residence:	Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830
Ministry Coordinator/Chanter:	Maria Xenick (Mariapxenick@stjohnntpa.org)	813-765-3587
Bookkeeper:	Debbie Bowe (Debbie@stjohnntpa.org)	813-876-8830
Administrative Assistant :	Ellie Kehagias (office@stjohnntpa.org)	813-876-8830
Parish Council:	Parish Council	
	Alexis Scarfogliero, President	813-892-1599
	George Ameres, Vice President	941-720-3494
	Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary	813-760-6289
	George Chagaris, Treasurer	727-420-1920
	John Carter	813-376-9196
	Peggy George	813-727-5587
	Peter George	781-910-9971
	Tony Magos	813-957-3206
	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855
	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
	John Zelatis	813-727-2271
Arise & Build Capital Campaign:	Mike Xenick, Chair	813-340-8737
	Euripides Panos, Vice Chair	813-352-3972
Adult Greek School:	Magda Myer	813-523-5771
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 Losovitz, Organist	727-688-2782
College Outreach:	Kathy Kaburis	813-240-6513
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:	Ourania Stephanides	813-546-4711
Festival:	Mike Xenick	813-340-8737
Finance Committee:	Gary Ward	813-846-3898
Food Pantry:	Sandra Pappas	813-785-3747
Gasparilla Parking:	Fady Hakim	678-294-7732
GOYA:	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346
Greek Festival:	Mike Xenick	813-340-8737
Hope/Joy:	George & Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
Joy Tweens	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
Junior Olympics:	Dwight Forde	727-685-9028
Men's Fellowship:	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
Nursing Ministry:	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
Oratorical Festival:	Peggy Bradshaw	727-244-1374
Photography Ministry:	Karina Findlay	813-476-9632
Philoptochos:	Melissa Krinos	813-716-9975
Stewardship:	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
Sunday School:	Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
12 Disciples:	Theo Panopoulos	248-867-3697
Ushers:	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
Technology:	Mike Wenditz	813-550-3099
Veterans/1st Responders :	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
Website/Social Media/App:	Miguel Piniero Jr	305-632-4871
Welcoming Ministry:	Skip Higdon	813-391-6915
Women's Bible Study:	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
Young Adults:	Aris Rogers	813-309-5525
Young at Heart:	Dora Morgan	813-613-3738
Youth Protection:	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855