

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~STS. COSMAS & DAMIANOS- NOVEMBER 1~

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2024

5th Sunday Of Luke –

*Acepsimas the Bishop, Joseph the Presbyter, & Aeithalas the Deacon, Martyrs of Persia;
George of Neapolis the New Martyr*

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:

5th Sunday Of Luke—

*Acepsimas the Bishop, Joseph the Presbyter, & Aeithalas the Deacon, Martyrs of Persia;
George of Neapolis the New Martyr*

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 the Martyrs:

*Your Martyrs, O Lord, were worthily
awarded by You the crowns of incorruption,
in that they contested for You our immortal
God. Since they possessed Your power, they
defeated the tyrants, dashing the demons'
powerless displays of defiance. O Christ
God, at their fervent entreaties, save our
souls.*

Apolytikion of St. George:

*As the one renowned for setting captives free
and for defending those in poverty, the
physician of the sick and the champion of
emperors, great and victorious Martyr*

*George, intercede with Christ our God,
beseeching Him 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: *A protection of Christians
unshamable, intercessor to our Holy Maker
unwavering, reject not, the prayerful cries of
those who are in sin. Instead, come to us for
you are good, your loving help bring unto
us, who are crying in faith to you. Hasten to
intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a
protection for all time, Theotokos for those
who honor you.*

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, NOVEMBER 3

EPISTLE LESSON:

The Lord is my strength and my song.

Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.

THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 11:31-33; 12:1-9

Brethren, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands. I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven -- whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise --whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows -- and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 16:19-31

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses, and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to them, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.'"

MEMORIAL SERVICE:

- ◇ Panagiotis Papadogeorgis (6 years)
- ◇ Jenny Sotiropoulos (1 year)
- ◇ Sophia Rose (40 days)

PLEASE NOTE:

THE KOURMOLIS CENTER IS **OPEN ONLY FOR OVERFLOW SEATING FOR WORSHIP/BOOKSTORE/BATHROOMS**, WHILE WE HOUSE OUR OFFICES AND DISPLACED ITEMS. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE

AS WE NEGOTIATE THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. OUR OFFICES ARE TEMPORARILY LOCATED IN THE KOURMOLIS CENTER, WHICH HAS RESULTED IN THE CANCELLATION, POSTPONING OR ALTERING OF SEVERAL SCHEDULED MINISTRIES AND MEETINGS. PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES.

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

COFFEE HOUR UPDATE

Coffee hour will be held in the breezeway between the church and the Kourmolis Center temporarily. We expect the office situation to last at least four to six weeks, so thank you for your patience.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Your Stewardship/Gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure provide the foundation of our beautiful church!
Stewardship Pledge forms are available in the Narthex and online at stjohntpa.org (scan the QR below for a direct path). We have an important Parish Assembly meeting scheduled for November 10th. 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. For any questions, please call or text George Mitseas at 813-748-1220

Scan here to access our Online Stewardship Pledge Form



DID YOU KNOW:

St. John has an App for easy access to many valuable resources. This includes the Live Stream Services, Liturgical Text, Bulletins, Monthly Messenger, Online Stewardship Pledge Form, Giving options and more. We will continue to expand the information on our App in the future. Be sure to download it today!



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!

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 unaware.*

HEBREWS 13:2

Hope & Joy
FALL FESTIVAL
LUNCH-GAMES-CRAFTS-FUN
PRE-K - 6TH GRADE WELCOME

11-03-24 12-2P
AFTER SUNDAY SCHOOL!

BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES AND COMFY SHOES FOR OUTDOOR GAMES
OUTDOOR PLAYGROUND SPACE ON CAMPUS
PLEASE RSVP TO ZACKIE 813.245.3313 OR ZACKIE@YAHOO.COM

ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE OPEN - NEW ITEMS IN STOCK NOW!

Many new and different items have been added to our inventory. In addition to our great selection of books, you will find unique styles of incense burners and incense, many new and different jewelry items, new icons, and much more. Stop in today!

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 **November** the dates are **Tuesday November 5, Tuesday November 12 & Tuesday November 19**. We will **NOT** have Bible Study on **Tuesday November 26**.

Tuesday night Bible study with Fr. John will continue meeting at 6:30 p.m. on most Tuesday evenings 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 **November**, the dates are **Monday November 4, Tuesday November 12, Tuesday November 19 & Tuesday, November 26**.

Food Pantry Update

Do you know of a neighbor or friend in need after the recent Hurricanes? We have prepared 'Bags of Groceries' to Go, available today near the bookstore. Please take one and pass along! The First Sunday of each Month is our bigger collection day, but we welcome donations anytime to our dedicated drop-off in the Church Hall Entrance. Now more than ever, in this difficult time, your donations are greatly appreciated! We help support Tampa Hope, Metropolitan Ministries, Matthew 25 and many families in need.

Fr. Stavros will be out of town November 8-9—He will be leaving immediately after Divine Liturgy on November 8. Liturgy will be at 9:00 a.m. that morning. He will be returning late on November 9. Fr. John Stefero will celebrate the Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. Nektarios on November 9.

Men's Group—Our men's group will meet on Sunday, November 10, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Any men of our community are welcome to join us for dinner, discussion. We meet at 5:00 p.m., walk to a local restaurant and get some food, then bring it back to the hall where we eat and have a discussion.

Save the Date—Men's Retreat—Saturday, February 8—Men's Retreat for Orthodox Men of the Tampa Bay area.

Parish Assembly Rescheduled for November 10—The Parish Assembly previously scheduled for Sunday, October 20, will be held on Sunday, November 10 after the Divine Liturgy. Principal items on the agenda include the budget for 2025 and nominations for Parish Council.

JOY Tweens Group—Our next JOY Tweens meeting with Father Stavros will be on Sunday, November 17, from 12:15-1:45p.m. Lunch will be provided. This group is open to all 4-6th graders. Contact Maraquet Edquid at 813-422-8963 for more information. Sign up for text updates for JOY Tweens by texting @783gc6 to 81010 on your mobile phone!

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 Tsaras, 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, NOVEMBER 3	<p>ORTHROS 8:45A.M. <i>(Anyone attending may serve)</i></p> <p>COLLEGE STUDENT LUNCHEON</p> <p>FALL FESTIVAL HOPE/JOY</p>	<p>DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M</p> <p>12:00P.M.</p> <p>12:00P.M</p>
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4	BIBLE STUDY	6:30P.M.
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5	<p>WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY</p> <p>PARAKLESIS</p> <p><i>(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)</i></p>	<p>10:00A.M.</p> <p>6:00P.M.</p>
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6	CHOIR PRACTICE	7:15P.M
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8	<p><u>ARCHANGELS</u></p> <p>ORTHROS 8:00A.M.</p> <p><i>(PLEASE NOTE: EARLIER START TIME)</i></p>	DIVINE LITURGY 9:00A.M
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9	<p><u>ST. NEKTARIOS</u></p> <p>ORTHROS 9:00A.M.</p> <p>YOUNG AT HEART</p> <p>ADULT GREEK SCHOOL</p> <p>CHILDREN'S GREEK SCHOOL</p>	<p>DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M</p> <p>11:30A.M.</p>
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10	<p>ORTHROS 8:30A.M.</p> <p>(ALTAR BOYS —ST. LUKE)</p> <p>VETERAN'S SUNDAY</p> <p>PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING</p>	<p>DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.</p> <p>12:00P.M</p>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

Women's Bible Study

Leader: Fr. Stavros

November 5: Tuesday at 10:00am

Monday Night Bible Study

Leader: Fr. John

November 4: Monday at 6:30pm

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 zackiec@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



YOUNG AT HEART NOVEMBER GATHERING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH



*Feast Day of St. Nektarios
of Pentapolis
Orthros 9 am
Divine Liturgy - 10 am*

*Breakfast Buffet to Follow -
\$10 per person
Presentation on St. Nektarios*

*Please contact Presvytera Denise for
reservations and payment no later than
November 3rd.*

Look forward to seeing you there.

COLLEGE STUDENT OUTREACH - LUNCH TODAY IN MEDIA CENTER

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 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 and or (813)240-6513*

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!



It's Never Too Late

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:	Vasili(Bill) Zaferos	414-737-9103
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:	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
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