

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~PROCESSION OF THE HOLY CROSS~ AUGUST 1

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024

*6th Sunday Of Matthew–
Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus*

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:

*6th Sunday of Matthew—
Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus*

Apolutikion of the Resurrection:

Co-eternal with the Father and Spirit is the Word Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation we the faithful both praise and worship Him. For in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the cross and death did He endure and He raised unto life the dead by His all Glorious Resurrection.

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.*

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 4

EPISTLE LESSON:

*Verse: You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.
Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.*

THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS 12:6-14

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 9:1-8

At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

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 Cretkos 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 Daughters of Penelope & Stewardship

August 11
AHEPA

August 18
Hope & Joy/Joy Tweens

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.*
HEBREWS 13:2

PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO VISIT OUR
HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS FROM ST.
JOHN'S CHURCH

*I was sick and you visited me.
Matthew 25:36*

*As you did it to one of the least
of these my brethren, you did it to me.
Matthew 25:40*

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells us that one of the ways that He will judge our lives is based on visiting the sick. One of the best ways to serve God is by caring for our elderly. A number of our parishioners are homebound, which causes them to miss church and their friends. On behalf of the Philoptochos ministry, we have community-wide ministry of visiting those who are homebound. We would like to invite you to participate in this ministry.

Please e-mail **Vickie Peckham at vickiepeckham@gmail.com** if you would like to be part of this important ministry. This is not meant to be a time-intensive commitment, but rather an opportunity to love our neighbor and make sure that our fellow parishioners are not forgotten.

For God
so loved the world that
he gave his
one and only Son,
that whoever
believes in him
shall not perish
but have
eternal life.
- John 3:16

SAVE THE DATE – NOV 1-2, 2024



Opa ~ Planning is underway ~ Thank you for all who attended our Greek Festival Kickoff Meeting and confirmed your participation and leadership. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday **August 21 at 6:30pm**. We remain with many areas of need, so please stay tuned and consider stepping up to help make our Festival a Success once again!
Please contact **Mike Xenick** at 813-340-8737, mxenick@gmail.com to confirm your interest or share ideas.

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Bible Study

Tuesday morning Bible Study with Fr. Stavros will be on hiatus for the summer. It will resume in late August or September. 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 August, the dates are; Tuesday August 13, Tuesday August 20 & Tuesday August 27.

Food Pantry Update

Thank you for your ongoing contributions to our Food Pantry. We welcome your donations any time and have a dedicated drop-off (left side) of the Church Hall Entrance area. We have targeted the First Sunday of each Month as a bigger collection day. Our greater need currently is for Publix Gift Cards—\$20 Denomination, Canned meat and Canned fruit (prefer with easy open access). We were able to compile 12 boxes of food, from your donations, shared with Metropolitan Ministries & Tampa Hope in the past month and help other individuals!

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.**

Choir Season Starts!

It's the beginning of choir season! As we start up the new year, it's a great time to join. We don't have any major holidays for a while, so you can get in the swing of choir! Our rehearsals are Wednesday evening at **7:15pm**, and we meet on Sunday mornings at **9:15am**. Our first rehearsal will be **August 7th** and our first choir liturgy will be **August 11th**. See you in Choir!

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 5 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 19 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.

YOUTH WORKER TRAINING SEMINAR--

There will be a Youth Worker Training Seminar on Saturday, **August 10 from 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**, at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Tampa for GOYA Advisors, JOY/HOPE Advisors, Sunday School Teachers, older GOYAns (10th-12th Grade), and anyone who works with youth.

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis will lead it, at no cost, to learn more about how to impart the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our youth in ways that are safe, fun and meaningful. Lunch is included.

(Agenda: Learn how to lead an icebreaker, discussion and best practice of working with youth)

RSVP: to Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com by Tuesday, August 6.

Questions: Call Fr. Stavros at 813-394-1038

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 11**, 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 4** with us. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy today, Fr. Stavros will offer an **artoklasia (blessing of loaves)** for all college students and faculty as they begin a new school year.

News from the Church

We are happy to announce that we have a new Ministry Coordinator/Chanter in our church, Maria Xenick!

We wish her a long tenure and kindly ask from everyone to give her a warm welcoming.

Maria can be reached at 813-765-3587 and we will soon be providing her email address as well.

Welcome Maria!

ALTAR BOY SCHEDULE

AUGUST 4

Anyone attending may serve

Captains

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

AUGUST 11

Anyone attending may serve

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS



Sunday School starts on **August 18th!**
Please register your child(ren) in the hall on **August 4th, 11th, or 18th.**

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

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. PRAYER FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.
MONDAY, AUGUST 5	PARAKLESIS MEETING OF MINISTRY HEADS	6:00P.M. 7:30P.M. (ZOOM)
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6	<u>TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR SAVIOR</u>	
	ORTHROS 9:00A.M.	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7	PARAKLESIS GREEK DANCE CHOIR REHEARSAL	6:00P.M. 7:00P.M. 7:15P.M.
FRIDAY, AUGUST 9	PARAKLESIS	6:00P.M.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10	YOUTH WORKER TRAINING	9:30A.M.-4:00P.M.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 11	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. PRAYER FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS PHILOTOCHOS GENERAL MEETING (ZAHARIAS ROOM)	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

August 6: **NO BIBLE STUDY**

WE ARE LIVE

We have switched from LiveStream to Vimeo as the streaming platform for our church services. You can easily access our Live and Recorded Events from the following URL link: <https://stjohntpa.org/live>
This link will be included in the weekly Constant Contact Bulletin Message and is also accessible from our Church Website and SJGOC App. The sermon portion of services will continue to be shared on YouTube as recordings. Happy Streaming!
Please call our Church Office with any questions.



DONATE BLOOD

St. John's Greek Orthodox Church
Sunday, August 4
11:30 AM - 3:00 PM

All donors receive*:

- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **Oneblood Tote Bag**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

Fact: Every two seconds of every day, someone needs blood.



Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use **sponsor code 14583**

ID REQUIRED

*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/details.

Donors
Receive



- PLUS -



- PLUS -



oneblood
Share your power.

Parish Priest:	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
Retired Priest in Residence:	Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830
Retired Priest in Residence:	Rev. Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
Ministry Coordinator/Chanter:	Maria Xenick	813-765-3587
Bookkeeper:	Debbie Bowe	813-876-8830
Administrative Assistant :	Elli Kehagias	813-876-8830
Parish Council:	John Zelatis, President	813-727-2271
	Euripides Panos, Vice President	813-352-3972
	Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary	813-760-6289
	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		
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
College Ministry:	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
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
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 Kyros	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