

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~Sunday Of The Myrrh-Bearing Women – Sunday, May 4~

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025

*Sunday Of the Myrrh-Bearing Women;
Pelagia the Nun-martyr of Tarsus; Hilary the Wonderworker*

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:

*Sunday Of the Myrrh-Bearing Women;
Pelagia the Nun-martyr of Tarsus; Hilary the Wonderworker*

Entrance Hymn: *Bless God in the congregations;
praise the Lord from the fountains of Israel. Save us o
Son of God, who rose from the dead; to Thee we sing:
Alleluia.*

Apolytikion for Holy Pascha: *Chri-stos a-ne-sti ek ne-
kron, tha-na-to tha-na-ton pa-ti-sas, ke tis en tis mni-
ma si, zo-in ha-ri-sa-me-nos.
Christ is risen from the dead. By death, trampling
down upon death and to those in the tombs, He has
granted life.*

Apolytikia of the Myrrh- Bearers

*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.*

*The Noble Joseph, taking down Your most pure Body
from the Tree, wrapped It in clean linen with sweet
spices, and laid It in a new tomb. But You rose on the
third day, O Lord, granting great mercy to the world.*

*The angel stood by the tomb, and cried aloud to the
myrrh-bearing women: myrrh is fitting for the dead,
but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to
corruption. Cry out instead: Christ is risen granting
great mercy to the world.*

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: *Even though You descended into the grave
You destroyed the Power of Hades and You rose as a
Victor, O Christ our God, saying to the myrrh bearing
women: Rejoice! And to Your Apostles granting peace
and to the fallen, You also grant Resurrection.*

Megalinarion:

*The angel cried to her who is full of grace: Rejoice Holy
Virgin and again I say rejoice, for your Son has risen
from the tomb on the third day.
Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, for the glory of the
Lord has arisen over you. Dance now for joy O Zion
and exult. Rejoice and be glad O pure Theotokos at
the Resurrection of your Child.*

Communion Hymn: (Psalm 118:26)

*Receive the Body of Christ and partake ye of Him. He
is an Immortal Fountain. 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, MAY 4

The Lord is my strength and my song.
Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.

THE READING IS FROM ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 6:1-7

In those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "it is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

GOSPEL LESSON: MARK 15:43-47; 16:1-8

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if He were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether He was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that He was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking Him down, wrapped Him in the linen shroud, and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James saw where He was laid.

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, He is not here; see the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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, Toula 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 Triantafullou and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

AHEPA

May 11

Altar Angels and College Ministry

May 18

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.**



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.*

MEMORIAL SERVICE

*Liz Koukoumtzis
(40 days)*

*Despina Kouimanis
(40 days)*

*Georgia Diamantakes
(40 days)*

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

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!



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 PC Room) or zoom. **For May the dates are Tuesday May 6, Tuesday May 13 & Tuesday May 20.**

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 May the dates are Tuesday May 6, Tuesday May 13, Tuesday May 20 & Tuesday May 27.**

Men's Group—Our men's group will meet **today** from 5:00-7:30pm. in the Kourmolis Center. Any men of our community are welcome to join us for dinner, discussion. We meet at 5:00p.m., walk to a local restaurant and get some food, then bring it back to the hall where we eat and have a discussion. Our topic for May will be **"Reflections on our Recent Holy Week Journey"**.

Nursing ministry will hold a blood pressure clinic after the Divine Liturgy **today**. Please come and check your numbers. We will also have some information on Mental Health information and free give aways in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month.

"ORTHODOXY 201 CLASS" TO BEGIN - Father John will conduct a 6-week class beginning **Thursday, May 1st** at 6:30 pm in the Church Hall. This class is intended for Inquirers who are interested in learning more about the Orthodox Faith and for those interested in being received into the Orthodox Church. It will supplement Father Stavros' "Orthodoxy 101 Classes." Please contact the Church Office to sign up for the class. Materials will be provided for the course. The classes for May will be on **Thursday May 1, Thursday May 8, Thursday May 22 & Thursday May 29**. The classes for June will be on **Thursday June 5 & Thursday June 12**. The classes will be from **6:30pm-8:00pm**.

JOY Tweens—**This Friday, May 9, 2024, 6:00pm to 9:00pm**, JOY Tweens will celebrate the end of the school year with a fun activity and discussion with Father Stavros, dinner and a movie! All 4th to 6th graders are welcome! Check your email and text messages for the SignUpGenius! Contact Maraquet Edquid, 813-422-8963, with any questions.

Young Adults- Our young adult group meets once a month for dinner/discussion (and other times for fellowship and service). The meeting for May will be on **Thursday, May 15 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.** in the Kourmolis Center. All young adults, ages 18-40, are invited to participate. The Topic for "Spirituality Throughout the Cycles of Life." Group Members use What's App for communication. Please contact Aris Rogers to be added to our what's app for young adults at 813-309-5525.

SAVE THE DATE...JUNE 5 for BLS/AED TRAINING —Nursing ministry will offer a FREE BLS, basic life support, class and everyone is welcome to attend. You will also learn how to use the AED and potentially save a life. To sign up for the class email Marcelle at Marcelletrianta@gmail.com

GOYA Meeting June 1- No Meeting in May- There will not be a GOYA meeting in May. The June GOYA meeting will be **Sunday, June 1**. We will welcome our new GOYAnS and bid farewell to the graduating ones. We will also be planning for the Junior Olympics. The Junior Olympics deadline is June 2, for all of our GOYAnS who are participating in the Junior Olympics.

Junior Olympics Help Needed- The annual GOYA Sunstate Junior Olympics will be held on **June 7-9**, hosted by our parish. Dwight Forde heads the ministry. We need help from volunteers for the weekend. A constant contact will be sent out to our entire community around May 15 letting you know what help is needed. Please utilize the SignUpGenius connected to this constant contact to volunteer some time that weekend. We need lots of help and you don't need to have a child in GOYA to help out.

Congratulations to our Graduates—If you have a student who is graduating, please email all information to the church office by **Thursday, May 15** so we can include graduates in the June/July issue of The Messenger! Please provide: Name and Picture of the graduate, the institution graduating from, any degree, in the case of a college graduate, and what college the person plans to attend, in the case of the high school graduate.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

May 4
The Ascension



May 11
Pentecost

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, May 4	Orthros Divine Liturgy AHEPA Sunday – Philoptochos Meeting (Elections) Men’s Group	8:45a.m. 10:00a.m. 5:00p.m.
Monday, May 5	<u>ST. IRENE</u> Orthros Divine Liturgy	9:00a.m. 10:00a.m.
Tuesday, May 6	Women’s Bible Study Bible Study	10:00a.m. 6:30p.m.
Wednesday, May 7	Veterans/First Responders NO Choir	6:30p.m.
Thursday, May 8	<u>ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN</u> Orthros Divine Liturgy Orthodoxy 201	9:00a.m. 10:00a.m. 6:30p.m.
Friday, May 9	Joy Tweens	6:00-9:00p.m.
Saturday, May 10	Adult Greek School Children’s Greek School	
Sunday, May 11	<u>MOTHER’S DAY</u> Orthros Divine Liturgy	8:45a.m. 10:00a.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

Women’s Bible Study
Leader: Fr. Stavros
Tuesday, May 6 at 10:00a.m.

Tuesday Night Bible Study
Leader: Fr. John
Tuesday, May 6 at 6:30p.m.

YOUNG AT HEART MINISTRY



*The April gathering for Young at Heart was held on **Saturday, April 26th**. Those attending enjoyed a delicious catered meal followed by a video presentation and discussion on the Icon of the Resurrection - Descent into Hades. Look for details on our **May 17th** event in upcoming bulletins and plan to join us. Young at Heart is a ministry for seniors 55+ but all are welcome!*

AHEPA SUNDAY 2025

Artoklasia on May 4th

The AHEPA Family of Tampa will celebrate National AHEPA Day on May 4th with an Artoklasia service.



The following passage describes the Artoklasia service and its meaning.

Artoklasia Service

The Artoklasia service is held at the end of the Liturgy. Five round loaves of bread are offered by individual faithful (in this case the AHEPA Family of Tampa) as a sign of devotion for personal or family anniversaries such as name days and other occasions (National AHEPA Day). The five loaves are reminiscent of the five loaves that Jesus Christ blessed in the desert by which five thousand of His bearers were fed. The Artoklasia also symbolizes and brings into practice the Agape meals of the very early Christian communities. Then, after the faithful received the Body and Blood of Christ, they would gather in a common meal, thus signifying the brotherly association established between them by their common faith and by their receiving the same sacramental Lord. Also, the Agape meals served as a charitable purpose by providing meals to the poorer from among them. As part of the service the priest prays for the members of the group that has provided the artos.

There will be rows of pews reserved for the AHEPA Family. You are all invited and encouraged to come forward and be seated in this area to be recognized as part of the AHEPA Family. Please join us to participate in this blessing.

ATTENTION - VETERANS/1ST RESPONDERS!

All Veterans and First Responders are invited to our next meeting on Wednesday, **May 7th at 6:30 p.m. in the Church Hall**. We will discuss plans for remembering our veterans on Memorial Day weekend along with updates on ongoing topics. See everyone then!

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@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:	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:	Katherine Sakkis	813-309-1073
Stewardship:	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
Sunday School:	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102
12 Disciples:	Theo Panopoulos	248-867-3697
Ushers:	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
Technology:	Mike Wenditz	813-5503099
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