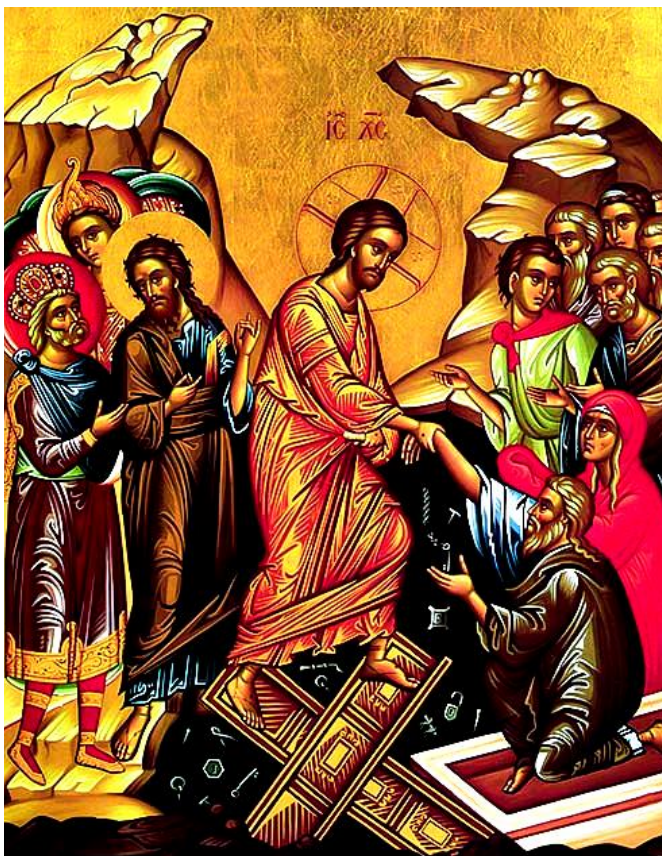


St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

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



Sunday of Great and Holy Pascha

Sunday, May 5

*Sunday of Great and Holy Pascha-
Irene the Great Martyr;
Neophytos, Gaius and Caianus the Monk-martyrs;
The righteous Martyr Ephraim the Younger*

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:

Sunday of Great and Holy Pascha

Irene the Great Martyr; Neophytos, Gaius and Caianus the Monk-martyrs; The righteous Martyr Ephraim the Younger

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 of the Resurrection:

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.

Kontakion: *I ke en ta-fo ka-til-thes a-tha-na-te al-la tou A-dou ka-thi-les tin thi-na-min ke a-ne-stis os ni-ki-tis Chri-ste o The-os yi-ne-xi Mi-ro-fo-ris fthe-xa-me-nos: He-re-te. Ke tis Sis Apo-sto-lis i-ri-nin tho-rou-me-nos o tis pe-sou-si pa-re-hon A-na-sta-sin.*

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.

Trisagion Hymn:

O-si is Chris-ton e-vap-tis-thi-te Chris-ton e-ne-thi-sa-s-the. Alliluia.

All those who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia

Megalarion: *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: *So-ma Chris-tou me-ta-la-ve-te Pi-gis A-tha-na-tou yef-sas-the. Alliluia.*

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 5

Prokeimenon: This is the day which the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Verses: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his mercy endures for ever.

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

Gospel Lesson: John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Divine Liturgy to begin at 10:00am, starting on May 12.

Beginning May 12, Orthros will be at 8:45am and Divine Liturgy will be 10:00am on Sundays. During the week, Orthros will be at 9:00am and Divine Liturgy will be at 10:00am.

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by Parish Council

May 12
Men's Group

May 19
Parish Council

OUR PHILOPTOCHOS CHAPTER NOW 67
MEMBERS STRONG!
BUT WE STILL NEED YOU!!

*See Presvytera Denise in the Bookstore to
complete your membership form.*

*We accept new members continually
throughout the year.*

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



Young At Heart Monastery Visit

*Young at Heart is sponsoring a bus trip to the Panagia
Vlahernon and Annunciation of the Theotokos
Monasteries located near Ocala on Saturday, May
18th. We will visit both monasteries and have lunch at
the women's monastery before heading home. A few
seats still remain. Cost is \$20.*

See Presvytera Denise for more information.



DIAKONIA
RETREAT CENTER

Annual Pascha Picnic

20th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday May 11th

Vespers- 11am / Lunch- 1pm

Fellowship, Food, Music & Dancing

To RSVP call the DRC at 864-732-1537

Volunteers Welcome

Be a Sponsor

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.

The Philoptochos would like to thank the following parishioners who have stepped up to make visitations. They are Fr. Stavros, Pres. Lisa, Fr. John, Pres. Denise, Julie Palios, Jim and Myra Armstrong, Georgia Diamantakes, Cindy Xenick, Vickie Peckham, Lisa Alsina, Kaliope Chagaris, Dora Morgan, Nancy Manikas, Aristotle Pantelis, Ourania Stephanies, Edie Kavouklis, and Elaine Daniels.

Did You Know - Your Stewardship of Time, Talent & Treasure is the foundation of our church. It keeps our doors open and allows each of us to worship in our Beautiful Church. To date we have received 290 Stewardship Pledge Forms we encourage you to send in yours today or fill out online and make your commitment to St. John Greek Orthodox Church.

Thank You for the generous donations of bed sheets and bath towels received from our parish during the 1st Responders/ Veterans & Community Outreach drive in April. Our collections required 2 deliveries to Tampa Hope. Seven collection barrels were packed with donations. Your outreach provided some comfort to 90 folks in need. Thank you and God Bless you!

**"The residents of Tampa Hope
homeless shelter"**

St. John's Bookstore



Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Having risen from the grave, as He foretold,
He has given us Eternal Life and the Great Mercy. (The Resurrection Ode)

With gratitude for your support and with prayers for God's blessings
in this Holy Season of Pascha!

Presvytera Denise, Elaina Stefero , and Diane Trimis

"Your Bookstore Staff"

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Sunday, May 5– The Great and Holy Pascha

There will be the Service of the Resurrection of Christ– Midnight Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom 12:30-2:00 a.m. Following Liturgy, all are invited to a reception in the Kourmolis Center. There will be AGAPE Vespers 11:00 a.m.– noon
Easter Vespers of Love– The Gospel is read in numerous languages to indicate the universal character of the Christian message. Easter Egg Hunt for Children will follow NOON.

Monday, May 6– Bright Monday- Feast of St. George

St. George the “Trophy Bearer” is one of the most famous saints of our church.
George’s feast day is celebrated on the Monday after Pascha when Pascha falls on April 23 or later (when Pascha falls earlier than April 23, we celebrate his feastday on April 23). Thus, this year, we will celebrate his feastday on Bright Monday, May 6.
There will be Orthros 9:00 a.m. & Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, May 8– St. John the Theologian and St. Arsenios

On May 8, we celebrate the feast days of St. John the Theologian, the author of the fourth Gospel, as well as the Epistles of St. John and the book of Revelation, and also celebrate the feast of St. Arsenios, a monk of the 5th Century. There will be Orthros 9:00 a.m. & Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
There will also be Paraklesis Service of Supplication to the Virgin Mary 6:00 pm.

Thursday, May 9– 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 9 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. All young adults, ages 18-40, are invited to participate. The Topic for “Reflecting on the Holy Week Experience.” 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.

Friday, May 10– Life Giving Fountain of the Virgin Mary(Zodochos Peghe)

Friday after Pascha Commemorates the consecration of a Chapel dedicated to the Virgin Mary, which was built over a spring in Constantinople, that emits water with healing powers. Hundreds of miracles and healings have occurred at this spring. This feast day of “Zoōdochos Peghe - Ζωοδόχος Πηγή” the Feast of the Life-Giving Fountain, is always celebrated on the Friday of Bright (Renewal) week, the week after Pascha, May 10, this year. There will be Orthros 9:00 a.m. & Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Sunday May 12– Thomas Sunday / Mother’s Day

The Church brings to our mind the unbelief of Thomas followed by his belief after seeing the scars of Christ. There will be Orthros 8:45 a.m. & Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Monday, May 13– Meeting of Ministry Heads

We will have a meeting of ministry heads on Monday, May 13, in the Kourmolis Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m.. We ask that each ministry send at least one representative. We meet periodically to check in and to look over the next few months in the life of our parish. This meeting in particular will be focusing on introducing our church expansion project.

News from the office

We are happy to introduce Elizabeth (Elli) Kehagias, our new Administrative Assistant for St. John. Please give her a warm welcome if you stop by the church office. Elli’s direct email is office@stjohntpa.org if you have any questions or need information.



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

YOU ARE INVITED TO TOUR OUR ENTIRE CAMPUS

**HONORING OUR PAST
BUILDING FOR OUR FUTURE**

WE ARE THRILLED TO SHARE THE VISION TO :

EXPAND THE CHURCH SANCTUARY

Add more seats, bathrooms, accessibility ramps, Narthex

UPDATE THE KOURMOLIS CENTER

Renovate and remodel the kitchen and bathrooms

REDESIGN THE PARKING AND GROUNDS

Create more parking, prayer garden, updated playground, covered walkway, green spaces

RELOCATE THE OFFICE INTO THE EXISTING SCHOOL
BUILDING/ESTABLISH MINISTRY FACILITIES

Develop Sunday school classrooms, a small hall, meeting rooms, church offices

SUNDAY 5/19/2024

Immediately following Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour will be held in the school library.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to come and see
plans and renderings, as well as walk around our
campus and our facilities, ask questions, offer
suggestions, and most importantly,
envision the possibilities for our parish.

Love to take photos? Come join our Photo Ministry!!!




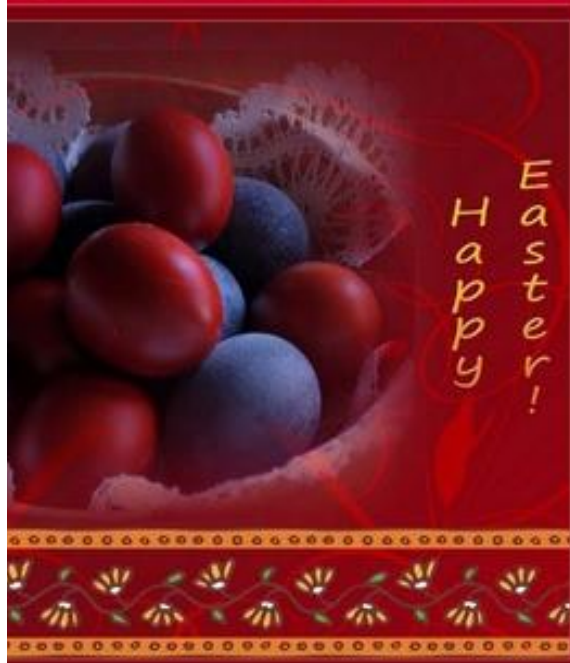
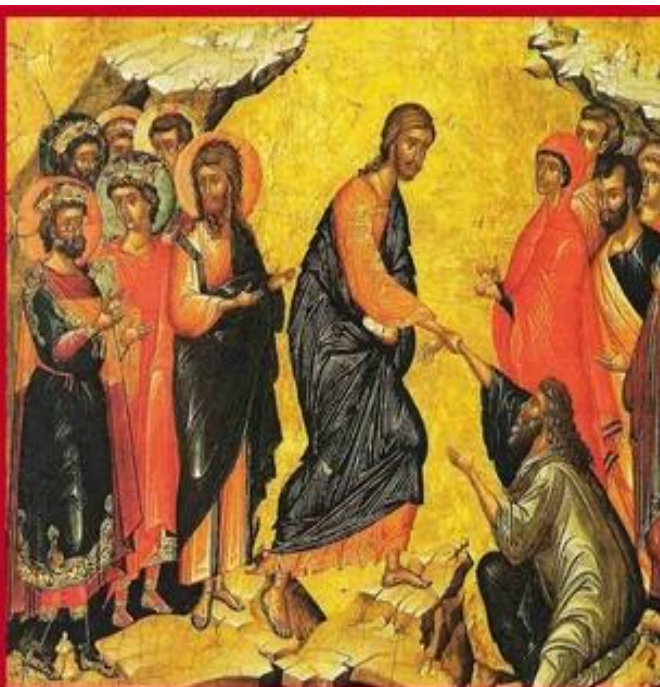
This Lenten Season and Holy Week provides many opportunities to take photos.

It's a fun and creative way to serve and to show the community all the beautiful services and wonderful activities we have here at St. John. **All Abilities are welcome!**

Please call or text Karina Findlay at (813) 476-9632

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; Jim Armstrong, Calliope Herman; Delaney & Alexis Johnson; Ron & Linda Ledet; Helen & Mike Mitchell, Elena, Ricky & Michael Gordenina, Tina Chakonas, Felix R., Ivco; George Joseph; 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; Dora Kallas, 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 and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

Altar Boy Schedule		
<u>May 5</u> For Agape Vespers Anyone attending may serve	<u>Captains</u> Demetri Passalaris Nicholas Akrotirianakis Nicholas Magos Nicholas Carter George Xenick PJ Zelatis	<u>May 12</u> Gabriel Gonzales Michael Galin Philip Kane Kenny Kane Peter Konstas
SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS		
<u>May 5</u> PASCHA– No Sunday School		<u>May 12</u> Saints of the Orthodox Church & Doubting Thomas
If you do not receive our weekly Sunday School Constant Contact every Friday afternoon, please e-mail Vickie Peckham to let her know. E-mail address is vickiepeckham@gmail.com		
Upcoming Services & Events		
Monday, May 6	St. George Orthros 9:00 a.m.	Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, May 7	Women's Bible Study Bible Study	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 8	St. John the Theologian Orthros 9:00 a.m. Choir Practice	Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Friday, May 10	Life– Giving Fountain Orthros 9:00 a.m.	Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, May 12	Mother's Day Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, May 14	Women's Bible Study Bible Study	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
Religious Education at St. John		
<u>Women's Bible Study</u> <i>Leader: Fr. Stavros</i> May 7: Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.		<u>Tuesday Night Bible Study</u> <i>Leader: Fr. John</i> May 7: Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.



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
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
	Mike Xenick, Treasurer	813-340-8737
	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:	Thomas Sakaris, President	201-819-2319
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 MAΣ, 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:	Elena Ketchum	813-229-0144
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