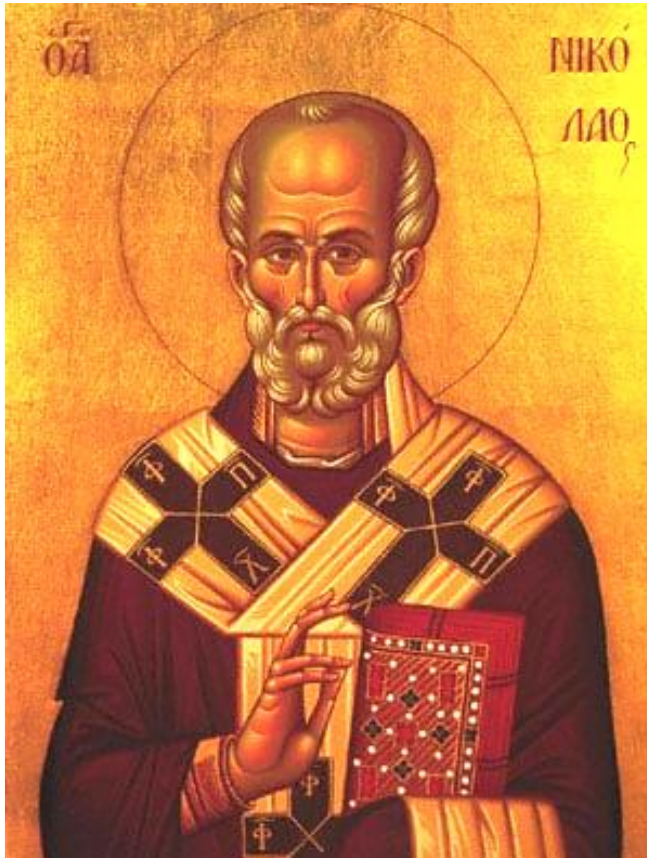


ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra – December 6~

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024

10th Sunday Of Luke —

Forefeast of the Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos ; Patapius the Righteous of Thebes

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:

10th Sunday Of Luke—

Forefeast of the Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos ; Patapius the Righteous

Apolytikion of the Resurrection:

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:

On this day, the Virgin Maid goes to the cave to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, O you inhabited earth upon your hearing, Glorify, along with Angels and with shepherds, Him Who willed that He appear as a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.

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, DECEMBER 8

EPISTLE LESSON:

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 LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS 2:14-22

Brethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE CHRISTMAS SHOP



Our bookstore Christmas Shop is open and going strong. Last week's sales were phenomenal! So happy to see so many of you supporting our ministry here at St. John's. Stop in to the bookstore today where you can find inspiring and unique items for your celebration of the Nativity of Christ. Included are Icons of the Nativity of our Lord, Christmas cards in both English and Greek, Icon Ornaments, and many other Christmas gifts you just won't find in the shopping malls. Think of us when checking off those names on your gift list. Shop early for the best selection!

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

***Your Stewardship/Gifts of Time,
Talent and Treasure is the
foundation of our beautiful
church!***

Please take time this month to renew or begin your commitment as we kick off Stewardship Month. The 2025 Stewardship Pledge forms should be received in the mail this week. Pledge forms are also available in the Narthex and Online at stjohntpa.org. For any questions, please call or text George Mitseas at 813-748-1220

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

OFFICE UPDATE

We expect the office situation to last another week, so thank you for your patience.

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!



DID YOU KNOW???

We have a new Instagram Page!
Feel free to click on the link below and follow us..



[@stjohntpa](#)

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

YOUNG AT HEART



Young at Heart Members enjoyed a wonderful time of food, fun, and fellowship yesterday afternoon. The delicious potluck luncheon was followed by a video presentation on the lives of **Saints Joachim and Anna** – parents of the Most Blessed Theotokos. We had some laughs with a gift exchange game and concluded with the singing of traditional Christmas carols. As the saying goes, "**A Good Time Was Had by All**". Wishing you a blessed Nativity Season!

Your Friends from Young at Heart

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS!

DECEMBER CALENDAR!

- 12/8 & 12/15 —
- **Christmas Bake Sale**—
- after divine liturgy—
- spanakopita, tiropita,
- vasilopita as well as
- baklava &
- kourambietes, will be
- available for sale Dec 8 and 15th.
- First come, first serve.



- **Christmas Meals for Needy** — We are
- partnering with the
- Sunday School and
- Joy/Hope to provide Christmas
- meals to the needy. In particular,
- Philoptochos is collecting \$15.00 gift
- cards for turkey. If you want to
- donate gift cards please give them to
- Katherine Sakkis. If you would
- rather donate money, see Katherine
- or Tina Andre and we will purchase
- the gift cards for you.



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 December the dates are Tuesday December 10 & Tuesday December 17. We will **NOT** have Bible Study on Tuesday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 31.

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 December, the dates are Tuesday December 10 & Tuesday December 17. We will **NOT** have Bible Study on Tuesday December 3, Tuesday December 24 and Tuesday December 31.

GOYA – The GOYA Meeting for December will be **today** from 5:00-7:30p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner, as always, will be provided.

Young Adult Dinner/Discussion-Thursday, December 12 – Our young adult group meets once a month for dinner/discussion (and other times for fellowship and service). The meeting for December will be on Thursday, December 12, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. “We are going to have a “Friendsgiving Celebration” at our meeting, and ask that everyone brings a Lenten dish to share with the group. All young adults, ages 18-40, are invited to participate. We will be having a monthly discussion based on some set topics. The Topic for December is “A Bible Study on the Nativity story”. 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.

Food Pantry Update – We appreciate your ongoing contributions to our Food Pantry! We are gathering items to prepare ‘Snack Bags’ for the residents of Tampa Hope. We are asking for the following to fill these bags; individual apple sauce/fruit cups, small packs of tissue packs/wipes, Canned Meat & Fruit (with easy pull access), Bars – Granola/Protein. We welcome donations anytime and have a dedicated drop-off, to the left, inside the church hall entrance. 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.

Diving for the Cross at Epiphany- Attention all young men ages 16-18 (if you will be 16-18 on January 6, 2025) – you are eligible to dive for the cross at the Epiphany celebration in Tarpon Springs. Applications are due on December 10 at 5:00 p.m. No exceptions. There are several requirements that need to be fulfilled in order to participate. If you are interested in diving for the cross, please visit <https://stnicholastarpon.org/diverapp> for more information and to apply.

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, Evangelina 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



December 8

The Nativity

December 14

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal for students with speaking parts 10:30am
Rehearsal for all students in Pre-K3-6th Grade at 11:15a.m.
Hope & Joy– Sunday School Christmas Party at 12:00p.m.

December 15

Christmas Pageant-
All students in Pre-K3-6th Grade should come to the hall at 10:00am(costumes & practice)

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, DECEMBER 8

ORTHROS 8:45A.M.
(ALTAR BOYS TODAY —ST. LUKE)
PHILOPTOCHOS BAKE SALE
DOP-YIAYIA TABLE
GOYA

DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.

5:00 P.M.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

ST. ANNA
ORTHROS 9:00A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
BIBLE STUDY

10:00A.M.
6:30P.M.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

PARAKLESIS
CHOIR

6:00P.M.
7:15P.M.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

ST. SPYRIDON
ORTHROS 9:00A.M.
YOUNG ADULT DISCUSSION

DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M
7:00P.M.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSAL
ADULT GREEK SCHOOL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

ORTHROS 8:45A.M.
(GOYANS MAY SERVE)
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS
PHILOPTOCHOS BAKE SALE
DOP-YIAYIA TABLE
MEN'S GROUP 5:00 P.M.

DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

Women's Bible Study

Leader: Fr. Stavros
December 10: Tuesday at 10:00am

Tuesday Night Bible Study

Leader: Fr. John
December 10: Tuesday 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



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

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.**

GOYA CHRISTMAS CARD

Our GOYA will be doing their annual parish Christmas card. Donation is \$25. You can reserve your space after church **TODAY.**

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!

988
Suicide Hotline
Try Try Again

AXIOS to His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos, the new Metropolitan of Atlanta!

His Grace Bishop Sevastianos of Zela was elected as the new Metropolitan of Atlanta this past week, replacing Metropolitan Alexios who recently retired. His Eminence has visited our parish many times over the six years he has served as the assistant Bishop in our Metropolis. Going forward, we will be commemorating His Eminence "For our Archbishop Sevastianos" in our divine services. His Eminence will be formally enthroned as the Metropolitan of Atlanta on Saturday, January 25 in Atlanta, and Fr. Stavros will participate representing our parish. We wish His Eminence many years as he begins this new ministry. *Eis Polla Eti, Despota!*





Christmas Candlelight Event

*Monday, December 16,
Liturgy By Candlelight,*

*Orthros at 5:00 p.m.
Divine Liturgy 6:00 p.m.*

*A memorial will be held at the end of the
Divine Liturgy for all those who have passed
away in 2024. If you lost a loved one in 2024,
there will be a basket that you can place their
names in.*



St Johns Pageant Rehearsal and Youth

Christmas Party

Saturday

14
December

Kourmolis
Hall

10:30 am: Speaking Parts Rehearsal

11:15 am: All Participants Rehearsal

12pm: Lunch

12:30 pm: Boxes of Hope Service Project, Crafts & Party

RSVP to Zackie Ameres at 813.245.3813

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE ALCMAEON

#167 TAMPA

Please plan to stop by at **Yiayia's table** in the Kourmolis Hall on **Dec 8, 15 & 22**, after the Divine Liturgy, to explore affordable gift options for family, friends or teachers and décor items for house or office.

All proceeds from this event will support the **Scholarship Fund** for our youth. All items are donated. We are excited by the unique handmade items and new items that have been donated for this event. We have also expanded the offerings and we are including vintage, heirloom, and Greek heritage items.

A small sample of some of the items that are being offered at the YiaYia's table are pictured below:



*Framed 1873 Greek coins
and embellished gift bags*



*Handmade items made
with seashells*



*"Angel Buddies" made
with donated ties*

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:	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 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