

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER -VIRGIN MARY~

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024**

*Sunday before Holy Cross–*

*The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever –Virgin Mary;  
Sophronios, Bishop of Iberia*

**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 before Holy Cross—  
The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary;  
Sophronios, Bishop of Iberia*

**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 Nativity of the  
Virgin Mary :** *Your nativity, O*

*Theotokos, has brought joy to all of the  
earth's habitations; because from you has  
shone forth the Sun of righteousness, Christ  
our God. And having loosened the curse  
from us, He gave the blessing; and He  
abolished the power of death, and bestowed  
upon us, life eternal.*

**Megalinarion:**

*Virginity is a state alien to mothers, and  
childbirth is foreign to those who are  
virgins. But in you, Theotokos, have both of  
these been accomplished. Indeed all  
generations everywhere now call you  
blessed evermore.*

**Communion Hymn:** *Po-ti-ri-on so-ti-ri-  
ou li-pso-me ke to o-no-ma Ki-ri-ou e-pi-ka-  
le-so-me. Allilulia.*

*I will receive the cup, receive the cup of  
salvation, I will receive the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord. 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, SEPTEMBER 8

### EPISTLE LESSON:

*Verse: O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.  
To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.*

### THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GALATIANS 6:11-18

*Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.*

### GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 3:13-17

*The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.*

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."*

### **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 Blankebakker, Jonah, George Voulgaris, Carol Cretokos and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.



## Stewardship Update

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

*Look for a Stewardship Table in the  
Church Hall on Sunday September  
22nd to learn, ask questions or complete  
a Pledge form. Pledge forms are also  
available in the Narthex and Online at  
[stjohntpa.org](http://stjohntpa.org). We have many  
upcoming general assembly meetings.  
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 .*

# MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

## UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

*Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by Parish Council*

September 15  
PHILOPTOCHOS

September 22  
CHOIR

### 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 ENTERAINED *angels in human form*.

## SAVE THE DATE – NOV 1-2, 2024



Our Greek Festival is fast approaching! Look for communications regarding the Volunteer Signup, Baking/Cooking Days and Planning Meetings. We are in need of help and leadership in many Key Areas (Kids, 50/50 Raffle Coordinator, Roving Bar Carts (in Hall), Pre- Festival Ordering working with John Zelatis (a seasoned pro) and Logistics/Runners – We will provide support and training. If you would like to lead, co-lead or otherwise assist in any of these areas, please contact **Sandra Pappas** at [spappas11@gmail.com](mailto:spappas11@gmail.com) or 813.785.3747 or **Mike Xenick** at [mxenick@gmail.com](mailto:mxenick@gmail.com) or 813.340.8737.

### YOUNG AT HEART



A great group of participants gathered for our September Young at Heart activity yesterday. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and then watched a video presentation by which we learned more about The Feast of the Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross. Discussion followed. Our group is growing by leaps and bounds! Join us for our next gathering on **Saturday, October 12th**. More information will follow in future Sunday bulletins.

### ADULT GREEK SCHOOL



St. John Greek Orthodox

**Church Adult Greek School**  
Want to Learn Modern Greek?

Teacher born, raised, and educated in Greece with 25 years of experience teaching the Greek language. Adult classes for beginners taught @ St. John Greek Orthodox Church (2418 W. Swann Ave, Tampa, FL 33609). Classes are held at 12:30-3:00pm on Saturday afternoon, starting on September 14, 2024. This will be the first of three sessions, with each session lasting three months.

Price per session is \$125 for church members and \$150 for non-members.

Contact Ms. Magdalini Myer: at (813) 523-5771, [aspis69@aol.com](mailto:aspis69@aol.com) or the church office at (813) 876-8830

- Speak Greek
- Read Greek
- Write Greek
- Basic Grammar & more.
- Some Greek History
- BOOK INCLUDED IN PRICE

### COLLEGE STUDENT OUTREACH

**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 join our mailing list to stay connected! 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](mailto:kkaburis2000@yahoo.com) and or (813)240-6513

## MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### Bible Study

Tuesday morning Bible Study with Fr. Stavros will resume September 10th at 10:00am, we will be studying I Corinthians. This group meets in the office.

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 September, the dates are; **Tuesday September 10, Tuesday September 17 and Tuesday September 24.**

### Food Pantry Update

Thank YOU ~ your donations provided food for '50 'Snack Bags' prepared for the residents of Tampa Hope. They were quickly distributed and appreciated! Please continue to bring your donations anytime. We have a dedicated drop-off, to the left, inside the church hall entrance. The first Sunday of each month is our BIG Collection Day! Please call or text **Sandra Pappas**, with any questions at 813-785-3747.

### Panigyri Dancers—Greetings! Opa!

The adult Greek dance group Panigyri will begin dance practices **Wednesday July 10th 7pm** in the church hall for our Greek festival performances. We will continue every Wednesday night **EXCEPT for 9/11/24**. We will not have dance practices that night.

The **Greek Festival dates are November 1st and 2nd**. Please look for any further updates in the Messenger or weekly Bulletins. Any questions pls contact **Alex DeMaio 813 340 9668** or email [Alexandra.DeMaio@libertymutual.com](mailto:Alexandra.DeMaio@libertymutual.com).

### Young Adult Dinner/Discussion—Thursday, September 12

Our young adult group meets once a month for dinner/discussion (and other times for fellowship and service).

The meeting for September will be on Thursday, September 12, from 6:30-8:30pm in the Kourmolis Center.

All young adults, ages 18-40, are invited to participate. We will be having a monthly discussion based on some set topics.

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. WE HAD 38 YOUNG ADULTS AT OUR AUGUST DINNER!

Y Hara Mas Greek dance practices for the younger group (K-2nd grade) will begin **Sunday 9/15/24** through **Sunday 10/27/24** (7 Sunday total practices for the festival November 1,2.) Same will be held after Divine Liturgy and during coffee hour in the church hall by the stage. There will be a sign-up sheet.

Contact **Alexandra DeMaio 813 340 9668** or [Alexandra.DeMaio@libertymutual.com](mailto:Alexandra.DeMaio@libertymutual.com) accordingly for any questions. OPA!

### Dance Practices will be starting again in preparation for our Greek Festival

Greek dance practices for Y Hara Mas (3rd-6th grades) **start on September 15 at 12:15pm** in the Kourmoulis Center (during coffee hour). Practices will continue every Sunday from 12:15 to 12:45pm for the whole October until our Greek Festival on November 1-2, 2024. Please contact **Maraquet Edquid (813-422-8963)** with any questions. OPA!

GOYA— The GOYA Meeting for September will be Sunday, **September 15, from 5:00pm-7:30pm**.

Dinner, as always, will be provided.

**Senior Lock-In** On **September 21**, we will be having our "Senior Lock-in" for GOYAns in 10-12th grade. This event will begin at 5:00 p.m.

Veterans/1st Responders meeting will be Thursday, **September 19th at 6:30 pm** in the church hall.

Men's Group—The Men's Group will meet on Sunday, **September 22, at 5:00pm**. We will walk to a nearby restaurant and have dinner and then come back to church for a discussion, concluding by 7:30pm. All men of the community are welcome to participate.

Informal Orthodox Inquirers meeting will be held Tuesdays, **September 10th, 17th, and 24th at 5:00 pm**.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

**September 8**

Prayer  
CLASS PHOTOS for  
-Toddler 2's, 5th and 6th Grade



**September 15**

Sign of the Cross  
9th -12th Boys will stay in Altar

*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

<b>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8</b>	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. <b>(ALTAR BOYS TODAY—ST. LUKE)</b> DANCE- PAREA	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.
<b>MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9</b>	ORTHODOXY 101	6:30P.M.
<b>TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10</b>	WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BIBLE STUDY	10:00A.M. 6:30P.M.
<b>WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11</b>	<b><u>9/11 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE</u></b> ORTHROS 9:00A.M. PARAKLESIS CHOIR	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M. 6:00P.M. 7:15P.M.
<b>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12</b>	YOUNG ADULT DISCUSSION	6:30P.M.
<b>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14</b>	<b><u>HOLY CROSS</u></b> ORTHROS 8:45A.M. ADULT GREEK SCHOOL CHILDREN'S GREEK SCHOOL	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M. 12:30-3:00P.M.
<b>SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15</b>	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. <b>(ALTAR BOYS TODAY—ST. JOHN)</b>	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

**Women's Bible Study**

*Leader: Fr. Stavros*  
September 10: Tuesday at 10:00am

**Tuesday Night Bible Study**

*Leader: Fr. John*  
September 10: Tuesday at 6:30pm

**Basil Needed for Holy Cross Day**



*If you would like to bring some basil for the tray for the procession of the Holy Cross, basil is needed both for **September 14 and September 15**. Please bring it to the kitchen prior to 10:00 a.m. either day. Please do not bring it directly to the altar. Thank you!*

**DID YOU KNOW:**

*Your items miss you! Please check out the Lost & Found Cart (by the refrigerator) in the Church Kitchen. Our Kitchen Tidy Team works hard to keep things clean and organized, as we find random or miscellaneous items, they make their way to the Lost and Found!*

**ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE - BOOKLETS**  
**FROM ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN**  
**KOUTLOUMOUSIOU MONASTERY, MOUNT**  
**ATHOS**



Four new booklets from *The Cell of St. John the Theologian Koutloumousiou Monastery, Mount Athos* are now available in our bookstore - \$5 per copy. Stop in to the bookstore today!

- ◆ *Illness and the Believer*
- ◆ *Be Ready - An Approach to the Mystery of Death*
- ◆ *The Vice of Envy*
- ◆ *Love Your Enemies*

**ORTHODOXY 101**

Fr. Stavros offers this class two times per year, in the spring and in the fall. This will be a Four-week course of study on Monday nights to make people aware of the basics of being an Orthodox Christian. The classes will be part lecture, part discussion, with lots of time for questions and answers.



**Who should attend the Orthodoxy 101 class?**

- Interfaith couples. This will help the non-Orthodox person understand more about what is going on in our church.
- Anyone who is considering joining our church. Going forward, this class will be a requirement for those who wish to join our Orthodox faith.
- New converts to Orthodoxy. For those who recently joined our church and who want to know a little bit more.
- Anyone who wants to know more about the basics of our faith, or who wants a refresher course in the basics of Orthodoxy is encouraged to attend.

**The four sessions will be done as follows:**

**Monday, September 9** A Tour of the Orthodox Church: What we see in the Church and what it means

**Monday, September 16** Orthodox Spirituality—Introduction to the Sacraments

**Monday, September 23** The Divine Liturgy—This will actually be a “teaching” Liturgy on the solea of the church. If you have taken the class, or if you wish to only attend THIS session, please feel free to do so.

**Monday, September 30** Orthodox Traditions—fasting, icons, prayer, and separating Theology from “viavialogy.” Classes will be held on these three Mondays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and will be held in the CHURCH Sanctuary.

Please sign up with Fr. Stavros at [frstav@gmail.com](mailto:frstav@gmail.com), so he has enough materials for everyone. There is no charge for this class.

**WHAT A GREAT START TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR!!!**



Thank you parents for bringing your children to Sunday School every week. Just a reminder: All children ages two through eighteen are invited to attend our program.

1. All children will remain in church through Holy Communion.
2. PLEASE allow the Sunday School Teachers and their students to receive Holy Communion first. PLEASE line up in the center aisle. (Teachers on right and students on the left.)
3. After Communion, all of our 1st– 6th graders will report to the Zaharias Room for our Music Program.
4. Parents of 3RD GRADERS and YOUNGER should pick up their children, from their classrooms, promptly after church.

**Room Assignments:**

\*\*Toddler 2's are in the school admin. building on the right.

(Must be 2 years old by Sept. 1st)

\*\*Pre-K3 classroom is the 1st door on the right after you exit the church. (Must be 3 years old by Sept. 1st)

\*\*Pre-K4 through 3rd grade is on the first floor of the school building. Rooms listed below.

\*\*4th Grade through Middle School is on SECOND FLOOR of the school building. Rooms listed below.

\*\*High School Boys are in the Media Center in the School Building.

\*\*High School Girls are in the Conference Rm. in the Admin. Building.

If you have not registered your child, please do so this Sunday in you child's classroom.

**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!**



<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (frstav@gmail.com)	813-394-1038
<b>Retired Priest in Residence:</b>	Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830
<b>Retired Priest in Residence:</b>	Rev. Fr. John Stefero (jwstefero50@hotmail.com)	678-637-4425
<b>Ministry Coordinator/Chanter:</b>	Maria Xenick (Mariapxenick@stjohntpa.org)	813-765-3587
<b>Bookkeeper:</b>	Debbie Bowe (debbie!@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830
<b>Administrative Assistant :</b>	Elli Kehagias (office@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830
<b>Parish Council:</b>	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
	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855
	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
<b>AHEPA:</b>	Vasil(Bill) Zaferos	414-737-9103
<b>Altar Angels:</b>	Kalliope Chagaris	813-789-4134
<b>Bible Study:</b>	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
<b>Bookstore:</b>	Pres. Denise Stefero	678-464-4833
<b>Choir:</b>	Tara Swartzbaugh, Director	813-313-0439
	Ruth Losoviz, Organist	727-688-2782
<b>Community Outreach:</b>	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
<b>Dance Groups:</b>	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
<b>Daughters of Penelope:</b>	Ourania Stephanides	813-546-4711
<b>Festival:</b>	Mike Xenick	813-340-8737
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	Gary Ward	813-846-3898
<b>Food Pantry:</b>	Sandra Pappas	813-785-3747
<b>GOYA:</b>	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346
<b>Hope/Joy:</b>	George & Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
<b>Joy Tweens</b>	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
<b>Men's Fellowship:</b>	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
<b>Nursing Ministry:</b>	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
<b>Photography Ministry:</b>	Karina Findlay	813-476-9632
<b>Philoptochos:</b>	Katherine Sakkis	813-309-1073
<b>Stewardship:</b>	Chris Kyrus	757-672-1920
	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102
<b>Ushers</b>	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
<b>Veterans/1st Responders</b>	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
<b>Welcoming Ministry:</b>	Maria Xenick	813-765-3587
<b>Women's Bible Study:</b>	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-876-8830
<b>Young Adults</b>	Aris Rogers	813-309-5525
<b>Young at Heart:</b>	Dora Morgan	813-613-3738
<b>Youth Protection:</b>	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855