

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~ Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – Wednesday, August 6~

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025

*9th Sunday of Matthew; Laurence the Holy Martyr & Archdeacon of Rome;
Chitus of Athens, Bishop of Rome; Hippolytus the Martyr of Rome*

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:

9th Sunday of Matthew; Laurence the Holy Martyr & Archdeacon of Rome; Chitus of Athens, Bishop of Rome; Hippolytus the Martyr of Rome

Second Antiphon: *Save us o Son of God, who was Transfigured on Mount Tabor, to Thee we sing: Alleluia.*

Entrance Hymn: *For with You is the Fountain of Life, and in Your Light we shall see Light. Save us o Son of God, who was Transfigured on Mount Tabor, to Thee we sing: Alleluia.*

Resurrectional Apolytikion:

From Above did You descend O Christ our God. For us did You endure three days in the tomb, that we may be relieved from passions in this world. You who are our Resurrection and our Life: Glory to You, O Lord.

Apolytikion of Transfiguration of our

Savior: *You were Transfigured on the Mountain O Christ our God, showing to Your disciples Your Glory as far as they could understand; shine upon us the sinners as well, the Light of Yours, eternal, by the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, Glory to You.*

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.*

Communion Hymn:

We will walk in the light of the glory of Your face, O Lord, forever. 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:

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 10

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.

Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 3:9-17

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 14:22-34

At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up into the hills by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately He spoke to them, saying "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

And Peter answered Him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they entered the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Food Pantry / Community Outreach

August 17

Available for someone to host

August 24

Carr Family

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

YOUNG AT HEART

Join us on Friday, August 15th
for the Commemoration of
The Dormition of our Most
Holy Lady the Theotokos and
Ever Virgin Mary



*Orthros - 9am
Divine Liturgy - 10am*

*Potluck Brunch/Lunch to follow
Bagels and spreads provided*

Contact Presvytera Denise if you plan to
attend and to specify the item you will
provide for our meal.
(Fasting restrictions for the day apply-
meatless, dairy allowed)

ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE

The Theotokos and Ever- Virgin Mary is eternally present at the throne of God interceding for mankind. Knowing this, we pray for her love, guidance, and protection. Every year the Orthodox Church sets aside the first fourteen days of August for the Dormition Fast in her honor. The fast period is culminated on **August 15th** when the Church gathers to celebrate the Feast of the Dormition (Falling Asleep of the Theotokos). In commemoration of this Great Feast, throughout August our bookstore will offer many items honoring the Theotokos – Icons, Akathist and Prayer books, jewelry etc. Stop in. We are open every Sunday following Divine Liturgy.

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Tuesday morning Bible Study with Fr. Stavros will be on hiatus for the summer. It will resume on September 9.

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 August the dates are: Tuesday August 12, Tuesday August 19 & Tuesday August 26.**

Prayers for School and College students Today—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 today, prior to the beginning of the public school year.

Young Adult Dinner/Discussion – Thursday, August 14—We will be resuming our once a month Young Adult Dinner/Discussion on Thursday, August 14 from 7:00-9:00p.m. All young adults ages 18-40 are invited to participate. We will be having a monthly discussion based on some set topics. If you are interested in getting notices via What's App, contact Aris Rogers at 813-309-5525.

Food Pantry Update—We appreciate the ongoing donations to our Food Pantry. We filled 10 boxes for distribution to Metropolitan Ministries and have provided donations to many within our parish. We completed an inventory/ cleanup this past week and recognized a need for the following - Jelly, Mac & Cheese, easy 'Grab & Go' items, Bars, Cans with pull tops, single serving items etc. If you or someone you know is in need—or if you'd like to take a bag of groceries to share—we're here to help. Please call or text Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747.

Save the date to donate blood! The Big Red Bus is coming on **August 24** after Divine Liturgy for blood donations. Anyone 18 years or older can donate and save lives! Please consider donating.



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, Toulia 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, Mary Speegle and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS



**No Sunday School
Have a great summer!**



If you do not receive our **weekly Sunday School Constant Contact** every Friday afternoon, please email Zackie Ameres at zackiec@yahoo.com to let her know.

We look forward to welcoming back our students to Sunday School on **Sunday, Aug 17th.**
Online registration is now open using this Google Form: [2025 2026 Sunday School Registration - Google Forms](#)

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, August 10	Orthros Divine Liturgy	8:45a.m. 10:00a.m.
Monday, August 11	Paraklesis	6:00p.m.
Tuesday, August 12	Bible Study with Fr. John	6:30p.m.
Wednesday, August 13	Paraklesis Adult Greek Dance Choir	6:00p.m. 7:00p.m. 7:15p.m.
Thursday, August 14	Great Vespers Young Adults Philoptochos Board	6:00p.m. 7:00p.m. 7:00p.m.
Friday, August 15	<u>DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS</u> Orthros Divine Liturgy Young At Heart	8:45a.m. 10:00a.m. 11:30a.m.-1:30p.m.
Saturday, August 16	Sunday School Teacher's Meeting Community Outreach	9:00a.m.-12:00p.m.
Sunday, August 17	Orthros Divine Liturgy Sunday School Begins Philoptochos Zaharias GOYA Kick-Off	8:45a.m. 10:00a.m. 5:00p.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

Women's Bible Study
Leader: Fr. Stavros
NO Bible Study

Tuesday Night Bible Study
Leader: Fr. John
Tuesday, August 12 at 6:30pm.

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



ARISE & BUILD

Thank you!

A very special thank you
to those who have already donated to
the Arise & Build Capital Campaign.

We are grateful for our existing donors whose
commitment brings this vision to life.

If you haven't pledged, scan the code below.
Every gift matters.
Let's reach our goal of 100% parish participation.



www.ariseandbuild.com

Attention College Students- WE NEED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION –

We want to stay in touch with
our college students this
upcoming school year. Please
scan this QR code and send us
your contact
information. Thank you.

2025-2026 College Student Contact Information

Please scan the QR code to go directly to a
google form!



ORTHODOXY 101

Begins in September & offered by Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis, Parish Priest

When will the classes be held?

- Monday, September 8—A tour of the Orthodox Church, what we see and what it means*
- Monday, September 15—Introduction to the Sacraments: Baptism, Chrismation, Confession, Marriage, Unction*
- Monday, September 22—The Divine Liturgy—A “Teaching” Liturgy*
- Monday, September 29—Orthodox Traditions—fasting, icons, prayer and living an Orthodox Christian life*

Why should I attend Orthodoxy 101?

- 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*

What format can I expect?

*A relaxed atmosphere with presentations, interactive discussions, and lots of time for questions and answers.
Classes will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary.
Please sign up with Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com, so he has enough materials for everyone. There is no charge for this class.*

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:	Melissa Krinos	813-716-9975
Stewardship:	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
Sunday School:	Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
12 Disciples:	Theo Panopoulos	248-867-3697
Ushers:	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
Technology:	Mike Wenditz	813-550-3099
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