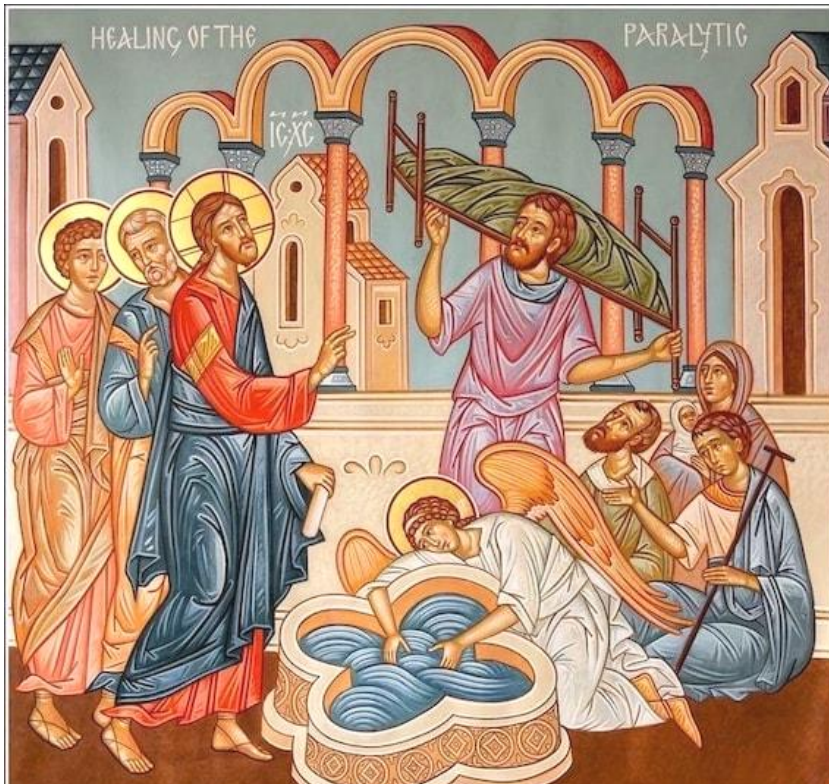


# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~Sunday of the Paralytic– Sunday, May 11~

**SUNDAY, MAY 11, 2025**

*Sunday Of the Paralytic; Renewal of Constantinople;  
Hieromartyr Mocius; Methodius & Cyril,  
Equal-to-the Apostles Illuminators of the Slavs*

**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 Paralytic; Renewal of Constantinople; Hieromartyr Mocius; Methodius & Cyril,  
Equal-to-the Apostles Illuminators of the Slavs*

**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.*

**Resurrectional Apolytikion:**

*Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things  
below on earth be glad. With all the might and  
strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did  
perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down  
death by death, and first born of the dead has He  
become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered  
us, and to all the world has granted His great mercy.*

**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 11

Sing praises to our God, sing praises.  
Verse: Clap your hands, all you nations.

### THE READING IS FROM ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 9:32-42

In those days, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

### GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 5:1-15

At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked.

Now that day was the sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk'?" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

**Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants:** Athena Felley, Melissa Romero, Sandra Reyes, Miltiadis, Kostadinou 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 Triantafyllou and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Altar Angels and College Ministry

**May 18**

Available for someone to host

**May 25**

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 EXPECT TO SHOW *hospitality* TO STRANGERS.  
FOR THEREBY SOME HAVE ENTERTAINED *angels unaware.*  
BIBBLES 12:1

#### **MEMORIAL SERVICE**

*Grace Harikleia Dannes  
(3 years)*

*Dennie Dionysios Dannes  
(21 years)*

#### **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 13, Tuesday May 20 & Tuesday May 27.**

**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 13, Tuesday May 20 & Tuesday May 27.**

**"ORTHODOXY 201 CLASS"** - Father John is having a 6-week class that began on Thursday, May 1st. 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 remaining classes for May will be on **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**.

**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.

**BLS/AED TRAINING** class for June 5 is cancelled and will be rescheduled on a later date.

**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 11**  
Pentecost



**May 18**  
Last Day of Sunday School - **YOUTH SUNDAY**— Sunday  
School Graduation Ceremony for all Students— Sunday  
School End of the Year Party on CAMPUS

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, May 11</b>	<b><u>MOTHER'S DAY</u></b> Orthros Divine Liturgy	8:45a.m. 10:00a.m.
<b>Tuesday, May 13</b>	Women's Bible Study Bible Study	10:00a.m. 6:30p.m.
<b>Wednesday, May 14</b>	<b><u>MID PENTECOST</u></b> Orthros Divine Liturgy Choir	9:00a.m. 10:00a.m. 7:15p.m.
<b>Thursday, May 15</b>	<b><u>ST. PACHOMIUS/FR. STAVROS ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION</u></b> Orthros Divine Liturgy Young Adult Discussion	9:00a.m. 10:00a.m. 7:00p.m.
<b>Saturday, May 17</b>	Adult Greek School Children's Greek School Community Outreach Young At Heart	1:00-3:00p.m.
<b>Sunday, May 18</b>	Orthros Divine Liturgy Youth Sunday Last Day Of Sunday School/ End of Year Party	8:45a.m. 10:00a.m.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

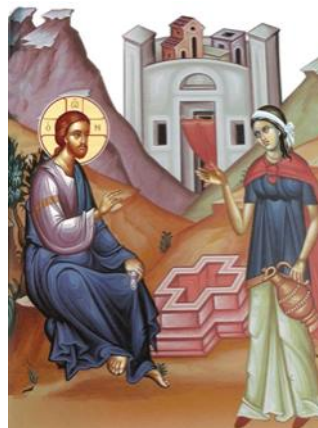
**Women's Bible Study**  
Leader: Fr. Stavros  
**Tuesday, May 13 at 10:00a.m.**

**Tuesday Night Bible Study**  
Leader: Fr. John  
**Tuesday, May 13 at 6:30p.m.**

## YOUNG AT HEART MAY GATHERING

Join Us  
**Saturday, May 17th 1-3pm**

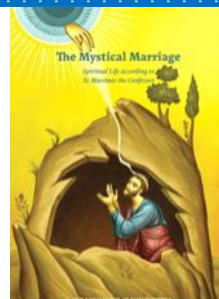
Potluck luncheon followed by a Video  
Presentation and Discussion on  
**St. Photini – The Samaritan Woman**



*Please reply to Presvytera Denise no later than May 11th with  
number attending and dish you will bring for the luncheon.*

## ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE

*Book of the Week – “The Mystical Marriage – Spiritual  
Life according to St. Maximos the Confessor”*



Much of the discussion at last Tuesday's Bible Study focused on the words of St. Maximos the Confessor. This book contains six talks by Elder Aimilianos of Simonopetra (Mt Athos) focusing on select passages from the Chapters on Love by St Maximos the Confessor. These talks offer a profound yet approachable introduction to the principles and practice of Orthodox spirituality.

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (frstav@gmail.com)	813-394-1038
<b>Associate Priest:</b>	Rev. Fr. John Stefero (jwstefero50@hotmail.com)	678-637-4425
<b>Retired Priest in Residence:</b>	Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830
<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>	Ellie Kehagias (office@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830
<b>Parish Council:</b>	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
<b>Arise &amp; Build Capital Campaign:</b>	Mike Xenick, Chair	813-340-8737
	Euripides Panos, Vice Chair	813-352-3972
<b>Adult Greek School:</b>	Magda Myer	813-523-5771
<b>AHEPA:</b>	James Sakaris	301-529-8857
<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 Losovitz, Organist	727-688-2782
<b>College Outreach:</b>	Kathy Kaburis	813-240-6513
<b>Community Outreach:</b>	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
<b>Dance Groups:</b>	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
<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>Gasparilla Parking:</b>	Fady Hakim	678-294-7732
<b>GOYA:</b>	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346
<b>Greek Festival:</b>	Mike Xenick	813-340-8737
<b>Hope/Joy:</b>	George & Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
<b>Joy Tweens</b>	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
<b>Junior Olympics:</b>	Dwight Forde	727-685-9028
<b>Men's Fellowship:</b>	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
<b>Nursing Ministry:</b>	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
<b>Oratorical Festival:</b>	Peggy Bradshaw	727-244-1374
<b>Photography Ministry:</b>	Karina Findlay	813-476-9632
<b>Philoptochos:</b>	Katherine Sakkis	813-309-1073
<b>Stewardship:</b>	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102
<b>12 Disciples:</b>	Theo Panopoulos	248-867-3697
<b>Ushers:</b>	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
<b>Technology:</b>	Mike Wenditz	813-5503099
<b>Veterans/1st Responders :</b>	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
<b>Website/Social Media/App:</b>	Miguel Piniero Jr	305-632-4871
<b>Welcoming Ministry:</b>	Skip Higdon	813-391-6915
<b>Women's Bible Study:</b>	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
<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