

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~Palm Sunday – Sunday, April 13~

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025

*Palm Sunday; Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome ;
Theodosios the Martyr*

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:

Palm Sunday; Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome ; Theodosios the Martyr

Second Antiphon:

Save us o Son of God, who sat upon the colt of a donkey, to Thee we sing: Alleluia.

Apolytikion for Palm Sunday:

Of the common Resurrection, before Your passion assuring us, from the dead, You raised Lazarus O Christ our God. Wherefore, like the children, we also carry the symbols of victory. To You, the Victor over death, we cry: Hosanna in the Highest, Blessed is He who cometh in the name of the Lord.

Entrance Hymn:

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Save us o Son of God, who sat upon the colt of a donkey, to Thee we sing: Alleluia.

Second Apolytikion for Palm Sunday:

We were buried with You through Baptism, O Christ our God, and thus by Your Resurrection we have been granted immortal life, and extolling You we cry aloud, "Hosanna in the highest!"

Blessed are you, the One who comes in the name of the Lord."

Kontakion:

In heaven upon a throne, on earth upon a colt, being carried O Christ our God, You accepted the angels' praise and the children's extolling hymns, as they cried out to You: Blessed is He that comes, fallen Adam to recall again.

Megalinarion:

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Prepare the feast and come with rejoicing. Let us magnify Christ; bearing palms and branches, let us sing praise to Him: Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord, our Savior, our Savior.

Communion Hymn: (Psalm 118:26)

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel. 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, APRIL 13

PROKEIMENON: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His mercy endures forever.

THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS 4:4-13

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; **7** and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. **9** The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. **11** Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: **12** I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. **13** I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 12:1-18

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with Him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples (he who was to betray Him), said "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that He was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of Him and had been done to Him. The crowd that had been with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Him was that they heard He had done this sign.

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Today's Coffee Hour Sponsored by the Palm Sunday Luncheon (Philoptochos)

APRIL 20
Parish Council

APRIL 27
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 NEGLECT TO SHOW *hospitality* TO STRANGERS.
FOR THEREBY SOME HAVE ENTERTAINED *angels unaware.*
HEBREWS 13

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

"You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" 2 Corinthians 11

Thank You to every family and individual who has made their Stewardship Pledge for 2025. Your support makes everything here, possible.

So far, 272 stewards have renewed their commitment for 2025.

Please let us hear from you today, if you haven't submitted your pledge form.

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 Father's office) or zoom. **For April the dates are: Tuesday April 22 & Tuesday April 29.**

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 April the dates are: Tuesday, April 22 at 6:45 pm & Tuesday, April 29 at 6:45 pm.**

Food Pantry Update

Community Outreach partnered with Food Pantry volunteers to prepare 60 Easter themed 'snack bags' for residents of Tampa Hope, with the support of your donations! 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

JOY Tweens—Mark your calendars! On Friday, May 9, 2024, 6:00pm to 9:00pm, JOY Tweens will celebrate the end of the school year with dinner and a movie! Bring your 4th to 6th graders for lots of fun. Please keep a look out for the SignUpGenius by email/text and Sunday School flyer!

SAVE THE DATE...JUNE 5 for BLS/AED TRAINING

Nursing ministry will offer a FREE BLS, basic life support, class and everyone is welcome to attend. You will also learn how to use the AED and potentially save a life. To sign up for the class email Marcelle at Marcelletrianta@gmail.com

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Athena Felley, Melissa Romero, Sandra Reyes, Miltiadis, Konstantinos Triantafyllopoulos; 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, Tola 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 Cretkos, Tina, Bob, Bonnie, Pelagia & family and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

April 12

Saturday of Lazarus Service - Making Palm Crosses



April 13

Palm Sunday and Procession

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, APRIL 13	<u>PALM SUNDAY</u> ORTHROS 8:30A.M. DIVINE LITURGY 9:45A.M. PHILOPTOCHOS LUNCH/BAKE SALE VESPERS 5:00P.M. BRIDEGROOM SERVICE 6:30P.M.	
HOLY MONDAY, APRIL 14	9TH HOUR 9:00A.M. PRE- SANCTIFIED LITURGY 9:30A.M. BRIDEGROOM SERVICE 6:30P.M.	
HOLY TUESDAY, APRIL 15	9TH HOUR 9:00A.M. PRE- SANCTIFIED LITURGY 9:30A.M. BRIDEGROOM SERVICE 6:30P.M.	
HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16	9TH HOUR 9:00A.M. PRE- SANCTIFIED LITURGY 9:30A.M. HOLY UNCTION 3:00P.M. BRIDEGROOM SERVICE 5:15P.M. HOLY UNCTION 7:00P.M.	
HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17	VESPERAL LITURGY 9:15A.M. PASSION OF CHRIST 6:30P.M. (ALL NIGHT VIGIL AT THE CROSS)	
GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18	ROYAL HOURS 9:00A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL RETREAT 11:00A.M. APOKATHELOSIS 3:00P.M. LAMENTATIONS 7:00P.M.	
HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 19	VESPERAL LITURGY 8:30A.M. GREAT CANON 11:00P.M. RESURRECTION SERVICE 11:45P.M. PASCHAL DIVINE LITURGY 12:30A.M.	
SUNDAY, APRIL 20	<u>HOLY PASCHA</u> AGAPE VESPERS 11:00A.M.	

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

Women's Bible Study

Leader: Fr. Stavros
NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK

Tuesday Night Bible Study

Leader: Fr. John
NO BIBLE STUDY THIS WEEK



TODAY is Commitment Sunday!

Turn in your Arise & Build pledge forms!

Pray with Father over your pledge today

For those interested in a private prayer from Father Stavros in front of the icon of Jesus, please hold your pledge and present it to Father. Due to high attendance, we created a sign-up sheet so you know when to meet with Father.

Sign up for a time slot

Visit the Arise & Build table in the Kourmolis Center today to schedule a time. During your time slot, wait for Father to call you up. If you are unable to stay, visit the Arise & Build table before leaving church to arrange another day.

Submit your pledge

If you prefer, an Arise & Build representative is available to accept your pledge. Pledges can also be mailed or taken directly to the church office.

Walk through the school building

The school building - the new Ministry Building - is open for parishioners to walk through today. See the “before” prior to demolition day!



PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE

*Sponsored by the Ladies' Philoptochos Society
Saturday, April 12th & Sunday, April 13th*

*Spanakopita 2 lb Tray - \$25
Spanakopita/Tyropita 48 piece tray - \$35
Koulourakia - \$8
Tsoureki - \$12
Paximathia - \$7*

*Available while supplies last.
All proceeds to benefit Philoptochos Philanthropic charities.*

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON

*Sunday, April 13th following Divine Liturgy
Join us for our traditional Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon. Menu to include:*

*Fish
Rice
Salad
Beets
Skordalia
Macaroni and Cheese
Homemade Desserts
Beverages*

*Donations welcome. All donations support Philoptochos charities.
Cash, check, credit and debit accepted.*

Dear Parishioners,

For the past 12 years, we have done a vigil at the Holy Cross, a continuous presence of prayer in our church that lasts nearly 30 hours. We are happy to be continuing this tradition of ours this year!

There will be **15-minute slots** of time from Holy Thursday night at 10:00 p.m., when the vigil will begin until 9:00 a.m. on Good Friday morning when the Royal Hours will begin.

The vigil will then continue from **11:15 a.m. on Good Friday until 3:00 p.m. when the Apokathelosis begins**. The vigil will continue at the tomb of Christ from 4:30-7:00 p.m. when the Lamentations begin.

A couple of people from our young adult group will be present at all times for both security and to answer any questions you may have during the vigil. You may sign up for as many 15-minute slots as you wish. We'd like to see at least one person in each slot. Please let us know if you have any questions.

You'll be reading out of the Psalter, a copy will be provided to you at the church.

Anyone reading this message is welcome to participate, you need not be a member of St. John Greek Orthodox Church in Tampa, FL. For questions, please contact **Dr. Andrea Tsatalis at 937-475-4843**.

We look forward to continuing this tradition and we thank our Young Adult Group for organizing this event this year.

With love in the Lord,
+Fr. Stavros

VISIT THIS LINK <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0548A5AF28A1FE3-56101364-vigil#/> TO JOIN OR
SIMPLY SCAN THE QR CODE!



St. John's Youth Retreat

Holy Friday

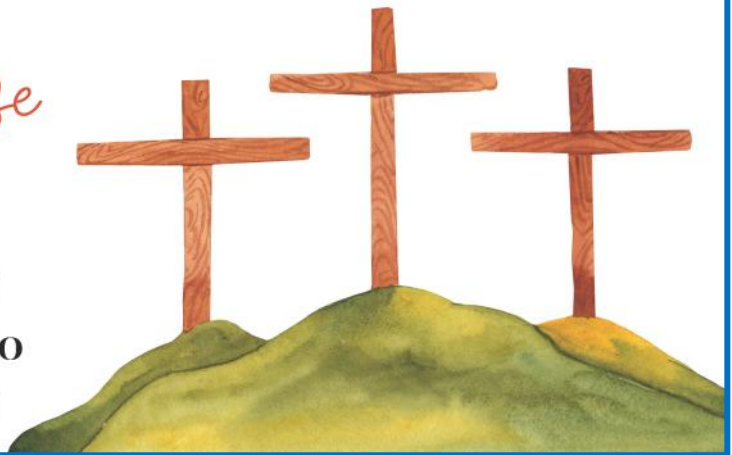
April 18, 2025
10:15am-4:15pm

We welcome our Pre-K- 6th Graders to come together for a day of prayer and learning, followed by our participation in the Apokathelosis service at 3:00pm.

- Royal Hours Service prayer at foot of the Cross
- Epitaphio Lesson with Fr. Stavros
- Group Lessons
- Lenten Lunch
- Crafts

*A Time to Pause
and Pray*

Kindly RSVP by 4/12
via SignUpGenius or to
zackiec@yahoo.com

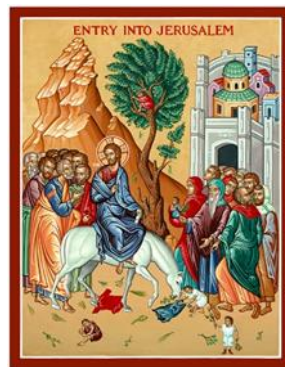


ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE

Our bookstore has stocked many of the items you will need in preparation for Pascha.

Available now are:

- ◆ *Holy Week Service Books*
- ◆ *Red egg dye imported from Greece*
- ◆ *Resurrection Icons*
- ◆ *Greeting cards and Children's books*
- ◆ *Assorted and Unique Gift Items*



YOUNG AT HEART APRIL GATHERING

Saturday, April 26th

1pm-3pm

The Icon of the Resurrection of Christ

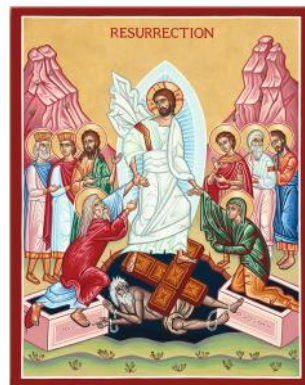
Video Presentation and Discussion

Catered Meal - \$13 per person

Roast Chicken, Sides, Dessert and Beverage

Contact Presvytera Denise no later than April 19th if you plan to attend.

Prepayment is preferred.



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:	Katherine Sakkis	813-309-1073
Stewardship:	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
Sunday School:	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102
12 Disciples:	Theo Panopoulos	248-867-3697
Ushers:	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
Technology:	Mike Wenditz	813-5503099
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	813-876-8830
Young Adults:	Aris Rogers	813-309-5525
Young at Heart:	Dora Morgan	813-613-3738
Youth Protection:	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855