

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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~SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE 4TH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL~

**SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024**

*Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council–  
Aquila the Apostle among the 70; Nicodemus the Righteous of Mount Athos*

**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 of the Holy Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council—  
Aquila the Apostle among the 70; Nicodemus the Righteous of Mount Athos*

**Apolutikion 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 Sunday of the Holy Fathers:**

*Supremely praised are You, O  
Christ our God, Who established on earth,  
our Fathers as luminaries; and through them  
You have guided all of us to the true faith,  
most Compassionate One, 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:** A protection of Christians  
unshamable, intercessor to our Holy Maker  
unwavering, reject not, the prayerful cries of  
those who are in sin. Instead, come to us for  
you are good, your loving help bring unto us,  
who are crying in faith to you. Hasten to  
intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a  
protection for all time, Theotokos for those  
who honor you.

*Pro-sta-si-a ton Chris-ti-a-non a-ka-te-schin-  
te, me-si-ti-a pros ton Pi-i-tin a-me-ta-the-te,  
mi pa-ri-this a-mar-to-lon the-i-se-on fo-nas,  
al-la pro-ftha-son, os a-ga-thi, is tin vo-i-thi-  
an i- mon, ton pi-stos krav-ga-zon-ton Si. Ta-  
chi-non is pres-vi-an ke spev-son is i-ke-si-an,  
i pro-sta-te-vou-sa a-i, The-o-to-ke, ton ti-  
mon-ton Se.*

**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, JULY 14

### **EPISTLE LESSON:**

Verse: Blessed are they whose transgressions have been forgiven.  
Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous.

### **THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO TITUS 3:8-15**

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned.

When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful.

All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

### **GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 5:14-19**

The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by Young At Heart

July 21  
Young Adults

July 28  
Altar Angels

### 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 13:2

### PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO VISIT OUR HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS FROM ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

*I was sick and you visited me.  
Matthew 25:36*

*As you did it to one of the least  
of these my brethren, you did it to me. Matthew  
25:40*

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells us that one of the ways that He will judge our lives is based on visiting the sick. One of the best ways to serve God is by caring for our elderly. A number of our parishioners are homebound, which causes them to miss church and their friends. On behalf of the Philoptochos ministry, we have community-wide ministry of visiting those who are homebound. We would like to invite you to participate in this ministry.

Please e-mail **Vickie Peckham** at [vickiepeckham@gmail.com](mailto:vickiepeckham@gmail.com) if you would like to be part of this important ministry. This is not meant to be a time-intensive commitment, but rather an opportunity to love our neighbor and make sure that our fellow parishioners are not forgotten.

### TIES TO THE PAST!!!

The Daughters of Penelope is looking forward to having the YiaYia Table of Arts and Crafts in December. In the month of June, NOW, we are collecting men's ties, especially unique ones. It's time to clean out your closet, put them in a bag and give to **Ourania Stephanides (813.546.4711 for more information)**. She will welcome the donated ties to make an interesting craft for our sale. Those ties that are not used will be donated to Hospice Thrift Store. If you want a remembrance or keepsake of a loved one that has passed away (Papou, Dad, Brother, Friend) and have a particular tie that was theirs, give it to Ourania with your name and phone number paper clipped to that specific tie and she will craft it (one per family, no charge) into something for your Christmas tree! Remember that all donations of the December event will go to SCHOLARSHIPS for the Youth of THIS CHURCH COMMUNITY. Please clean out your closets and give those old ties a new purpose!





## YOUNG AT HEART AUGUST GATHERING

Join us on Saturday, August 3rd

Meet and Greet 11:45 am

Lenten Potluck Luncheon – 12 Noon

Followed by Video Presentation and Discussion on:

The Dormition of the Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Every Virgin Mary



*Please respond to Presvytera Denise ([denises54@hotmail.com](mailto:denises54@hotmail.com)) with number attending and dish you will bring to the event. Look forward to sharing this special time together!*

**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; Jim Armstrong, 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 Blankebaker, Jonah, George Voulgaris, and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.



## MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### Bible Study

Tuesday morning Bible Study with Fr. Stavros will be on hiatus for the summer. It will resume in late August or September. Tuesday night Bible study with Fr. John—will continue meeting at 6:30 p.m. on most Tuesday evenings. 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 July, the dates are Tuesday, July 16; Tuesday, July 23; and Tuesday, July 30.

**Fr. Stavros** will be out of the office July 17-20 (vacation) and some additional days that will be mentioned in the weekly bulletin. For any pastoral emergencies during this time, please contact Fr. John.

### Food Pantry Update

Thank you for your ongoing contributions to our Food Pantry. We welcome your donations any time and have a dedicated drop-off (left side) of the Church Hall Entrance area. We have targeted the First Sunday of each Month as a bigger collection day. Our greater need currently is for Publix Gift Cards—\$20 Denomination, Canned meat and Canned fruit (prefer with easy open access). We were able to compile 12 boxes of food, from your donations, shared with Metropolitan Ministries & Tampa Hope in the past month and help other individuals!

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.

### 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 the dates of 8/14/24 and 9/11/24**. We will not have dance practices those nights. The Greek Festival dates are November 1st and 2nd. Please look for any further updates in the Messenger or weekly Bulletins. **Any questions please contact Alex DeMaio 813 340 9668 or email [Alexandra.DeMaio@libertymutual.com](mailto:Alexandra.DeMaio@libertymutual.com).**

### Choir Practice

There will be no Choir Practice in July.

It will resume August 7.

## SAVE THE DATE TO DONATE!



The **Nursing Ministry** of St John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church will host a blood drive on **Sunday August 4th.**

- ◆ Someone needs a blood transfusion every two seconds
- ◆ One in three people will need a transfusion at some point in their life
- ◆ One donation helps save the lives of three people

To donate, you **MUST** be 16 years old, weigh 110+ pounds, and be in generally good health. Donating blood is truly one way to be a hero and help save lives. Please ask your **Nursing Ministry** if you have any questions.

~THANK YOU!~

## SAVE THE DATE – Nov 1-2, 2024



**The Annual St. John the Baptist Tampa Greek Festival** is our largest fundraiser and provides an opportunity to unite as a Parish and Community.

We need your help!

Coming Soon: Details for a kickoff meeting!

## ALTAR BOY SCHEDULE

### JULY 14

Anyone attending may serve

### Captains

Demetri Passalaris  
Nicholas Akrotirianakis  
Nicholas Magos  
Nicholas Carter  
George Xenick  
PJ Zelatis

### JULY 21

Anyone attending may serve

## UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

**SUNDAY, JULY 14**

ORTHROS 8:45A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.

**TUESDAY, JULY 16**

BIBLE STUDY

6:30P.M.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 17**

GREEK DANCE

7:00P.M.

FR. STAVROS OUT OF TOWN (JULY 17-20)

**SATURDAY, JULY 20**

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

8:00A.M-10:00A.M.

**SUNDAY, JULY 21**

ORTHROS 8:45A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

### Women's Bible Study

*Leader: Fr. Stavros*

Resumes on September 10

### Tuesday Night Bible Study

*Leader: Fr. John*

July 16: Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

**Did you Know**– Our church services are just a few clicks away on the Livestream Platform, if you're unable to attend in person! This year **LiveStream** merged with **Vimeo** and we will soon be switching to that platform. Look for communications soon on Constant Contact and updated access links on our church website and app.

*Coming Soon...*



<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	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	678-637-4425
<b>Bookkeeper:</b>	Debbie Bowe	813-876-8830
<b>Administrative Assistant :</b>	Elli Kehagias	813-876-8830
 <b>Parish Council:</b>	 John Zelatis, President	 813-727-2271
	Euripides Panos, Vice President	813-352-3972
	Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary	813-760-6289
	Mike Xenick, Treasurer	813-340-8737
	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
	Alexis Scarfogliero	813-892-1599
	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
 <b>12 Disciples</b>		
<b>AHEPA:</b>	Vasili(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>College Ministry:</b>	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
<b>Community Outreach:</b>	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
<b>Dance Groups:</b>	H XAPA MAΣ, 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>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