St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

5

5

6

5

5

5

6

5

5

6

6

6

5

6

5

հ

Б

Б

Б

5

5

հ

5

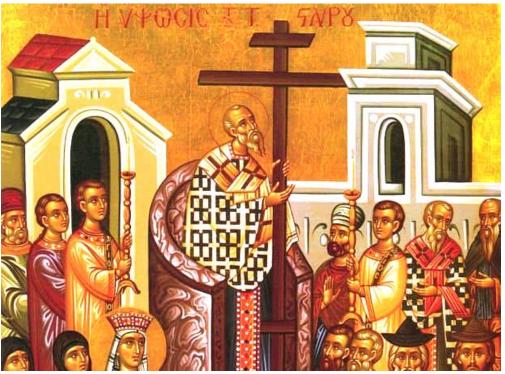
հ

Л

Л

հ

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



~THE ELEVATION OF THE VENERABLE AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS- SEPTEMBER 14~

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

Sunday after Holy Cross— Nikitas the Great Martyr; Philotheos the Righteous; Bessarion of Larissa

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos) Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence) Fr. John Stefero (Retired Priest In Residence)

P

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. <u>CORE VALUES:</u>

Love, Worship, Community, Learning, Service

SYNAXARION:

Sunday after Holy Cross — Nikitas the Great Martyr; Philotheos the Righteous; Bessarion of Larissa

Second Antiphon:

Save us o Son of God, who was crucified in the flesh, to Thee we sing: Alleluia. So-son i-mas I-e The-ou, o sar-ki Sta-vro-this, Psa -lon-tas Si: Alliluia.

Apolytikion of the Holy Cross:

Save O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

Apolytikion of the Resurrection:

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: You were lifted on the Cross voluntarily, on Your new community that bears Your Name, do You bestow Your mercies O Christ our God; gladden in Your mighty strength, our faithful leaders, granting to them victories, against all their enemies, and may Your help in battle be for them: a weapon of peace, and banner invincible.

Trisagion Hymn:

Ton Stav-ron Sou pro-ski-nou-men De-spo-ta ke tin a-gi-an Sou A-na-sta-sin do-xa-zo-men. Your Cross we Venerate O Master and Your Holy Resurrection we glorify.

<u>**Communion Hymn:**</u> *E-si-mi-o-thi ef' i-mas to* Fos tou pro-so-pou Sou, Ky-ri-e. Alliluia. Let the Light of Your face shine on us, O Lord. Alleluia.

*After the Sermon, there will be a procession of the Holy Cross,. You can find it on pg.85 of the Divine Liturgy Book.

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:

 Choir
 Altar boys
 Sunday school teachers (who will line up in middle aisle (right) before Communion).
 Sunday school students (who will line up in the middle aisle (left) before Communion).
 For the rest of the congregation (side areas then the main section).
 Parents with recently Baptized children can line up before the Sunday School Teachers.

Epistle Lesson:

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

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the



flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Gospel Lesson: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."



MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by Philoptochos

September 22 Photo Ministry September 29 Memorial

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Your Stewardship/Gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure provide 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 available in the Narthex and online at stjohntpalorg (scan the QR below for a direct path). We have important general assembly meetings scheduled for October and November. 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.

Scan here to access our Online Stewardship **Pledge Form**



St. John has an App for easy access to many valuable resources. This includes the Live Stream Services, Liturgical Text, Bulletins, Monthly Messenger, Online Stewardship Pledge Form, Giving options and more. We will continue to expand the information on our App in the future. Be sure to download it today!

DID YOU KNOW:

SUBSPLASH

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 or the church office at (813) 876-8830

٠	Speak Greek
	Bood Crook

- Read Greek
- Write Greek

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

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Bible Study

Women's Bible Study with Fr. Stavros began on September 10. We meet on most Tuesdays from 10:00-11:30a.m. either in person(in Father's office) or zoom. For September the dates are; Tuesday September 17 & Tuesday September 24. We are studying I Corinthians.

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 17** and **Tuesday September 24**.

<u>Y Hara Mas</u> Greek dance practices for the younger group (K-2nd grade) will begin today 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 accordingly for any questions. OPA!

Dance Groups

Greek dance practices for Y Hara Mas (3rd-6th grades) will 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 remainder of September and October until our Greek Festival on November 1-2, 2024. Please contact Maraquet Edquid (813-422-8963) with any questions. OPA!

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. 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**.

<u>GOYA</u>—The GOYA Meeting for September will be <u>today</u> 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.

<u>Men's Group</u>—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 17th, and 24th at 5:00 pm.

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**.

JOY Tweens Group

Our first JOY Tweens meeting will be on Sunday, **September 29, from 12:45-2:15 p.m.** We will have lunch, play some games, and have a discussion with Fr. Stavros. This group is open to all 4-6th graders. Contact Maraquet Edquid at 813-422-8963 for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

September 15 Sign of the Cross 9th -12th Boys will stay in Altar



September 22 The Lord's Prayer

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, September 15	Orthros 8:45a.m. (Altar Boys Today—St. John) Goya	Divine Liturgy 10:00a.m.					
		5:00p.m.					
Monday, September 16	Orthodoxy 101	6:30р.м.					
Tuesday, September 17	Women's Bible Study Bible Study	10:00а.м. 6:30р.м.					
Wednesday, September 18	Greek Dance Choir	7:00р.м. 7:15р.м.					
Thursday, September 19	Philoptochos Board Meeting (Zoom)	7:00р.м.					
Saturday, September 21	Adult Greek School Children's Greek School Community Outreach Goya Senior Lock-In	12:30-3:00р.м.					
		5:00р.м.					
Sunday, September 22	Orthros 8:45a.m. (Altar Boys Today—St. Matti Men's Group	Divine Liturgy 10:00a.m. h ew) 5:00p.m.					

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

<u>Women's Bible Study</u> Leader: Fr. Stavros September 10: Tuesday at 10:00am <u>Tuesday Night Bible Study</u> Leader: Fr. John September 10: Tuesday at 6:30pm

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?

 \cdot Interfaith couples. This will help the non-Orthodox person understand more about what is going on in our church.

 \cdot Anyone who is considering joining our church. Going forward, this class will be a requirement for those who wish to join our Orthodox faith.

 \cdot New converts to Orthodoxy. For those who recently joined our church and who want to know a little bit more.

 \cdot 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 "yiayialogy." 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 <u>frstav@gmail.com</u>, so he has enough materials for everyone. There is no charge for this class.

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 Kospitality TO STRANGERS.

FOR THEREBY SOME HAVE ENTERTAINED angels in awares.

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 and or (813)240-6513 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!



YOUNG AT HEART

"Young at Heart Members Enjoying Their Gathering on September 7th"



SAVE THE DATE-NOV 1-2, 2024



Our Greek Festival is fast approaching (approximately 46 days away but who's counting...ok we are)! This is our largest single fundraiser, and we rely on Volunteers to make this happen. We trust our community will step up, but encourage you to make this happen, sooner rather than later! Please use the QR Code below to access our Tampa Greek Festival Volunteer Signup Genius. Look for our dedicated Festival Table in the Church Hall kicking off on Sunday, September 29 and every Sunday after, leading up to the Festival Weekend.

Volunteer SignUp for Tampa Greek Festival



<u>Marketing/Communications</u> – Flyers and Yard Signs coming soon. Stay tuned for Baking/Cooking Dates as they get finalized for October along with additional planning meetings.

<u>Critical Area</u> – We need help and leadership in many Key Areas. We will provide support and training!

Kids Area 50/50 Raffle Coordinator Roving Bar Carts (in Hall), Pre- Festival Ordering working with John Zelatis (a seasoned pro) Logistics/Runners

If you would like to lead, co-lead or otherwise assist in any of these areas, please contact Mike Xenick at <u>mxenick@gmail.com</u> or 813.340.8737 or Sandra Pappas at <u>spappas11@gmail.com</u> or 813.785.3747.

Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc. 126 East 37th Street, New York, NY 10016

- T: 212.977.7770
- E: supportgroup@philoptochos.org
- W: www.philoptochos.org





TWO UPCOMING CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS FOR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CAREGIVERS NATIONWIDE:

Group 1: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 to THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 7:00 pm EST – 8:00 pm EST

Group 2: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 to TUESDAY DECEMBER 17 7:00 pm EST – 8:00 pm EST

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED: https://bit.ly/3AJ1SYY.

•	Are you caring for a loved one of any age who may be elderly, or has a chronic or life-threatening illness or health condition, or who is disabled?	Please select the group that best fits your schedule.
•	Do you wish you knew others who are facing the same challenges as you?	Each session is 6 consecutive weeks.
•	Do you wish there were someone with whom you can	Groups meet between 7pm – 8pm EST
	share your thoughts, concerns, experiences, and questions?	Groups are conducted over ZOOM
•	Do you wish you were part of a community of caregivers who understands our faith, culture, family	Space is limited – don't delay.
	traditions, and background?	Pre-registration is required.
•	Are you so overwhelmed you're not even sure what questions to ask or who could help?	

A program of the National Philoptochos Department of Social Services and facilitated by professionals knowledgeable in caregiving and aging services, each group will "meet" over six consecutive weeks from 7pm – 8pm EST over ZOOM. Please select the group that best fits your schedule:

Group 1 will meet on 6 consecutive Thursdays from September 19th to October 24th. Group 2 will meet on 6 consecutive Tuesdays from November 12th to December 17th.

In a confidential and safe environment, we will discuss best practices to help you manage the physical and emotional needs of your loved one; cognitive issues resulting from Alzheimer's or other dementias; caregiver stress; work/life balance; family dynamics / decision-making; sandwich generation challenges; long-distance and holiday caregiving; financial concerns; accessing local and broader services and resources and preparing for the future.

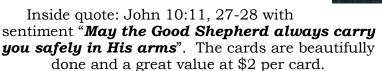
The last session of each group will be led by a member of the clergy who will address how faith, culture and spirituality can help build your understanding, strength and resilience.

Pre-register by clicking here

For information, please email us at supportgroup@philoptochos.org

ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE – NEW GREETING CARD NOW AVAILABLE!

A new all occasion greeting card is now available in our bookstore. The card features a photo of a mosaic icon of Christ the Good Shepherd from Kykkos Monastery in Cyprus.



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 Michell, Elena, Ricky & Michael



Kunda 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, Evangeline Xeroteres, 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 and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

OR	Ieeeee	Decece	opop	
	Parish Priest:	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (frstav@gmail.com)	813-394-1038	G
	Retired Priest in Residence:	Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830	
	Retired Priest in Residence:	Rev. Fr. John Stefero (jwstefero50@hotmail.com)	678-637-4425	
	Ministry Coordinator/Chanter:	Maria Xenick (Mariapxenick@stjohntpa.org)	813-765- 3587	
la				l
	Bookkeeper:	Debbie Bowe (debbie!@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830	
ெ	Administrative Assistant :	Elli Kehagias (office@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830	ு
	Parish Council:	Euripides Panos, President	813-352-3972	
ொ		John Zelatis, Vice President	813-727-2271	9
		Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary	813-760-6289	
G		Alexis Scarfogliero, Treasurer	813-892-1599	9
		George Ameres	941-720-3494	
		Peggy George	813-727-5587	
ت		Peter George	781-910-9971	۵
		Amin Hanhan	813-846-2957	同
رك		Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855	9
		Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026	
6	AHEPA:	Vasili(Bill) Zaferos	414-737-9103	6
	Altar Angels:	Kalliope Chagaris	813-789-4134	
ाजा	Bible Study:	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425	ொ
	Bookstore:	Pres. Denise Stefero	678-464-4833	
G	Choir:	Tara Swartzbaugh, Director	813-313-0439	ெ
		Ruth Losoviz, Organist	727-688-2782	
	Community Outreach:	Greg Melton	813-967-2074	
	Dance Groups:	H XAPA ΜΑΣ, Alexandra De Maio	813-340-9668	۵
		Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963 813-877-6136	同
<u>ا</u>		ΠΑΡΕΑ, Marina Choundas Genie Carter	813-363-2362	۵
		TANHFYPI, Alexandra De Maio	813-340-9668	局
UD)	Daughters of Penelope:	Ourania Stephanides	813-546-4711	ال
	Festival:	Mike Xenick	813-340-8737	
6	Finance Committee:	Gary Ward	813-846-3898	6
	Food Pantry:	Sandra Pappas	813-785-3747	
11G1	GOYA:	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346	9
	Hope/Joy:	George & Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813	
ា	Joy Tweens	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963	ெ
	Men's Fellowship:	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038	
G	Nursing Ministry:	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026	
	Photography Ministry:	Karina Findlay	813-476-9632	
	Philoptochos:	Katherine Sakkis	813-309-1073	
Ľ۳	Stewardship:	Chris Kyrus	757-672-1920	ت
		George Mitseas	813-748-1220	同
رك	Sunday School:	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102	رق
E .	Ushers	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193	同
ال	Veterans/1st Responders	Fr. John Stefero Maria Xenick	678-637-4425	G
	Welcoming Ministry: Women's Bible Study:	Maria Xenick Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-765-3587 813-876-8830	
6	Young Adults	Aris Rogers	813-309-5525	G
	Young at Heart:	Dora Morgan	813-613-3738	
6	Youth Protection:	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855	9
OR	leeee	Decece	eeee	