St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

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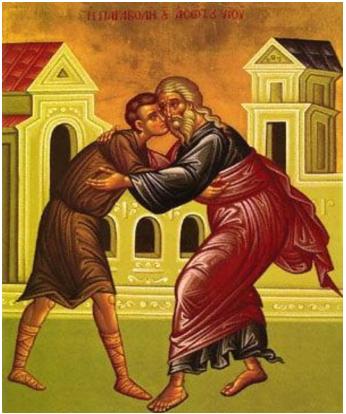
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2418 Swann Avenue – Tampa, FL 33609 – 813-876-8830 (office) - office@stjohntpa.org



~Sunday of the Prodigal Son-February 16~

# SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

Sunday of the Prodigal Son; Pamphilus the Martyr & his Companions; Flavianos, Patriarch of Constantinople; Romanos the Younger

His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos of Atlanta, Celebrent Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos) Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence) Fr. Gregory Edwards

#### 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 Prodigal Son; Pamphilus the Martyr & his Companions; Flavianos, Patriarch of Constantinople; Romanos the Younger

#### Apolytikion of the Resurrection:

The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Judeans and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred Body. O Savior, the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life. Whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the Giver of Life: Glory unto our Resurrected Christ; Glory unto Your Kingdom; Glory to Your dispensation, O You Who alone loves all.

#### 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:

Foolishly I ran away from Your glory, O Father, and wasted in sin all the wealth You gave me. Therefore, the Prodigal's cry, I offer to You. I have sinned before You compassionate Father, do accept me in repentance and make me again one of Your servants.

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 1.
- 2. Altar boys
- 3. 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) 4.
- Then the rest of the congregation (side areas then the main section). 5.
- 6. Parents with recently Baptized children can line up before the Sunday School Teachers.

#### **READINGS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

#### Epistle Lesson:

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

#### The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 6:12-20

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

#### Gospel Lesson: Luke 15:11-32

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of your's came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

#### 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!

## 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 CIVE US YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION AND FROM THERE YOU WILL BE DIRECTED TO OUR ONLINE CONNECTION CARD

#### DO NOT NEGLECT TO SHOW Kuptality TO STRANGERS. FOR THREBY SOME HAVE ENTERTANED angels unawases.

## 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 St. John's Bookstore – Books of the Week -"Habitation of Holiness" and "For Mind and Heart: St. Nektarios as Teacher" –

Two selections from the writings of St. Nektarios of Pentapolis (1846-1920) translated from the original Greek. These writings on a wide variety of topics concerning Orthodox spiritual life and tradition exemplify the spiritual richness of this beloved saint.

# JOY Tweens

The JOY Tweens offsite is Sunday, **February 23 @ 2:00 p.m**. All 4th-6th graders and their families are welcome! Our tweens will have a blast experiencing gravity-defying thrills together at Altitude Trampoline Park Tampa! Keep a lookout for more details to come or contact Maraquet Edquid at 813-422-8963 with any questions.

#### Sign-Up for Text Updates!

To get updates and other messages for JOY Tweens, text @783gc6 to 81010 on your mobile phone.

We welcome **His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos of Atlanta,** who is visiting our parish for the Ordination of Deacon Alex Limberatos to the Holy Priesthood. We also invite you to a luncheon following the Divine Liturgy to celebrate the Ordination of Fr. Alex.



#### **MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES**

<u>Bible Study</u> — 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 February the dates are Tuesday February 18 & Tuesday February 25.

<u>Tuesday night Bible study with Fr. John</u> 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 February the dates are Tuesday February 18 & Tuesday February 25.

We will begin the public phase of the Capital Campaign with a kick-off event on February 23. We are having a free lunch after the Divine Liturgy, with a short program, to kick off this event. This day will be the first of many exciting and fun days connected to the Arise & Build Expansion Project.

#### Food Pantry Update

*Jesus said, 'They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.' Matthew* 14:16 We are grateful for your support! We are rebuilding our Food Pantry to help those in need including Tampa Hope, Metropolitan Ministries and others. 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! If you have ideas to share or wish to get involved, please call or text Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747

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; Kostadinos Booras; Michael I, Anna Maria & Thomas Reilly, 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 and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

	SUNDAY SCHOOL NE	NS & TOPICS
<u>February 1</u> Prodigal So	n sunday	February 23 Last Judgement
If you do not receive our weekly Su	nday School Constant Contact at vickiepeckham@gmail.co	every Friday afternoon, please email Vickie Peckham m to let her know.
	UPCOMING SERVICE	S & EVENTS
Sunday, February 16	Orthros 8:30a.m. ( <b>Altar Boys Today-</b> Ordination Of Deaco	Divine Liturgy 10:00a.m. - <b>St. Matthew</b> ) n Alex Limberatos to the priesthood
Monday, February 17	Orthros 9:00a.m. ( Fr. Alex Limberato	Divine Liturgy 10:00a.m. Is 1st Liturgy As A Priest)
Tuesday, February 18	Women's Bible Study Bible Study Parish Council Meet	6:30р.м.
Wednesday, February 19	CHOIR	7:15р.м.
Saturday, February 22	<u>1st Saturday Of Sou</u> Orthros 8:45a.m. Memorial Service At Adult Greek School Children's Greek Sch	Divine Liturgy 10:00a.m. The End Of the Divine Liturgy
Sunday, February 23	Orthros 8:30a.m. ( <b>Altar Boys – St. M</b> Capital Campaign Kig GOYA	
R	RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	N AT ST. JOHN
	tavros uary 18 at 10:00am	Tuesday Night Bible Study Leader: Fr. John Tuesday, February 18 at 6:30pm
In our effort to support eff improved mental health, our proud to support the 988 s hotline. Spread the word a might help save a life!	nd you confidential c challenges bec utilizes a net that are sensit provides cc seniors. Parish request up to	<b>ISH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM</b> P provides free and ounseling services when life's come overwhelming. The PAP work of faith-based providers tive to the values and beliefs of those they serve and ompassionate care to children, adults, parents, and ioners can confidentially contact BayCare directly to three free counseling sessions by a licensed mental health professional. BayCare helpline, is answered 24/7 by mental health professionals.



"LET US ARISE AND BUILD" A SIX-WEEK LENTEN STUDY JOIN US WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DURING GREAT LENT

#### MARCH 5 "LET US"

"O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker." Psalm 956 DINNER SPONSORED BY THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

#### MARCH 12 "ARISE"

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."

DINNER SPONSORED BY THE CHOIR

## MARCH 19 "BUILD"

"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."

Paalm 127:1 DINNER SPONSORED BY THE BIBLE STUDIES, NURSING MINISTRY AND THE WELCOME MINISTRY

## MARCH 26 "STRENGTHEN"

"But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from evil."

2 Thessalonians 3:3

DINNER SPONSORED BY THE PHILOPTOCHOS

# APRIL 2 "THEIR HANDS"

"All these rely upon their hands, and each is skillful in his own work."

Sirach 38:3

DINNER SPONSORED BYAHEPA/DAUGHTERS

# APRIL 9 "GOOD WORK"

"Comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word."

2 Thessalonians 2:17 DINNER SPONSORED BY THE YOUNG ADULTS AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

# Each Wednesday evening Schedule:

6:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:15 pm Lenten Dinner provided by one of our ministries 7:45 pm Presentation by Father Stavros 8:05 pm Small group discussion 8:30 pm Concluding remarks and closing prayer



GREAT LENT 2025 St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church Tampa, FL



PLEASE DROP DONATIONS IN THE SCHOOL SUPPLY WAGON IN KOURMELIS HALL

# **Philoptochos 2025 Membership Drive**

We are on the MOVE for a Great New Year!

We invite all women ages 18 plus to join the St. John the Baptist Philoptochos Annunciation Chapter!

Membership Drive: January thru April, Suggested Stewardship is \$35.00, however, we accept whatever you can give to support our mission.

Your donation makes you a member of the National, Metropolis and Local Chapters of Philoptochos. We invite all women age 80 and above to join us as honorary members with no dues required.

# "Truly I tell you, whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you do for me." (Matt 24:25)

Name			
Date			
Street			
Address			
City	State		
Zip			
Home Phone	Cell		
E-mail address			
Main areas of interest (check all that apply): Visi Retreats,			
Communication (Messenger-Sunday Bulletin)	, Baking	, Social Gatherings	,
Decorating (verte in)			
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America – Ladia To aid the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the ag the widowed, the handicapped, the victims of dis to offer assistance to anyone who may need the b To promote the charitable, benevolent, and phila America, through instructional programs, preser resources; To preserve and perpetuate Orthodox Christian them, to promote the Greek Orthodox Faith and discipline, divine worship, usages and customs; To promote participation in the activities of the O Parish Priest and the Parish Council.	ed, the sick, the unet asters, to undertake help of the Church th inthropic purposes o ntations, lectures, se concepts and the Ort traditions, in accord	mployed, the orphaned, th the burial of impoverishe hrough fund raising effor f the Greek Orthodox Ar minars and other educati thodox Christian Family, lance with its doctrines, c	he imprisoned, d persons and ts; and chdiocese of onal and through anons,
Please return form to: Presvytera Denise Stefero, FL 33569 or Drop off on any Sunday Questions: denises54@f Please make checks payable to: St. Joh <u>https://square.link/u/</u>		32	

# SAVE THE DATE

# **CAMPAIGN KICKOFF!**

Complimentary Luncheon Sunday, February 23 Noon Kourmolis Center

Join us for the St. John "ARISE & BUILD" Launch!



ARISE **BUILD** St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church Come learn more about:

- The Capital Campaign progress
- Proposed plans for church expansion
- How you can join the Arise & Build campaign

Looking forward to seeing you there!

# St. Sophia • Winter Haven

Greek

**FEBRUARY** 

22-23

Festival

Saturday 11 am to 10 pm Sunday 11 am to 6 pm

2025

Authentic Greek Food • Taverna Delicious Greek Pastries • Live Music Greek Dancing • Kids Area • Bakaliko Market Place • Yia Yia's Attic Church Tours • Vendors Raffle with Cash Prizes Credit Cards Accepted • Free Parking



Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church 1030 Bradbury Road • Winter Haven, FL 33880 FOR INFO CALL: (863) 299-4532 We are grateful for all Sponsorships and Donations

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Parish Priest:	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (frstav@gmail.com)	813-394-1038	
Retired Priest in Residence:	Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830	ł
Retired Priest in Residence: Ministry Coordinator/Chanter:	Rev. Fr. John Stefero (jwstefero50@hotmail.com) Maria Xenick (Mariapxenick@stjohntpa.org)	678-637-4425 813-765- 3587	
	Mana Xoniok (Manapioniokaojonintpa.org)		ł
Bookkeeper:	Debbie Bowe (Debbie@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830	
Administrative Assistant : Parish Council:	Elli Kehagias (office@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830	1
Parish Council:	Parish Council Alexis Scarfogliero, President	813-892-1599	
	George Ameres, Vice President	941-720-3494	1
	Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary	813-760-6289	
	George Chagaris, Treasurer	727-420-1920	
	John Carter	813-376-9196	
	Peggy George	813-727-5587	ł
	Peter George Tony Magos	781-910-9971 813-957-3206	
	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855	
	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026	
	John Zelatis	813-727-2271	ł
Arise & Build Expansion Project:		813-340-8737 813-352-3972	ł
AHEPA:	Euripides Panos, Vice Chair James Sakaris	301-529-8857	
Altar Angels:	Kalliope Chagaris	813-789-4134	ł
Bible Study:	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425	
Bookstore:	Pres. Denise Stefero	678-464-4833	
Choir:	Tara Swartzbaugh, Director	813-313-0439	T
	Ruth Losovitz, Organist	727-688-2782	
Community Outreach:	Greg Melton Η ΧΑΡΑ ΜΑΣ, Alexandra De Maio	813-967-2074 813-340-9668	
Dance Groups:	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963	
	ΠΑΡΕΑ, Marina Choundas	813-877-6136	
	Genie Carter	813-363-2362	
	ΠΑΝΗΓΥΡΙ, Alexandra De Maio	813-340-9668	1
Daughters of Penelope:	Ourania Stephanides	813-546-4711	
Festival: Finance Committee:	Mike Xenick	813-340-8737 813-846-3898	
Food Pantry:	Gary Ward Sandra Pappas	813-785-3747	
GOYA:	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346	ł
Hope/Joy:	George & Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813	
Joy Tweens	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963	
Men's Fellowship:	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038	
Nursing Ministry: Photography Ministry:	Marcelle Triantafilou Karina Findlay	612-396-5026 813-476-9632	ł
Philoptochos:	Katharine 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	
Veterans/1st Responders	Fr. John Stefero Maria Xenick	678-637-4425 813 765 3587	ļ
Welcoming Ministry: Women's Bible Study:	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-765-3587 813-876-8830	
Young Adults	Aris Rogers	813-309-5525	l
Young at Heart:	Dora Morgan	813-613-3738	ſ
Youth Protection:	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855	
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