

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



*~ The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary –
Friday, August 15~*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2025

*10th Sunday of Matthew; Myron the Martyr of Cyzicus ;
Straton, Philip, Eutychian, & Cyprian the Martyrs of Nicomedeia*

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:

*10th Sunday of Matthew; Myron the Martyr of Cyzicus ;
Straton, Philip, Eutychian, & Cyprian the Martyrs of Nicomedeia*

Apolytikion of Dormition of the Theotokos :

In giving birth you preserved your virginity, at your Dormition you forsook not the world, O Theotokos; to Life you did pass on, being the Mother of Life itself; and redeeming with your intercessions, our souls from the clutches of death.

Resurrectional Apolytikion:

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: *The Theotokos who is incessant in her intercessions, and an immovable hope in her protection, the tomb and the state of death could not hold; for being the Mother of Life, to the Life He carried, He who dwelled in a womb ever-virgin.*

Communion Hymn:

I will receive the cup, receive the cup of salvation, I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. Alleluia.

**Join us as we begin a
three week sermon series.**

THE POWER OF Generosity

**WEEK ONE
Sunday, August 17th
EXTREME FAITH**

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

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

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 4:9-16

Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 17:14-23

At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day."

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.

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Available for someone to host

August 24

Carr Family

August 31

Young At Heart (Fanouropita)

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 INTERAINED *angels in our midst.*

HEBREWS 13:2

ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE

The Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is eternally present at the throne of God interceding for mankind. Knowing this, we pray for her love, guidance, and protection. Every year the Orthodox Church sets aside the first fourteen days of August for the Dormition Fast in her honor. The fast period is culminated on **August 15th** when the Church gathers to celebrate the Feast of the Dormition (Falling Asleep of the Theotokos). In commemoration of this Great Feast, throughout August our bookstore will offer many items honoring the Theotokos – Icons, Akathist and Prayer books, jewelry etc. Stop in. We are open every Sunday following Divine Liturgy.

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta
Tampa Bay District Council

"The Roaring Twenties" Golden Gala

Sat. October 11th, 2025

6:00PM  Cash Bar

DRESS IN YOUR BEST 1920's ATTIRE!

St. Nicholas Community Center
348 N Pinellas Avenue
Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

To benefit the building of the "Philoxenia House" for
housing accommodations for the Diakonia Retreat
Center

Ticket Cost \$125
Seating is limited. RSVP by September 20th

For more information email OrthodoxGoldenGala@gmail.com
or Call/Text Katerina Damianakis at 727-459-2123

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Tuesday morning Bible Study with Fr. Stavros will be on hiatus for the summer. It will resume on September 9.

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 August the dates are: Tuesday August 19 & Tuesday August 26.**

"ORTHODOXY 201 CLASS" - Father John is having a class that 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 last class will be on Thursday, August 21.** The class will be from 6:30pm-8:00pm. We will complete our discussion of the book entitled "Know the Faith: A Handbook for Orthodox Christians and Inquirers".

Mandatory Altar Boy Meeting & Training TODAY—All altar boys are requested to attend a meeting today, following the Divine Liturgy. We will go over procedures on how the altar boys serve, updating and making a few small changes. This meeting is important for new altar boys but also older ones, as we seek to continue to improve our service. The meeting will last approximately 1 hour. Each boy is asked to have at least one parent present. New Schedule to take effect on August 17. As of publication time, the new altar boy schedule is still being finalized. All altar boys will receive a copy of the new schedule prior to August 17.

GOYA Meeting TODAY—Our first GOYA meeting of the new school year will be held today **from 5:00-7:30p.m.** in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner will be provided. One parent of each GOYAn is asked to attend the meeting. Also, there will be a parent's meeting, while the GOYAns meet with Fr. Stavros, to go over procedures for the year, review the yearly calendar, fill out emergency forms and arrange for parents to sign up to do a meal for one of the meetings.

GOYA Lock-in on Saturday, August 23—Our GOYA will have an end of summer lock-in on **Saturday, August 23**, beginning at 5:00pm. in the Church Hall.

Men's Group—The Men's Group will meet on **Sunday, August 24 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.

Save the date to donate blood!—The Big Red Bus is coming on **August 24** after Divine Liturgy for blood donations. Anyone 18 years or older can donate and save lives! Please consider donating. Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code **14583**



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

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

Welcome back to Sunday School! We've missed our students and are looking forward to being together again and growing in our faith.



Our August Topics:

8/17 The Theotokos

8/24 Prayer

8/31 No Class- Labor Day



Please register your Toddler 2s through HS students using this **QR Code**:

If you do not receive our **weekly Sunday School Constant Contact every Friday afternoon**, please email Zackie Ameres at zackiec@yahoo.com to let her know.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, August 17	Orthros	8:45a.m.
	Divine Liturgy	10:00a.m.
	Sunday School Begins	
	Philoptochos Zaharias	
	GOYA Kick-Off	5:00p.m.
Tuesday, August 19	Bible Study with Fr. John	6:30p.m.
Wednesday, August 20	Adult Greek Dance	7:00p.m.
	Choir	7:15p.m.
Thursday, August 21	Orthodoxy 201 Class with Fr. John	6:30p.m.
Sunday, August 24	Orthros	8:45a.m.
	Divine Liturgy	10:00a.m.
	Blood Drive-Nursing Ministry	
	Men's Group	5:00p.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

Women's Bible Study

Leader: Fr. Stavros

NO Bible Study

Tuesday Night Bible Study

Leader: Fr. John

Tuesday, August 19 at 6:30pm.



ARISE & BUILD

Thank you!

A very special thank you
to those who have already donated to
the Arise & Build Capital Campaign.

We are grateful for our existing donors whose
commitment brings this vision to life.

If you haven't pledged, scan the code below.
Every gift matters.

Let's reach our goal of 100% parish participation.



www.ariseandbuild.com

Attention College Students- WE NEED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION –

We want to stay in touch with
our college students this
upcoming school year. Please
scan this QR code and send us
your contact
information. Thank you.

2025-2026 College Student Contact Information

Please scan the QR code to go directly to a
google form!



ORTHODOXY 101

Begins in September & offered by Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis, Parish Priest

When will the classes be held?

Monday, September 8—A tour of the Orthodox Church, what we see and what it means

Monday, September 15—Introduction to the Sacraments: Baptism, Chrismation, Confession, Marriage, Unction

Monday, September 22—The Divine Liturgy—A “Teaching” Liturgy

Monday, September 29—Orthodox Traditions—fasting, icons, prayer and living an Orthodox Christian life

Why should I attend Orthodoxy 101?

- Interfaith couples. This will help the non-Orthodox person understand more about what is going on in our church.
- Anyone who is considering joining our church. Going forward, this class will be a requirement for those who wish to join our Orthodox faith.
- New converts to Orthodoxy. For those who recently joined our church and who want to know a little bit more.
- Anyone who wants to know more about the basics of our faith, or who wants a refresher

What format can I expect?

*A relaxed atmosphere with presentations, interactive discussions, and lots of time for questions and answers.
Classes will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary.*

Please sign up with Fr. Stavros at frstav@gmail.com, so he has enough materials for everyone. There is no charge for this class.

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@stjohnntpa.org)	813-765-3587
Bookkeeper:	Debbie Bowe (Debbie@stjohnntpa.org)	813-876-8830
Administrative Assistant :	Elli Kehagias (office@stjohnntpa.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:	Melissa Krinos	813-716-9975
Stewardship:	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
Sunday School:	Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
12 Disciples:	Theo Panopoulos	248-867-3697
Ushers:	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
Technology:	Mike Wenditz	813-550-3099
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	813-394-1038
Young Adults:	Aris Rogers	813-309-5525
Young at Heart:	Dora Morgan	813-613-3738
Youth Protection:	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855