

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM- NOVEMBER 13~

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2024

9th Sunday Of Luke—

*Gregory the Wonderworker & Bishop of Neo-Caesarea ; Gennadios I and Maximus,  
Patriarchs of Constantinople*

**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:**

9th Sunday Of Luke—

Gregory the Wonderworker & Bishop of Neo-Caesarea ;  
Gennadios I and Maximus, Patriarchs of Constantinople

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:**

*When the tidings of the Resurrection from the angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples, and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the apostles, with boasting did they proclaim: that death is vanquished evermore and Christ our God is risen from the dead, granting to the world His great mercy.*

**Apolytikion of St. Gregory the**

**Wonderworker:** *By your*

*accomplishments, you earned the name that you bore, for you were vigilant in prayer and diligent in working miracles. Therefore, holy father Gregory, intercede with Christ our God, that He illumine our souls, lest we fall asleep in sin unto death.*

**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 very purest abode of the Savior, and the most priceless bridal chamber and Virgin, the most sacred treasure of the glory of God, today is led inside of the house of the Lord, bringing in the grace with her of the Holy Spirit. It is for her God's angels sing in praise: she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.*

**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, NOVEMBER 17

### EPISTLE LESSON:

O LORD, HOW MANIFOLD ARE YOUR WORKS. YOU HAVE MADE ALL THINGS IN WISDOM.

VERSE: BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL.

### 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: LUKE 12:16-21

*The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry. But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."*

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

THE KOURMOLIS CENTER IS **OPEN**  
**ONLY FOR OVERFLOW SEATING FOR**  
**WORSHIP/BOOKSTORE/BATHROOMS,**  
WHILE WE HOUSE OUR OFFICES AND  
DISPLACED ITEMS. WE THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR PATIENCE AS WE NEGOTIATE THE  
NEXT FEW WEEKS. OUR OFFICES ARE  
TEMPORARILY LOCATED IN THE  
KOURMOLIS CENTER, WHICH HAS  
RESULTED IN THE CANCELLATION,  
POSTPONING OR ALTERING OF SEVERAL  
SCHEDULED MINISTRIES AND  
MEETINGS. PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR  
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES.

### **ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE - NATIVITY FAST MEDITATIONS - FAST BEGINS NOVEMBER 15TH!**

Our bookstore has three selections to assist you in your meditations during the Advent season. Each of the following offers readings and meditations for each day of the fast continuing through The Nativity of our Lord and into the season of Theophany:

- \* Behold a Great Light - A Daily Devotional for the Nativity Fast through Theophany - Fathers De Young, Freeman, Gillis and more - \$15
- \* Meditations for Advent - Preparing for Christ's Birth - Archimandrite Vassilios Papavassiliou - \$10
- \* Let All Creation Rejoice - Reflections for Advent, The Nativity and Epiphany - Father Stavros Akrotirianakis - \$18

## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### COFFEE HOUR UPDATE

Coffee hour will be held in the breezeway between the church and the Kourmolis Center temporarily. We expect the office situation to last at least four to six weeks, so thank you for your patience.

### **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!*

### **This year keep Thanks in Thanksgiving!**

Let us all come to church to give "Eucharistia! "Eucharistia", is the Greek word for Thanksgiving. As we celebrate Thanksgiving with turkey and the Dallas Cowboys on Thursday, set aside Wednesday to receive the Holy Thanksgiving. As is our custom at St. John, we will celebrate Divine Liturgy for Thanksgiving on **Wednesday, November 27 at 6:00 p.m.**



### **DID YOU KNOW:**

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!



### **YOUNG AT HEART**

*Our November gathering was a wonderful opportunity to give thanks to God for the gift of friendship and love. Our worship and fellowship brought us together to discuss St. Nektarios of Aegina and his many wonders. We were especially fortunate to hear testimonies from some who had actually visited Aegina. **December 7th** is the date of our next gathering. A potluck meal, gift exchange, and program are planned. Once again this year, we will participate in the Senior Santa program which provides Christmas gifts to Seniors who will otherwise be left without. If you would like to help with this effort, please see Presvytera Denise. Join us at Young at Heart. We meet each month and are always happy to welcome newcomers.*

## 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 **November** the date is **Tuesday, November 19**. We will **NOT** have Bible Study on **Tuesday, November 26**.

**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 **November**, the dates are **Tuesday, November 19 & Tuesday, November 26**.

**JOY Tweens Group** —Our JOY Tweens meeting with Father Stavros is **today** after Liturgy, from 12:15-1:45p.m. Lunch will be provided. This group is open to all 4-6th graders. Contact Maraquet Edquid at 813-422-8963 for more information. Sign up for text updates for JOY Tweens by texting @783gc6 to 81010 on your mobile phone!

**GOYA**-The GOYA Meeting for November will be **tonight**, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner as always will be provided.

### Holy Unction for the beginning of Advent Monday, November 18 at 6:00 p.m.

The forty-day period of Advent begins on November 18. It is a period of fasting and reflective preparation. In America, Advent is marked by a period of shopping, decorating and parties, none of which really help us prepare spiritually to celebrate the great feast of the Nativity. As we have done in past years, we will hold a Holy Unction Service as we begin the period of Advent—it will be on Monday, November 18, at 6:00 p.m. Please bring your Holy Week book as the service will follow the service of Holy Monday evening.

### Entrance of the Virgin Mary into the Temple Thursday, November 21

The Entrance of the Virgin Mary (Ta Eisodia) Commemorates when the Virgin Mary entered into the Temple at age two to begin a life of service to God, in preparation for the awesome role she would play in the history of humanity as the Theotokos. This is one of the 12 Major Feastdays of the Orthodox Liturgical Year.

**Office Closures**— Our office will remain closed Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November 29 in honor of Thanksgiving. We will reopen Monday, December 2.

### 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 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, Carol Cretekos and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.*

### VETERANS/1<sup>ST</sup> RESPONDERS MINISTRY

Our Veterans/1<sup>st</sup> Responders Ministry will support the US Marines 'Toys for Tots' Program again this year!

Donations of unwrapped new toys may be dropped off at the Church Hall in the 'Toys for Tots' containers. The drive will run from November 10<sup>th</sup> through December 8<sup>th</sup>.

Monetary donations will also be accepted. Checks can be made out to 'St. John Greek Orthodox Church' - 'Toys for Tots' on the Memo Line.

Please share your love to help make this a special Christmas for kids!





## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEMPORARY ROOM ASSIGNMENTS:

Toddler Twos & Pre-K3 - Rm. 100

Pre-K4 - Rm. 204

Kindergarten - Rm. 101

1st Grade - Rm. 104

2nd Grade - Rm. 106

3rd Grade - Rm. 108

4th Grade - Rm. 201

5th Grade - Rm. 205



6th Grade - Rm. 207

7th-8th Grade - Rm. 208

High School Girls - Rm. 213

High School Boys - Media Center

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

<b>SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17</b>	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. (ALTAR BOYS—ST. JOHN) GOYA	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.  5:00P.M.
<b>MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18</b>	HOLY UNCTION	6:00P.M.
<b>TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19</b>	WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BIBLE STUDY	10:00A.M. 6:30P.M.
<b>THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21</b>	<u><b>ENTRANCE OF VIRGIN MARY</b></u> ORTHROS 9:00A.M.	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.
<b>SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23</b>	PARISH COUNCIL PRE-ELECTION SEMINAR ( <i>IN TARPON SPRINGS</i> ) ADULT GREEK SCHOOL CHILDREN'S GREEK SCHOOL	1:00P.M.
<b>SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24</b>	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. (ALTAR BOYS—ST. MATTHEW) NO SUNDAY SCHOOL PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING-MEDIA CENTER	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

### Women's Bible Study

Leader: Fr. Stavros  
November 19: Tuesday at 10:00am

### Tuesday Night Bible Study

Leader: Fr. John  
November 19: Tuesday at 6:30pm

## Hope & Joy Fall Food Drive

**Sun, Nov 3rd- Sun, Dec 15<sup>th</sup>**

"HOPE starts with a MEAL. HOPE starts with YOU!"

Metropolitan Ministries helps 50,000+ families in need for Thanksgiving and Christmas and this year they need our help more than ever after hurricanes.

Please join St. John's Hope & Joy children's ministry in providing a meal to families in need through Metropolitan Ministries. Make this your family project and help us put together Boxes of Hope filled with the items needed for a Christmas holiday dinner. There are many ways you can help provide a Box of Hope:

- Shop for any of the items below and bring to church **Sun, Nov 3rd- Sun, Dec 15<sup>th</sup>**.
- Donate \$25 or more (cash/ check/ gift card) for a Box of Hope- Checks payable to Metropolitan Ministries

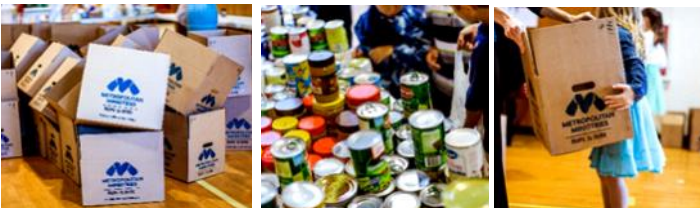
### A BOX OF HOPE contains

<b>Gift certificate for a turkey or ham</b>	<b>2 cans of black beans</b>
<b>1 box of cereal (hot or cold)</b>	<b>2 cans of cranberry sauce</b>
<b>2 cans of fruit</b>	<b>1 bag of dried beans</b>
<b>1 jar of peanut butter</b>	<b>1 box or bag of rice</b>
<b>2 cans of vegetables</b>	<b>1 can or packet of gravy</b>
<b>2 cans of yams</b>	<b>1 box dessert mix</b>
<b>1 bag or box of stuffing</b>	<b>1 bag cookie mix</b>
<b>1 box of potatoes</b>	<b>1 family box of Jell-O/ Pudding</b>

**BOLD** items are Most Needed Items

Only non-perishable food donations please. Call Zackie Ameres at 813-245-3813 or email at [zackiec@yahoo.com](mailto:zackiec@yahoo.com) with any questions. Thank you!

"He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will reward him for what he has done." Proverbs 19:17



## 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

### MEMORIAL SERVICE

- ♦ AHEPA/ Daughters Founders
- ♦ Ourania (Rania) Tziotis (40 Days)
- ♦ Joanne (Ioanna) Stefanou (1 year)
- ♦ Chris Zervos (10 years)
- ♦ Kalliope Zervos (8 years)

*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!*

  
Suicide Hotline  
Have Hope Always

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (frstav@gmail.com)	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 (jwstefero50@hotmail.com)	678-637-4425
<b>Ministry Coordinator/Chanter:</b>	Maria Xenick (Mariapxenick@stjohntpa.org)	813-765-3587
<b>Bookkeeper:</b>	Debbie Bowe (debbie!@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830
<b>Administrative Assistant :</b>	Elli Kehagias (office@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830
<b>Parish Council:</b>	Euripides Panos, President	813-352-3972
	John Zelatis, Vice President	813-727-2271
	Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary	813-760-6289
	Alexis Scarfogliero, Treasurer	813-892-1599
	George Ameres	941-720-3494
	Peggy George	813-727-5587
	Peter George	781-910-9971
	Amin Hanhan	813-846-2957
	Tony Magos	813-957-3206
	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855
	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
<b>AHEPA:</b>	James Sakaris	301-529-8857
<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>Community Outreach:</b>	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
<b>Dance Groups:</b>	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
<b>Daughters of Penelope:</b>	Ourania Stephanides	813-546-4711
<b>Festival:</b>	Mike Xenick	813-340-8737
<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>Philotochos:</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