

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS- AUGUST 15

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2024

*8th Sunday Of Matthew–
Floros & Lauros the Monk– martyrs of Illyria;
Leontus the martyr; Hermos the Martyr*

**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:

*8th Sunday Of Matthew—
Floros & Lauros the Monk-martyrs of Illyria;
Leontus the martyr; Hermos the Martyr*

Apolutikion of the 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.

Apolutikion of the Resurrection:

Lord by Your sacred cross You abolished death, and granted to the thief blessed paradise. The myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy; the apostles did preach the good news at Your command that You are risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.

Apolutikion 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.*

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, AUGUST 18

EPISTLE LESSON:

Verse: The Lord will give strength to his people.

Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 1:10-17

Brethren, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispos and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 14:14-22

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

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, Toulas 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.



TRISAGION:

Demetrios Pirpiris (1 year)

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by Hope & Joy/ Joy Tweens

August 25

Philoptochos(Fanouropita Sale)

September 1

Nursing Ministry/Greek School/Youth Protection

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 EXPECT TO SHOW *hospitality* TO STRANGERS
FOR THEIRY SOME HAVE ENTERTAINED *angels unaware*

SAVE THE DATE - NOV 1-2, 2024



*Opa ~ Planning is underway ~ Thank you for all who attended our Greek Festival Kickoff Meeting and confirmed your participation and leadership. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday **August 21 at 6:30pm**. We remain with many areas of need, so please stay tuned and consider stepping up to help make our Festival a Success once again!*
Please contact **Mike Xenick** at
813-340-8737, mxenick@gmail.com to confirm your interest or share ideas.

YOUNG AT HEART SEPTEMBER GATHERING



Learn more about:

*The Feast of the
Elevation of the
Venerable and Life-Giving Cross*

Saturday, September 7th

Gather - 11:45 am
Lunch - Noon

Enjoy a catered lunch
featuring Roast Chicken,
Sides, Salad and Dessert.
(Cost\$10 per person.)

See *Presvytera Denise* for
reservations no later than
September 1st.



Philoptochos Annual Fanouropita Sale

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH

On Sunday August 25th the
Ladies Philoptochos Society
will sponsor

Phanouropita Sunday
honoring St. Phanourios the
Great Martyr. The Saint has
become known for revealing
lost things, hidden spiritual
matters of the heart, actions
that should be taken, and
even restoring health. The
sweet cake (Phanouropita)
will be blessed by Fr.
Stavros with prayers for the
faithful. Afterwards the cake
will be served and offered for
purchase in the fellowship
hall with all proceeds to
benefit the Metropolis Youth
Programs.

**Would you like to bake a
Phanouropita?**

See *Jeanie Nenos (Chair)*
(813) 451-9116
jeaniertrt@aol.com

ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE



*Our bookstore has an entire
section of titles geared toward
the many issues young married
couples and families face. Check
out the following books along
with many others in our
bookstore this month!*

- * *Under the Laurel Tree - Grieving Infertility with Saints Joachim and Anna*
- * *Children of My Heart - Finding Christ Through Adoption*
- * *Fertile Ground - A Pilgrimage through Pregnancy*
- * *Of Such is the Kingdom - A Practical Theology of Disability*
- * *Parenting Toward the Kingdom - Orthodox Christian Principles of Child Rearing*
- * *Preserve Them O Lord - A Guide for developing marital unity for Orthodox Couples*

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

GOYA Meeting– Sunday, August 18

Our first GOYA meeting of the new school year will be held **TODAY**, Sunday, August 18 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.

Town Hall Meeting on August 18 Cancelled—The town hall meeting that was mentioned in the Messenger which had been scheduled for August 18 has been cancelled. It will be rescheduled in the near future.

Meeting of Ministry Heads on August 19

There will be a meeting of Ministry Heads on Monday, August 19 from 6:30pm-8:30pm. This one will be in person, so we can discuss ministry issues for the fall. Each ministry is asked to have at least one representative present at each respective meeting.

Bible Study

Tuesday morning Bible Study with Fr. Stavros will be on hiatus for the summer.

It will resume **September 10th at 10:30am.**

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 August, the dates are; Tuesday August 20 & Tuesday August 27.**

GOYA Lock-in– Saturday, August 24

Our GOYA will have an end of summer lock-in on Saturday, August 24, beginning at 3:00pm at the Bethany Center and ending after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, August 25.

Men's Group—The Men's Group will meet on Sunday, August 25 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.

Mandatory Altar Boy Meeting & Training Sunday, August 25

All altar boys are requested to attend a meeting on Sunday, August 25, 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 18. 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 18.

Philoptochos Annual Fanouropita Sale –Sunday, August 25th—The Annual Fanouropita Sale for the benefit of our Metropolitan Youth programs is on 8/25 after church. Help needed to bake cakes, set up and clean up. Contact Jeanie Nenos (Chair) 813-451-9116 jeaniertt@aol.com

Food Pantry Update

We are grateful for your ongoing contributions to our Food Pantry. We continue to help those in need, including Metropolitan Ministries and Tampa Hope. We welcome your donations any time and target the first Sunday of each month (**September 1st**) as a bigger collection day. Please keep this in mind when shopping especially those great BOGO offers at Publix! **Our greater need currently is for smaller items to create 'grab and go bags' - Bars (granola etc), Canned meat and Canned fruit (prefer with easy open access).**

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 pls contact Alex DeMaio 813 340 9668 or email Alexandra.DeMaio@libertymutual.com.

Y Hara Mas dance practices for both older and younger groups will begin Sunday 9/15/24 to Sunday 10/27/24 (7 practices for the festival). Same will be held after Divine Liturgy 12:15pm to 12:45pm in the church hall. Contact Maraquet Edquid 813 422 8963 ; Alexandra DeMaio 813 340 9668 accordingly for any questions. OPA! (Also if any dancer's parent(s) can help out with the younger dance group ages 4-7 pls contact Alexandra DeMaio.)

ALTAR BOY SCHEDULE

AUGUST 18

Anyone attending may serve

Captains

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

AUGUST 25

Anyone attending may serve

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS



Sunday School starts **TODAY August 18th!**
Please register your child(ren) in the hall, if you haven't done already!

If you do not receive our weekly Sunday School Constant Contact every Friday afternoon, please e-mail Vickie Peckham at vickiepeckham@gmail.com to let her know.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. 1ST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL GOYA	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M. 5:00P.M.
MONDAY, AUGUST 19	MEETING OF MINISTRY HEADS	6:30P.M.
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20	BIBLE STUDY	6:30P.M.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21	FESTIVAL MEETING CHOIR REHEARSAL GREEK DANCE	6:30P.M. 7:15P.M. 7:30P.M.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 24	GOYA LOCK-IN	3:00P.M.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 25	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. PHILOTOCHOS FANOUROPITA SALE ALTAR BOYS MEETING MEN'S GROUP	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M. 5:00P.M.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

Women's Bible Study

Leader: Fr. Stavros
Resumes on September 10

Tuesday Night Bible Study

Leader: Fr. John
August 20: Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

WE ARE LIVE

We have switched from LiveStream to Vimeo as the streaming platform for our church services. You can easily access our Live and Recorded Events from the following URL link: <https://stjohntpa.org/live>. This link will be included in the weekly Constant Contact Bulletin Message and is also accessible from our Church Website and SJGOC App. The sermon portion of services will continue to be shared on YouTube as recordings. Happy Streaming! Please call our Church Office with any questions.

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.

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!

You can send your information to Kathy at kkaburis2000@yahoo.com and or (813)240-6513

WELCOME TO OUR 2024-2025 SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR:

The Sunday School Staff at St. John's Greek Orthodox Church is looking forward to another great year. All children ages two through eighteen are invited to attend our program.

A Few Announcements:

1. All children will remain in church through Holy Communion.
2. PLEASE allow the Sunday School Teachers and their students to receive Holy Communion first. PLEASE line up in the center aisle.
3. After Communion, all of our Kindergarten – 6th graders will report to the Zaharias Room for our Music Program.
4. Parents of 3RD GRADERS and YOUNGER should pick up their children from their classrooms, after church.

Room Assignments:

- **Toddler 2's are in the school admin. building on the right.
(Must be 2 years old by Sept. 1st)
- **Pre-K3 classroom is the 1st door on the right after you exit the church. (Must be 3 years old by Sept. 1st)
- **Pre-K4 through 3rd grade is on the first floor of the school building.
- **4th Grade through Middle School is on SECOND FLOOR of the school building. (Room numbers on right)
- **High School Boys are in the Media Center in the School Building.
- **High School Girls are in the Conference Rm. in the Admin. Building.

*If you have not registered your child, please do so today. Registration will take place in the hall AFTER SUNDAY SCHOOL. If you have any questions or comments, or do not get the Sun. Sch. weekly Constant Contact, please contact Vickie Peckham at 813-758-3102 or vickiepeckham@gmail.com
Thank you for your cooperation.*

OUR 2024-2025 SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS:

We would like to introduce and thank our dedicated staff for their commitment to the children of St. John's. Together, with the help of our parents, we will strive to strengthen the faith of our students in Sunday School.

Director of Sunday School: Vickie Peckham

Assistant Director: Zackie Ameres

Music: Donaa Trakas

Toddler 2's: Jenny Paloumpis

Pre-K3: Mary Guirguis and Tia L'Hommedieu

Pre-K4: RM. 100 - Denise Panos and Rachel Zaharis

Kindergarten: RM. 101 - Debbie Nicklow and Donna Trakas

Grade 1: RM. 104 - Maraquet Edquid and Doukissa Moshos

Grade 2: RM. 106 - Nicole Mantzanas and Jaime Brewer

Grade 3: RM. 108 - Stamie Garcia and Amy Kafantaris

Grade 4: RM. 201 - Georgia Kane and Vivian Samuel

Grade 5: RM. 205 - Vickie Peckham

Grade 6: RM. 207 - Mia Lenardos and Katherine Kyros

Grade 7 and 8: RM. 208 - Betty Katherine Katsamakis and Marina Choundas

High School Girls: Mary Ann Konstas
High School Boys: James Konstas



Parish Priest:	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (frstav@gmail.com)	813-394-1038
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
Bookkeeper:	Debbie Bowe	813-876-8830
Administrative Assistant :	Elli Kehagias	813-876-8830
Parish Council:	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
	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855
	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
	Vasil(Bill) Zaferos	414-737-9103
AHEPA:	Kalliope Chagaris	813-789-4134
Altar Angels:	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
Bible Study:	Pres. Denise Stefero	678-464-4833
Bookstore:	Tara Swartzbaugh, Director	813-313-0439
Choir:	Ruth Losoviz, Organist	727-688-2782
College Ministry:	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
Community Outreach:	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
Dance Groups:	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
Daughters of Penelope:	Ourania Stephanides	813-546-4711
Finance Committee:	Gary Ward	813-846-3898
Food Pantry:	Sandra Pappas	813-785-3747
GOYA:	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346
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:	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
Photography Ministry:	Karina Findlay	813-476-9632
Philoptochos:	Katherine Sakkis	813-309-1073
Stewardship:	Chris Kyros	757-672-1920
	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
Sunday School:	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102
Ushers	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
Veterans/1st Responders	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
Welcoming Ministry:	Maria Xenick	813-765-3587
Women's Bible Study:	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-876-8830
Young Adults	Aris Rogers	813-309-5525
Young at Heart:	Dora Morgan	813-613-3738
Youth Protection:	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855