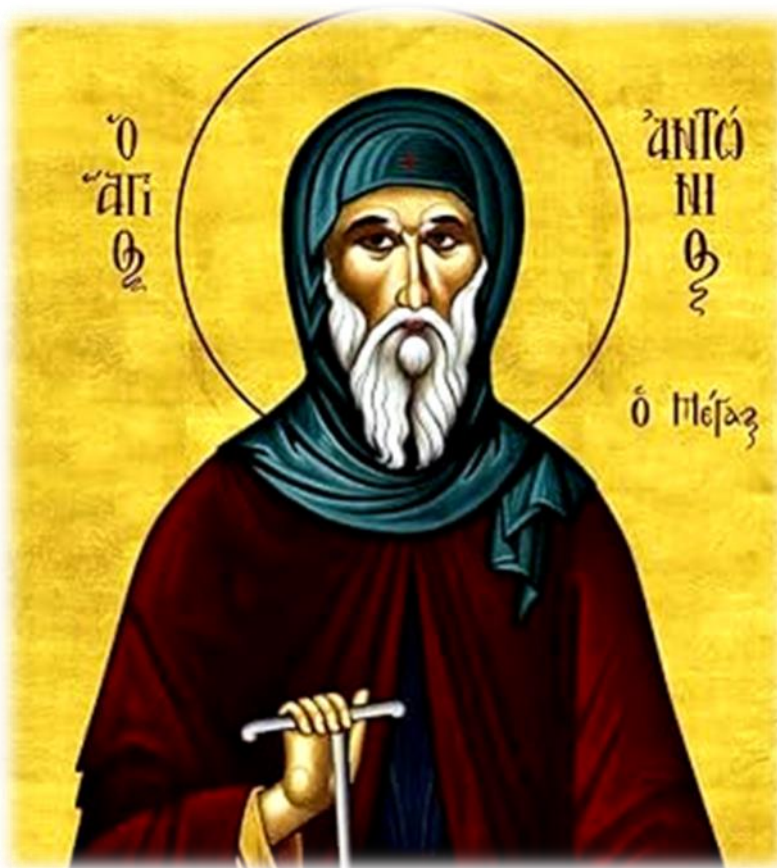


# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~St. Anthony, the Great – January 17~

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025

*12th Sunday of Luke –  
Macarius the Great of Egypt; Makarios of Alexandria*

**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:**

*12th Sunday of Luke —  
Macarius the Great of Egypt; Makarios of Alexandria*

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:**

*Co-eternal with the Father and Spirit is the Word Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation we the faithful both praise and worship Him. For in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the cross and death did He endure and He raised unto life the dead by His all Glorious Resurrection.*

**Apolytikion for the Devout Man:**

*As a citizen of the desert and an angel incarnate and a wonder-worker you shone forth, O Makarios our God-bearing father. Since you received the spiritual gifts by fasting and vigilance and prayer, you can cure those who are ailing and heal the souls of those who run to you with faith. Glory to Him who gave His might to you; glory to Him who placed a crown on you; glory to Him who operates through you, providing cures to 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:**

*O You Who sanctified by Your birth a Virgin womb, and blessed the hands of Simeon as seemed most appropriate, You came indeed to save us all, O Christ our God. Wherefore bring peace to our nation in time of hostility, and secure in strength, the leaders You have truly loved, as the only one Who loves mankind.*

**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, JANUARY 19

### EPISTLE LESSON:

YOU, O LORD, SHALL KEEP US AND PRESERVE US.

VERSE: SAVE ME, O LORD, FOR THE GODLY MAN HAS FAILED.

### THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS 3:4-11

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

### GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 17:12-19

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

### 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.**

### STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

*"You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God"*  
**2 Corinthians 9-11**

*The 2025 Stewardship campaign has kicked off. We are grateful for over 100 Parishioners who have completed a Pledge Form and encourage you to complete yours today! Look for our Stewardship Table in the Hall after Liturgy to address any questions.*

#### Remember

*Offering your Time and Talent is an important part of Stewardship. Please carefully review the Time and Talent section of this year's form. There is a true need in our church community. Are you new to St. John's? Are you looking for a way to be more involved and make some new friends? Sharing your gifts will make a difference for you and our beloved church.*

## 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 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 ENTERAINED *angels unawares.*  
HEBREWS 13:2

### YOUNG AT HEART FEBRUARY GATHERING

Saturday, February  
1st

3pm to 5pm

Catered meal-  
\$12 per person



Program— Video & Discussion on The  
Presentation of Our Lord in the  
Temple & a Valentine's Day Trivia  
game

Reservations are a must & due no  
later than **January 26th**. See  
Presvytera Denise to reserve your  
place.

### 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](mailto:vickiepeckham@gmail.com)

### ORTHODOXY 101

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

#### When will the classes be held?

Monday, January 20—A tour of the Orthodox Church, what we see and what it means.

Monday, January 27—Introduction to the Sacraments.  
Baptism, Chrismation, Confession, Marriage, Unction

Monday, February 3—The Divine Liturgy— A "teaching" Liturgy

Monday, February 10—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](mailto:frstav@gmail.com), so he has enough materials for everyone. There is no charge for this class.

## 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 January the dates are Tuesday January 21 & Monday January 27.

**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 January, the dates are Tuesday January 21 & Tuesday January 28.

**Philoptochos Vasilopita Sunday January 19**—We will cut the Vasilopita for our various ministries at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy TODAY January 19. The Philoptochos will also be offering pieces of Vasilopita as part of coffee hour. Any proceeds from this day will be going to St. Basil's Academy in New York.

**Men's Group**—Our men's group will meet TODAY from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Any men of our community are welcome to join us for dinner, discussion. We meet at 5:00 p.m., walk to a local restaurant and get some food, then bring it back to the hall where we eat and have a discussion. Our topic for January will be "Setting Spiritual Goals for the New Year" and we will also discuss the Feast of Theophany and life of St. John the Baptist.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL MID YEAR REGISTRATION CHECK -IN**—Please stop by the Sunday School table today 1/19/25 during coffee hour: To Register your Toddler 2s- HS Students for Sunday School are not getting our Sunday School Weekly Emails every Friday /To ask any questions you have about Sunday School. Thank you!!

### **Food Pantry Update**

Please help us rebuild the inventory of our Food Pantry. We were able to support many individuals last year and have a goal of doing even more in 2025! We are grateful for your support! We welcome donations anytime and have a dedicated drop-off, to the left, inside the church hall entrance. You can see a full list of items we need in the Messenger and inside the Hall. 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.

### **St. John needs all hands on deck for Gasparilla on January 25!**

Every year we've opened our parking lot to attendees of the Tampa Bay Gasparilla Festivities. This has been a successful undertaking for years and we are thankful for all who have helped in years past! To run this event, we are asking for your help once more! We are looking for a new person to chair this event, as our past chairperson is unable to fill that role this year. He is, however, willing to help a new chairperson understand what is involved in this. If you are willing to chair this event, please contact Fr. Stavros. As for everyone else, even a few hours of volunteering is a great help to make this a safe, fun and profitable event. A sign-up genius along with details will be forthcoming through email and the bulletin.

### **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 Blanckebaker, 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 NEWS & TOPICS

**January 19th**  
 Salvation (Story of Zacchaeus)  
 YOUTH SUNDAY



**January 26th**  
 Confession

*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, JANUARY 19</b>	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. (ALTAR BOYS TODAY– ST. MATTHEW) YOUTH SUNDAY VASILOPITA SUNDAY MEN'S GROUP	DIVINE LITURGY    5:00P.M.	10:00A.M.
<b>MONDAY, JANUARY 20</b>	ORTHODOXY 101		6:30P.M.
<b>TUESDAY, JANUARY 21</b>	WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BIBLE STUDY		10:00A.M. 6:30P.M.
<b>WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22</b>	CHOIR		7:15P.M.
<b>FRIDAY, JANUARY 24</b>	GOYA CLEARWATER WINTER EVENT		
<b>SATURDAY, JANUARY 25</b>	GASPARILLA PARKING GOYA CLEARWATER WINTER EVENT ENTHRONEMENT OF METROPOLITAN SEVASTIANOS IN ATLANTA		
<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 26</b>	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. (ALTAR BOYS – ST. MARK) PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING PARENT/TWEENS RETREAT	DIVINE LITURGY    12:30A.M.-2:30P.M.	10:00A.M.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

**Women's Bible Study**  
 Leader: Fr. Stavros  
 January 21: Bible Study at 10:00am

**Tuesday Night Bible Study**  
 Leader: Fr. John  
 January 21: Bible Study at 6:30pm

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!



**MEMORIAL**

**SERVICE**

Chryssoula Kouvela  
 (1 year)

**“GROWING IN CHRIST THIS UPCOMING  
LENTEN SEASON.”**

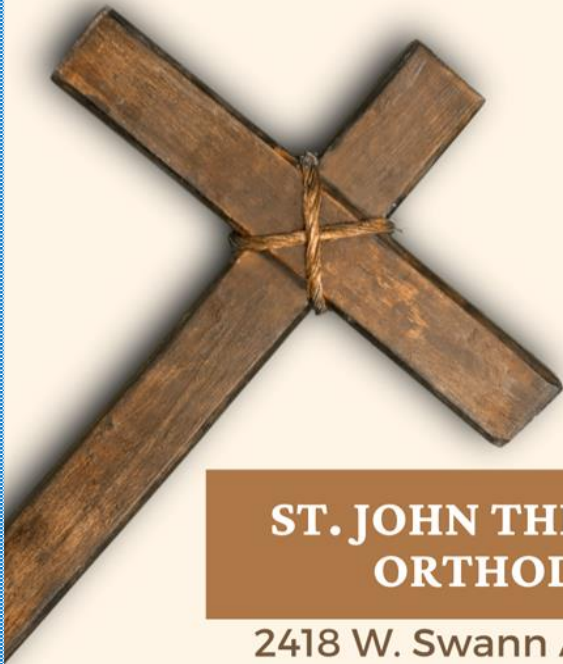
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8  
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

**ALL MEN ARE WELCOME, ORTHODOX OR NOT**

**\$15 (COVERS LUNCH)**

**STARTING WITH DIVINE LITURGY, FOLLOWED BY  
PRESENTATIONS AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

**FR. STAVROS  
AKROTIRIANAKIS**



**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK  
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**2418 W. Swann Ave. Tampa, FL 33609**

<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 Losovitz, Organist	727-688-2782
<b>Community Outreach:</b>	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
<b>Dance Groups:</b>	Η ΧΑΡΑ 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>Philoptochos:</b>	Katherine Sakkis	813-309-1073
<b>Stewardship:</b>	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102
<b>12 Disciples</b>	Theo Panopoulos	248-867-3697
<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