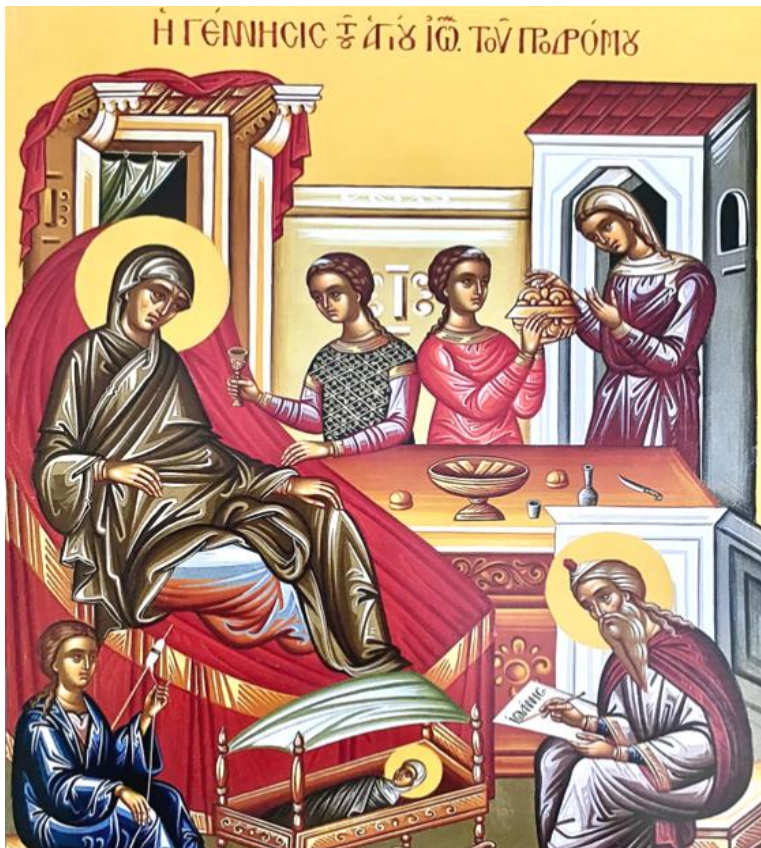


ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



The Conception of St. John the Baptist – Tuesday, September 23

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Sunday after Holy Cross; Apodosis of the Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross, Quadratus the Apostle

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:

Sunday after Holy Cross; Apodosis of the Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross, Quadratus the Apostle

Second Antiphon: *Save us O Son of God, who was crucified in the flesh, to Thee we sing: Alleluia.*

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: *When the angelic powers appeared at the tomb and soldiers guarding You became as though dead and standing by Your sepulchre was Mary seeking Your pure and sacred Body. For You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the virgin woman bestowing the gift of Life. O You who rose from the dead, Lord, we give glory to You.*

Apolytikion for the Cross: *Save O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.*

Apolytikion for 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: *You were lifted on the Cross voluntarily, on Your new community that bears Your Name, do You bestow Your mercies O Christ our God; gladden in Your mighty strength, our faithful leaders, granting to them victories, against all their enemies, and may Your help in battle be for them: a weapon of peace, and banner invincible.*

Trisagion Hymn: *Your Cross we Venerate O Master and Your Holy Resurrection we glorify.*

Megalinarion: *Eating the tree's forbidden fruit once in Paradise brought death to the human race. But through the Cross, today death has no effect, because the curse that fell on the entire human race through mother Eve was undone by the Offspring of the all pure Mother of God, who now is by all the hosts of heaven magnified.*

Communion Hymn: (Psalm 4:6): *Let the Light of Your face shine on us, O 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, SEPTEMBER 21

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance. Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

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: MARK 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

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

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.**



MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Sunday School/Hope Joy

September 28

College Outreach Ministry/Altar Angels

October 5

Philoptochos

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!



St. John Greek Orthodox Church Adult Greek School

Want to Learn Modern Greek?



Teacher born, raised, and educated in Greece with 27 years of experience teaching the Greek language. Adult classes for beginners taught @ St. John Greek Orthodox Church (2418 W. Swann Ave, Tampa, FL 33609). Classes are held at 12:30-3:00pm on Saturday afternoon, starting on September 20, 2025. This will be the first of three sessions, with each session lasting three months.

- Speak Greek
- Read Greek
- Write Greek
- Basic Grammar & more.
- Some Greek History
- BOOK INCLUDED IN PRICE

Price per session is \$125 for church members and \$150 for non-members

Contact Ms. Magdalini Myer: at (813) 523-5771, aspis69@aol.com or the church office at (813) 876-8830

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

FLU VACCINE CLINIC



SUNDAY DECEMBER 7

**Following the Divine Liturgy
NURSING MINISTRY**

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Women's Bible Study on Tuesday mornings with Fr. Stavros will continue meeting at 10:00am. Women's Bible study meets in the Parish Council Room, or via zoom for those who can't make it in person. We will be studying the books of I and II Timothy and Titus.

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 September, the dates are: Tuesday September 23 & Tuesday September 30.**

GOYA— The GOYA Meeting for September will be **TODAY**, from 5:00pm-7:30pm. Dinner, as always, will be provided.

Nursing ministry will have a blood pressure clinic after Divine Liturgy **TODAY**. Please come and get your blood pressure checked and know your numbers. Hypertension is a silent killer.

Men's Group—The Men's Group will meet on **Sunday, September 28**, 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.

JOY Tweens Group —Our first JOY Tweens meeting will be on **Sunday, September 28**, from 12:45-2:15 p.m. We will have lunch, icebreakers, and a discussion with Fr. Stavros. This group is open to all 4-6th graders. Please check your email for the SignUpGenius to RSVP. Contact Maraquet Edquid at 813-422-8963 for more information.

Children and worship/sermon—We are delighted to have so many young children in church each Sunday. We encourage people to bring children so that they are familiar with worship from the youngest age. However, on the occasion when a young child's crying or fussiness cannot be calmed quickly, especially during the sermon, we kindly ask that you step out for a few minutes, and either go to the nursery, or participate via livestream in the Kourmolis Center, so as to not disrupt the opportunity for others to hear the sermon.

Dance Groups—Greek folk dance practices for Y Hara Mas (3rd-6th grades) started on September 14 at 12:15pm in the Kourmoulis Center (during coffee hour)! Practices will continue every Sunday (except September 28) from 12:15 to 12:45pm for the remainder of September and October. Please contact Maraquet Edquid (813-422-8963) with any questions. OPA!

Parea Dance practices will begin **Sunday, September 28th** for Goya aged kids immediately after Sunday School. It is very important to make all the practices if you plan to dance at the festival. Sunday practice dates- **Sept 28, Oct 19, Oct 26, Nov 2nd**. Please email Genie Carter before Sept 28th, [**jgncarter@verizon.net**](mailto:jgncarter@verizon.net) with your child's name and age if you are interested in participating.

Veterans/1st Responders meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 15th** at 7:00pm in the Church Hall .

Orthodoxy 201 Classes with Fr. John will resume on **Thursday, October 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th** at 6:30 pm in the Church Hall.

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Athena Felley, Melissa Romero, Sandra Reyes, Miltiadis, Kostadinou 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, Tola 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 Eydemon, 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 Irakas, Marcelle Triantafyllou, Mary Speegle, June, Katherine, Raissa J, Robert and Inger Calbi and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

We are blessed with 125 devoted Sunday school students; all seeking to grow spiritually and build a closer relationship with God.

This Month's Topics:



9/21 The Lord's Prayer/ Sunday School and H&J are hosting Coffee Hour

9/28 The Creed /Sunday School Class Pictures 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 zackie@yahoo.com to let her know.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------|--|
| Sunday, September 21 | Orthros 8:45a.m. Hara Mas Dance Practice GOYA | Divine Liturgy | 10:00a.m. 12:15p.m. 5:00p.m. |
| Monday, September 22 | Orthodoxy 101 6:30p.m. (<i>Teaching Divine Liturgy</i>) | | |
| Tuesday, September 23 | Women's Bible Study with Fr. Stavros Bible Study with Fr. John | | 10:00a.m. 6:30p.m. |
| Wednesday, September 24 | Parish Council Adult Greek Dance Choir | | 6:30p.m. 7:00p.m. 7:30p.m. |
| Friday, September 26 | <u>ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN</u> Orthros 9:00a.m. | Divine Liturgy | 10:00a.m. |
| Saturday, September 27 | Adult Greek School Starts Young Adult Retreat | | 12:30a.m.-3:00p.m. 10:00a.m.-4:00p.m. |
| Sunday, September 28 | Orthros 8:45a.m. Joy Tweens Hara Mas Dance Practice Men's Group | Divine Liturgy | 10:00a.m. 12:45p.m.-2:15p.m. 12:15p.m. 5:00p.m. |

Assist the Ladies Philoptochos Society and the Daughters of Penelope as they support Hillsborough County Public Schools – "Erase the Need" School Supply Collection Drive

throughout the month of September.
Donate School Supplies and Change a Student's Future

Many students in Hillsborough County Public Schools lack basic supplies needed to succeed in the classroom. Nearly 62% of students or approximately 137,000 children are considered economically disadvantaged.

Your support can make a real difference!

Some of the most needed items include: Backpacks, pencils and colored pencils, 24 count crayons, rulers, scissors, pocket folders, erasers, markers, glue bottles and sticks, notebook paper, construction paper, spiral notebooks and much more.

Bring your supplies to the school bus collection boxes located in the Kourmolis Center. For more information see Ourania Stephanides, Diane Trimis, or Presvytera Denise. Thank you for your generosity!





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

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
YOUNG ADULTS' MINISTRY
PRESENTS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025
10 AM - 4 PM



\$25
registration

ages:
20-40

FINDING MY PURPOSE: USING MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO ANSWER GOD'S CALL FOR MY LIFE

A FALL SPIRITUAL RETREAT LED BY
FR. STAVROS AKROTIRIANAKIS

IDENTIFY YOUR PURPOSE, CONNECT WITH
LIKEMINDED PEERS, HEAR GOD'S WORD

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 21:
STJOHNTPA.YOUNGADULTS@GMAIL.COM

2418 W SWANN AVE, TAMPA, FL, 33609

ORTHODOXY 101

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

When will the classes be held?

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 : | Ellie 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 Triantaflou | 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 MAZ, 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 |
| | Jamie Hartzler | 716-713-9642 |
| Daughters of Penelope: | Ourania Stephanides | 813-546-4711 |
| Finance Committee: | Gary Ward | 813-846-3898 |
| Food Pantry: | Sandra Pappas | 813-785-3747 |
| Gasparilla Parking: | Fady Hakim | 678-294-7732 |
| GOYA: | Tony & Mary Magos | 813-957-3206 |
| Greek Festival: | Volunteer Needed | |
| 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 Triantaflou | 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 |