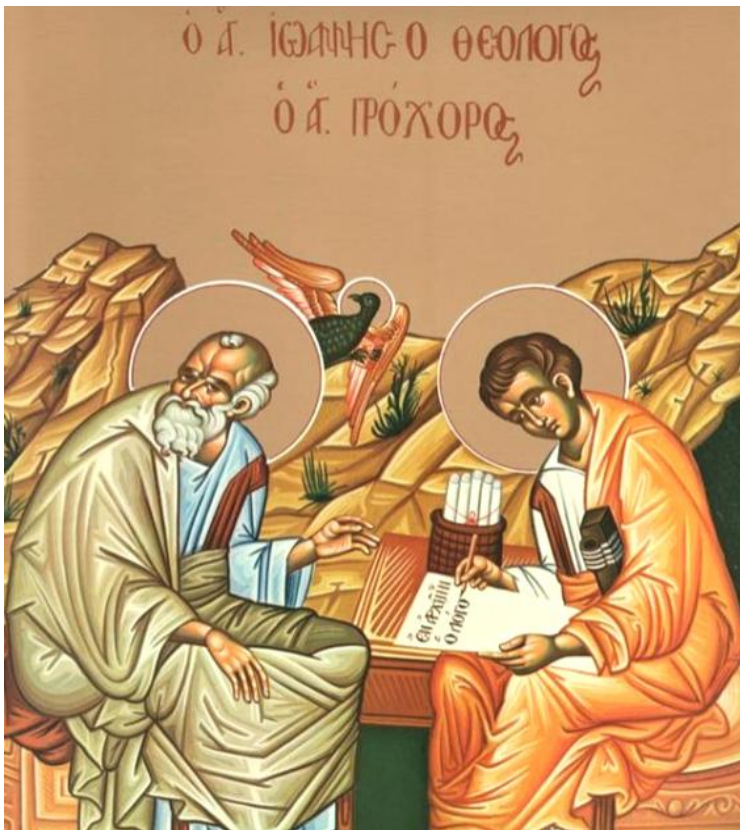


# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



*"The Falling Asleep of St. John the Evangelist and Theologian" – September 26*

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

*1st Sunday of Luke; Chariton the Confessor; Our Righteous Father Alkeisonus,  
Metropolitan of Nicopolis; Old Epirus*

**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:**

*1st Sunday of Luke; Chariton the Confessor; Our Righteous Father Alkeisonus,  
Metropolitan of Nicopolis; Old Epirus*

**Apolytikion 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.*

**Apolytikion for Devout Man:** *With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O Chariton our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.*

**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:** *A protection of Christians unshamable, intercessor to our Holy Maker unwavering, reject not, the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us for you are good, your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you. Hasten to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all time, Theotokos for those who honor you.*

**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.

**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 THIRIBY SOME HAVE ENTRAINED *angels in our midst*

HEB 13:2

## READINGS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

*The Lord will give strength to his people. Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.*

### THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 6:1-10

Brethren, working together with him, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

### GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 5:1-11

At that time, as Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, He saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, He asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when He had ceased speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE BEGIN A  
NEW SERMON SERIES



WEEK ONE  
SEPTEMBER 28  
ALL IN

### YOUNG AT HEART

Forty of St. John's active seniors joined for our monthly gathering on **September 20th**. We enjoyed a delicious lunch and were inspired by a video and discussion on current events in our country. Join us next month - **October 18th**. More information in future bulletins.

### PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING TODAY!

All are welcome to join us for our monthly Philoptochos Meeting after Divine Liturgy in the Zaharias room. We will start around 12:15!

Today the **College Ministry Outreach and Altar Angels** are hosting **coffee hour**! Stop by to say hello to our local college students. We are so happy to have about **15 UT and USF students** that participate in church regularly! What a blessing they are to our future!

## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE *College Outreach Ministry/Altar Angels*

**October 5**  
*Philoptochos*

**October 12**  
*Choir*

**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.

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

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

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

### **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.**



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](mailto:OrthodoxGoldenGala@gmail.com)  
or Call/Text Katerina Damianakis at 727-459-2123

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 7**  
**Following the Divine Liturgy**  
**NURSING MINISTRY**

**FLU VACCINE CLINIC**





## 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 date is: Tuesday September 30.**

**Men's Group**—The Men's Group will meet **TODAY**, 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 is **TODAY** from 12:15-2:00 p.m! We will have lunch, icebreakers, and a discussion with Fr. Stavros. Please meet at 12:15pm in the Sunday School building. Lunch will be served in the HS Girls/PC room. This group is open to all 4th-6th graders. Parents are encouraged to join us! Mark your calendars! Our first movie night will be Friday, October 10, at 6pm in the Kourmolis Center. More details will follow by Email and Sunday School flyer. Contact Maraquet Edquid at 813-422-8963 with any questions.

**Dance Groups**—There is **NO PRACTICE today** for Y Hara Mas (3rd-6th grades). Practice will resume next week on October 4 at 12:15pm in the Kourmolis Center (during coffee hour). Practices will continue every Sunday from 12:15 to 1:00pm for the remainder of October until our Greek Festival on November 7-8, 2025. Please contact Maraquet Edquid (813-422-8963) with any questions. OPA!

**Greek dance practices for Y Hara Mas** (Kindergarten - 2nd grade) will occur each Sunday from 12:15 pm - 12:45 pm in the Kourmolis Center until our Greek Festival on Nov. 7 - 8. Please meet in front of the stage to learn our dances. It is important to attend as many practices as possible so that your child feels confident during the actual performances. If you have any questions, please contact Jamie Hartzler Smith at (716)713-9642. Greetings! 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.

**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.

**Veterans/1st Responders** meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** 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, 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, 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 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, Dymynos, Anna C., Anthony Welker, John Bella, Michele Blankebaker, Jonah, George Voulgaris, Carol Cretekos, Tina, Bob, Bonnie, Pelagia & family, Michael Spithoyanis, Maggie Trakas, 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:

9/28 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 [zackiec@yahoo.com](mailto:zackiec@yahoo.com) to let her know.

## UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

<b>Sunday, September 28</b>	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
<b>Monday, September 29</b>	Orthodoxy 101 6:30p.m.	
<b>Tuesday, September 30</b>	Women's Bible Study with Fr. Stavros Bible Study with Fr. John	10:00a.m. 6:30p.m.
<b>Wednesday, October 1</b>	Adult Greek Dance	7:00p.m.
<b>Saturday, October 4</b>	Adult Greek School Starts	12:30a.m.-3:00p.m.
<b>Sunday, October 5</b>	Orthros 8:45a.m. Joy Tweens Hara Mas Dance Practice	Divine Liturgy 10:00a.m. 12:45p.m-2:15p.m. 12:15p.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!





## BIG NEWS

### Your Donation Matched!

Thanks to the remarkable generosity of an anonymous St. John donor, we have a matching gift challenge that will double every contribution made to our **Arise & Build Capital Campaign by December 1!** This means your gift will have twice the impact in helping us achieve our campaign goals.



**It's Opa Time!**  
**November 7-8,**  
**2025**

Planning is Underway for our Annual Greek Festival! Mark your calendars for Opa time on **Friday Nov 7 (4p-10p) & Saturday Nov 8 (11a-10p)**

It takes the effort of our entire Church Community to host a successful Festival! We highlight our Greek Culture/Heritage but most importantly our Orthodox Christian Faith.

Many Opportunities will be Available for Participation; from Planning, Advertising, Cooking, Baking, Decorating, Dancing to the ***Hundreds of Volunteers Needed to Make it Happen!***

Stay tuned for Bulletin Updates and Emails to include info for the Volunteer Signups, Cooking/Baking Dates, Promotional Info and more. Opa!

## **ORTHODOXY 101**

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

### **When will the classes be held?**

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

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (frstav@gmail.com)	813-394-1038
<b>Associate Priest:</b>	Rev. Fr. John Stefero (jwstefero50@hotmail.com)	678-637-4425
<b>Retired Priest in Residence:</b>	Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830
<b>Ministry Coordinator/Chanter:</b>	Maria Xenick (Mariapxenick@stjohnntpa.org)	813-765-3587
<b>Bookkeeper:</b>	Debbie Bowe (Debbie@stjohnntpa.org)	813-876-8830
<b>Administrative Assistant :</b>	Ellie Kehagias (office@stjohnntpa.org)	813-876-8830
<b>Parish Council:</b>	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
<b>Arise &amp; Build Capital Campaign:</b>	Mike Xenick, Chair	813-340-8737
	Euripides Panos, Vice Chair	813-352-3972
<b>Adult Greek School:</b>	Magda Myer	813-523-5771
<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>College Outreach:</b>	Kathy Kaburis	813-240-6513
<b>Community Outreach:</b>	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
<b>Dance Groups:</b>	H XAPA MAZ, Jamie Hartzler	716-713-9642
	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>Finance Committee:</b>	Gary Ward	813-846-3898
<b>Food Pantry:</b>	Sandra Pappas	813-785-3747
<b>Gasparilla Parking:</b>	Fady Hakim	678-294-7732
<b>GOYA:</b>	Tony & Mary Magos	813-957-3206
<b>Greek Festival:</b>	Theo Panopoulos	248-867-3697
<b>Hope/Joy:</b>	George & Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
<b>Joy Tweens</b>	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
<b>Junior Olympics:</b>	Dwight Forde	727-685-9028
<b>Men's Fellowship:</b>	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
<b>Nursing Ministry:</b>	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
<b>Oratorical Festival:</b>	Peggy Bradshaw	727-244-1374
<b>Photography Ministry:</b>	Karina Findlay	813-476-9632
<b>Philoptochos:</b>	Melissa Krinos	813-716-9975
<b>Stewardship:</b>	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
<b>12 Disciples:</b>	Theo Panopoulos	248-867-3697
<b>Ushers:</b>	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
<b>Technology:</b>	Mike Wenditz	813-550-3099
<b>Veterans/1st Responders :</b>	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
<b>Website/Social Media/App:</b>	Miguel Piniero Jr	305-632-4871
<b>Welcoming Ministry:</b>	Skip Higdon	813-391-6915
<b>Women's Bible Study:</b>	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
<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