

# 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 Holy and Glorious Apostle Thomas – October 6*

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025

*2nd Sunday of Luke; Charitina the Martyr;  
Methodia the Righteous of Kimolos*

**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:**

*2nd Sunday of Luke; Charitina the Martyr;  
Methodia the Righteous of Kimolos*

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:** *From Above did You descend O Christ our God. For us did You endure three days in the tomb, that we may be relieved from passions in this world. You who are our Resurrection and our Life: Glory to You, O Lord.*

**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 EXPECT TO SHOW *hospitality* TO STRANGERS.  
FOR THEREBY SOME HAVE ENTERED AND *angels were raised*  
ROMANS 12:12

## READINGS FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

*Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them. Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.*

**THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 6:16-18; 7:1**

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

### **GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 6:31-36**

The Lord said, "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

#### **YOUNG AT HEART OCTOBER GATHERING**

Join us on **Saturday, October 18** as we commemorate the feast of "**St. Luke the Evangelist**"

- ♦ Orthros – 8:45 am
- ♦ Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am  
(Catered Breakfast to Follow \$10 per person)

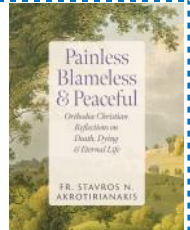
*Reservations a must*

*See Presvytera Denise to RSVP  
**no later than October 12th***



#### **St. John's Bookstore- Fr. Stavros's New Book Release**

*"Painless, Blameless, &  
Peaceful: Orthodox Christian  
Reflections on Death, Dying, &  
Eternal Life"*



— Fr Stavros discusses ways we can understand and accept death, help prepare our loved ones, and find hope when that final day arrives. Pick up your copy in our bookstore today. —



### **FESTIVAL BAKING—OCTOBER 15 & 25 AT 9AM**

All are welcome!

No experience needed.

Questions call Lisa Alsina at 813-728-1094



## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

*Philoptochos*

**October 12**

*Choir*

**October 19**

*Stewardship*

**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!*



PLEASE JOIN US AS WE  
CONTINUE OUR SERMON SERIES



**NATIONAL CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY**  
OCTOBER 5, 2025



Awe'd by the beauty of your  
virginity, and the exceeding  
radiance of your purity:  
Gabriel stood amazed and cried  
out unto you, O Theotokos,  
What praise may I offer that is  
worthy of your beauty?  
By what name shall I call you?  
I am lost and bewildered, but I  
shall cry to you as commanded:  
Rejoice, O full of grace,  
Theotokos of the Akathist



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

### **Memorial Service**

- ♦ John Plarinos—3 years
- ♦ Maria Karolidis—1 year

### **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.**



**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 October, the dates are: Tuesday October 7, Tuesday October 14, Tuesday October 21 & Tuesday October 28.**

**Fr. Stavros** will be out of town from **October 6-9**, attending the National Clergy Retreat. Fr. John will cover all pastoral emergencies during this time.

**JOY Tweens Group** —Our first movie night will be on Friday, October 10, at 6pm in the Kourmolis Center. This group is open to all 4th-6th graders. Check your Email and Sunday School flyer for more details. Contact Maraquet Edquid at 813-422-8963 with any questions.

**GOYA Meeting-** Our regular GOYA meeting will be on **Sunday, October 12**, from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner, as always, will be provided.

**Calling all college students**—Fr. Stavros will host a lunch for college students following Divine Liturgy on **Sunday, October 12**. Please come for a free lunch/discussion. We will meet in the Parish Council room in the administration building.

**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.

**Dance Groups**—Dance practice for Y Hara Mas (3rd-6th grades) resumes today, **Sunday, October 5 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 began in September 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- **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.

**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:

10/5—Reading the Bible

10/12—The Ten Commandments

10/19—Light of Christ/Making Faith Personal

10/26—Holy Communion



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, October 5</b>	Orthros 8:45a.m. Y Hara Mas Dance Practice	Divine Liturgy	10:00a.m. 12:15p.m.
<b>Tuesday, October 7</b>	Women's Bible Study with Fr. Stavros Bible Study with Fr. John		10:00a.m. 6:30p.m.
<b>Wednesday, October 8</b>	Adult Greek Dance Choir		7:00p.m. 7:30p.m.
<b>Thursday, October 9</b>	Orthodoxy 201		6:30p.m.
<b>Friday, October 10</b>	Joy Tweens Movie Night		6:00p.m.
<b>Saturday, October 11</b>	Adult Greek School		12:30-3:00p.m.
<b>Sunday, October 12</b>	Orthros 8:45a.m. Y Hara Mas Dance Practice College Student Lunch after Liturgy GOYA	Divine Liturgy	10:00a.m.   5:00p.m.



**ARISE & BUILD**

St. John the Baptist  
Greek Orthodox Church

## **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, 2024**

**SAVE THE DATE**



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 are available: Greeters, Parking, Children's Area, Kitchen, Baking, Decorating, Dancing, Food line, Gyros, Pastries and more! ***Hundreds of Volunteers are Needed to Make our Festival a Success!***

**Current Baking dates are:**

***Koulouraki – Thursday 10/15 & Saturday 10/25***

***Dolmades – TBA***

Stay tuned for Bulletin Updates and Festival Emails. Info updates include Volunteer Signups, Cooking/Baking Dates, Sponsorship opps and more. Opa!

Scan this QR Codes to sign up for volunteer slots or to donate to the festival.

**Volunteer QR Code & Donation QR Code:**



## **PLEASE JOIN US IN THE FIGHT TO END ALZHEIMER'S**

**October 18th at 8AM at Benchmark International Arena, formerly Amalie Arena**

To register to WALK or to DONATE visit our team site

**<https://alzm.org/6i7km>**

Pease reach out to Maria Zabetakis at 813-748-7709 if you have questions. The Daughter's of Penelope, AHEPA and Philoptochos are participating in this community service project to help find the cure for Alzheimer's disease.

<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