

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



*James the Apostle, son of Alphaeus— October 9*

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025

*Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council; Probus, Andronicus, & Tarachus,  
Martyrs of Tarsus; Symeon the New Theologian*

**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 of the 7th Ecumenical Council; Probus, Andronicus, & Tarachus, Martyrs of Tarsus;  
Symeon the New Theologian*

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:** *The stone that had been sealed before Your tomb by the Judeans and the soldiers guarding did watch over Your pure and sacred Body. O Savior, the third day You arose, and unto all the world did You give life. Whereby all the heavenly powers did proclaim that You are the Giver of Life: Glory unto our Resurrected Christ; Glory unto Your Kingdom; Glory to Your dispensation, O You Who alone loves all.*

**Apolytikion for the Fathers:** *Supremely glorified are You, O Christ our God, who established the holy Fathers on earth as beacons, and through them guided us all to the true Faith. Most compassionate Lord, glory be to You!*

**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.

## READINGS FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

*Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers. Verse: For you are just in all you have done.*

### THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO TITUS 3:8-15

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned.

When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful.

All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

### GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 8:5-15

The Lord said this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when His disciples asked Him what this parable meant, He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As He said these things, He cried out "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

## 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!*



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

### Memorial Service

- ♦ *Stelios Spithoyanis—  
31 years*
- ♦ *Alexandra Pagoulatos—  
40days  
(Konstantinos Alexandridis,  
Anastasia Alexandridis,  
George Alexandridis, Marina  
Katsoulis, Gerasimos  
Pagoulatos)*

### 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.

## 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 14, Tuesday October 21 & Tuesday October 28.**

**GOYA Meeting-** Our regular GOYA meeting will be **TODAY** 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 **TODAY**. 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.

**Young Adult Dinner Discussion on Thursday, October 16**—Our young adult group meets once a month for dinner/discussion (and other times for fellowship and service.) The meeting for October will be on **Thursday, October 16 at 7:00p.m** in the Kourmolis Center. All young adults, ages 18-40 are invited to participate. We will be having a monthly discussion based on some set topics. The topic for October will be: Talking to God in prayer, hearing Him through Scripture. Group members use What's App for communication. Please contact Aris Rogers to be added to our what's app for young adults at 813-309-5525. The November meeting will be on **Thursday, November 20.**

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

**Dance Groups**—Dance practice for Y Hara Mas (3rd-6th grades) resumed on 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.

**Food Pantry Update**—We're so grateful for your continued donations—every little bit truly helps! Last month, we supported Metropolitan Ministries, filled a "Blessing Tray" for Tampa Hope residents, and assisted several neighbors in need. Our hearts are full, and our shelves fill because of you. Please keep the momentum going and help us stay stocked. If you or someone you know could use a hand—or if you'd like to take a bag of groceries to share—we're here to help. Call or text Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747.



## 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.**

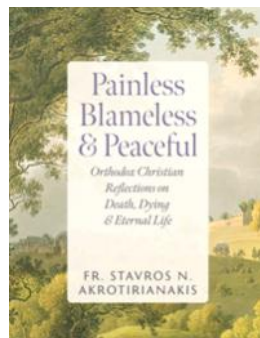


## St. John's Bookstore-

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. –



## 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.



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



All are welcome!

No experience  
needed.

Questions call Lisa

Alsina at 813-728-1094



### PHILOPTOCHOS AND DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE THANK YOU!

*Your support has made a tremendous difference to so many kids in Hillsborough County. As we conclude our "Erase the Need" School Supply Collection Drive, we offer our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed. Your overwhelming response reflects your kindness and consideration to those in need. May God bless you for your generosity.*

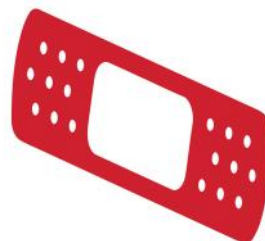


SUNDAY

DECEMBER 7

**FOLLOWING THE  
DIVINE LITURGY  
NURSING  
MINISTRY**

**FLU VACCINE CLINIC**



# Matching Gift Opportunity

## Big News!

### Your Donation Matched

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous St. John donor, we have a matching gift challenge that **doubles every NEW or additional pledge made** to our Arise & Build Capital Campaign **prior to December 1** (up to a certain amount).

Your gift will have **twice the impact** in helping us achieve 100% participation and our financial goals for Arise & Build.

### How to Give

Prayerfully consider your donation.

Visit [www.ariseandbuild.com](http://www.ariseandbuild.com),

scan the QR code,

or contact the parish office

for a pledge form at

(813) 876-8830.

*Available naming opportunities  
found on the website.*





## Community Kitchen “Deep Clean” + Festival Prep Day

Wednesday, October 29 • Gather at 10:00 AM

Many hands make light work! We’re doing a **deeper clean and organize** of our Community Kitchen (and a few nearby areas) to get ready for the Festival. Come at 10:00 AM and stay as long as you’re able – every bit helps to keep things running smoothly.

Bring a friend, roll up your sleeves, and let’s make a visible difference together!

Questions or ready to help? **Call/Text Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747.**

## Parish Assembly Meeting – Sunday, October 26 - Following the Divine Liturgy | Kourmolis Center

All parishioners are invited to attend our **Parish Assembly** as we review parish updates, approve the **2026 budget**, and hold **Parish Council nominations**.

These meetings are not theological in nature; rather, they are the business side of parish life. The **Uniform Parish Regulations (UPR)**, which govern every parish in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, require that each parish hold periodic Parish Assembly Meetings. According to the Uniform Parish Regulations, **only stewards in good standing** – those who have submitted a 2025 pledge and are current – may vote. If you have not yet made your stewardship pledge for this year, we invite you to do so before the meeting so that you can participate fully.

*For any questions please contact George Mitseas - 813-748-1220 / [gmitseas@mail.com](mailto:gmitseas@mail.com)*

Your participation helps us meet quorum and ensures our parish moves forward together in faith, transparency, and unity.

**Please plan to attend and be part of this important gathering for our parish family.**

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*Be part of the conversation that shapes our parish's future!*

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**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, Toulia 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, Damynos, 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:

10/12—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 12</b>	Orthros	8:45a.m.	Divine Liturgy	10:00a.m.
	Y Hara Mas Dance Practice			
	College Student Lunch after Liturgy			
	GOYA			5:00p.m.
<b>Tuesday, October 14</b>	Women's Bible Study with Fr. Stavros			10:00a.m.
	Bible Study with Fr. John			6:30p.m.
<b>Wednesday, October 15</b>	Baking day Festival			9:00a.m.
	Paraklesis			6:00p.m.
	Adult Greek Dance			7:00p.m.
	Veteran's/First Responders			7:00p.m.
	Choir			7:30p.m.
<b>Thursday, October 16</b>	Young Adults			7:00p.m.
	Philoptochos Board			7:00p.m.
<b>Saturday, October 18</b>	<b><u>ST. LUKE</u></b>			
	Orthros	9:00a.m.	Divine Liturgy	10:00a.m.
	Young At Heart			11:30am-1:30p.m.
	Adult Greek School			12:30pm-3:00p.m.
	Community Outreach			
<b>Sunday, October 19</b>	Orthros	8:45a.m.	Divine Liturgy	10:00a.m.
	Y Hara Mas Dance Practice			
	Men's Group			5:00p.m.

~ November 7-8, 2025 ~



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~ FESTIVAL COUNTDOWN ~25 DAYS UNTIL OUR OPA KICKOFF WEEKEND ~

*'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven' **Matthew 5:16***

### THINGS TO KNOW

**Volunteer** – Help make our Festival a success! It's our biggest fundraiser, and we still need more hands—only 30% of our shifts are filled. Visit the Signup Genius to sign up for a shift (or two or three!) and encourage others to volunteer. Please stop by our Festival Table **TODAY**



**Promote** – Pick up a Yard Sign and Poster **TODAY** to share with your business, family, and friends! Post on social media and your local Nextdoor site—and go ahead, *yell it from the rooftops!*

**Critical Areas of Need** – We're looking for someone—or a small team—to oversee the **Kids Area** at our Festival. Everything will be provided, and it's sure to bring lots of smiles!

Please contact Sandra Pappas #813-785-3747 or [spappas11@gmail.com](mailto:spappas11@gmail.com) if you're able to help.

**Admission & Parking:** - Admission and parking are **free**! We will be collecting donations at the door and throughout the weekend to support our parish ministries. If you're unable to attend this year, please consider making a donation in spirit—your support still makes a difference.



**Help Needed on the Following Dates ~ All are welcome ~ we will show you how!**

**Baking/Rolling – Koulourakia** – 9 a.m. - Wednesday, October 15 & Saturday, October 25

**Dolmades Rolling** – 10 a.m. - Friday, October 24

**Decorating / Setup – Festival Week** – 11/3-11/6 (Times Vary - See Festival SignUp)

**[TampaGreekFestival.Com](http://TampaGreekFestival.Com)**

<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