

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~1ST SUNDAY OF LUKE~

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

*1st Sunday Of Luke —
Phocas the Martyr, Bishop of Sinope;
Phocas the Gardener*

**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:

*1st Sunday Of Luke—
Phocas the Martyr, Bishop of Sinope;
Phocas the Gardener*

Apolytikion of the Resurrection:

When the tidings of the Resurrection from the angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples, and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the apostles, with boasting did they proclaim: that death is vanquished evermore and Christ our God is risen from the dead, granting to the world His great mercy.

Apolytikion of St. Phocas:

Becoming a partner with the Apostles in way of life and successor to their thrones, O Godinspired Saint, in the active life you found an entrance to contemplation. Hence you rightly expounded the word of truth, and you shed your blood in struggling for the faith, O Hieromartyr Phocas. Intercede with Christ our God, beseeching Him to save our souls.

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: *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, SEPTEMBER 22

EPISTLE LESSON:

Verse: O Lord, how manifold are your works. You have made all things in wisdom. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

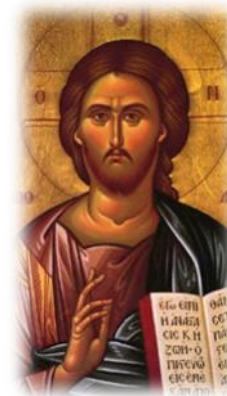
THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 16:13-24

Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first converts in Achaia, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicos, because they have made up for your absence; for they refreshed my spirit as well as yours. Give recognition to such men. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.



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.



MEMORIAL SERVICE:

John Plarinos (2 years)

TRISAGION:

Demetri Passalaris (10 years)

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by Anthony's Family

September 29
Memorial

October 6
Choir

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Your Stewardship/Gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure provide the foundation of our beautiful church!

*Look for a Stewardship Table in the Church Hall on Sunday September 22nd to learn, ask questions or complete a Pledge form. Pledge forms are available in the Narthex and online at stjohntpa.org (scan the QR below for a direct path). We have important general assembly meetings scheduled for October and November. To participate in these meetings and have your voice heard, please ensure you're up to date on your Stewardship commitment 30 days prior to the date of each meeting. For any questions, please call or text **George Mitseas at 813-748-1220**.*

Scan here to access our Online Stewardship Pledge Form



DID YOU KNOW:

St. John has an App for easy access to many valuable resources. This includes the Live Stream Services, Liturgical Text, Bulletins, Monthly Messenger, Online Stewardship Pledge Form, Giving options and more. We will continue to expand the information on our App in the future. Be sure to download it today!



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!

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 **September** the date is **Tuesday September 24**.

We are studying I Corinthians.

Tuesday night Bible study with Fr. John will continue meeting at 6:30 p.m. on most Tuesday evenings 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 24**.

Y Hara Mas Greek dance practices for the younger group (K-2nd grade) began on **Sunday 9/15/24** and will continue through **Sunday 10/27/24** (7 Sunday total practices for the festival November 1,2.) Same will be held after Divine Liturgy and during coffee hour in the church hall by the stage. There will be a sign-up sheet. Contact **Alexandra DeMaio 813 340 9668** or **Alexandra.DeMaio@libertymutual.com** accordingly for any questions. OPA!

Dance Groups

Greek dance practices for Y Hara Mas older group (3rd-6th grades) will continue every Sunday from 12:15 to 12:45pm at the Kourmoulis Center (during coffee hour) for the remainder of September and October until our Greek Festival on November 1-2, 2024. Please contact Maraquet Edquid (813-422-8963) with any questions. OPA!

Panigyri Dancers – Greetings! Opa!

The adult Greek dance group Panigyri will continue every Wednesday in the church hall for our Greek festival performances. The **Greek Festival dates are November 1st and 2nd**. Please look for any further updates in the Messenger or weekly Bulletins. Any questions pls contact **Alex DeMaio 813 340 9668** or email **Alexandra.DeMaio@libertymutual.com**.

Men's Group – The Men's Group will meet **today on Sunday, September 22, 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.

Informal Orthodox Inquirers meeting will be held Tuesday September 24th at 5:00 pm.

Food Pantry Update

We are grateful for your ongoing donations to our Food Pantry. We collect items anytime and have a dedicated drop-off, to the left, inside the church hall entrance. The first Sunday of each month is our bigger collection day. We currently need Canned Fruit, Bars, Peanut Butter & Jelly and Snacks. We support Tampa Hope, Metropolitan Ministries and Matthew 25. If you know of someone in need or wish to take a bag of groceries to go, we can make that happen! Please call or text Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747

Kitchen Tidy/Organize Day!

If you love to tidy/organize, please join our dedicated volunteers next **Wednesday September 25th** to participate and help spread the word. We Tidy/Organize & Clean the Kitchen and Storage areas the last Wednesday of each month. We start by 10a and work for just a few hours. Many helping hands make for light work! Please call or text Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747

JOY Tweens Group

Our first JOY Tweens meeting will be on Sunday, **September 29, from 12:45-2:15 p.m.** We will have lunch, play some games, and have a discussion with Fr. Stavros. This group is open to all 4-6th graders. Contact Maraquet Edquid at 813-422-8963 for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

September 22
The Lord's Prayer



September 29
The Creed

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

Sunday, September 22	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. (ALTAR BOYS TODAY—ST. MATTHEW) MEN'S GROUP	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M. 5:00P.M.
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23	ORTHODOXY 101 (TEACHING LITURGY)	6:30P.M.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24	WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BIBLE STUDY PARISH COUNCIL	10:00A.M. 6:30P.M. 6:30P.M.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25	GREEK DANCE CHOIR	7:00P.M. 7:15P.M.
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26	<u>ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN</u> ORTHROS 9:00A.M.	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27	YOUNG ADULT RETREAT VESPERS	6:30P.M.
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28	YOUNG ADULT RETREAT ADULT GREEK SCHOOL CHILDREN'S GREEK SCHOOL	9:30-5:00P.M.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. (ALTAR BOYS —ST. MARK)	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

Women's Bible Study
Leader: Fr. Stavros
September 24: Tuesday at 10:00am

Tuesday Night Bible Study
Leader: Fr. John
September 24: Tuesday at 6:30pm

ORTHODOXY 101



Fr. Stavros offers this class two times per year, in the spring and in the fall. This will be a Four-week course of study on Monday nights to make people aware of the basics of being an Orthodox Christian. The classes will be part lecture, part discussion, with lots of time for questions and answers.

Who should attend the Orthodoxy 101 class?

- 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 course in the basics of Orthodoxy is encouraged to attend.

The two remaining sessions will be done as follows:

Monday, September 23 The Divine Liturgy—This will actually be a “teaching” Liturgy on the solea of the church. If you have taken the class, or if you wish to only attend THIS session, please feel free to do so.

Monday, September 30 Orthodox Traditions—fasting, icons, prayer, and separating Theology from “yiayialogy.” Classes will be held on these three Mondays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and will be held 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.

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 unawares.*
HEBREWS 13:2

COLLEGE STUDENT OUTREACH

Kathy Kaburis is once again leading our college Student Outreach Ministry. We want to connect with our college students who are in school away from home as well as those students who attending college here at one of our local schools in Tampa from other areas around the country who are new to our St. John community.

TO OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS— Please join our mailing list to stay connected! Please send your name, current email, mailing address and phone number so you can be placed on our list!

TO OUR COLLEGE PARENTS— Please confirm with your student that we have their contact information!

You can send your information to **Kathy at**
kkaburis2000@yahoo.com and or
(813)240-6513



YOUNG AT HEART OCTOBER GATHERING

Join us on **Saturday,**
October 12th

11:45 Gathering time

Noon Potluck
Luncheon

Followed by Quiz and
Discussion on
**"The Rhythm and
Seasons of the
Church"**

Please reply to
Presvytera Denise no
later than October
6th with number
attending and item
you will bring for the
luncheon.

*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!*



Suicide Hotline

Never Give Up!

SAVE THE DATE! NOVEMBER 1 – 2



We are in countdown mode to our Annual Greek Festival. Just 39 days Away...YES we are counting! Congratulations to Jamie Valaes and Sophia Pecht our first volunteers on the Signup Genius! This is our largest single fundraiser, and we rely on Volunteers to make it a success for our beloved church. We encourage you to step up and sign up now and consider one of the main areas, listed below, to lead. We have confidence in our community and your support. Please use the QR Code below to access our Tampa Greek Festival Volunteer Signup Genius. Look for our dedicated Festival Table in the Church Hall kicking off on Sunday, September 29 and every Sunday after, leading up to the Festival Weekend.

Volunteer SignUp for Tampa Greek Festival



Marketing/Communications – Flyers and Yard Signs coming soon. Stay tuned for Cooking Dates as they get finalized for October along with additional planning meetings.

Critical Area – We need help and leadership in many Key Areas. We will provide support and training!

- ◆ Kids Area
- ◆ 50/50 Raffle Coordinator
- ◆ Roving Bar Carts (in Hall),
- ◆ Pre- Festival Ordering working with John Zelatis (a seasoned pro)
- ◆ Logistics/Runners

If you would like to lead, co-lead or otherwise assist in any of these areas, please contact Mike Xenick at mxenick@gmail.com or 813-340-8737 or Sandra Pappas at spappas11@gmail.com or 813-785-3747

Festival Baking Dates

Thursday October 10 – 9:30 AM

Saturday October 19 – 9:30 AM

Please join us! Many hands make light work,

*-No prior experience necessary-
Questions: call Lisa Alsina- 813 728-1094*



Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc.
126 East 37th Street, New York, NY 10016
T: 212.977.7770
E: supportgroup@philoptochos.org
W: www.philoptochos.org



**TWO UPCOMING CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS FOR
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CAREGIVERS NATIONWIDE:**

Group 1: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 to THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24
7:00 pm EST – 8:00 pm EST

Group 2: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12 to TUESDAY DECEMBER 17
7:00 pm EST – 8:00 pm EST

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED: <https://bit.ly/3AJ1SYY>.

- Are you caring for a loved one of any age who may be elderly, or has a chronic or life-threatening illness or health condition, or who is disabled?
- Do you wish you knew others who are facing the same challenges as you?
- Do you wish there were someone with whom you can share your thoughts, concerns, experiences, and questions?
- Do you wish you were part of a community of caregivers who understands our faith, culture, family traditions, and background?
- Are you so overwhelmed you're not even sure what questions to ask or who could help?

Please select the group that best fits your schedule.

Each session is 6 consecutive weeks.

Groups meet between 7pm – 8pm EST

Groups are conducted over ZOOM

Space is limited – don't delay.

Pre-registration is required.

A program of the National Philoptochos Department of Social Services and facilitated by professionals knowledgeable in caregiving and aging services, each group will "meet" over six consecutive weeks from 7pm – 8pm EST over ZOOM. Please select the group that best fits your schedule:

Group 1 will meet on 6 consecutive Thursdays from September 19th to October 24th.

Group 2 will meet on 6 consecutive Tuesdays from November 12th to December 17th.

In a confidential and safe environment, we will discuss best practices to help you manage the physical and emotional needs of your loved one; cognitive issues resulting from Alzheimer's or other dementias; caregiver stress; work/life balance; family dynamics / decision-making; sandwich generation challenges; long-distance and holiday caregiving; financial concerns; accessing local and broader services and resources and preparing for the future.

The last session of each group will be led by a member of the clergy who will address how faith, culture and spirituality can help build your understanding, strength and resilience.

[Pre-register by clicking here](https://bit.ly/3AJ1SYY)

For information, please email us at supportgroup@philoptochos.org

**ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE – NEW GREETING
CARD NOW AVAILABLE!**

A new all occasion greeting card is now available in our bookstore. The card features a photo of a mosaic icon of Christ the Good Shepherd from Kykkos Monastery in Cyprus.



Inside quote: John 10:11, 27-28 with sentiment "**May the Good Shepherd always carry you safely in His arms**". The cards are beautifully done and a great value at \$2 per card.

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; Kostadinou 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 Eudemon, 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 and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.



Parish Priest:	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (frstav@gmail.com)	813-394-1038
Retired Priest in Residence:	Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830
Retired Priest in Residence:	Rev. Fr. John Stefero (jwstefero50@hotmail.com)	678-637-4425
Ministry Coordinator/Chanter:	Maria Xenick (Mariapxenick@stjohntpa.org)	813-765-3587
Bookkeeper:	Debbie Bowe (debbie!@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830
Administrative Assistant :	Elli Kehagias (office@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830
Parish Council:	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
	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855
	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
AHEPA:	Vasil(Bill) Zaferos	414-737-9103
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 Losoviz, Organist	727-688-2782
Community Outreach:	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
Dance Groups:	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
Daughters of Penelope:	Ourania Stephanides	813-546-4711
Festival:	Mike Xenick	813-340-8737
Finance Committee:	Gary Ward	813-846-3898
Food Pantry:	Sandra Pappas	813-785-3747
GOYA:	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346
Hope/Joy:	George & Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
Joy Tweens	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
Men's Fellowship:	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
Nursing Ministry:	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
Photography Ministry:	Karina Findlay	813-476-9632
Philoptochos:	Katherine Sakkis	813-309-1073
Stewardship:	Chris Kyrus	757-672-1920
	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
Sunday School:	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102
Ushers	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
Veterans/1st Responders	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
Welcoming Ministry:	Maria Xenick	813-765-3587
Women's Bible Study:	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-876-8830
Young Adults	Aris Rogers	813-309-5525
Young at Heart:	Dora Morgan	813-613-3738
Youth Protection:	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855