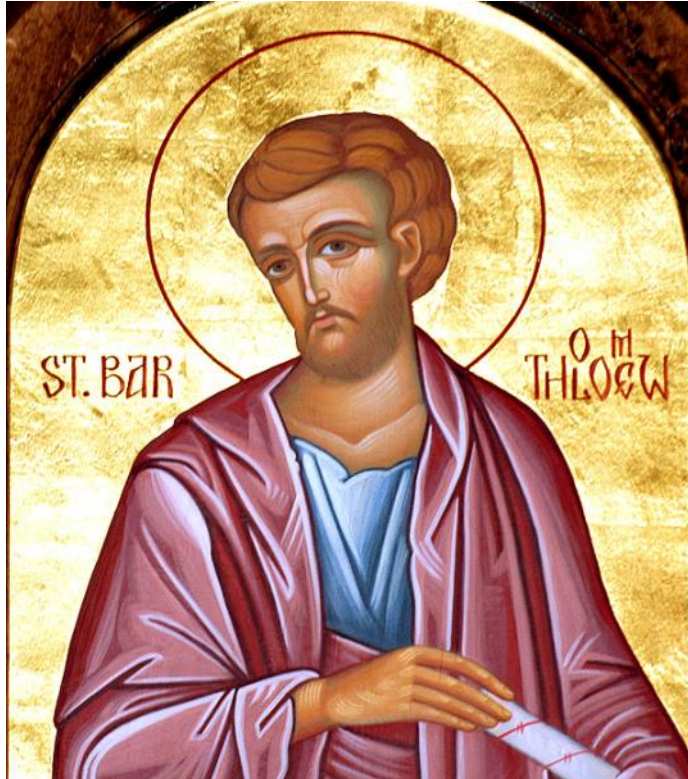


ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



*~ Return of the Body of Bartholomew the Glorious Apostle –
Monday, August 25~*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025

*11th Sunday of Matthew ; Eutyches the Hieromartyr & Disciple of St. John
the Theologian; Cosmas of Aetolia, Equal to the Apostles*

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:

11th Sunday of Matthew ; Eutyches the Hieromartyr & Disciple of St. John the Theologian; Cosmas of Aetolia, Equal to the Apostles

Resurrectional Apolytikion:

When You descended to the realm of death, You as Life immortal, rendered to Hades a mortal blow, through Your Divine Radiance. And when You, from the depths of Hades and the darkness below, did raise the dead all the powers of heaven did proclaim and cry out: O life-giving Christ and our God we give glory.

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.

Join us as we continue our
three week sermon series.

THE POWER OF Generosity

WEEK TWO
Sunday, August 24th

UNREASONABLE FORGIVENESS

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.

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.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 24

The Lord is my strength and my song. Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.

THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 9:2-12

Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 18:23-35

The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the torturers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

MEMORIAL SERVICE

- ♦ Richard Alexander Grabowski (40 days)
- ♦ Mia Ciotti (40 days)

TRISAGION

- ♦ Silva Basaraba (40 days)
- ♦ Doucas (Duke) Goranites (6 months)

FANOUROPITA SUNDAY – SUNDAY AUGUST 31, 2025

On Sunday August 31, Philoptochos will offer Fanouropites for sale to benefit the Metropolis of Atlanta Youth Ministry. Fr. Stavros will offer a blessing prayer in the church for the Fanouropites to bless the cakes that will be sold. If you would like to bake a Fanouropita, please bring it to the church on August 31 and have it placed on the table in the front. Please contact **Jeanie Nenos (813-451-9116)** if you have questions.



MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Carr Family

August 31

Young At Heart/Philotochos (Fanouropita)

September 7

Arise & Build

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!



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.**



ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE - **BOOK OF THE WEEK**

"If We Confess Our Sins" by Fr. Thomas Hopko. Recommended by Fr. John at a recent Bible Study, this booklet is a perfect resource when preparing for Confession. Includes an explanation of the purpose and meaning of confession, along with an Examination of Conscience based on The Beatitudes.



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

Our Veterans/1st Responders meeting will be on Wednesday, September 3rd at 6:30 pm in the Church Hall. We would be glad to see you there!

Attention College Students- WE NEED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION –

We want to stay in touch with our college students this upcoming school year. Please scan this QR code and send us your contact information. Thank you.

2025-2026 College Student Contact Information

Please scan the QR code to go directly to a google form!



MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Tuesday morning Bible Study with Fr. Stavros will be on hiatus for the summer. It will resume on September 9.

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 August the date is: Tuesday August 26.**

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.

Save the date to donate blood!—The Big Red Bus is coming **TODAY** after Divine Liturgy for blood donations. Anyone 18 years or older can donate and save lives! Please consider donating. Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code **14583**



Kitchen Tidy/Organize Day!—If you love to tidy/organize, please join our dedicated volunteers **Wednesday August 27** to participate. 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 and keep our Community Kitchen running smoothly! Please call or text Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747

Young at Heart Gathering to Commemorate the Dormition of the Theotokos

Fr. Stavros, Fr. John, and over 40 others gathered on Friday, August 15th to Commemorate the Dormition of the Theotokos. We started the day by attending Orthros and Divine Liturgy and then enjoyed a potluck and video/discussion focused on the feast day and on the icon of Panagia Fidousa of Kefalonia. Our next gathering will be on Saturday, September 20th and include a catered meal. Look for more information in upcoming bulletins.



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

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

Welcome back to Sunday School! We've missed our students and are looking forward to being together again and growing in our faith.



Our August Topics:

8/24 Prayer

8/31 No Class- Labor 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 to let her know.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Sunday, August 24	Orthros	8:45a.m.
	Divine Liturgy	10:00a.m.
	Blood Drive-Nursing Ministry	
	Men's Group	5:00p.m.
Tuesday, August 26	Bible Study with Fr. John	6:30p.m.
Wednesday, August 20	Adult Greek Dance	7:00p.m.
	Choir	7:15p.m.
Friday, August 29	<u>BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST</u>	
	Orthros	9:00 a.m.
	Divine Liturgy	10:00a.m.
Sunday, August 31	Orthros	8:45a.m.
	Divine Liturgy	10:00a.m.
	NO Sunday School	

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

Women's Bible Study

Leader: Fr. Stavros

NO Bible Study

Tuesday Night Bible Study

Leader: Fr. John

Tuesday, August 26 at 6:30pm.



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

What's Your Why? COFFEE HOUR

Join us as we begin a new ecclesiastical
year, the start of the fall season and
honor the 70th anniversary of St. John.

Let's gather *Today*
To celebrate *Yesterday*

Sunday
September 7



ORTHODOXY 101

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

When will the classes be held?

- Monday, September 8—A tour of the Orthodox Church, what we see and what it means*
- Monday, September 15—Introduction to the Sacraments: Baptism, Chrismation, Confession, Marriage, Unction*
- 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 Triantafilou	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 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
Gasparilla Parking:	Fady Hakim	678-294-7732
GOYA:	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346
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 Triantafilou	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