

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~Entrance of the Theotokos to the Temple- November 21~

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2024

13th Sunday Of Luke –

Our Holy Father Clement, Pope of Rome ; Peter, Archbishop of Alexandria

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:

13th Sunday Of Luke —

Our Holy Father Clement, Pope of Rome ; Peter, Archbishop of Alexandria

Apolytikion of the Resurrection:

Co-eternal with the Father and Spirit is the Word Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation we the faithful both praise and worship Him. For in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the cross and death did He endure and He raised unto life the dead by His all Glorious Resurrection.

Apolytikion of the Feast: *Today is the prelude of the good pleasure of God for humanity, and the proclamation of mankind's salvation; in the temple of God, the Virgin is clearly manifest, to all foretelling the coming of Christ. Wherefore, let us cry out to her with a mighty voice: Rejoice O fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.*

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:

The very purest abode of the Savior, and the most priceless bridal chamber and Virgin, the most sacred treasure of the glory of God, today is led inside of the house of the Lord, bringing in the grace with her of the Holy Spirit. It is for her God's angels sing in praise: she is truly the heavenly tabernacle.

Communion Hymn:

I will receive the cup, receive the cup of salvation, I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. Alleluia.

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, NOVEMBER 24

EPISTLE LESSON:

YOU, O LORD, SHALL KEEP US AND PRESERVE US.

VERSE: SAVE ME, O LORD, FOR THE GODLY MAN HAS FAILED.

THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GALATIANS 6:11-18

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 18:18-27

At that time, a ruler came to Jesus and asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.'" And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

PLEASE NOTE:

THE KOURMOLIS CENTER IS **OPEN ONLY FOR OVERFLOW SEATING FOR WORSHIP/BOOKSTORE/BATHROOMS**, WHILE WE HOUSE OUR OFFICES AND DISPLACED ITEMS. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AS WE NEGOTIATE THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. OUR OFFICES ARE TEMPORARILY LOCATED IN THE KOURMOLIS CENTER, WHICH HAS RESULTED IN THE CANCELLATION, POSTPONING OR ALTERING OF SEVERAL SCHEDULED MINISTRIES AND MEETINGS. PLEASE STAY TUNED FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES.

ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE – GIFT FOR CHILDREN AGES 2-6

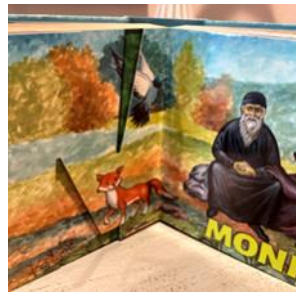
Parents, Grandparents, and Godparents will find the book

"O Is For Orthodox"

A delightful and beautifully illustrated board book that takes each letter of the alphabet and links it to a specific aspect of Orthodox worship or theology. The artistry and subject matter included in this book makes it a very desirable gift for your special someone! Stop into the bookstore today to see this very unique item.

Save the Date - Christmas is Coming!

St. John's Bookstore Christmas Shop opening **Sunday, December 1st**. Nativity ornaments, cards, icons, stocking stuffers and more for your Christmas shopping!



MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

COFFEE HOUR UPDATE

Coffee hour will be held in the breezeway between the church and the Kourmolis Center temporarily. We expect the office situation to last another 2-3 weeks, so thank you for your patience.

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!



THIS YEAR KEEP THANKS IN THANKSGIVING!

Let us all come to church to give "Eucharistia! "Eucharistia", is the Greek word for Thanksgiving. As we celebrate Thanksgiving with turkey and the Dallas Cowboys on Thursday, set aside Wednesday to receive the Holy Thanksgiving. As is our custom at St. John, we will celebrate Divine Liturgy for Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 27 at 6:00 p.m.

YOUNG AT HEART



Join us on Saturday, December 7th for the **Young at Heart Christmas Gathering**

Meet and Greet
11:45 am
Potluck Luncheon
12 Noon

Followed by Gift Exchange and Christmas Caroling
Please bring a wrapped gift with a \$10 value appropriate for either guy or gal.

Contact Presvytera Denise no later than Dec 1st with the number attending and the item you will share for the potluck.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS!

DECEMBER CALENDAR!

12/1 - Christine Scourtes 100th Birthday Party—after divine liturgy—Open to the entire community. Please come and celebrate. Lunch buffet and birthday cake. Sponsored by Philoptochos and the Parish Council. We will be accepting donations to Lighthouse for the blind, that will be given in Christine's name.



12/8 & 12/15 — Christmas Bake Sale—after divine liturgy—spanakopita, tiropita, vasilopita as well as baklava & kourambiethes, will be available for sale Dec 8 and 15th. First come, first serve.



Christmas Meals for Needy — We are partnering with the Sunday School and Joy/Hope to provide Christmas meals to the needy. In particular, Philoptochos is collecting \$15.00 gift cards for turkey. If you want to donate gift cards please give them to Katherine Sakkis. If you would rather donate money, see Katherine or Tina Andre and we will purchase the gift cards for you.



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!



MEMORIAL SERVICE

Alexandria
Xintaras
(40 days)

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. We will NOT have Bible Study on Tuesday, November 26. For December the dates are Tuesday December 3, Tuesday December 10 & Tuesday December 17.

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 November, the date is Tuesday, November 26. For December, the dates are Tuesday December 3, Tuesday December 10 & Tuesday December 17.

Monday, November 25— St. Katherine the Great Martyr—St. Katherine was born in Alexandria, Egypt in the third century. She was very wise and eloquent, successfully arguing for Christianity in the face of tyrannical rulers and philosophers. She was martyred in the year 305 and her relics were taken by Angels to Mount Sinai where they were discovered many years later. St. Katherine has the title "Pansophou," the "All-Wise." We celebrate St. Katherine on Monday, November 25 with Orthros at 9:00a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00a.m.

Wednesday, November 27—Evening Liturgy for Thanksgiving —In Greek the word for Thanksgiving is "Eucharistia," so the Holy Eucharist is the "Holy Thanksgiving." As we celebrate Thanksgiving with turkey and the Dallas Cowboys on Thursday, set aside Wednesday to receive the Holy Thanksgiving. As is our custom at St. John, we will celebrate Divine Liturgy for Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 27 at 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 30— St. Andrew the Apostle —St. Andrew is the first-called of the Apostles. He is also the patron saint of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. We celebrate St. Andrew on Saturday, November 30 with Orthros at 9:00a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:00a.m.

Office Closures— Our office will remain closed Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November 29 in honor of Thanksgiving. We will reopen Monday, December 2.

Food Pantry Update— We appreciate your ongoing contributions to our Food Pantry! We are gathering items to prepare "Snack Bags" for the residents of Tampa Hope. We are asking for the following to fill these bags: individual apple sauce/fruit cups, small packs of tissue packs/wipes, Canned Meat & Fruit (with easy pull access), Bars – Granola/Protein. We welcome donations anytime and have a dedicated drop-off, to the left, inside the church hall entrance. 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

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; Kostadinos 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 Evdemon, Marie Sofia Panagopoulos, Maria Hursev, 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.*

VETERANS/1ST RESPONDERS MINISTRY

- Our Veterans/1st Responders Ministry will support the US Marines 'Toys for Tots' Program again this year!
- Donations of unwrapped new toys may be dropped off at the Church Hall in the 'Toys for Tots' containers. The drive will run from November 10th through December 8th.
- Monetary donations will also be accepted. Checks can be made out to 'St. John Greek Orthodox Church' - 'Toys for Tots' on the Memo Line.
- Please share your love to help make this a special Christmas for kids!



SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEMPORARY ROOM ASSIGNMENTS:

Toddler Twos & Pre-K3 - Rm. 100

Pre-K4 - Rm. 204

Kindergarten - Rm. 101

1st Grade - Rm. 104

2nd Grade - Rm. 106

3rd Grade - Rm. 108

4th Grade - Rm. 201

5th Grade - Rm. 205



6th Grade - Rm. 207

7th-8th Grade - Rm. 208

High School Girls - Rm. 213

High School Boys - Media Center

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, NOVEMBER 24

ORTHROS 8:45A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.

(ALTAR BOYS TODAY—ST. MATTHEW)

PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING-MEDIA CENTER

12:15P.M.

(OPEN TO ALL LADIES OF THE COMMUNITY)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

ST. KATHERINE

ORTHROS 9:00A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

BIBLE STUDY

6:30P.M.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

THANKSGIVING LITURGY

ORTHROS 5:00P.M.

DIVINE LITURGY 6:00P.M.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30

ST. ANDREW

ORTHROS 9:00A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.

CHILDREN'S GREEK SCHOOL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

ORTHROS 8:45A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.

(ALTAR BOYS —ST. MARK)

CHRISTINE SCOURTES 100 YEARS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

Women's Bible Study

Leader: Fr. Stavros
November 19: Tuesday at 10:00am

Tuesday Night Bible Study

Leader: Fr. John
November 19: Tuesday at 6:30pm

Hope & Joy Fall Food Drive

Sun, Nov 3rd- Sun, Dec 15th

"HOPE starts with a MEAL. HOPE starts with YOU!"

Metropolitan Ministries helps 50,000+ families in need for Thanksgiving and Christmas and this year they need our help more than ever after hurricanes.

Please join St. John's Hope & Joy children's ministry in providing a meal to families in need through Metropolitan Ministries. Make this your family project and help us put together Boxes of Hope filled with the items needed for a Christmas holiday dinner. There are many ways you can help provide a Box of Hope:

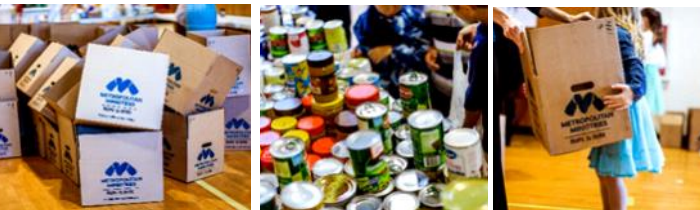
- Shop for any of the items below and bring to church **Sun, Nov 3rd- Sun, Dec 15th.**
- Donate \$25 or more (cash/ check/ gift card) for a Box of Hope- **Checks payable to Metropolitan Ministries**

A BOX OF HOPE contains

Gift certificate for a turkey or ham	2 cans of black beans
1 box of cereal (hot or cold)	2 cans of cranberry sauce
2 cans of fruit	1 bag of dried beans
1 jar of peanut butter	1 box or bag of rice
2 cans of vegetables	1 can or packet of gravy
2 cans of yams	1 box dessert mix
1 bag or box of stuffing	1 bag cookie mix
1 box of potatoes	1 family box of Jell-O/ Pudding

BOLD items are Most Needed Items
Only non-perishable food donations please. **Call Zackie Ameres at 813-245-3813 or email at [zackie@yahoo.com](mailto:zackie@yaho.com) with any questions.** Thank you!

"He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will reward him for what he has done." Proverbs 19:17



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

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.**

GOYA CHRISTMAS CARD

Our GOYA will be doing their annual parish Christmas card. Donation is **\$25**. You can reserve your space after church on Sunday, **November 24;** Sunday, **December 1;** and Sunday, **December 8.**

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!



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
	Tony Magos	813-957-3206
	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855
	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
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 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