

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~9TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW -JESUS WALKING ON THE WATER~

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024

*9th Sunday Of Matthew–
Return of the Body of Bartholomew the Glorious Apostle;
Titus the Apostle of the 70*

**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:

*9th Sunday Of Matthew—
Return of the Body of Bartholomew the Glorious Apostle;
Titus the Apostle of the 70*

Apolutikion 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 of the Apostles:

O holy Apostles, make intercession to our merciful God, that He grant our souls forgiveness of offenses.

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.

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, AUGUST 25

EPISTLE LESSON:

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

THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 3:9-17

Brethren, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 14:22-34

At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they entered the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

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, Evangelina 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 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.



MEMORIAL SERVICE:

Remembering those from our parish who passed away September 2004-Present

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by Philoptochos(Fanouropita Sale)

September 1

Nursing Ministry/Greek School/Youth Protection

September 8

Parish Council

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 THIRTY SOME HAVE ENTERED AND *angels* *in our midst*

SAVE THE DATE – NOV 1-2, 2024



Thank you for all who attended our Greek Festival Planning Meeting this past Wednesday. We (all of us) are critical to the success of our annual festival. This remains our single largest fundraiser, and we remain with many areas that need leadership. We will provide support and training. Please stay tuned for communications and consider stepping up to help make our Festival a Success once again!

Please contact Mike Xenick at 813-340-8737, mxenick@gmail.com to confirm your interest or share ideas.

YOUNG AT HEART SEPTEMBER GATHERING

Learn more about:

*The Feast of the
Elevation of the
Venerable and Life-
Giving Cross*



Saturday, September 7th

Gather - 11:45 am
Lunch - Noon

Enjoy a catered lunch
featuring Roast Chicken,
Sides, Salad and Dessert.
(Cost \$10 per person.)

See Presvytera Denise for
reservations no later than
September 1st.



Philoptochos Annual Fanouropita Sale

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25TH

On Sunday August 25th the
Ladies Philoptochos Society
will sponsor

Phanouropita Sunday
honoring St. Phanourios the
Great Martyr. The Saint has
become known for revealing
lost things, hidden spiritual
matters of the heart, actions
that should be taken, and
even restoring health. The
sweet cake (Phanouropita)
will be blessed by Fr.

Stavros with prayers for the
faithful. Afterwards the cake
will be served and offered for
purchase in the fellowship
hall with all proceeds to
benefit the Metropolis Youth
Programs.

**Would you like to bake a
Phanouropita?**

See Jeanie Nenos (Chair)
(813) 451-9116
jeanierтт@aol.com

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

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Bible Study

Tuesday morning Bible Study with Fr. Stavros will be on hiatus for the summer.

It will resume **September 10th at 10:00am.**

Tuesday night Bible study with Fr. John—will continue meeting at 6:30 p.m. on most Tuesday evenings. 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 dates are **Tuesday August 27**. For **September**, the dates are; **Tuesday September 10, Tuesday September 17 and Tuesday September 24.**

Men's Group— The Men's Group will meet on Sunday, **August 25 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.

Mandatory Altar Boy Meeting & Training Sunday, August 25

All altar boys are requested to attend a meeting on **Sunday, August 25, following the Divine Liturgy**. We will go over procedures on how the altar boys serve, updating and making a few small changes. This meeting is important for new altar boys but also older ones, as we seek to continue to improve our service. The meeting will last approximately 1 hour.

Each boy is asked to have at least one parent present. **New Schedule to take effect on August 18.** As of publication time, the new altar boy schedule is still being finalized. All altar boys will receive a copy of the new schedule prior to August 18.

Philo托chos Annual Fanouropita Sale –Sunday, August 25th—The Annual Fanouropita Sale for the benefit of our Metropolis Youth programs is on **8/25 after church**. Help needed to bake cakes, set up and clean up. Contact **Jeanie Nenos (Chair) 813-451-9116 jeanierit@aol.com**

Kitchen (plus) Tidy/Organize Day – Wednesday August 28th, at 10am!

If you love to tidy/organize, please join our dedicated volunteers the last Wednesday of each Month. We target areas of need which may include the Kitchen, Storage areas or other. This month we will be doing inventory of kitchen items in preparation of our festival. We always have needs and welcome you to join! We start at 10am and work a few hours. Many helping hands make for light work. Please call or text Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747.

Food Pantry Update

We are grateful for your ongoing contributions to our Food Pantry! Please mark your calendars for the first Sunday of the month (September 1st) as our bigger collection day. We will be preparing 'Snack Bags' for residents of Tampa Hope, after liturgy and welcome helping hands. Look for information about the charities we support including Tampa Hope, Metropolitan Ministries and Matthew 25. 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

Paniguri Dancers—Greetings! Opa!

The adult Greek dance group Paniguri will begin dance practices **Wednesday July 10th 7pm** in the church hall for our Greek festival performances. We will continue every Wednesday night **EXCEPT for the dates of 8/14/24 and 9/11/24**. We will not have dance practices those nights.

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**.

Labor Day—Monday, September 2

The office will remain closed for Labor Day. We will reopen on Tuesday, September 3.

Children's Greek School— We are excited to inform you all that the School of Greek Language and Culture of Tampa will start again on **Saturday, September 7th**. The lessons will take place at the building of Bridgeprep Charter School (behind Saint John's Church) **every Saturday from 1:00 - 3:00 pm**. Our school will have classes from K-8th Grade. Registrations will start at School on Saturday, September 7th at 12:00 pm.

Information: Ioannis Giavaras igiavaras@gmail.com Tel. 718 419 4413

ALTAR BOY SCHEDULE

AUGUST 25

Michael Snyder
Zachary Carter
Dorian Setzer— Torres
Niko Kyrus
Aristotle Kyros
Michael Kwasny
Michael Svintsitskiy
Zach Zaharis

CAPTAINS

Nicholas Akrotirianakis
Nicholas Magos
Nicholas Carter
George Xenick
PJ Zelatis
Leo Lenardos

SEPTEMBER 1

Anyone attending may serve

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

August 25

Church Etiquette
CLASS PHOTOS for
-Pre-K3 - 4th Grad-7th - 12th Grade



September 1

No Class

If you do not receive our weekly Sunday School Constant Contact every Friday afternoon, please e-mail Vickie Peckham at vickiepeckham@gmail.com to let her know.

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. PHILOTOCHOS FANOUROPITA SALE ALTAR BOYS MEETING MEN'S GROUP	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M. 5:00P.M.
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27	BIBLE STUDY	6:30P.M.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28	GREEK DANCE CHOIR REHEARSAL	7:00P.M. 7:15P.M.
THURSDAY, AUGUST 29	<u>BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST (STRICT FAST DAY)</u> ORTHROS 9:00A.M.	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

Women's Bible Study

Leader: Fr. Stavros
Resumes on September 10

Tuesday Night Bible Study

Leader: Fr. John
August 27: Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Did you Know: *Your Stewardship/Gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure is the foundation of our beautiful church. Allowing us to keep our doors open, worship and enjoy fellowship together through a wide variety of ministries and other offerings. We recently mailed Mid-Year Stewardship Updates and kindly remind you to review your pledge for 2024. If you have not pledged, or made a commitment, it is not too late! Pledge forms are available in the Narthex and Online at stjohntpa.org. We have many upcoming general assembly meetings. 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***

ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE – EXPLAINING THE ORTHODOX FAITH TO OTHERS



Need help when trying to explain our Holy Orthodox faith to others?

“Living Faith – An Orthodox Christian Conversation with Evangelicals” by Lawrence R. Farley is now available in our bookstore. This book contrasts the Orthodox perspective and evangelical perspective on many topics including “The Role of Scripture”, “Mary”, “The Saints”, “The Baptism of Infants”, “Praying for the Dead”, etc. Stop in our bookstore today!

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 four sessions will be done as follows:

Monday, September 9 A Tour of the Orthodox Church: What we see in the Church and what it means

Monday, September 16 Orthodox Spirituality—Introduction to the Sacraments

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 “yiaiyalogy.” 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.



WHAT A GREAT START TO OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR!!!

Thank you parents for bringing your children to Sunday School every week. Just a reminder:
All children ages two through eighteen are invited to attend our program.

1. All children will remain in church through Holy Communion.
2. PLEASE allow the Sunday School Teachers and their students to receive Holy Communion first. PLEASE line up in the center aisle. (Teachers on right and students on the left.)
3. After Communion, all of our 1st–6th graders will report to the Zaharias Room for our Music Program.
4. Parents of 3RD GRADERS and YOUNGER should pick up their children, from their classrooms, promptly after church.

Room Assignments:

****Toddler 2's** are in the school admin. building on the right.

(Must be 2 years old by Sept. 1st)

****Pre-K3 classroom** is the 1st door on the right after you exit the church. (Must be 3 years old by Sept. 1st)

****Pre-K4 through 3rd grade** is on the first floor of the school building. Rooms listed below.

****4th Grade through Middle School** is on SECOND FLOOR of the school building. Rooms listed below.

****High School Boys** are in the Media Center in the School Building.

****High School Girls** are in the Conference Rm. in the Admin. Building.

If you have not registered your child, please do so this Sunday in your child's classroom.

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	813-876-8830
Administrative Assistant :	Elli Kehagias	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
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