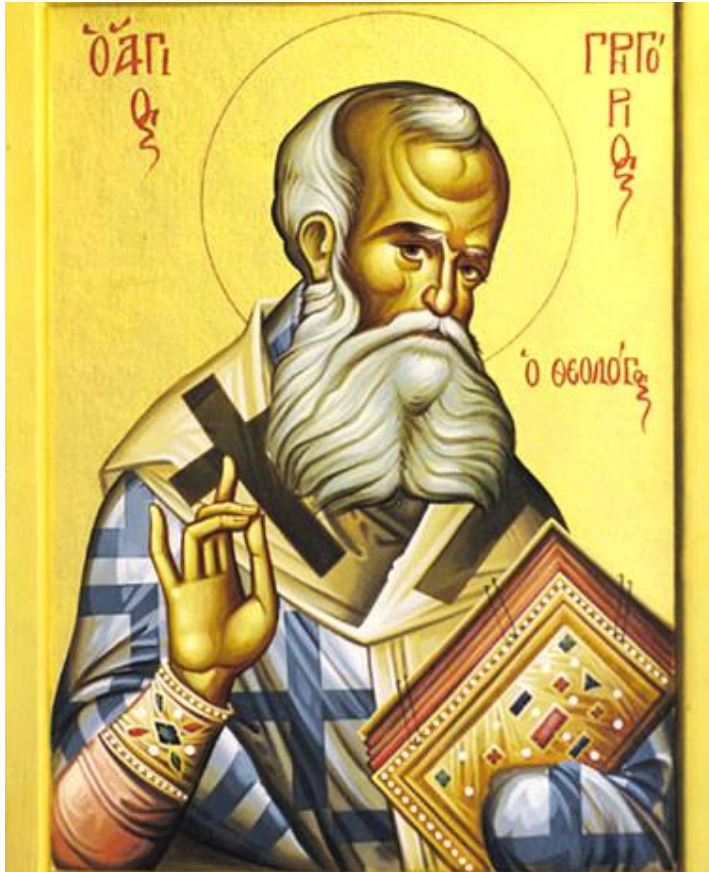


ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~St. Gregory, the Theologian – January 25~

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025

15th Sunday of Luke –

Xenophon & his Companions; Symeon the Elder of Mount Sinai

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:

15th Sunday of Luke—

Xenophon & his Companions; Symeon the Elder of Mount Sinai

Apolytikion of the Resurrection:

When the angelic powers appeared at the tomb and soldiers guarding You became as though dead and standing by Your sepulchre was Mary seeking Your pure and sacred Body. For You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the virgin woman bestowing the gift of Life. O You who rose from the dead, Lord, we give glory to You .

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:

O You Who sanctified by Your birth a Virgin womb, and blessed the hands of Simeon as seemed most appropriate, You came indeed to save us all, O Christ our God. Wherefore bring peace to our nation in time of hostility, and secure in strength, the leaders You have truly loved, as the only one Who loves mankind.

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, JANUARY 26

EPISTLE LESSON:

O LORD, SAVE YOUR PEOPLE AND BLESS YOUR INHERITANCE.

VERSE: TO YOU, O LORD, I HAVE CRIED, O MY GOD.

THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO TIMOTHY 4:9-15

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and suffer reproach, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 19:1-10

At that time, Jesus was passing through Jericho. And there was a man named Zacchaios; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaios, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaios stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

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.**

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

"You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God"
2 Corinthians 9-11

Our 2025 Stewardship Campaign is underway. Your Stewardship is the foundation of our beloved church. We are grateful for the over 120 Parishioners who have completed a Pledge Form with over \$315K in commitments. We encourage you to complete yours today!

Remember

Offering your Time and Talent is an important part of Stewardship. Please carefully review the Time and Talent section of this year's form. There is a true need in our church community. Are you new to St. John's? Are you looking for a way to be more involved and make some new friends? Sharing your gifts will make a difference for you and our beloved church.

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

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 EXPECT TO SHOW *hospitality* TO STRANGERS.
FOR THEREBY SOME HAVE ENTERTAINED *angels unaware.*
HEBREWS 13:2

YOUNG AT HEART FEBRUARY GATHERING

Saturday, February
1st

3pm to 5pm

Catered meal-
\$12 per person



Program— Video & Discussion on The
Presentation of Our Lord in the
Temple & a Valentine's Day Trivia
game

Reservations are a must & due no
later than **January 26th**. See
Presvytera Denise to reserve your
place.

VISITATION MINISTRY

The **Philoptochos** encourages parishioners to visit our homebound seniors from St. John's. If you are interested in visiting and/or know of one of our seniors who would like some company, please e-mail Vickie Peckham at vickiepeckham@gmail.com

ORTHODOXY 101

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

When will the classes be held?

Monday, January 27—Introduction to the Sacraments.
Baptism, Chrismation, Confession, Marriage, Unction

Monday, February 3—The Divine Liturgy— A "teaching" Liturgy

Monday, February 10—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.

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 January the date is Monday January 27.

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 January, the date is Tuesday January 28.

Prayer for Teachers on Sunday, January 26 — On January 26, we celebrate the feast of the Three Hierarchs, who are also the patron saints of teachers. Right before Holy Communion, we will offer a prayer for all teachers and anyone who works in education in our community.

Kitchen (plus) Tidy/Organize Day - Wednesday January 29th 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. We need help 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

Please help us rebuild the inventory of our Food Pantry. We are especially in need of Mac & Cheese, Canned Meats and Meals to go. We are grateful for your support! We welcome donations anytime and have a dedicated drop-off, to the left, inside the church hall entrance. You can see a full list of items we need in the Messenger and inside the Hall. If you know of someone in need or wish to take a bag of groceries to go, we can make that happen! If you have ideas to share or wish to get involved, please call or text Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747

Save the Weekend for a Very Special Event in the Life of our Parish — The Ordination of Alex Limberatos to the Diaconate and the Priesthood — February 15-16. His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos of Atlanta will visit our parish the weekend of February 15-16 and will ordain Alex Limberatos, our former pastoral assistant, to the Diaconate (Saturday, February 15) and to the Priesthood (February 16). Divine Liturgy and an ordination will be held on both of those mornings. A luncheon will be held on both days to honor our Metropolitan and Alex. Please, set aside this weekend for a special event in the life of our Parish. Alex will celebrate his first Liturgy as a priest on Monday, February 17. We will have Orthros at 9:00am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00am.

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 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 Blanckebaker, Jonah, George Voulgaris, Carol Cretekos, Tina, Bob, Bonnie and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

January 26th
Confession



February 2
The Presentation of Christ
YOUTH SUNDAY

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, JANUARY 26	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. (ALTAR BOYS TODAY – ST. MARK) PHILOTOCHOS MEETING PARENT/TWEENS RETREAT	DIVINE LITURGY	10:00A.M. 12:30A.M.-2:30P.M.
MONDAY, JANUARY 27	WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY ORTHODOXY 101		10:00A.M. 6:30P.M.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28	<u>ST. JAMES THE ASCETIC</u> ORTHROS 9:00A.M. BIBLE STUDY	DIVINE LITURGY	10:00A.M. 6:30P.M.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29	CHOIR		7:15P.M.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 30	<u>THREE HIERARCHS</u> ORTHROS 9:00A.M.	DIVINE LITURGY	10:00A.M.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1	YOUNG AT HEART ADULT GREEK SCHOOL CHILDREN'S GREEK SCHOOL		3:00-5:00P.M.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2	<u>PRESENTATION OF CHRIST</u> ORTHROS 8:45A.M. (ALTAR BOYS – ST. LUKE) ALTAR BOY OUTING	DIVINE LITURGY	10:00A.M.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

Women's Bible Study
Leader: Fr. Stavros
Monday, January 27 at 10:00am

Tuesday Night Bible Study
Leader: Fr. John
Tuesday, January 28 at 6:30pm

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!



MEMORIAL SERVICE

*Evangeline Halkias (3 years)
Demetrios Halkias (17 years)
Katherine(Kay) Kladakis (10 years)*

TRISAGION

Stamatina San Filippo (10 years)

**“GROWING IN CHRIST THIS UPCOMING
LENTEN SEASON.”**

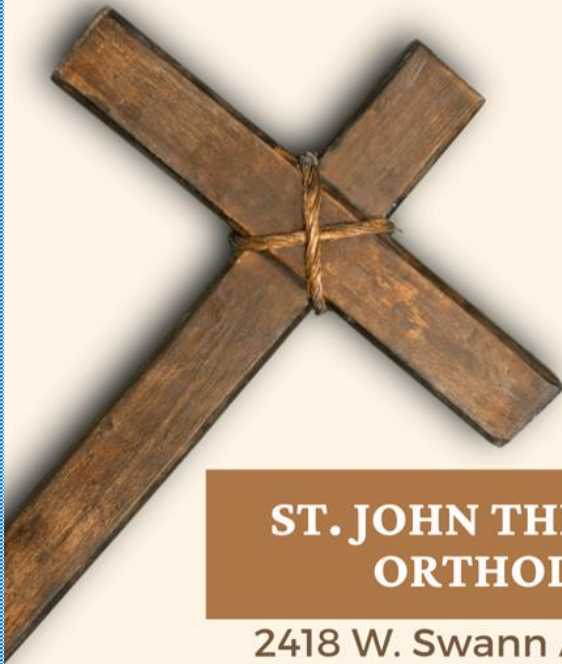
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

ALL MEN ARE WELCOME, ORTHODOX OR NOT

\$15 (COVERS LUNCH)

**STARTING WITH DIVINE LITURGY, FOLLOWED BY
PRESENTATIONS AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

**FR. STAVROS
AKROTIRIANAKIS**



**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

2418 W. Swann Ave. Tampa, FL 33609



A Hope & Joy and Philoptochos

★ Partnership ★



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



★ 2/9/25 ★

BENEFITTING HOPE CHILDREN'S HOME



**KICKOFF BEGINS
AFTER DIVINE LITURGY**



**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING IS A NATIONAL INITIATIVE
CELEBRATING THE THRILL OF THE BIG GAME WHILE TACKLING
CHILDHOOD HUNGER.
PLEASE BRING CANNED GOODS OR A DONATION AND ENJOY A
DELICIOUS HEALTHY LUNCH WITH US.**

****KID AND ADULT RAFFLE PRIZES****

Philoptochos 2025 Membership Drive

We are on the MOVE for a Great New Year!

We invite all women ages 18 plus to join the St. John the Baptist Philoptochos Annunciation Chapter!

Membership Drive: January thru April, Suggested Stewardship is \$35.00, however, we accept whatever you can give to support our mission.

Your donation makes you a member of the National, Metropolis and Local Chapters of Philoptochos. **We invite all women age 80 and above to join us as honorary members with no dues required.**

“Truly I tell you, whatever you do for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you do for me.” (Matt 24:25)

Name _____ Date _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

E-mail address _____

Main areas of interest (check all that apply): Visiting the Sick _____, Fundraising _____, Spiritual Retreats _____,

Communication (Messenger-Sunday Bulletin) _____, Baking _____, Social Gatherings _____, Decorating _____

Koliva _____ Other (write in) _____

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America – Ladies Philoptochos Society. The mission of the Society shall be:

To aid the poor, the destitute, the hungry, the aged, the sick, the unemployed, the orphaned, the imprisoned, the widowed, the handicapped, the victims of disasters, to undertake the burial of impoverished persons and to offer assistance to anyone who may need the help of the Church through fund raising efforts; and

To promote the charitable, benevolent, and philanthropic purposes of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, through instructional programs, presentations, lectures, seminars and other educational resources;

To preserve and perpetuate Orthodox Christian concepts and the Orthodox Christian Family, and through them, to promote the Greek Orthodox Faith and traditions, in accordance with its doctrines, canons, discipline, divine worship, usages and customs;

To promote participation in the activities of the Greek Orthodox community, with the cooperation of the Parish Priest and the Parish Council.

Please return form to: Presvytera Denise Stefero, 11209 Lark Landing Ct., Riverview, FL 33569 or Drop off on any Sunday in St. John's Bookstore.

Questions: denises54@hotmail.com

Please make checks payable to: St. John Philoptochos or pay online

<https://square.link/u/123vm6Ir>



BY THE GRACE OF GOD
AND THROUGH
THE APOSTOLIC TRADITION OF THE
LAYING ON OF HANDS



*His Eminence Metropolitan
Sevastianos of Atlanta*

WILL ORDAIN THE SERVANT OF GOD

Alexander Limberatos



TO THE HOLY DIACONATE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2025

8:45 AM ORTHROS | 10:00 AM HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY

AND TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025

8:45 AM ORTHROS | 10:00 AM HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

2418 W. SWANN AVE. TAMPA, FL 33609

We humbly request your presence and your prayers



Hey Altar Boys!



shutterstock.com · 1135266545

**You're invited to an
Altar Boy Teambuilding Day!
Sunday February 2, 2025
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**We will have lunch together
following the Divine Liturgy**

Bring a change of clothes for after church!

**Challenge Course
University of South Florida
6550 E Fletcher Ave,
Tampa, FL 33617**

Please reply to mariapxenick@stjohntpa.org

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:	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
	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 Carter	813-376-9196
Arise & Build Expansion Project:	Mike Xenick, Chair	813-340-8737
	Euripides Panos, Vice Chair	813-352-3972
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
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
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:	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
Sunday School:	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102
12 Disciples	Theo Panopoulos	248-867-3697
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