

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

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



Sunday of the Paralytic

Sunday, May 26, 2024

Sunday of the Paralytic;

*Carpos and Alphaeus, Apostles of the 70; Alexandros
the New Martyr of Thessaloniki;*

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:

*Sunday of the Paralytic;
Carpos and Alphaeus, Apostles of the 70; Alexandros the New Martyr of Thessaloniki*

Entrance Hymn:

Bless God in the congregations; praise the Lord from the fountains of Israel. Save us o Son of God, who rose from the dead; to Thee we sing: Alleluia.

Apolytikion of Pascha:

Chri-stos a-ne-sti ek ne-kron, tha-na-to tha-na-ton pa-ti-sas, ke tis en tis mni-ma si, zo-in ha-ri-sa-me-nos.

Christ is risen from the dead. By death, trampling down upon death and to those in the tombs, He has granted life.

Apolytikion of the Resurrection:

Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and first born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great mercy.

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: *Even though You descended into the grave You destroyed the Power of Hades and You rose as a Victor, O Christ our God, saying to the myrrh bearing women: Rejoice! And to Your Apostles granting peace and to the fallen, You also grant Resurrection.*

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—

1. Choir
2. Altar boys
3. Parents with recently Baptized children
4. Then the rest of the congregation (side areas then the main section)

Readings for Sunday, May 26

Epistle Lesson: Verse: Sing praises to our God, sing praises.
Clap your hands, all you nations.

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 9:32-42

In those days, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up.

Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

Gospel Lesson: John 5:1-15

At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked.

Now that day was the sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.' "They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk'?" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

Megalinarian: *The angel cried to her who is full of grace: Rejoice Holy Virgin and again I say rejoice, for your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day. Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has arisen over you. Dance now for joy O Zion and exult. Rejoice and be glad O pure Theotokos at the Resurrection of your Child*

Communion Hymn: *So-ma Chris-tou me-ta-la-ve-te Pi-gis A-tha-na-tou yef-sas-the. Alliluia. Receive the Body of Christ and partake ye of Him. He is an Immortal Fountain. Alleluia Immortal Fountain. Alleluia*

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by Veterans

June 2

Adult Greek School/Youth Protection

June 9

Junior Olympic Luncheon

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

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO VISIT OUR
HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS FROM ST.
JOHN'S CHURCH**

***I was sick and you visited me.
Matthew 25:36***

***As you did it to one of the least
of these my brethren, you did it to me.
Matthew 25:40***

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells us that one of the ways that He will judge our lives is based on visiting the sick. One of the best ways to serve God is by caring for our elderly. A number of our parishioners are homebound, which causes them to miss church and their friends. On behalf of the Philoptochos ministry, we have community-wide ministry of visiting those who are homebound. We would like to invite you to participate in this ministry.

Please e-mail **Vickie Peckham** at vickiepeckham@gmail.com if you would like to be part of this important ministry. This is not meant to be a time-intensive commitment, but rather an opportunity to love our neighbor and make sure that our fellow parishioners are not forgotten.

Thank You for the generous donations of bed sheets and bath towels received from our parish during the 1st Responders/Veterans & Community Outreach drive in April. Our collections required 2 deliveries to Tampa Hope. Seven collection barrels were packed with donations. Your outreach provided some comfort to 90 folks in need. Thank you and God Bless you!

**"The residents of Tampa Hope
homeless shelter"**



DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS TODAY!

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY END OF YEAR LUNCHEON (Sunday, June 2nd – 1 pm)

Byblos
2832 South Macdill Avenue
Tampa, FL 33629

Your choice of:
Kafta (ground beef) Kabob or Chicken
Kabob with Veggies
served with
Hummus, Salad, Labneh, and Pita
Baklava
Iced Tea, Soft Drinks, Water
(cash bar available)
\$35 per person all inclusive

***Space is limited so reserve your place
with your payment today!
See Presvytera Denise for
reservations.***

THE AHEPA and the DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE 2024-2025

An installation was held in the Kourmolis Hall on Wednesday, May 15th for the newly elected leadership. Special guests from the Citrus District 2 Lodges of Florida included AHEPA District 2 Governor Jimmy Makris of New Port Richey and Lt. Governor William "Bill" Paul of Tarpon Springs. A delicious meal was provided for the event. Let's thank the outgoing officers AHEPA President Tom Sakaris, DOP President Elena Paras Ketchum and DOP Treasurer Nicole Leontsinis and congratulate the new officers. Please consider joining their efforts in promoting the Hellenic ideals of Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, Family and Individual Excellence through community service and volunteerism. For more information about these organizations, please visit www.ahepa.org and www.daughtersofpenelope.org

AHEPA 2024-2025

Officers



**President: Vasili
Zaferos**
**Vice-President: James
Sakaris**
**Secretary: Peter
Theophanous**
**Treasurer: Tom
Georgas**

Daughter of Penelope

2024-2025 Officers



**President: Ourania
Stephanides**
**Vice-President: Maria
Zabetakis**
**Secretary: Cindy
Kladakis**
**Treasurer: Melissa
Krinos**

Upcoming Dates:

- June 2 AHEPA Day with an artoclasia after the Divine Liturgy.
- July 28 Coffee Hour hosted by the Daughters of Penelope.
- August 4 Coffee Hour hosted by AHEPA.

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Nursing Ministry

May blood pressure clinic is after the Divine Liturgy today 5-26. Please stop by our table to get a free blood pressure check and know YOUR numbers!

Bible Study

Tuesday morning Bible Study with Fr. Stavros will be on hiatus for the summer. It will resume in late August or September. Bible Study will continue with Fr. John almost every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 2– GOYA Meeting

There will not be a GOYA meeting in May. The June GOYA meeting will be Sunday, June 2. We will welcome our new GOYAns and bid farewell to the graduating ones. We will also be planning for the Junior Olympics. The Junior Olympics deadline is June 2, for all of our GOYAns who are participating in the Junior Olympics.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will not be meeting in June. We will resume our meetings in August.

Junior Olympics– Help Needed The annual GOYA Sunstate Junior Olympics will be held on June 7-9, hosted by our parish. Dwight Forde heads the ministry. We need help from volunteers for the weekend. A constant contact has been sent out to our entire community letting you know what help is needed. Please utilize the SignUpGenius connected to this constant contact to volunteer some time that weekend. We need lots of help and you don't need to have a child in GOYA to help out.

Young Adults--Our Young Adult Group will meet for dinner/discussion on Thursday, June 13 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. The group also meets informally for social events. If you are interested in getting notices via What's App, contact Aris Rogers at 813-309-5525.

Fr. Stavros will be out of the office June 26-July 6 (summer camp), and then again July 17-20 (vacation) and some additional days that will be mentioned in the weekly bulletin. For any pastoral emergencies during this time, please contact Fr. John.

Food Pantry Update

Thank you for your ongoing contributions to our Food Pantry. We welcome your donations any time and have a dedicated drop-off (left side) of the Church Hall Entrance area. We have targeted the First Sunday of each Month as a bigger collection day. Our greater need currently is for Bars (granola etc), Canned meat and Canned fruit (prefer with easy open access). We were able to compile 12 boxes of food, from your donations, shared with Metropolitan Ministries & Tampa Hope in the past month and help other individuals! 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

Panigyri Dancers—"Greetings! Opa!"

The adult Greek dance group Panigyri 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 please contact Alex DeMaio 813 340 9668 or email Alexandra.DeMaio@libertymutual.com.**

Kitchen Tidy/Organize Day!

If you love to tidy/organize, please join our dedicated volunteers this Wednesday and the last Wednesday of each month. We Tidy/Organize & Clean the Kitchen and Storage areas. 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.



**VOLUNTEER
S NEEDED!
SIGN UP VIA
SIGNUP
GENIUS!**



**JUNIOR
OLYMPICS
JUNE 7-9 2024**

ACTIVITIES

**DODGEBALL
BASKETBALL
VOLLEYBALL
PING PONG
CORN HOLE
and more!**



*For more information
contact Dwight Forde
at: 561-310-5034*

YOUNG AT HEART AND YOUNG ADULTS VISIT MONASTERIES

Nearly 50 of us gathered on Saturday, May 18th to visit the Panagia Vlahernon and Annunciation of The Theotokos Monasteries near Ocala. We began with prayer led by Fr. John in the monastery church followed by a talk by one of the monks describing the daily routine of the monastery. A highlight of the day was an opportunity to venerate the relics of St. Seraphim of Sarov, St. Joseph the Hesychast, and others. We shopped the bookstores of each monastery and joined for lunch at the women's monastery before our trip home. We felt blessed by the experience. Plan to join us next year!



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; Jim Armstrong, Calliope Herman; Delaney & Alexis Johnson; Ron & Linda Ledet; Helen & Mike Mitchell, Elena, Ricky & Michael Gordenina, Tina Chakonas, Felix R., Ivco; George Joseph; 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; Dora Kallas, 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 and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.



Altar Boy Schedule		
<u>June 9</u> GOYAns may serve	<u>Captains</u> Demetri Passalaris Nicholas Akrotirianakis Nicholas Magos Nicholas Carter George Xenick PJ Zelatis	<u>June 16</u> Christos Nenos Constantine Ameres Zachary George Louis Mantzanas Gianni Matassini Nathan Moran Michael Meadows

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS



ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!
WE WILL SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE FALL!



If you do not receive communications for Sunday School,
please e-mail Vickie Peckham to let her know. E-mail address is vickiepeckham@gmail.com

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, May 26	Orthros 8:45a.m. Veteran's Commemoration CH- Veterans	Divine Liturgy 10:00a.m.
Monday, May 27	Memorial Day Office will remain closed	
Tuesday, May 28	Bible Study	6:30p.m.
Wednesday, May 29	Mid-Pentecost Orthros 9:00a.m. Choir Practice	Divine Liturgy 10:00a.m.
Sunday, June 2	Orthros 8:45a.m. AHEPA Sunday GOYA meeting	Divine Liturgy 10:00a.m. 5:00 p.m.

Religious Education at St. John

<u>Women's Bible Study</u> <i>Leader: Fr. Stavros</i> Resumes on September 10	<u>Tuesday Night Bible Study</u> <i>Leader: Fr. John</i> May 28: Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
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ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE

Summer isn't the time to take a vacation from your faith. Dig into God's Word and find deep refreshment for your heart, mind, and soul.

Whether traveling to a vacation destination, relaxing on the beach, or simply lounging on your lanai sipping a glass of iced tea you can renew your spirit in the study of Holy Scripture, our Holy Orthodox Faith, the lives of the

Saints, Prayer and Meditation, and many other topics. Set an example for your children and encourage them to choose books that get them away from the tablets and phones and closer to our Lord.

Stop into our bookstore soon and stock up on books for your
Summer Reading!!



Did you Know— We have a lost & found cart located in the Kitchen near the Fridge. Please come take a look and claim your lost items today!

Parish Priest:	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
Retired Priest in Residence:	Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830
Retired Priest in Residence:	Rev. Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
Bookkeeper:	Debbie Bowe	813-876-8830
Administrative Assistant :	Elli Kehagias	813-876-8830
 Parish Council:	 John Zelatis, President	 813-727-2271
	Euripides Panos, Vice President	813-352-3972
	Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary	813-760-6289
	Mike Xenick, Treasurer	813-340-8737
	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
	Alexis Scarfogliero	813-892-1599
	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
 12 Disciples		
AHEPA:	Vasili(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
College Ministry:	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
Community Outreach:	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
Dance Groups:	H XAPA MAΣ, 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