

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~ St. Panteleimon the Great Martyr & Healer – Sunday, July 27~

## SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2025

*7th Sunday of Matthew; Panteleimon the Great Martyr & Healer;  
Nicholas of Novgorod the fool-for-Christ*

**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:**

*7th Sunday of Matthew; Panteleimon the Great Martyr & Healer;  
Nicholas of Novgorod the fool-for-Christ*

**Resurrectional Apolytikion:**

*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 for St. Panteleimon:**

*O Holy Champion and Healer Panteleimon, intercede with our merciful God that He may grant to our souls remission of our sins.*

**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:**

*Upon the Mount, You were Transfigured and Your Disciples beheld Your Glory, as far as they were able to, O Christ our God; so that when they would see You crucified, they would know that You suffered willingly; and thus proclaim to all the world: that You are truly the One who is the Father's Radiance.*

**Communion Hymn:**

*Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the highest. 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:**

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, JULY 27

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord.

Verse: Oh God, hear my cry.

### **THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO TIMOTHY 2:1-10**

Timothy, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on service gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to satisfy the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hardworking farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will grant you understanding in everything.

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David, as preached in my gospel, the gospel for which I am suffering and wearing fetters like a criminal. But the word of God is not fettered. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory.

### **GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 9:27-35**

At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed Him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread His fame through all that district.

As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to Him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons."

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

*Kabougeris Family for Memorial*

**August 3**

*Available for someone to host*

**August 10**

*Available for someone to host*

**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.**



### **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

### **MEMORIAL SERVICE**

*Panayiotis Kabougeris  
(6 months)*

*James Kopulos  
(25 years)*

*Digna Hank Angulo  
(1 year)*

### **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](mailto:vickiepeckham@gmail.com)**

**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!**



## 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 dates are: Tuesday August 5, Tuesday August 12, Tuesday August 19 & Tuesday August 26.**

**Fr. Stavros will be out of the office** from **July 21-July 30** (vacation). For any pastoral emergencies during this time, please contact Fr. John.

### **Food Pantry Update**

Our Cereal for Summer campaign in support of Feeding Tampa Bay was a success. Thanks to your generous donations, we collected over 100 boxes of cereal! We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed and were touched to receive a heartfelt thank-you from Feeding Tampa Bay.

Next month we are asking for easy 'Grab & Go' items, Bars, Cans with pull tops, single serving items etc. If you or someone you know is in need—or if you'd like to take a bag of groceries to share—we're here to help. Please call or text Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747.

### **Kitchen (Plus) Tidy & Organize Day – Wednesday, July 30 at 10:00 AM**

We welcome helping hands on, Wednesday, July 30th from 10:00 AM – 12 PM to help clean, organize, and refresh our Community Kitchen and other areas that need attention. With our many events it takes a team approach to make a difference in keeping things running smoothly. We meet the last Wednesday of each month. For more info or to volunteer, call or text Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747.

**Save the date to donate blood!** The Big Red Bus is coming on August 24 after Divine Liturgy for blood donations. Anyone 18 years or older can donate and save lives! Please consider donating.



**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, Jesse, 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 Cretikos, 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



**No Sunday School  
Have a great summer!**



If you do not receive our **weekly Sunday School Constant Contact** every Friday afternoon, please email Zackie Ameres at [zackiee@yahoo.com](mailto:zackiee@yahoo.com) to let her know.

We look forward to welcoming back our students to Sunday School on **Sunday, Aug 18th.**  
Online registration is now open using this Google Form: [2025 2026 Sunday School Registration - Google Forms](#)

## UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

<b>Sunday, July 27</b>	<b><u>ST. PANTELEIMON</u></b>	
	Orthros	8:45a.m.
	Divine Liturgy	10:00a.m.
<b>Tuesday, July 29</b>	Bible Study with Fr. John	6:30p.m.
<b>Thursday, July 31</b>	Orthodoxy 201 Class with Fr. John	6:30p.m.
<b>Friday, August 1</b>	<b><u>HOLY CROSS</u></b>	
	Orthros	9:00a.m.
	Divine Liturgy	10:00a.m.
	Paraklesis	6:00p.m.
<b>Sunday, August 3</b>	Orthros	8:45a.m.
	Divine Liturgy	10:00a.m.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

**Women's Bible Study**  
Leader: Fr. Stavros  
**NO Bible Study**

**Tuesday Night Bible Study**  
Leader: Fr. John  
**NO Bible Study**





ARISE & BUILD

**Have you made your  
commitment?**



**A donation to St. John Arise & Build Capital  
Campaign will bring much-needed renovations  
to the sanctuary, church grounds and new  
Ministry Building. We encourage all  
parishioners to give what they can, with a goal  
of 100% participation!**

*[www.ariseandbuild.com](http://www.ariseandbuild.com)*

<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (frstav@gmail.com)	813-394-1038
<b>Associate Priest:</b>	Rev. Fr. John Stefero (jwstefero50@hotmail.com)	678-637-4425
<b>Retired Priest in Residence:</b>	Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830
<b>Ministry Coordinator/Chanter:</b>	Maria Xenick (Mariapxenick@stjohnntpa.org)	813-765-3587
<b>Bookkeeper:</b>	Debbie Bowe (Debbie@stjohnntpa.org)	813-876-8830
<b>Administrative Assistant :</b>	Elli Kehagias (office@stjohnntpa.org)	813-876-8830
<b>Parish Council:</b>	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
<b>Arise &amp; Build Capital Campaign:</b>	Mike Xenick, Chair	813-340-8737
	Euripides Panos, Vice Chair	813-352-3972
<b>Adult Greek School:</b>	Magda Myer	813-523-5771
<b>AHEPA:</b>	James Sakaris	301-529-8857
<b>Altar Angels:</b>	Kalliope Chagaris	813-789-4134
<b>Bible Study:</b>	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
<b>Bookstore:</b>	Pres. Denise Stefero	678-464-4833
<b>Choir:</b>	Tara Swartzbaugh, Director	813-313-0439
	Ruth Losovitz, Organist	727-688-2782
<b>College Outreach:</b>	Kathy Kaburis	813-240-6513
<b>Community Outreach:</b>	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
<b>Dance Groups:</b>	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
<b>Daughters of Penelope:</b>	Ourania Stephanides	813-546-4711
<b>Festival:</b>	Mike Xenick	813-340-8737
<b>Finance Committee:</b>	Gary Ward	813-846-3898
<b>Food Pantry:</b>	Sandra Pappas	813-785-3747
<b>Gasparilla Parking:</b>	Fady Hakim	678-294-7732
<b>GOYA:</b>	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346
<b>Greek Festival:</b>	Mike Xenick	813-340-8737
<b>Hope/Joy:</b>	George & Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
<b>Joy Tweens</b>	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
<b>Junior Olympics:</b>	Dwight Forde	727-685-9028
<b>Men's Fellowship:</b>	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
<b>Nursing Ministry:</b>	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
<b>Oratorical Festival:</b>	Peggy Bradshaw	727-244-1374
<b>Photography Ministry:</b>	Karina Findlay	813-476-9632
<b>Philoptochos:</b>	Melissa Krinos	813-716-9975
<b>Stewardship:</b>	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
<b>12 Disciples:</b>	Theo Panopoulos	248-867-3697
<b>Ushers:</b>	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
<b>Technology:</b>	Mike Wenditz	813-550-3099
<b>Veterans/1st Responders :</b>	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
<b>Website/Social Media/App:</b>	Miguel Piniero Jr	305-632-4871
<b>Welcoming Ministry:</b>	Skip Higdon	813-391-6915
<b>Women's Bible Study:</b>	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
<b>Young Adults:</b>	Aris Rogers	813-309-5525
<b>Young at Heart:</b>	Dora Morgan	813-613-3738
<b>Youth Protection:</b>	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855