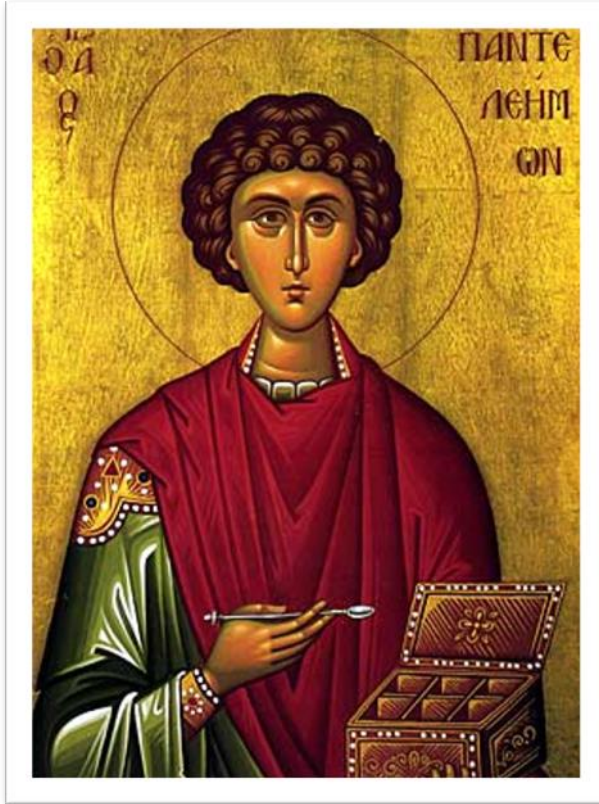


ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~ST. PANTELEIMON- JULY 27

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2024

5th Sunday Of Matthew-

Prochoros, Nicanor, Timon & Parmenas the Apostles of the 70; Irene the Righteous of Chrysovalantou

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:

5th Sunday of Matthew—

Prochoros, Nicanor, Timon & Parmenas the Apostles of the 70; Irene the Righteous of Chrysovalantou

Apolutikion of the Resurrection:

When the tidings of the Resurrection from the angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples, and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the apostles, with boasting did they proclaim: that death is vanquished evermore and Christ our God is risen from the dead, granting to the world His great mercy.

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.*

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

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 28

EPISTLE LESSON:

Verse: O Lord, how manifold are your works. You have made all things in wisdom. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS 10:1-10

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 8:28-34; 9:1

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

Memorial Services:

Michael Petros Skourellos (2 years)

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE *Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by Altar Angels*

August 4
Daughters of Penelope & Stewardship

August 11
AHEPA

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

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.

For God
so loved the world that
he gave his
one and only Son,
that whoever
believes in him
shall not perish
but have
eternal life.
- John 3:16

YOUNG AT HEART AUGUST GATHERING

Join us on Saturday, August 3rd



Meet and Greet 11:45 am

Lenten Potluck Luncheon – 12 Noon

Followed by Video Presentation and Discussion on:

**The Dormition of the Most Holy Lady Theotokos and
Every Virgin Mary**

Please respond to Presvytera Denise (denises54@hotmail.com) with number attending and dish you will bring to the event. Look forward to sharing this special time together!

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Bible Study

Tuesday morning Bible Study with Fr. Stavros will be on hiatus for the summer. It will resume in late August or September. 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 July, the dates are Tuesday, July 30.

For August, the dates are; Tuesday August 13, Tuesday August 20 & Tuesday August 27.

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 Publix Gift Cards— \$20 Denomination, 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.**

GOYA Camp Sunday

On Sunday, July 28 our GOYAns and Counselors that participated in St. Stephen's Summer Camp, will give short reflections at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Choir Practice

There will be no Choir Practice in July.

It will resume **August 7.**

Kitchen (plus) Tidy/Organize Day – Wednesday July 31st 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 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.**

Heavy Lifting Help Needed – Wednesday July 31st at 9am!

We have a large dumpster scheduled for this day and need volunteers to lift and transport outdated, broken and old miscellaneous items to the dumpster. If you're in need of service hours or just want to help, please call or text Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747 ~ Thank YOU!

Introducing our New Chanter/Ministry Coordinator

It has been nearly one year since we've had a full-time pastoral assistant. We advertised for months for a pastoral assistant, ministry coordinator and chanter on Orthodoxjobs.com. Father Stavros spoke to every available graduating student from the Seminary, and our Parish council met with and interviewed four potential candidates. We did not feel like any of them were a good fit for what we are looking for. Fr. Stavros and the Parish Council continued to search for a chanter/ministry coordinator for our parish and opened up the position for others, both outside of and inside our parish to apply. After the application and interview process, we are pleased to announce that after a vote by the parish council, **Maria Xenick has been hired to be the Ministry Coordinator/Chanter beginning on August 1.**

ALTAR BOY SCHEDULE

JULY 28

Anyone attending may serve

Captains

Demetri Passalaris
Nicholas Akrotirianakis
Nicholas Magos
Nicholas Carter
George Xenick
PJ Zelatis

AUGUST 4

Anyone attending may serve

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

SUNDAY, JULY 28	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. CAMP SUNDAY	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.
TUESDAY, JULY 30	BIBLE STUDY	6:30P.M.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 31	GREEK DANCE	7:00P.M.
THURSDAY, AUGUST 1	<u>HOLY CROSS</u> ORTHROS 9:00A.M. PARAKLESIS	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M. 6:00P.M.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 3	YOUNG AT HEART	11:30A.M.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4	ORTHROS 8:45A.M.	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

July 30: Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

COMING SOON

We have switched from LiveStream to Vimeo as the streaming platform for our church services. You can easily access our Live and Recorded Events from the following URL link: <https://stjohntpa.org/live>

This link will be included in the weekly Constant Contact Bulletin Message and is also accessible from our Church Website and SJGOC App. The sermon portion of services will continue to be shared on YouTube as recordings. Happy Streaming! Please call our Church Office with any questions.





DONATE BLOOD

St. John's Greek Orthodox Church
Sunday, August 4
11:30 AM - 3:00 PM

All donors receive*:

- **\$20 eGift Card**
- **Oneblood Tote Bag**
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

Fact: Every two seconds of every day, someone needs blood.



Appointments are encouraged, please visit oneblood.org/donate-now and use **sponsor code 14583**

ID REQUIRED

*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Gifts may vary. For more information please visit oneblood.org/details.

Donors
Receive



- PLUS -

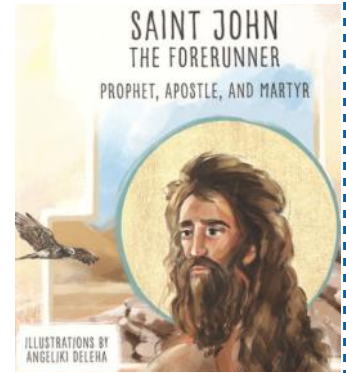


- PLUS -



oneblood
Share your power.

ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE -
ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!



Our bookstore is currently taking orders for a beautifully illustrated book on our patron saint – **St. John the Forerunner**. This 65 pp hard covered book is geared to children seven years and up and would make an excellent addition to your home library or a perfect choice as a gift item for a grandchild or godchild.

(Price \$30)

Order in the bookstore or by contacting Presvytera Denise by Aug 1.

SAVE THE DATE – NOV 1-2, 2024



The Annual St. John the Baptist Tampa Greek Festival is our largest fundraiser and provides an opportunity to unite as a Parish and Community.
We need your help!

Opa ~ It's Happening! Our Greek Festival Kickoff Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 31st at 6:30pm. We have MANY areas of NEED and encourage you to participate and get involved this year!

If you are unable to attend, but would like to be involved, please contact Mike Xenick at 813-340-8737, mxenick@gmail.com

PANIGYRI ADULT DANCE

Please join us for our weekly Adult Greek Dance practice at the Kourmolis Hall!

Please wear dance shoes or sneakers and comfortable clothes for dancing.



Starting **July 10th** & on every Wednesday at **7pm** except for **7/31/24, 8/14/24 & 9/11/24.**

Thereafter we will create line-ups for those that commit to performing several times each day for the Festival.

Any questions, please contact Alex DeMaio at
813-340-9668, Alexandra.DeMaio@libertymutual.com

ST. JOHN GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ADULT GREEK SCHOOL **WANT TO LEARN MODERN GREEK?**



Teacher born, raised, and educated in Greece with 25 years of experience teaching the Greek language. Adult classes for beginners taught @ **St. John Greek Orthodox Church (2418 W. Swann Ave, Tampa, FL 33609)**. Classes are held at **12:30-3:00pm on Saturday afternoon, starting on September 14, 2024.** This will be the first of three sessions, with each session lasting three months.

- **Speak Greek**
- **Read Greek**
- **Write Greek**
- **Basic Grammar & more.**
- **Some Greek History**
- **BOOK INCLUDED IN PRICE**

Price per session is \$125 for church members and \$150 for non-members.
Contact Ms. Magdalini Myer: at (813) 523-5771, aspis69@aol.com
or the church office at (813) 876-8830



PARAKLESIS SERVICES OF SUPPLICATION TO THE VIRGIN MARY

The service of Paraklesis or “**Intercessory Prayer**” to the Most Holy Theotokos, the Mother of God, is chanted during the fasting period of the first fourteen days of August, preceding the Feast of the Koimisis or “Falling Asleep” of the Virgin Mary, which is August 15. In this service, we ask the Theotokos to pray for us with her Son and our Lord Jesus Christ. It is not the Theotokos who saves us. God saves us. Thus we do not pray to the Theotokos, but we pray through the Theotokos, that through her intercession, we may find favor with God. We ask her to join us in extending our prayers to the Lord. The Paraklesis Service is chanted not only for fourteen days in August, but can be chanted in at any time of the year, for those who are in need of prayer in time of sickness,

despair, struggle, or any occasion, since any of life’s experiences provide us an opportunity for prayer. The Paraklesis Service consists of soft, melodic chants of supplication to the Virgin Mary, and lasts about an hour. It is also one of few services in the church where we commemorate individuals out loud during the service. You will find a place to write the names of you and your families, loved ones and friends (who are living) to be commemorated at the Paraklesis Services in the August Messenger. The Feast of the Dormition will be celebrated on Thursday, August 15.

We should all attempt to keep the feast, at least from meat, during the first fourteen days of August, and we should each plan to receive Holy Communion on August 1,6,7,14 or 15.

Paraklesis dates for 2024 are: Thursday, August 1 (6:00p.m.), Monday, August 5(6:00pm.), Wednesday, August 7(6:00pm.), Friday, August 9(6:00p.m.) and Monday, August 12(6:00pm.)
Paraklesis will be held once a month beginning in September.

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,

Stavroura, 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 Blankebaker, Jonah, George Voulgaris,

Carol Cretekos and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.



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:	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
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 Cyrus	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