



**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:**

*2nd Sunday Of Luke—  
Cyriacus the Hermit of Palestine;  
Martyr Petronius*

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:**

*Co-eternal with the Father and Spirit is the Word Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation we the faithful both praise and worship Him. For in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the cross and death did He endure and He raised unto life the dead by His all Glorious Resurrection.*

**Apolytikion of St. Kyriakos:**

*As a citizen of the desert and an angel incarnate and a wonder-worker you shone forth, O Kyriakos, our God-bearing father. Since you received the spiritual gifts by fasting and vigilance and prayer, you can cure those who are ailing and heal the souls of those who run to you with faith. Glory to Him who gave His might to you; glory to Him who placed a crown on you; glory to Him who operates through you, providing cures to all.*

**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:** *A protection of Christians unshamable, intercessor to our Holy Maker unwavering, reject not, the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us for you are good, your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you. Hasten to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all time, Theotokos for those who honor you.*

**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, SEPTEMBER 29

### EPISTLE LESSON:

*Verse: You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.  
Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.*

### THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS 1:21-24; 2:1-4

*Brethren, it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.*

*But I call God to witness against me - it was to spare you that I refrained from coming to Corinth. Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith. For I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit.*

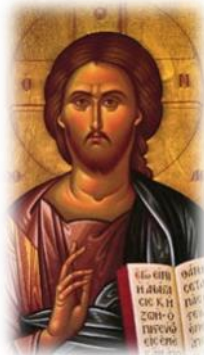
*For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice, for I felt sure of all of you, that my joy would be the joy of you all.*

*For I wrote you out of much affliction and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.*



### GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 6:31-36

*The Lord said, "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."*



### MEMORIAL SERVICE:

*Chris Lewis Gout (30 years)  
Anestis Valaes (30 years)*

## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

*Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by Photo Ministry*

October 6  
Choir

October 13  
Parish Council/Philoptochos luncheon

#### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

*Your Stewardship/Gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure provide the foundation of our beautiful church! Stewardship Pledge forms are available in the Narthex and online at [stjohntpa.org](http://stjohntpa.org) (scan the QR below for a direct path). We have an important general assembly meeting scheduled for October 20th, and one upcoming in November. 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*

Scan here to access our Online Stewardship Pledge Form



#### DID YOU KNOW:

*St. John has an App for easy access to many valuable resources. This includes the Live Stream Services, Liturgical Text, Bulletins, Monthly Messenger, Online Stewardship Pledge Form, Giving options and more. We will continue to expand the information on our App in the future. Be sure to download it today!*



#### ***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!***

## 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 **October** the dates are **Tuesday October 1, Tuesday October 8, Tuesday October 15 & Tuesday October 29.**

**Tuesday night Bible study with Fr. John** will continue meeting at 6:30 p.m. on most Tuesday evenings 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 **October**, the dates are **Tuesday October 1, Tuesday October 8, Tuesday October 15, Tuesday October 22 & Tuesday October 29.**

### JOY Tweens Group

Our first JOY Tweens meeting will be today, **September 29, from 12:45-2:15 p.m.** We will have lunch, play some games, and have a discussion with Fr. Stavros. This group is open to all 4-6th graders. Contact Maraquet Edquid at 813-422-8963 for more information.

**Y Hara Mas Greek dance practices for the younger group (K-2nd grade)** will continue through Sunday 10/27/24 (7 Sunday total practices for the festival November 1,2.) Same will be held after Divine Liturgy and during coffee hour in the church hall by the stage. There will be a sign-up sheet. Contact **Alexandra DeMaio 813 340 9668 or Alexandra.DeMaio@libertymutual.com** accordingly for any questions. OPA!

### Dance Groups

Greek dance practices for Y Hara Mas older group (3rd-6th grades) will continue every Sunday from 12:15 to 12:45pm at the Kourmoulis Center (during coffee hour) for the remainder of September and October until our Greek Festival on November 1-2, 2024. Please contact Maraquet Edquid (813-422-8963) with any questions. OPA!

### Panigyri Dancers—Greetings! Opa!

The adult Greek dance group Panigyri will continue every Wednesday in the church hall for our Greek festival performances. 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.**

### Food Pantry Update

We are grateful for your ongoing donations to our Food Pantry. We collect items anytime and have a dedicated drop-off, to the left, inside the church hall entrance. The first Sunday of each month is our bigger collection day. We currently need Canned Fruit, Bars, Peanut Butter & Jelly and Snacks. We support Tampa Hope, Metropolitan Ministries and Matthew 25. 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 Meeting**—Our regular GOYA meeting will be on Sunday, October 6, from 5:00-7:30p.m. in the Kourmoulis Center. Dinner, as always, will be provided.

**Nursing Ministry** will be giving Free Flu shots after the Divine Liturgy on October 27th. Please, come and get your vaccine and protect yourself.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

**September 29**  
The Creed



**October 6**  
Reading the Bible

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

## UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

<b>Sunday, September 29</b>	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. (ALTAR BOYS TODAY —ST. MARK) DANCE-PAREA	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.
<b>MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30</b>	ORTHODOXY 101	6:30P.M.
<b>TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1</b>	WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BIBLE STUDY DRC FUNDRAISING MEETING	10:00A.M. 6:30P.M. 6:00P.M.
<b>WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2</b>	PARAKLESIS <i>(We will continue to offer Paraklesis once a month, so that we can pray for all the members of our community by name, out loud)</i> GREEK DANCE	6:00P.M. 7:00P.M.
<b>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5</b>	ADULT GREEK SCHOOL CHILDREN'S GREEK SCHOOL	12:30-3:00P.M. 1:00-3:00P.M.
<b>SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6</b>	ORTHROS 8:45A.M. (ALTAR BOYS —ST. LUKE) CHURCH MUSICIAN'S SUNDAY PHILOPTOCHOS GENERAL MEETING (ZAHARIAS ROOM) DANCE-PAREA GOYA	DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M. 4:00P.M. 5:00P.M.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

**Women's Bible Study**  
*Leader: Fr. Stavros*  
October 1: Tuesday at 10:00am

**Tuesday Night Bible Study**  
*Leader: Fr. John*  
October 1: Tuesday at 6:30pm

## 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 one remaining session will be done as follows:

**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](mailto:frstav@gmail.com), so he has enough materials for everyone.

There is no charge for this class.

## 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

## 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**



## YOUNG AT HEART OCTOBER GATHERING

Join us on **Saturday,**  
**October 12th**

**11:45** Gathering time

Noon Potluck  
Luncheon

Followed by Quiz and  
Discussion on  
**"The Rhythm and  
Seasons of the  
Church"**

Please reply to  
Presvytera Denise no  
later than October  
6th with number  
attending and item  
you will bring for the  
luncheon.

*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!*

 **988**  
Suicide Hotline  
Recovery Is Possible



**SAVE THE DATE!  
NOV 1-2, 2024**



**Our Annual Greek Festival is 32 Days Away!** A few updates by the numbers. *We have 570 Volunteer spots to fill over 4 shifts and only 5% have been covered to date.*

This is our largest single fundraiser, and we rely on Volunteers to make it a success for our beloved church. We encourage you to step up and sign up now and consider one of the main areas, listed below, to lead. We have confidence in our community and your support. Please use the QR Code below to access our Tampa Greek Festival Volunteer Signup Genius. We have a dedicated Festival Table in the Church Hall that kicks off today! Look for this every Sunday, leading up to the Festival Weekend.

**Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody (Help Us Avoid this Situation)**

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

**Volunteer SignUp for  
Tampa Greek Festival**



**Marketing/Communications** – Flyers and Yard Signs coming soon. Stay tuned for Cooking Dates as they get finalized for October along with additional planning meetings.

**Critical Area** – We need help and leadership in many Key Areas. We will provide support and training!

- ◆ Kids Area
- ◆ 50/50 Raffle Coordinator
- ◆ Roving Bar Carts (in Hall),
- ◆ Pre- Festival Ordering working with John Zelatis (a seasoned pro)
- ◆ Logistics/Runners

*If you would like to lead, co-lead or otherwise assist in any of these areas, please contact Mike Xenick at [m Xenick@gmail.com](mailto:m Xenick@gmail.com) or 813-340-8737 or Sandra Pappas at [spappas11@gmail.com](mailto:spappas11@gmail.com) or 813-785-3747*

**FESTIVAL BAKING DATES**

**Thursday October 10 – 9:30 AM**

**Saturday October 19 – 9:30 AM**

*Please join us! Many hands make light work,*

*-No prior experience necessary-*

*Questions: call Lisa Alsina- 813 728-1094*





## ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE –

### Attention Parents of Students Ages 7-12 Special Bookstore Event – Sunday September 29th

*Featured this week in our bookstore is a series of books designed for school-aged children and focused on Saints of the Orthodox Church. Take time to browse through books on:*

- ◆ St. John the Baptist – Forerunner, Prophet, Apostle, and Martyr
- ◆ St. Paul – Apostle to the Nations
- ◆ St. Nektarios the Wonderworker – A Boy's Journey to Sainthood
- ◆ St. Joseph the Hesychast – Guardian of Holy Mt. Athos
- ◆ St. Sergius – A Beacon in the Wilderness of Radonezh
- ◆ St. Luke – Physician and Holy Hierarch
- ◆ St. Paisios the Athonite – Journey to Sainthood
- ◆ St. Porphyrios Kafsokalivia – Journey to Sainthood



As well as our ever popular:

- ◆ 101 Orthodox Saints and Newly Released 102 Orthodox Saints

### **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, Toul Tsaros, Nellie Pringle, Yolanda Webb, Angela Bougas, Ron, Jason Vickers, Rex Garrison, Ann Demas, Christina Noel Kouzes Houck, Evangeline Xerotes, 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 Eudemon, 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.*



<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (frstav@gmail.com)	813-394-1038
<b>Retired Priest in Residence:</b>	Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830
<b>Retired Priest in Residence:</b>	Rev. Fr. John Stefero (jwstefero50@hotmail.com)	678-637-4425
<b>Ministry Coordinator/Chanter:</b>	Maria Xenick (Mariapxenick@stjohntpa.org)	813-765-3587
<b>Bookkeeper:</b>	Debbie Bowe (debbie!@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830
<b>Administrative Assistant :</b>	Elli Kehagias (office@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830
<b>Parish Council:</b>	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
<b>AHEPA:</b>	Vasil(Bill) Zaferos	414-737-9103
<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 Losoviz, Organist	727-688-2782
<b>Community Outreach:</b>	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
<b>Dance Groups:</b>	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
<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>GOYA:</b>	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346
<b>Hope/Joy:</b>	George & Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
<b>Joy Tweens</b>	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
<b>Men's Fellowship:</b>	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
<b>Nursing Ministry:</b>	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
<b>Photography Ministry:</b>	Karina Findlay	813-476-9632
<b>Philoptochos:</b>	Katherine Sakkis	813-309-1073
<b>Stewardship:</b>	Chris Kyrus	757-672-1920
	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
<b>Sunday School:</b>	Vickie Peckham	813-758-3102
<b>Ushers</b>	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
<b>Veterans/1st Responders</b>	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
<b>Welcoming Ministry:</b>	Maria Xenick	813-765-3587
<b>Women's Bible Study:</b>	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-876-8830
<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