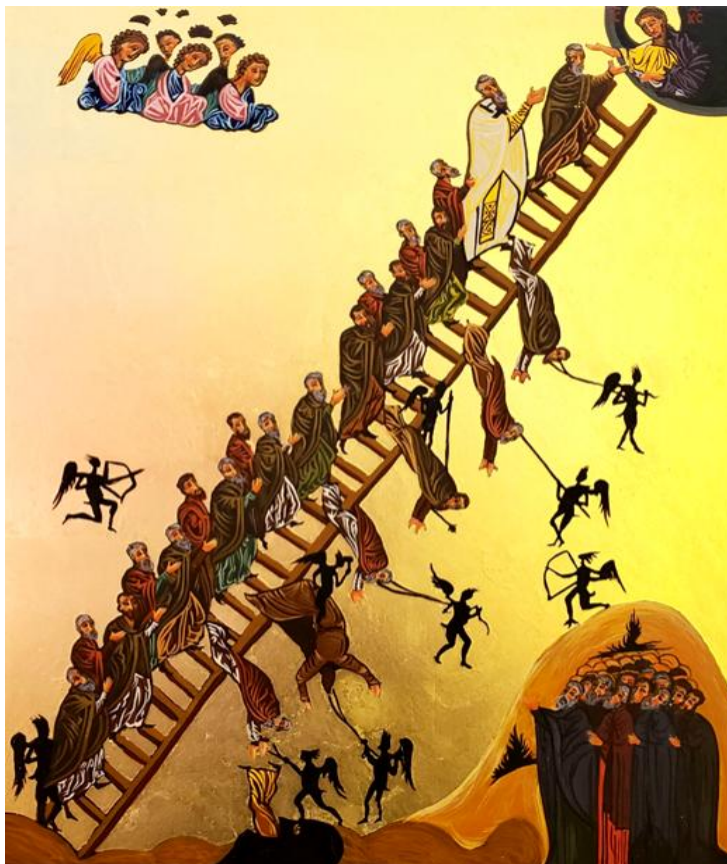


ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



~Sunday of St. John Climacus- Sunday, March 30~

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025

Sunday of St. John Climacus; John Climacus the Righteous, author of The Divine Ladder of Ascent ; Zacharias the New Martyr

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:

Sunday of St. John Climacus; John Climacus the Righteous, author of The Divine Ladder of Ascent ; Zacharias the New Martyr

Apolytikion of the Resurrection:

Lord by Your sacred cross You abolished death, and granted to the thief blessed paradise. The myrrh-bearers ceased lamenting and turned to joy; the apostles did preach the good news at Your command that You are risen from the dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mercy upon the world evermore.

Apolytikion for St. John of the Ladder:

With the rivers of your tears, you changed the barren desert into fertile land, and with the sighs from your depths, you have made your labors produce a hundredfold; and you became a bright star, shining on the earth with your miracles, O John our Righteous Father; intercede with Christ our God, for our souls to be saved.

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:

Ti l-per-ma-cho stra-ti-go ta ni-ki-ti-ri-a, os li-tro-thi-sa ton di-non ef-cha-ri-sti-ri-a, a-na-gra-fo si i po-lis sou The-o-to-ke. Al'os e-chu-sa to kra-tos a-pro-sma-chi-ton ek pan-di-on me kin-di-non e-lef-the-ro-son i-na kra-zo si: He-re nim-fi a-nim-fef-te.

Victorious Lady, mighty champion, defending us, we your servants, now inscribe to you this hymn of thanks, for you rescued us from suffering and tribulation. Theotokos, with your power that can never fail, keep us safe from every danger our whole life long. That we may cry to you: Rejoice, O Bride unwedded.

The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated on the five Sundays of Lent. After the Great Entrance, p.30 in the Liturgy Book, turn to p.63 for the parts unique to the Liturgy of St. Basil.

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, MARCH 30

EPISTLE LESSON:

THE LORD WILL GIVE STRENGTH TO HIS PEOPLE.

VERSE: BRING TO THE LORD, O SONS OF GOD, BRING TO THE LORD HONOR AND GLORY.

THE READING IS FROM ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE HEBREWS 6:13-20

BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

GOSPEL LESSON: MARK 9:17-31

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Today's Coffee Hour Sponsored by the Greek Independence Day Program.

APRIL 6
Community Outreach/Food Pantry

APRIL 13
Palm Sunday Luncheon (Philoptochos)

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

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

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

Thank You to every family and individual who has made their Stewardship Pledge for 2025.
Your support makes everything here, possible.

Please let us hear from you today, if you haven't submitted your pledge form.

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

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 April the dates are: Tuesday April 1, Tuesday April 8, Tuesday April 22 & Tuesday April 29.**

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 March the date is: Monday, March 31 at 5:45 pm.

For April the dates are: Tuesday, April 8 at 6:45 pm, Tuesday, April 22 at 6:45 pm & Tuesday, April 29 at 6:45 pm.

Food Pantry Update

Jesus said, 'They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.' Matthew 14:16

Thank you for your continued support of our Food Pantry! As we prepare for our 'snack bags' initiative for Tampa Hope in April, we are focusing on replenishing a few essential items. We are currently in need of individual applesauce and fruit cups (easy open). Donations can be dropped off anytime at the designated area to the left inside the church hall entrance. A complete list of needed items can be found in the Messenger and inside the Hall. If you or someone you know is in need of groceries, we are happy to provide a bag of food. We also welcome your ideas and involvement! To get in touch or to contribute, please contact Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747 via call or text.

Divine Liturgy to begin at 9:45 a.m. during Great Lent-

Because we celebrate the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great on the Sundays of Great Lent, which is slightly longer than the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:45 a.m. beginning next Sunday, March 9, through Palm Sunday.

Philoptochos will be baking koulourakia on **Thursday April 3** starting at 9:30 am in the church kitchen. All are welcome to help!

Fr. Stavros to be out of town-Fr. Stavros has been invited to be the retreat leader for the National Archon Retreats that are being held the last weekend of March and the first weekend of April. Fr. Stavros will be out of town April 3-6. Fr. John will preside over the services in his absence.

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Athena Felley, Melissa Romero, Sandra Reyes, Miltiadis, Konstantinos Triantafyllopoulos; Kostadinos 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, 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 Cretekos, Tina, Bob, Bonnie, Pelagia & family and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

March 30
St. John of the Ladder - Faith



April 6
Talents/Gifts

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, MARCH 30	ORTHROS 8:30A.M. (ALTAR BOYS TODAY– ST. MARK) GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PROGRAM	DIVINE LITURGY 9:45A.M.
MONDAY, MARCH 31	BIBLE STUDY	5:45P.M.
TUESDAY, APRIL 1	WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY GREAT COMPLINE CHOIR	10:00A.M. 5:30P.M. 7:15P.M.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2	9TH HOUR PRE– SANCTIFIED LITURGY LENTEN DINNER/DISCUSSION (<i>AHEPA/DOP</i>)	5:30P.M. 6:00P.M. 7:15P.M.
THURSDAY, APRIL 3	CHOIR	7:15P.M.
FRIDAY, APRIL 4	9TH HOUR PRE– SANCTIFIED LITURGY VIGIL OF THE AKATHIST AKATHIST HYMN	9:30A.M. 10:00A.M. 8:15P.M.
SATURDAY, APRIL 5	ADULT GREEK SCHOOL CHILDREN’S GREEK SCHOOL	
SUNDAY, APRIL 6	ORTHROS 8:30A.M. (ALTAR BOYS – ST. LUKE)	DIVINE LITURGY 9:45A.M.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

Women’s Bible Study
Leader: Fr. Stavros
Tuesday April 1 at 10:00 am.

Tuesday Night Bible Study
Leader: Fr. John
Monday, March 31 at 5:45 pm.

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

Arise & Build "LET US ARISE AND BUILD" A SIX-WEEK LENTEN STUDY JOIN US WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DURING GREAT LENT

MARCH 5 "LET US"

"O come, let us worship
and bow down, let us
kneel before the Lord, our
Maker."

Psalm 96
DINNER SPONSORED BY
THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

MARCH 12 "ARISE"

"Arise, shine; for your
light has come, and the
glory of the Lord has
risen upon you."

Isaiah 60
DINNER SPONSORED BY
THE CHOIR

MARCH 19 "BUILD"

"Unless the Lord builds
the house, those who
build it labor in vain."

Psalm 127
DINNER SPONSORED BY THE BIBLE
STUDIES, NURSING MINISTRY AND
THE WELCOME MINISTRY

MARCH 26 "STRENGTHEN"

"But the Lord is faithful;
he will strengthen you
and guard you from evil."

2 Thessalonians 1:1
DINNER SPONSORED BY
THE PHILOPTOCHOS

APRIL 2 "THEIR HANDS"

"All these rely upon their
hands, and each is
skillful in his own work."

Isaiah 38:1
DINNER SPONSORED
BY ANEPH/DAUGHTERS

APRIL 9 "GOOD WORK"

"Comfort your hearts and
establish them in every
good work and word."

2 Thessalonians 1:1
DINNER SPONSORED BY THE
YOUNG ADULTS AND THE
YOUNG AT HEART

EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE:

6:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
7:45 pm Lenten Dinner provided by one of our ministries
7:45 pm Presentation by Father Stavros
8:05 pm Small group discussion
8:30 pm Concluding remarks and closing prayer



GREAT LENT 2025
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
TAMPA, FL

St. John's Youth Retreat Holy Friday

April 18, 2025
10:15am-4:15pm

We welcome our Pre-K- 6th Graders to come together for a day of prayer and learning, followed by our participation in the Apokathelosis service at 3:00pm.

- Royal Hours Service prayer at foot of the Cross
- Epitaphio Lesson with Fr. Stavros
- Group Lessons
- Lenten Lunch
- Crafts

*A Time to Pause
and Pray*



Kindly RSVP by 4/12
via SignUpGenius or to
zackiec@yahoo.com

ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE



Throughout Great Lent our bookstore is offering a wide selection of books focused on the many ways we can grow spiritually during the Lenten period. Daily meditations, prayer books, Lives of the Saints, guides to preparation for Confession, Holy Week service books, and Lenten cookbooks are just some of those featured. Our bookstore is open Sundays following Divine Liturgy. Stop in and see the many items available.



~Holy Week
Service Books
Available Now
in our
Bookstore ~

Parish Priest:	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (frstav@gmail.com)	813-394-1038
Associate Priest:	Rev. Fr. John Stefero (jwstefero50@hotmail.com)	678-637-4425
Retired Priest in Residence:	Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830
Ministry Coordinator/Chanter:	Maria Xenick (Mariapxenick@stjohnntpa.org)	813-765-3587
Bookkeeper:	Debbie Bowe (Debbie@stjohnntpa.org)	813-876-8830
Administrative Assistant :	Ellie Kehagias (office@stjohnntpa.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
	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
Arise & Build Expansion Project:	Mike Xenick, Chair	813-340-8737
	Euripides Panos, Vice Chair	813-352-3972
Adult Greek School:	Magda Myer	813-523-5771
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
College Outreach:	Kathy Kaburis	813-240-6513
Community Outreach:	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
Dance Groups:	H XAPA MAZ, 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
Gasparilla Parking:	Fady Hakim	678-294-7732
GOYA:	Michael & Bessie Palios	813-523-0346
Greek Festival:	Mike Xenick	813-340-8737
Hope/Joy:	George & Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
Joy Tweens	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
Junior Olympics:	Dwight Forde	727-685-9028
Men's Fellowship:	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
Nursing Ministry:	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
Oratorical Festival:	Peggy Bradshaw	727-244-1374
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
Technology:	Mike Wenditz	813-5503099
Veterans/1st Responders :	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
Website/Social Media/App:	Miguel Piniero Jr	305-632-4871
Welcoming Ministry:	Skip Higdon	813-391-6915
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