

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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~SUNDAY OF THE SYNAXIS OF THE TWELVE HOLY APOSTLES~

SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2024

*Sunday of the Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles–
Michael the New Martyr of Athens*

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 Synaxis of the Twelve Holy Apostles-
Michael the New Martyr of Athens*

Apolytikion of All Saints:

Your Church having bedecked herself, with the blood of all Your Martyrs in the world, as with the finest linen and purple robe, through them cries out to You, O Christ our God: Send down Your compassion upon Your people, grant peace to Your community, and to our souls Your great mercy.

Apolutikion 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 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: *Unto You, O Lord, the Author of Creation, the universe does offer the God-bearing Martyrs as the first-fruits of nature. By whose prayers, through the Theotokos, do You preserve in profound peace Your Church, O most Merciful One.*

Communion Hymn:

*A-ga-li-as-the di-ke-i en Ky-ri-o, tis ef-the-si pre-pi e-ne-sis. Alliluia.
Exalt, you just, in the Lord; from the upright, praise is fitting. 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, JUNE 30

Epistle Lesson: Verse: God is wonderful among his saints.
Bless God in the congregations.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2

Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 9:36, 10:1-8

At that time, when Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaios, and Thaddaios; Simon the Cananaean. and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out, charging them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And preach as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay."

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by Greek Dancers/Photo Ministry

July 7
Parish Council

July 14
Young At Heart

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.

TIES TO THE PAST!!!

The Daughters of Penelope is looking forward to having the YiaYia Table of Arts and Crafts in December. In the month of June, NOW, we are collecting men's ties, especially unique ones. It's time to clean out your closet, put them in a bag and give to **Ourania Stephanides (813.546.4711 for more information)**. She will welcome the donated ties to make an interesting craft for our sale. Those ties that are not used will be donated to Hospice Thrift Store. If you want a remembrance or keepsake of a loved one that has passed away (Papou, Dad, Brother, Friend) and have a particular tie that was theirs, give it to Ourania with your name and phone number paper clipped to that specific tie and she will craft it (one per family, no charge) into something for your Christmas tree! Remember that all donations of the December event will go to **SCHOLARSHIPS** for the Youth of **THIS CHURCH COMMUNITY**. Please clean out your closets and give those old ties a new purpose!



ST. JOHN'S BOOKSTORE

"WISDOM FROM THE HOLY MOUNTAIN"-

LIFE LESSONS FROM THE MONKS OF MT. ATHOS IS NOW
AVAILABLE IN OUR BOOKSTORE. THIS BOOK OF QUOTES AND
LESSONS FROM THE MONKS OF MT. ATHOS COMPILED BY STEVEN
MICHAEL RAKES IS BOTH INSTRUCTIONAL AND INSPIRATIONAL.

PICK UP YOUR COPY TODAY!

***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; 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, 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 and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.



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 2; Tuesday, July 9; Tuesday, July 16; Tuesday, July 23; and Tuesday, July 30.

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 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.

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.**

Chanter/Ministry Coordinator Update

It has been nearly one year since we've had a full-time pastoral assistant. We've advertised for a pastoral assistant, ministry coordinator and chanter on Orthodoxjobs.com. We have interviewed four candidates, none of whom were a fit for what we are looking for.

Fr. Stavros and the Parish Council have decided to pivot and look for a chanter/ministry coordinator for our parish and wanted to see if there is anyone inside of our parish who can fill this role. Chanting is the first and most essential requirement. This person would be chanting at all the services and sacraments of our parish. Second, the person would interface with all of our ministries, and work closely with Fr. Stavros providing logistical support for both. This would be a full-time, salaried position. For a full job description, please contact **Marcelle Triantafilou at marcelletrianta@gmail.com**. and to apply please see **Fr. Stavros**. We will hold this opportunity open until **July 1** for any members of our community who wish to apply.

Independence Day

On 4th of July(Independence Day), our office will remain closed. We will reopen on Friday 7/5.

Choir Practice

There will be no Choir Practice on 6/19 & 6/26 and all of July. It will resume August 7.

ALTAR BOY SCHEDULE

June 23

Anyone attending may serve

Captains

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

June 30

Anyone attending may serve

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

HOLY APOSTLES/ALL SAINTS

ORTHROS 8:45A.M.

DIVINE LITURGY 10:00A.M.

TUESDAY, JULY 2

BIBLE STUDY

6:30P.M.

THURSDAY, JULY 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY

OFFICE IS CLOSED

SUNDAY, JULY 7

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 2: Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Did you Know- Coffee Hour is typically hosted by our dedicated Ministry Groups, but anyone can participate on an open day or request a day to honor a loved one. The church provides snacks, coffee and water. Help is needed to setup, make coffee (instructions are provided) and clean up the paper goods. Coffee Hour brings good fellowship! If you would like to get involved, please reach out to our church office!

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