

I wish to warmly welcome you to Tampa and to St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church! Our parish was founded in 1956, in the heart of beautiful Hyde Park neighborhood, and today serves the needs of nearly 400 families of Orthodox faithful in Tampa, and throughout Hillsborough County and the surrounding areas. We have many Christ-centered ministries for people of all ages and I encourage you to get involved in any of them!

I was born and raised in Whittier, CA, graduated with a degree in history from Whittier College and after graduating Holy Cross Seminary, I was ordained to the priesthood in 1998. I served in the parishes of Enfield, CT and Asheville, NC before coming to Tampa in 2004. I also serve as the director of St. Stephen's Summer Camp for the Metropolis of Atlanta. My wife, Lisa, and I are blessed to have a son, Nicholas.

The church office is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. I am available for counseling and confidential confession. Please call the office during business hours if you would like to schedule an appointment. Please take some time to read about the great things going on here at St. John, visit our website at www.greekorthodoxchurchtampa.com and be sure to like us on Facebook. I am always happy to answer any questions you may have about our faith, our parish, or about joining our church family.

I invite you to join us each Sunday for the Divine Liturgy which begins at 10:00 am, with Orthros starting at 8:45 am. We often have weekday services as well, which are posted on our monthly calendar located in *The Messenger* (our monthly publication) and on our website.

Life in our parish is centered around five core values—Love, Worship, Community, Learning, and Service. Using these as our guide, St. John will continue to grow as a beacon of Orthodoxy for the Tampa Bay area. I wish you all of God's blessing and welcome you once again to our community.

With love in the Lord,

+Father Stavros Akrotirianakis