

## **St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church**

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



**Sunday, January 14, 2024**

**Leave-Taking of Theophany, Holy Martyrs of Sinai and Raitho**

**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:**

*Leave-taking of the Theophany of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;  
Holy Martyrs of Sinai and Raitho*

**Second Antiphon:** Save us o Son of God, joy; the apostles did preach the good news Who was baptized by John in the Jordan, to at Your command that You are risen from the Thee we sing: Alleluia. So-son i-mas I-e The- dead, O Christ our God, bestowing Your mer- ou, o en I-or-da-ni i-po I-o-a-nou vap-tis-this, cy upon the world evermore.

**Apolytikion of Theophany:** En I-or-da-ni vap-ti-zo-me-nou Sou Ky-ri-e, i tis Tri-a-dos e-fa-ne-ro-thi pro-ski-ni-sis, tou gar Yen-ni-to -ros i fo-ni pro-se-mar-ti-ri Si, a-ga-pi-ton Se I-on o-no-ma-zou-sa, ke to Pnev-ma en i-di pe-ri-ste-ras, e-ve-ve-ou tou lo-gou to as-fa-les. O E-pi-fa-nis Chri-ste O The-os, ke ton kos-mon fo-ti-sas do-xa Si. When You O Christ were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was revealed to all. For the Father's voice bore witness unto You, calling You the beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed His word as the truth. O revealed Christ, our God: the world gives glory to You!

**Entrance Hymn:** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. Save us o Son of God, Who is risen from the dead, to Thee we sing: Alleluia.

**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

**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:** E-pe-fa-nis si-me-ron, ti i-kou-me-ni, ke to fos Sou Ky-ri-e, e-si-mi-o-thi ef' i-mas, en e-pi-gno-si im-noun-tas Se, il-thes e -fa-nis, to Fos to a-pro-si-ton. From above You appeared today, to all the world, and Your Light, O our Lord, has been marked upon us, who in true knowledge sing to You: You came, You appeared, O Light unapproachable.

**Trisagion Hymn:** O-si is Chris-ton e-vap-tis-thi-te Chris-ton e-ne-thi-sa-sthe. Alleluia. All those who have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

## Readings for Sunday, January 14

**Epistle Lesson: Verse:** Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us. Rejoice greatly in the Lord, O righteous ones.

### **The reading is from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians (4:7-13)**

But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

### **Gospel Lesson (Matthew 4: 12-17)**

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

**Megalinarion (after we kneel for the consecration):** O my soul, magnify the ever virgin Maid who from the curse has redeemed us. O all spotless Bride, surpassing comprehension are the wonders of your childbirth, blessed Mother. Through you, obtaining comprehensive salvation, we bring you a gift, in striking up this worthy hymn of gratitude to you, our Benefactress.

**Communion Hymn: (Psalm 112:6)** Is mni-mo-si-non e-o-ni-on e-ste di-ke-os. Alliluaia. The memory of the righteous will endure forever. 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**—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 before Communion)
4. Sunday school students (who will line up in the middle aisle before Communion behind the teachers)

## MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

### Looking for HELP in the Office

We currently have no Administrative Assistant. We are looking for help in the office, and we are also looking to hire someone to take this position. If interested, please contact Fr. Stavros or John Zelatis ([jjzelatis@zomesa.com](mailto:jjzelatis@zomesa.com)/813-727-2271).

### *One Word for 2024*

As we are beginning a new year, as we have done for the past six years, we encourage every parishioner to choose a word that will define their year 2024. Most New Year's resolutions are not only not kept, they aren't even remembered. Using ONE WORD to define your year is something that is easier to remember and to check in with on a daily basis. Please send your ONE WORD (in a one word email) to [frstav@gmail.com](mailto:frstav@gmail.com) by January 15. We'd like to make a wordle for the hall for this year as we have done for the previous six.

### GASPARILLA PARKING! HELP WANTED!

Gasparilla is less than two weeks away. We need help for our parking fundraiser. This is easy money we raise to help the church. We need volunteers. Dylan Crawshaw is going to be our point person. His phone number is 863-205-4366. Please TEXT him if you can participate. You can also contact Nick Fortino at 815-997-9230. Please do so this week, so we can figure out who can help and it's not all getting done at the last minute. The Gasparilla adult parade fundraiser is January 27 (Saturday). We are looking for volunteers to help between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. though you won't have to be here all of that time.

**Meeting of Ministry Heads, Tuesday, January 16-** On Tuesday, January 16, there will be a meeting of ministry heads from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Each ministry head is requested to attend and other members of each ministry are invited to attend. If the ministry head cannot attend, please ask someone else in your ministry to attend, so that all ministries are represented.

**Philoptochos Vasilopita Sunday January 14** –We will cut the Vasilopita for our various ministries at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 14. The Philoptochos will also be offering pieces of Vasilopita as part of coffee hour. Any proceeds from this day will be going to St. Basil's Academy in New York.

**GOYA—**

**The GOYA Meeting for January** has been rescheduled for Sunday, January 21 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Dinner, as always, will be served.

**Young at Heart -**

*Thank you to all those who attended our January Young at Heart gathering held yesterday. Over 30 enjoyed a potluck luncheon along with our traditional cutting of the Vasilopita and a video presentation on "The Life of St. Basil the Great". Please join us next month. Check an upcoming bulletin for details.*

**St. John's Bookstore -** Free samples of our new charcoal!

*Stop in today to pick up a free sample of our new and improved charcoal for your incense burners. Take home a sample to try. We find this brand to last longer and burn much better than our previous one. As always, we stock a full line of incense burners and incense as well.*

**Philoptochos Membership Drive 2024**

*Our Ladies Philoptochos Society has kicked off its membership drive for 2024. Please consider becoming a member and assisting us in our many philanthropic missions locally, nationally, and internationally. Membership forms have been emailed to all current members. Please complete the form and return. Prospective members can pick up a membership form in our church bookstore. Please contact Presvytera Denise Steffero - Membership Chair - with any questions and to complete your enrollment. New this year - submit your Philoptochos Stewardship donation online - <https://square.link/u/123vm6lr>*



INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT  
ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY?  
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FOUR WEEK COURSE

# Orthodoxy 101

BEGINS IN JANUARY & OFFERED BY  
FR. STAVROS N. AKROTIRIANAKIS, PARISH PRIEST

## WHY SHOULD I ATTEND ORTHODOXY 101?

· 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

## WHEN WILL THE CLASSES BE HELD?

\* MONDAY, JANUARY 22  
A TOUR OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH: WHAT WE SEE AND WHAT IT MEANS

\* MONDAY, JANUARY 29  
INTRODUCTION TO THE SACRAMENTS: BAPTISM, CHRISTMATION, CONFESSION, MARRIAGE, UNCTION

\* MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5  
THE DIVINE LITURGY – A "TEACHING" LITURGY

\* MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12  
ORTHODOX TRADITIONS – FASTING, ICONS, PRAYER AND LIVING AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN LIFE

## WHAT FORMAT CAN I EXPECT?

A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE WITH PRESENTATIONS, INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS, AND LOTS OF TIME FOR QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CLASSES WILL BE HELD FROM 6:30-8:30 P.M. 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.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH · 2418 W. SWANN AVENUE · TAMPA, FL · 33609

## Altar Boy Schedule

<b>January 14</b> Teddy Kafentaris Andreas Stefanou Kris Christopher Vasilios Panos Jonah Blakenbaker Theodore Edquid	<b>Captains</b> Demetri Passalaris Nicholas Akrotirianakis Nicholas Magos Nicholas Carter George Xenick PJ Zelatis	<b>January 21</b> Christos Nenos Constantine Ameres Zachary George Louis Mantzanas Gianni Matassini Nathan Moran Michael Meadows
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## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

<b>January 14</b>  <i>Vasilopita—St. Basil</i>		<b>January 21</b>  <i>Salvation (Story of Zacchaeus)</i> YOUTH SUNDAY CONFESSIONS—1st—3rd
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**If you do not receive our weekly Sunday School Constant Contact every Friday afternoon, please e-mail Vickie Peckham to let her know. Her e-mail address is [vickiepeckham@gmail.com](mailto:vickiepeckham@gmail.com)**

Prayer List: Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Melissa Romero, Sandra Reyes, Miltiadis, Larry Maas; Konstantinos Triantafyllopoulos; Kostadinou 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; George Joseph; Anna, Stavroula, George, Pam, and Liz; Christopher Labatos; Eva Coppalla; Christopher; Christopher; Peter Nenos; Patrick Carroll; Ourania Tziotis, Irina, Marina, Yuri, and Christophoros; Ashley Snyder; Evangelos & Caroline Critkas; Christine Alex, June, Lillian Thomas; Scotty; Desi Serriera; Ashley Kladakis; Dora Kallas, 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, and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

# Upcoming Services & Events

<b>Sunday, January 14</b>	<b>Orthros 8:45 a.m.</b> Vasilopita Sunday	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Monday, January 15</b>	Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	
<b>Tuesday, January 16</b>	Woman's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Meeting of Ministry Heads 6:30 p.m.	
<b>Wednesday, January 17</b>	<b>St. Anthony</b> <b>Orthros 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Thursday, January 18</b>	<b>Sts. Athanasios and Cyril</b> <b>Orthros 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Friday, January 19</b>	<b>St. Makarios</b> <b>Orthros 9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Sunday, January 21</b>	<b>Orthros 8:45 a.m.</b> Youth Sunday GOYA Meeting 5:00 p.m.	<b>Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Monday, January 22</b>	Orthodox 101 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	

## UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

*Today's Coffee Hour is Sponsored by the St. John's Ladies Philoptochos*

### JANUARY 21

Food Pantry/Community Outreach

### JANUARY 28

Chagaris/Halkias Family—  
In Memory of Engie Halkias

### Religious Education at St. John

#### Monday Night Bible Study

Leader:  
Fr. John

January 15 :  
Monday at 6:30 p.m.

#### Women's Bible Study

Leader:  
Fr. Stavros

January 16:  
Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

## 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



<b>Parish Priest:</b>	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	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	678-637-4425
<b>Bookkeeper:</b>	Debbie Bowe	813-876-8830
 <b>Parish Council:</b>	 John Zelatis, President	 813-727-2271
	Euripides Panos, Vice President	813-352-3972
	Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary	813-760-6289
	Gary Ward, Treasurer	813-846-3898
	Jim Armstrong	954-295-6665
	Amin Hanhan	813-846-2957
	Nick Katzaras	863-581-2430
	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855
	Alexis Scarfogliero	813-892-1599
	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
	Mike Xenick	813-340-8737
 <b>12 Disciples</b>	 Mathew Balasis	 727-421-7376
<b>AHEPA:</b>	Thomas Sakaris, President	201-819-2319
<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>College Ministry:</b>	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
<b>Community Outreach:</b>	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
<b>Dance Groups:</b>	H XAPA 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>	Elena Ketchum	813-229-0144
<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