

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

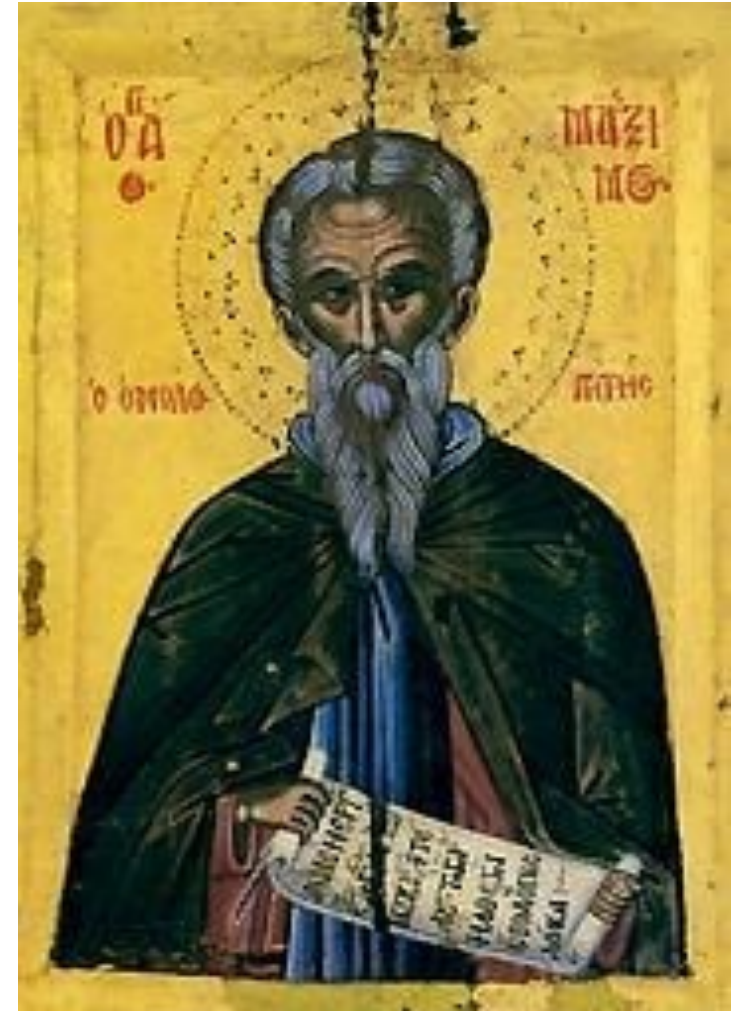
Parish Council:	John Zelatis, President	813-727-2271
	Euripides Panos, Vice President	813-352-3972
	Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary	813-760-6289
	Gary Ward, Treasurer	813-846-3898
	Jim Armstrong	954-295-6665
	Amin Hanhan	813-846-2957
	Nick Katzaras	863-581-2430
	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855
	Alexis Scarfogliero	813-892-1599
	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
	Mike Xenick	813-340-8737

12 Disciples		
AHEPA:	Thomas Sakaris, President	201-819-2319
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:	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

Daughters of Penelope:	Elena Ketchum	813-229-0144
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

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

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



Sunday, January 21, 2024
St. Maximos the Confessor

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:

Saint Maximos the Confessor

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: From of the Lord is sufficient. You have proved to Above did You descend O Christ our God. be truly more venerable than the prophets. For us did You endure three days in the tomb, that we may be relieved from passions Since you were granted to baptize in the river, the One Whom they in this world. You who are our Resurrection proclaimed. Therefore, you strove for truth, and our Life: Glory to You, O Lord. 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.

Apolytikion of St. Maximos the Confessor: Guide of Orthodoxy and sacred teacher of piety and dignity, luminary of the world, and God-inspired jewel of monastics, O wise Maximos, the Spirit’s instrument; by you teachings you enlightened all. Intercede with Christ our God for the salvation of our souls.

Apolytikion of St. John the Baptist: The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you O Forerunner the witness

Kontakion: O You Who sanctified by Your birth a Virgin womb, and blessed the hands of Simeon as seemed most appropriate, You came indeed to save us all, O Christ our God. Wherefore bring peace to our nation in time of hostility, and secure in strength, the rulers You have truly loved, as the only one Who loves mankind.

Memorials:

Frank (Fanourios) Giakoumis (1 year), Pandelia Chouras (1 year),
Stamatina San Filippo (9 years, Varvara Labatos (15 years),
Dionisios Labatos (21 years)

Upcoming Services & Events		
Sunday, January 21	Orthros 8:45 a.m. GOYA Meeting 5:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday, January 22	Orthodox 101 6:30 p.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, January 23	Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m.	
Wednesday, January 24	Choir Practice	
Thursday, January 25	St. Gregory the Theologian Orthros 9:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Friday, January 26	GOYA Clearwater Winter Event	
Saturday, January 27	GOYA Clearwater Winter Event Gasparilla Adult Parade Parking Fundraiser	
Sunday, January 28	Orthros 8:45 a.m. Prayer for Teachers (Before Holy Communion) JOY Tweens (After Liturgy) Men’s Group 5:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Monday, January 29	Women’s Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Orthodoxy 101 6:30 p.m.	
Tuesday, January 30	Three Hierarchs Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Religious Education at

St. John

<u>Monday Night</u> <u>Bible Study</u>	<u>Women’s</u> <u>Bible Study</u>
Leader: Fr. John	Leader: Fr. Stavros
January 22: Monday at 6:30 p.m.	January 23: 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* UNAWARES.
HEBREWS 13:2

Altar Boy Schedule

January 21 Christos Nenos Constantine Ameres Zachary George Louis Mantzanas Gianni Matassini Nathan Moran Michael Meadows	Captains Demetri Passalaris Nicholas Akrotirianakis Nicholas Magos Nicholas Carter George Xenick PJ Zelatis	January 28 Gabriel Gonzales Michael Galin Philip Kane Leo Sengsouvana Kenny Kane Peter Konstas
SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS		
January 21 Salvation (Story of Zacchaeus) <i>Confessions 1st-3rd</i>		January 28 Traditions <i>7th-12th Stay in Church</i>
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		

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

Readings for Sunday, January 21

Epistle Lesson: Verse. *Pray and return to the Lord your God. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.*

The reading of from St. Paul’s Letter to the Colossians (3:4-11)

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 17:12-19

And as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” When He saw them He said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” And He said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

- 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



Time for a blood pressure check.
Nursing Ministry will have the monthly
blood pressure clinic after Liturgy today.
Please stop by and know your numbers!

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 (jzelatis@zomesa.com/813-727-2271).

JOY Tweens

Sign-Up for Text Updates!

To get updates and other messages for JOY Tweens, text @783gc6 to 81010 on your mobile phone.



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.



Feast Day Luncheon - St. John the Baptist

The collaboration of our Ladies Philoptochos Society (President- Katherine Sakkis) and our Parish Council (President- John Zelatis) provided us with a delicious and enjoyable event on Sunday, January 7th. We were honored by the visit of His Grace, Bishop Sevastianos representing the Metropolis of Atlanta. Thank you to all who supported this effort through your hard work and/or donations.

Vasilopita Sunday

Sincere thanks and appreciation go out to Jeanie Nenos, Melissa Krinos, and all those who baked and donated to our Vasilopita Sunday event last Sunday. Due to your generosity and support, \$1,900 will be donated to St. Basil's Academy. Fr. Stavros cut and distributed the Vasilopita to our various ministry representatives. GOYA was the recipient of one of the coins along with Myra Armstrong, one of our Vasilopita bakers.

Thank you for the support of our St. John Food Pantry.

We gathered over 10 bags of donations the past few months for Metropolitan Ministries and have created 10 'bags of groceries' for local families in need. As a reminder the First Sunday of Each Month (Feb. 4th) is our primary collection day (but donations are welcome anytime). Look for our dedicated bin in the church hall. Every little bit helps!

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

St. John's Bookstore

Last Sunday's charcoal give-away was a great success. If you missed getting a free sample last week, stop in today. Also, see our new books by Fr. Seraphim Rose: Orthodoxy and the Religion of the Future, God's Revelation to the Human Heart, and Nihilism - The Root of the Revolution of the Modern Age. What is Nihilism mean? - It means that the highest values are losing their value - very thought-provoking reading especially considering that it was written over 4 decades ago.



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.

JOY TWEENS-

Our January meeting is rescheduled to January 28, following the Divine Liturgy, from 12:30pm to 2pm. Please keep a lookout for the SignUpGenius! **Sign-Up for Text Updates!** To get updates and other messages for JOY Tweens, text @783gc6 to 81010 on your mobile phone.

MEN'S GROUP-

Our January Men's Group meeting is next Sunday, January 28 from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. We will grab dinner, and have a discussion. For those who are able, please come at 3:30 p.m. to take down the Christmas lights from the trees in front of the church.

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, 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

**BUILDING A SPIRITUAL LIFE:
PRAYER, WORSHIP, SCRIPTURE, AND
GENEROSITY.**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

ALL MEN ARE WELCOME, ORTHODOX OR NOT

\$15 (COVERS LUNCH)

**STARTING WITH DIVINE LITURGY, FOLLOWED BY
PRESENTATIONS AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

**FR. STAVROS
AKROTIRIANAKIS**



**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH**

2418 W. Swann Ave. Tampa, FL 33609

Kindly RSVP by February 5 to frstav@gmail.com

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Today's Coffee Hour is Sponsored by the Food Pantry/Community Outreach

JANUARY 28
Chagaris/Halkias Family—
In Memory of Engie Halkias

FEBRUARY 4
Joy Tweens/Hope & Joy

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 Stefero - Membership Chair - with any questions and to complete your enrollment. New this year - submit your Philoptochos Stewardship donation online - <https://square.link/u/123vm6lr>*

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 by January 22.

We'd like to make a wordle for the hall for this year as we have done for the previous six.