

# 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 of the Canaanite Woman – February 18

Sunday, February 18, 2024  
*Leo the Great, Pope of Rome*

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:**

*Leo the Great, Pope of Rome*

**Apolytikion of the Resurrection:** *When the tidings of the Resurrection from the angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples, and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the apostles, with boasting did they proclaim: that death is vanquished evermore and Christ our God is risen from the dead, granting to the world His great mercy.*

**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:** *A protection of Christians unshamable, intercessor to our Holy Maker unwavering, reject not, the prayerful cries of those who are in sin. Instead, come to us for you are good, your loving help bring unto us, who are crying in faith to you. Hasten to intercede and speed now to supplicate, as a protection for all time, Theotokos for those who honor you.*

**Welcome Deacon Niko Berbilis**-Deacon Niko Berbilis is visiting our parish this morning and will be assisting in the Divine Liturgy.

**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, February 18

**Epistle Lesson:** Verse. O Lord, Your works shall be magnified greatly; You made all things in wisdom. Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, You are magnified exceedingly.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians (6:16-18; 7:1)

What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 15: 21-18

At that time, Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But He did not answer her a word. And His disciples came and begged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before Him, saying, "Lord, help me." And He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.



Memorial Services:

Valerie Hampers (40 days); Aris (Aristides) Hampers (1 year);

Mathew Balasis (40 days);

Nickolas Rogers (3 years); Despina Spithoyianis (37 years)

# MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

## UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

*Today's Coffee Hour is Sponsored by The Balasis Family, In Memory of Mathew Balasis*

**FEBRUARY 25**  
Choir

**MARCH 3**  
Sunday School

### Young at Heart

"Love is Young at Heart" was the theme of the February Young at Heart gathering held yesterday afternoon. Those attending enjoyed a delicious Italian lunch and a discussion on St. Paul's 1 Corinthians 13: 1-8 - "Love Is". We concluded with a fun game to celebrate the day. Join us for our next gathering on Saturday, March 9th. Look for more information in upcoming bulletins.



### JOY Tweens

The JOY Tweens offsite is  
next **Sunday, February 25,**  
following Divine Liturgy.



All 4th-6th graders and their  
families are welcome!



Our tweens will be getting outside to enjoy  
some thrilling winter adventures at  
Snowcat Ridge Snow Park!

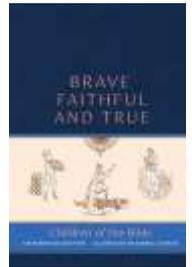
**Please check your email for more details or  
contact Maraquet Edquid at 813-422-8963.**

### St. John's Bookstore—

#### Book of the Week

**"Brave, Faithful,  
and True"**

"Brave, Faithful, and True", by Katherine Bolger Hyde, retells the stories of twelve Biblical children (6 Old Testament and 6 New Testament) from their own point of view. These stories of encounters with God can impact the lives of our own children.



### 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://bit.ly/3tTEyF6>*

### **Veterans/1<sup>st</sup> Responders MEETING**

**Wednesday,  
February 28<sup>th</sup> at  
6:30 pm  
In the church hall**

### **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](mailto:jzelatis@zomesa.com)/813-727-2271).

## MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

**THANK YOU for YOUR SUPPORT for the **SOUPER BOWL of CARING!!!****

*Dear Church Community,*

Several thanks are in order.

- Thank you to the ladies of the Philoptochos Chapter for setting up, preparing a delicious lunch with loving hands, serving with smiles, engaging in conversation with guests, and cleaning up afterwards. You prepared a wonderful meal that was truly enjoyed by all and worked as a winning team! It was especially great to even see the children making their own healthy choices of soups, salads and desserts.
- Thank you to the Nursing Ministry for making yourselves available in providing information about Health & Wellness and also Autism. The feedback is that this past weekend was the highest number of parishioners participating in getting their blood pressure checked. This is fantastic!! Knowing where you are, helps you to be able to go where you want to go!
- Thank you to Fr. Stavros for promoting the event last Sunday with encouraging words and blessing the food for our health and well-being and to the office staff for communicating the event in the bulletins.
- Most of all, thank you to **YOU, the church community**, for staying and taking the time to be active participants in the luncheon. You had many options after the Divine Liturgy, but staying and having a meal together and sharing fellowship was just like what a family really does! Your generous donations also raised \$903 towards our goal of \$1,000 to help the needs of children with Autism. Thank you for showing others that you care!



*With Heartfelt Gratitude,*

**Ourania Stephanides**

**Chair of the Philoptochos “Souper Bowl of Caring” Luncheon Event**

### **Love thy Neighbor through our Monthly Community Outreach**

We have the privilege to help serve the needs of our homeless community in East Tampa on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. We partner with Matthew 25 (a local Charity), Metropolitan Ministries and USF to serve breakfast, provide clothing and medical needs for our guests.

***Our next date (s) are March 16<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup> & May 18<sup>th</sup>.***

***What to expect:*** *A rewarding experience and we welcome new volunteers!*

**To Volunteer:** [ClickHere](#) (Link also below) or scan our QR code to access our Signup Genius - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48A5A62DA3F49-community1/8067245#/>

**Place:** Tampa Hope @ 3704 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.—Tampa East     **Time:** 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

**Questions on Arrival:** Look for Matthew 25 founders, Peggy & Mike Kanter or Greg & Victoria Melton, our dedicated parishioners that organize this ministry. They can help answer any questions or if you need direction when you arrive. **You may also call Greg directly at 813-967-2074.**



*‘Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men’ Colossians 3:23*

## Altar Boy Schedule

### February 18

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

### February 25

Gabriel Gonzales  
Michael Galin  
Philip Kane  
Leo Sengsouvana  
Kenny Kane  
Peter Konstas

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

### February 11

Sacraments of the Church



### February 18

Publican and Pharisee

**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: 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; 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, Valery, Jimmy, Timoleon and Elias Kapadoukakis and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

# Upcoming Services & Events

- Sunday, February 18**      **Orthros 8:45 a.m.**      **Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**
- Tuesday, February 20**      Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  
Parish Council 6:30 p.m.  
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 21**      Choir Practice
- Thursday, February 22**      Adult Greek School 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, February 24**      Children's Greek School  
Philotochos General Meeting with Bowling and Fellowship 1:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 25**      **Orthros 8:30 a.m.**      **Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**
- Thursday, February 27**      Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

**Religious Education at**  
**St. John**

**Women's**  
**Bible Study**

Leader:  
Fr. Stavros

February 20:  
**Tuesday** at 10:00 a.m.

**Tuesday Night**  
**Bible Study**

Leader:  
Fr. John

February 20:  
**Tuesday** at 6:30 p.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 EXPECT TO MEET *hospitality* TO STRANGERS  
FOR THEREBY WE HAVE ENTERED AND *angel marmel*

<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
	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
<b>12 Disciples</b>		
<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>	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
<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