

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

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



Beginning of the Triodion – The Publican and the Pharisee

Sunday, February 25, 2024

First Sunday of Triodion-The Publican and the Pharisee

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:

First Sunday of Triodion-The Publican and the Pharisee

Tarasios, Patriarch of Constantinople; Reginos, Bishop of Skopelos; Holy Martyr Alexander of Thrace

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: Co-eternal with the Father and Spirit is the Word Who of a Virgin was begotten for our salvation we the faithful both praise and worship Him. For in the flesh did He consent to ascend unto the cross and death did He endure and He raised unto life the dead by His all Glorious Resurrection.

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: From the proud speaking of the Pharisee let us flee, and let us learn the Publican's humility by crying out, with deep sighs, to our Savior: Grant us Your mercy, O only forgiving One.

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 25

Epistle Lesson: Verse. You shall guard us, O Lord; You shall preserve us. Save me, O Lord, for the holy man has ceased.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy. (2 Timothy 3: 10-15)

Now you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 18: 10-14

The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank Thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

**Philloptochos will have a General Membership meeting today,
after church @12:15 - 1 PM in the Zaharias room.**

We will have important upcoming activities to discuss so please make every effort to attend. If you are not a member yet and want to join us as see what it is all about, you are welcome as well.

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Today's Coffee Hour is Sponsored by The Choir

MARCH 3

Sunday School

MARCH 10

Altar Angels & Daughters of Penelope



JOY Tweens



**The JOY Tweens offsite is TODAY!
After the Divine Liturgy!**

Meet in the parking lot behind the Kourmolis Center
at 12:15 p.m. or meet us at Snowcat Ridge.
Tubing starts at 2 p.m.

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

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

Sign-Up for Text Updates!

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

The GOYA Meeting for February is tonight
from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center.
Dinner, as always, will be served.

Men's Group- The Men's Group Meeting for
March will be Sunday, March 3 from 5:00-7:30
p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. We will walk to
a local restaurant, bring dinner back to the hall,
and have discussion. The topic will be how to
get the most out of the Lenten season.

Save the Date- Monastery Bus Trip-

*Young at Heart will sponsor a bus trip to the
Panagia Vlahernon and Annunciation of the
Theotokos Greek Orthodox Monasteries near
Ocala on Saturday, May 18th. Cost is \$20 per
person and space limited. If you are interested
in participating, email Presvytera Denise as
soon as possible- denises54@hotmail.com or
text (678) 464-4833. OPEN TO ALL*

St. John's Bookstore

*New Items arriving each week.
Haven't shopped our
Bookstore in a while?*

Stop in and see what's available.

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/3tEYf6>*

Veterans/1st Responders MEETING

**Wednesday,
February 28th 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/813-727-2271).

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

The Philoptochos Society of
St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
is sponsoring a Women's Retreat



*Many Believed in Him Because of the Woman's
Testimony (John 4:39):
The Important Roles of Women in the Bible*

Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis - Retreat Leader

Saturday, March 23 - Feast of St. Theodore
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

All women are welcome, Orthodox or not

Starting with Divine Liturgy, followed by lunch,
presentations and group discussions

Donations Accepted

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH

2418 W. Swann Ave. Tampa, FL 33609

Kindly RSVP by March 18 to office@stjohntpa.org

Nursing Ministry Presentation on Advanced Directives

*What are advance directives? Advance directives are
legal documents that provide instructions for medical
care and only go into effect if you cannot
communicate your own wishes.*

Who will make your last health care decisions when
you no longer can?

The Nursing Ministry will be presenting a
lecture on Advanced Directives,

March 10th after the Liturgy. Please join us for this
opportunity to gain understanding about Advanced
Directives and to make sure your end-of-life health
care wishes are what you want.

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 3rd 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 16th, April 20th & May 18th.

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. 3rd 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.**



Altar Boy Schedule

February 25

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

Captains

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

March 3

Michael Snyder
Zachary Carter
Dorian Setzer-Torres
Leo Lenardos
Niko Kyrus
Josh Roby

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

February 25

Publican and Pharisee



March 3

Prodigal Son
YOUTH SUNDAY

**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: 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, Toulou 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, Anna, Damynos and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, February 25

Beginning of Triodion-Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Orthros 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
GOYA 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 27

Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 28

Choir Practice

Thursday, February 29

Adult Greek School 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 2

Children's Greek School

Sunday, March 3

Second Sunday of Triodion-The Prodigal Son
Orthros 8:30 a.m. **Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.**
Men's Group 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 5

Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 6

Paraklesis 6:00 p.m.
Choir Practice

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 NEGLECT TO SHOW *hospitality* TO STRANGERS,
FOR THEREBY SOME HAVE ENTERTAINED *angels unawares*

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
	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:	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:	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:	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