

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

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



Second Sunday of the Triodion — The Prodigal Son

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Second Sunday of the Triodion-The Prodigal Son

The Holy Martyrs Eutropius, Cleonicus, and Basiliscus; Theodoretos the Holy Martyr of Antioch

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:

Second Sunday of the Triodion-The Prodigal Son

The Holy Martyrs Eutropius, Cleonicus, and Basilliscus; Theodore the Holy Martyr of Antioch

Apolytikion of the Resurrection: When the angelic powers appeared at the tomb and soldiers guarding You became as though dead and standing by Your sepulchre was Mary seeking Your pure and sacred Body. For You did vanquish Hades and uncorrupted by its touch, You came unto the virgin woman bestowing the gift of Life. O You who rose from the dead, Lord, we give glory to You.

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: Foolishly I ran away from Your glory, O Father, and wasted in sin all the wealth You gave me. Therefore, the Prodigal's cry, I offer to You. I have sinned before You compassionate Father, do accept me in repentance and make me again one of Your servants.

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, March 3

Epistle Lesson: Verse. O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance. To You, O Lord, I cry; O my God.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (I Corinthians 6: 12-20)

"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 15:11-32

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. "Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Memorial Services:

Chrysoula Couvela—40 Days

MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

Today's Coffee Hour is Sponsored by The Sunday School

MARCH 10

Altar Angels & Daughters of Penelope

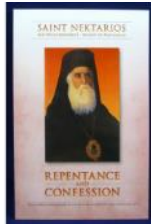
MARCH 17

Monday Night Bible Study

St. John's Bookstore—

Now Available!

Saint Nektarios The Wonderworker - Bishop of Pentapolis - "Repentance and Confession" translated from the original Greek. In this book St. Nektarios states, " Therefore, come! Let us renounce sin; let us return the things acquired through injustice; let us be reconciled with our enemies and perform works worthy of repentance so that we may propitiate God and attract His divine mercy, and thus become worthy recipients of the Heavenly Kingdom.



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

JOY Tweens

Sign-Up for Text Updates!



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

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>*



Seven Words:

THE LAST WORDS OF JESUS FROM THE CROSS

A SIX-WEEK LENTEN STUDY
JOIN US WEDNESDAY EVENINGS DURING GREAT LENT



MARCH 20 FORGIVENESS

*"Father, forgive them
for they know not what
they do."*

Luke 23:34

DINNER SPONSORED BY
THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

MARCH 27 SALVATION

*"Remember me when
you come into Your
kingdom."*

Luke 23:42

DINNER SPONSORED BY
THE CHOIR

APRIL 3 RELATIONSHIPS

*He said to His mother,
"Woman, behold, your
Son!" Then He said to
the disciple, "Behold,
your mother!"*

John 19:25-26

DINNER SPONSORED BY
THE AHEPA/DAUGHTERS

APRIL 10 ABANDONMENT/ DISTRESS

*"My God, my God, why
have You forsaken Me?"*

Mark 15:34

"I thirst."

John 19:28

DINNER SPONSORED BY
THE YOUNG AT HEART
AND WELCOME MINISTRY

APRIL 17 TRIUMPH

"It is finished."

John 19:30

DINNER SPONSORED BY
THE PHILOPTOCHOS

APRIL 24 COMMIT

*"Into Your Hands I
commit My Spirit."*

Luke 23:46

DINNER SPONSORED BY
THE YOUNG ADULTS AND
BIBLE STUDIES

EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE:

6:00 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
7:15 pm Lenten Dinner provided by one of our ministries
7:45 pm Presentation by Father Stavros
8:05 pm Small group discussion
8:30 pm Concluding remarks and closing prayer



GREAT LENT 2024
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
TAMPA, FL

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Group-

The Men's Group Meeting for March will be **TONIGHT**, 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

Wednesday, March 6 –

Paraklesis Service of Supplication to the Virgin Mary

We will continue to offer Paraklesis once a month, so that we can pray for all the members of our community by name, out loud. For March, the Paraklesis will be offered on Wednesday evening, March 6, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Saturday of the Souls – Saturdays, March 9, 16 and 23

It is a Tradition in the Orthodox Church to offer prayers for the souls of all of our loved ones who have departed this life, in the hope of the Resurrection to Eternal Life. There are four Saturdays of the year that are dedicated specifically to this purpose. There are three Saturdays at the beginning of Lent and the Saturday before Pentecost. Everyone is encouraged to submit the names of their loved ones to be commemorated at the services. Everyone is encouraged to attend one of these services (and bring Kolyva) if you are able, as a way of honoring the people in your family who have passed away, once a year.

Did You Know - Constant Contact is how the church shares communications regarding services, ministry events, publications and other news impacting our parish community. In addition, Fr. Stavros Daily Prayer Message is also shared via Constant Contact. If you don't currently receive these emails please contact the church office at **813- 876-8830** or email us at office@stjohntpa.org and we'll be sure to get you signed up.

Young at Heart March Gathering

Saturday, March 9th



Remember your departed loved ones in worship at the Divine Liturgy and Saturday of Souls Memorial Service followed by our monthly gathering with potluck luncheon and program.

Orthros - 9:00 am

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am

Memorial Service following

Young at Heart Gathering with Catered Brunch - \$12 per person

Video Presentation to Follow – Sunday of the Last Judgment



***Respond to Presvytera Denise today with the number attending.
Prepayment is requested by cash or check.***

MORE MINISTRY NEWS & UPDATES

Nursing Ministry Presentation on Advance Health care Directives

Advance Health care 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 Advance Healthcare Directives **March 10th** after the Liturgy.

Please join us for this opportunity to gain understanding on Advance Health care Directives 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.**



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

Altar Boy Schedule

March 3

Michael Snyder
Zachary Carter
Dorian Setzer-Torres
Leo Lenardos
Niko Kyros
Josh Roby
Michael Svintsitskiy
Michael Kwasny

Captains

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

March 10

Teddy Kafentaris
Andreas Stefanou
Kris Christopher
Vasilios Panos
Jonah Blakenbaker
Theodore Edquid

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS

March 3

Prodigal Son
YOUTH SUNDAY



March 10

Last Judgement

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

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, March 3	Second Sunday of Triodion-The Prodigal Son Orthros 8:30 a.m. Men's Group 5:00 p.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, March 5	Women's Bible Study Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 6	Paraklesis 6:00 p.m. Choir Practice	
Thursday, March 7	Adult Greek School	
Friday, March 8	GOYA Retreat-Sarasota	
Saturday, March 9	First Saturday of Souls Orthros 8:45 a.m.	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, March 10	Third Sunday of Triodion Orthros 8:30 a.m. Preparation of Advance Health Care Directives (following Liturgy	Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, March 12	Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	
Wednesday, March 13	Choir Practice	
Thursday, March 14	Young Adult Dinner/Discussion	6:30-8:30 p.m.

Religious Education at

St. John

Women's Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. Stavros

March 5:
Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday Night Bible Study

Leader:
Fr. John

March 5:
Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

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