St. John The Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

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



Luke the Evangelist- October 18

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026

Luke the Evangelist; Marinos the Martyr

Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (Proistamenos)
Fr. John Stefero (Associate Priest)
Fr. Stratton Dorozenski (Retired Priest In Residence)

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

Without a vision, the people perish. Proverbs 29:18

MISSION:

Love God. Serve Others. Share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

VISION:

We encourage all to seek salvation through prayerful worship, active engagement, and Christ-centered ministry, cultivating a welcoming, generous, and growing church community rooted in authentic Orthodox Christianity.

CORE VALUES:

Love • Worship • Community • Learning • Service

SYNAXARION:

Luke the Evangelist; Marinos the Martyr

Resurrectional Apolytikion:

Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and first born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great mercy.

Apolytikion For St. Luke:

O Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, intercede with our merciful God, to grant remission of sins, to the souls of us all.

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 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, October 18

Their voice has gone out into all the earth.
Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God.

The Reading Is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 4:5-11, 14-18

Brethren, conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer every one. Tychicos will tell you all about my affairs; he is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, and with him Onesimos, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of yourselves. They will tell you of everything that has taken place. Aristarchos my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions if he comes to you, receive him), and Jesus who is called Justos. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. Give my greetings to the brethren at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you read also the letter from Laodicea. And say to Archippos, "See that you fulfill the ministry which you have received in the Lord." I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my fetters. Grace be with you. Amen.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 10:16-21

The Lord said to His disciples, "He who hears you hears Me, and he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me." The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name!" And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you; but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." In that same hour He rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to babes; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."

A special prayer will be offered for Medical Professionals at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

Ministry News & Updates

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR SPONSORED BY
Philoptochos/Melissa Krinos

UPCOMING COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE

October 25	**November 1**
Parish Council	*Nursing/Welcome Ministry*

Did you know you can easily make donations online?

Simply scan the following QR Code with your phone's camera and select your fund of choice, Stewardship, General, Memorial etc. You can include notes to provide more detail.
Thank you for your Generosity and Support!

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 SCAN THE QR CODE TO FILL OUT AN ONLINE CONNECTION CARD



Memorial Service

John Plarinos - 4 years
Maria Petropoulos - 40 days
Panagiotis Papadogeorgis - 8 years

More Ministry News & Updates

Women's Bible Study with Fr. Stavros —Are meeting on Tuesday mornings at 10:00am, in the Administration Building in the Parish Council Room, or via zoom for those who can't make it in person. We will be studying the book of Colossians. **For October the dates are: Tuesday October 20 & Tuesday October 27.**

Special 4-Part Discussion Series: Father John will lead discussions on the next four Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. beginning Tuesday, October 13th. The topics will include (1) Coping with Suffering and Illness; (2) Forgiveness and Loving One's Enemies; (3) Dealing with Temptations; and (4) Criticism and Judging Others. Much of the material will be based on Hieromonk Gregorios' writings and quotes from the Church Fathers. Join us in person or on Zoom (contact the office to receive the Zoom link). The sessions will be recorded for those who cannot attend in person or on Zoom.

Orthodoxy 201 Class Begins: Father John's "Orthodoxy 201" Class began on Thursday, October 15th at 6:30 pm in the church hall. The class will run for 8 weeks. The book entitled "Welcome to the Orthodox Church: An Introduction to Eastern Christianity" by Presvytera Frederica Mathewes-Green will serve as the main text for the class. It can be purchased in our Church Bookstore. The emphasis will be on the premise that Orthodoxy is not primarily a religious institution, but a spiritual path. Orthodox Christians and Inquirers of the Orthodox Church are encouraged to attend. Please email the church office if you would like to attend the class.

Men's Group—Our men's group will meet TODAY from 5:00-7:30 p.m. in the Kourmolis Center. Any men of our community are welcome to join us for dinner and discussion. We meet at 5:00 p.m., walk to a local restaurant and get some food, then bring it back to the hall where we eat and have a discussion.

Parish Assembly Meeting-The Parish Assembly meeting for the fall will be held on Sunday, October 25 after the Divine Liturgy. The main items on the agenda will be the budget for 2027 and Parish Council elections.

Hara Mas (3rd-6th Grades) Greek Folk Dance Group- Greek folk dance practices for our youth in grades 3 to 6 will continue from 12:15pm to 1:00pm for the next three Sundays, until the Greek Festival on November 6 and 7. All practices are in the Kourmoulis Center next to the stage (during coffee hour) except next week, October 25. During the Parish Assembly meeting, we will meet in the breezeway between the church and the gymnasium to practice. Costume fittings will begin TODAY at 12:00pm by the wardrobe closets on the back of the stage. Please check your email for more information. Feel free to contact Maraquet Edquid (813-422-8963) with any questions. OPA!

Dance practice started **Sunday, August 30th** after church for Parea Dance Group (7th grade -12 grade). If you would like to dance at the festival, you must come to the first practice or email Genie Carter Jgncarter@verizon.net .

Choir—Choir practices will be held on most Wednesdays in the Zaharias Room from 7:15-8:30 p.m. New singers are always welcome. If you are interested in joining our choir, please contact Tara at tswatzbaugh@ut.edu or 813-313-0439.

Please fill in the seats in church after Holy Communion-A large number of people leave the church following Holy Communion, including our Sunday school students and teachers. For those who are worshipping in the hall, when you come into the church to receive Holy Communion, please feel free to fill in the empty seats vacated by the children and teachers.

Prayer List: *Lord Jesus Christ, Physician of our Souls and Bodies, visit and heal your servants: Athena Felley, Melissa Romero, Sandra Reyes, Miltiadis; Michael I, Calliope Herman; Delaney & Alexis Johnson; Ron & Linda Ledet; Helen & Mike Mitchell, Elena, Ricky & Michael Gordenina, Tina Chakonas, Felix R., Ivo; Anna, Stavroula, George, Pam, and Liz; Christopher Labatos; Eva Coppalla; Christopher; Christopher; Peter Nenos; Patrick Carroll; Irina, Marina, Yuri, and Christophoros; Ashley Snyder; Evangelos & Caroline Critkas; Christine Alex, June, Lillian Thomas; Scotty; Desi Serriera; Ashley Kladakis; Kathy & Andrew Bouzinekis; Anastasia; Virginia Georgiou, Toula Tsaros, Nellie Pringle, Yolanda Webb, Angela Bougas, Ron, Jason Vickers, Ann Demas, Christina Noel Kouzes Houck, 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., Debbie P., Mary V., David V., Don Payne, Valery, Jimmy, Timoleon, Elias, Anna, Damynos, Anna C., Anthony Welker, John Bella, George Voulgaris, Carol Cretekos, Tina, Bob, Bonnie, Pelagia & family, Michael Spithoyanis, Maggie Trakas, Marcelle Triantafullou, Mary Speegle, June, Katherine, Raissa J, Robert, Gilbert Ramos, Sandy Naum and Inger Calbi, Theodora Danzig, Stephen Spanos, David Spanos, John Spanos and all victims of war, terrorism, crime, natural disaster, and all of whom we are unaware.*

WELCOME TO THE HOPE&JOY

FALL FEST

CHANGE OF DATE!

SUNDAY, 10/18 12PM-2PM

IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING!

LUNCH | CRAFTS | FUN | FRIENDS

Clearwater GreekFest 2026

OCT. 23-25

FRIDAY 11 AM - 11 PM · **SATURDAY** 11 AM - 11 PM · **SUNDAY** Noon - 6 PM

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
409 S. Old Coachman Road
Clearwater, FL 33765

For more information contact us at:
727-799-4605
www.ClearwaterGreekFest.com

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ARISE & BUILD
St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

Your Safety. Our Priority.

CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY AT ST. JOHN!
Thank you for helping keep everyone safe during this time.

STAY OUT
Of fenced off construction areas

FOLLOW
All posted signs and directions

WATCH FOR
Workers, vehicles and equipment

KEEP CHILDREN
With you at all times

DRIVE SLOWLY
And park only in designated areas

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES
Scan the QR code above to see the current timeline, photo gallery and Quarterly Report updates

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?
Please email ariseandbuild@stjohntpa.org or call Mike Xenick at (813) 340-8737

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

We're so grateful for your continued donations—every little bit truly helps! Last

month, we supported Metropolitan Ministries, filled a "Blessing Tray" for Tampa Hope residents, and assisted several neighbors in need. Our hearts are full, and our shelves fill because of you. Please keep the momentum going and help us stay stocked. If you or someone you know could use a hand—or if you'd like to take a bag of groceries to share—we're here to help. Call or text Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747.

Community Kitchen "Deep Clean" + Festival Prep Day

Thursday, October 29 •
Gather at 10:00 AM

Many hands make light work! We're doing a **deeper clean and organize** our Community Kitchen (and a few nearby areas) to get ready for the Festival. Come at 10:00 AM and stay as long as you're able—every bit helps to keep things running smoothly.

Bring a friend, roll up your sleeves, and let's make a visible difference together!
Questions or ready to help?**Call/Text Sandra Pappas at 813-785-3747.**

Thursday, October 22–

Liturgy of St. James– Evening Liturgy

The Orthodox Church celebrates four different Divine Liturgies throughout the liturgical year. The most prominent is the Divine Liturgy written by St. John Chrysostom, which is celebrated almost every Sunday and on most feast days. The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated 10 times a year—on the eve of Christmas, the eve of Epiphany, on the five Sundays of Lent, Holy Thursday morning, Holy Saturday morning, and on the feast of St. Basil, which is January 1. The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is celebrated on Wednesday and Fridays of Great Lent and the mornings of Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, and Holy Wednesday. The Divine Liturgy of St. James is the oldest of the Divine Liturgies and is also the longest. It was written around 70 A.D. making it the oldest Eucharistic service in the entire Christian world. Among the interesting things about this service is that by the end of the first century, the structure of the Liturgy we celebrate today was already loosely in place. The Divine Liturgy begins not in the altar, but in the Narthex of the church, as was the custom of the early church. The priest and faithful enter the church together from the narthex, and the next part of the service is conducted on the solea, with the priest facing the people. The priestly prayers, while very long in the liturgy, reveal a beauty and completeness which would later be shortened by St. Basil and even more by St. John Chrysostom. The most unique part of this service comes at the reception of Holy Communion. This the only Divine Liturgy that has become the custom for the faithful to receive Holy Communion in separate elements, in similar fashion with how the clergy commune. The communicants first receive the Holy Body of Christ in their hands and consume it, and then drink from the Holy Chalice. This is a special beautiful tradition which will be continued at St. John the Baptist, and it is encouraged that all who attend this service fast before-hand and prepare to receive Holy Communion at this Divine Liturgy.

~SAVE THE DATE – NOV 6-7, 2026~

TAMPA GREEK FESTIVAL

Opa! LESS THAN 3 WEEKS AWAY!

'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven' Matthew 5:16

Soon we will welcome our Tampa Bay community to St. John for two days celebrating our **Orthodox Christian Faith, Greek heritage, food and fellowship. And it takes all of us to make it!**

WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR FESTIVAL:

Volunteer – With less than three weeks to go, only 35% of our volunteer shifts are filled! Our Festival is our biggest fundraiser, and we need more helping hands to bring it all together! Visit SignUpGenius to sign up for a shift (or two or three!) and encourage others to volunteer. Please stop by our Festival Table **TODAY!**

Promote – Pick up a Yard Sign & Poster TODAY to share with your business, family and friends! Post on social media and follow us on Facebook and Instagram **@tampagreekfestival_official**.

Critical Areas of Need – We still need a **Lead or Co-Leads for the Kids Area!** Our priority volunteer needs this week include Buffet, Parking, Setup & Cleanup. As we get closer to Festival weekend, our needs will change, so please check back each week for updates!

Become a Sponsor or In Kind Donor - There are many opportunities to **promote your business while supporting our Festival!** Every donation helps our bottom line!

Ready to help? To lead, co-lead or otherwise assist in any of these areas, please contact George Fellios at gfellios@gmail.com - 813.495.7562 or Sandra Pappas at spappas11@gmail.com - 813.785.3747

TampaGreekFestival.Com

Join us for a special early access event to watch The Chosen Season 6 Episode 1.



Season 6 of The Chosen begins the powerful journey to the cross.

The Come and See foundation has offered churches the opportunity to a free Early Access screening of the first episode before the season premiers on Amazon Prime.

Come and see and share in a meaningful, memorable experience together.

SEASON 6, EPISODE 1 - SEE IT FIRST!

Fear and confusion reign as the disciples struggle to make sense of Jesus' arrest— and Judas' betrayal. While they fight to stay together, Nicodemus stands alone against the High Priest in a heated showdown that throws the council into disorder.

WHEN: Monday October 26 at 12:00 pm
(following the Divine Liturgy)
Monday October 26 at 7:00 pm
WHERE: Kourmolis Center
(Maybe Zaharias room, as space allows)

There is no cost for this, however, we need to arrange the correct space for the number or people who attend. Please RSVP by using this link:





PARISH ASSEMBLY AT A GLANCE

Sunday, October 25 ~Following the Divine Liturgy | Kourmolis Center

- Hear updates on parish ministries and finances
- Review and approve the **2027 budget**
- **Nominate** members for the **Parish Council**
- Share your ideas and input on parish life



According to the Uniform Parish Regulations, **only stewards in good standing** — those who have submitted a **2026 pledge** and are current — **may vote.** *For any questions please contact George Mitseas - 813-748-1220 / gmitseas@mail.com*

Your participation helps us meet quorum and ensures our parish moves forward together in faith, transparency, and unity.
Please plan to attend!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS & TOPICS



Sunday School is back in session! We welcome Toddler 2s (must be 2yo by Sept 1st) through HS to grow in their faith. Sunday school begins after Holy Communion and ends at noon. Please email Zackie Ameres at zackiec@yahoo.com if you have any questions or if you do not receive our Friday weekly communications.

This Month's Topics:

October 18- Light of Christ/Making Faith Personal
October 25- Holy Communion- Youth Sunday

Please click on the QR Code to register your kids.

If you do not receive our **weekly Sunday School Constant Contact every Friday afternoon**, please email Zackie Ameres at **zackiec@yahoo.com** to let her know.

Upcoming Services & Events

Sunday, October 18	**St. Luke**		
	Orthros 8:45a.m.	Divine Liturgy	10:00a.m.
	I Hara Mas after church		
	Blood Drive		
	Hope/Joy Festival		12:00p.m.-2:00p.m.
	Parea Dance		
	Men's Group		5:00p.m.
	WEAR PINK SUNDAY		
Tuesday, October 20	Women's Bible Study with Fr. Stavros		10:00a.m. 6:30p.m.
Wednesday, October 21	Orthodoxy 201		
	Adult Dance Group		7:00p.m.
	Choir		7:30p.m.
Thursday, October 22	**St. James Liturgy**		
	Orthros 5:00p.m.	Divine Liturgy	6:00p.m.
Saturday, October 24	Adult Greek School		12:30p.m.-3:00p.m.
Sunday, October 25	Orthros 8:45a.m.	Divine Liturgy	10:00a.m.
	I Hara Mas after church		
	Youth Sunday		
	Parish Assembly		
	Parea Dance		

Parish Priest:	Rev. Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis (frstav@gmail.com)	813-394-1038
Associate Priest:	Rev. Fr. John Stefero (jwstefero50@hotmail.com)	678-637-4425
Retired Priest in Residence:	Rev. Fr. Stratton Dorozenski	813-876-8830
Ministry Coordinator/Chanter:	Maria Xenick (Mariapxenick@stjohntpa.org)	813-765- 3587
Bookkeeper:	Debbie Bowe (Debbie@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830
Administrative Assistant :	Elli Kehagias (office@stjohntpa.org)	813-876-8830
Parish Council:	Parish Council	
	Alexis Scarfogliero, President	813-892-1599
	George Ameres, Vice President	941-720-3494
	Marilyn Sandborn, Secretary	813-760-6289
	Gary Ward, Treasurer	813-846-3898
	John Carter	813-376-9196
	George Chagaris	727-420-1920
	Peter George	781-910-9971
	Tony Magos	813-957-3206
	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855
	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
	John Zelatis	813-727-2271
Arise & Build Capital Campaign:	Mike Xenick, Chair	813-340-8737
	Euripides Panos, Vice Chair	813-352-3972
Adult Greek School:	Magda Myer	813-523-5771
AHEPA:	James Sakaris	301-529-8857
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
	Shanna Thompson-Zamparas, Organist	352-573-8981
	George Hambos, Organist	813-545-7009
College Outreach:	Kathy Kaburis	813-240-6513
Community Outreach:	Greg Melton	813-967-2074
Dance Groups:	Η ΧΑΡΑ ΜΑΣ, Jamie Hartzler Smith	716-713-9642
	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
	ΠΑΡΕΑ, Marina Choundas	813-877-6136
	Genie Carter	813-363-2362
	ΠΑΝΗΓΥΡΙ	
Daughters of Penelope:	Ourania Stephanides	813-546-4711
Finance Committee:	Gary Ward	813-846-3898
Food Pantry:	Sandra Pappas	813-785-3747
Gasparilla Parking:	Fady Hakim	678-294-7732
GOYA:	Tony & Mary Magos	813-957-3206
Greek Festival:	George Fellios	813-495-7562
Hope/Joy:	Tia L' Hommedieu	727-269-2100
Hospitality Ministry	Amy Wenditz	727-251-2233
Joy Tweens	Maraquet Edquid	813-422-8963
Junior Olympics:	Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
Men's Fellowship:	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
Nursing Ministry:	Marcelle Triantafilou	612-396-5026
Oratorical Festival:	Peggy Bradshaw	727-244-1374
Photography Ministry:	Karina Findlay	813-476-9632
Philoptochos:	Melissa Krinos	813-716-9975
Safety Ministry:	Chris Mantzanas	727-647-3912
Stewardship:	George Mitseas	813-748-1220
Sunday School:	Zackie Ameres	813-245-3813
12 Disciples:	Theo Panopoulos	248-867-3697
Ushers:	Pete Trakas	813-505-2193
Technology:	Mike Wenditz	813-550-3099
Veterans/1st Responders :	Fr. John Stefero	678-637-4425
Website/Social Media/App:	Miguel Piniero Jr	305-632-4871
Welcoming Ministry:	Skip Higdon	813-391-6915
Women's Bible Study:	Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis	813-394-1038
Young Adults:	Aris Rogers	813-309-5525
Young at Heart:	Dora Morgan	813-613-3738
Youth Protection:	Suzanne Pileggi	813-244-5855