



# St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church

2418 W. Swann Avenue + Tampa, Florida 33609-4712

Office 813.876.8830 + Fax 813.443.4899

Rev. Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis, Priest

February 2020

To the Priests and GOYA Advisors of the Tampa Bay Area

Dear Reverend Fathers and Youth Advisors,

Great and Holy Lent is meant to serve as a time for spiritual growth and enrichment for us as Orthodox Christians. With the blessings of Fr. James Rousakis, Vicar of the Tampa Bay Area, St. John Greek Orthodox Church in Tampa is again proud to announce the SIXTEENTH ANNUAL GOYA LENTEN ADVENTURE. This year's Lenten Retreat will be held on **March 27-29** (This weekend was chosen to work around the Greek Independence Day Parade, Greek School Programs and SAT's, Pascha is April 19 this year). The program will begin approximately 6:00 p.m. on Friday evening, March 27 and will conclude with a luncheon following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, March 29.

Hotel Accommodations have been secured at the Four Points by Sheraton Suites, located approximately 3.5 miles from St. John. Please make your reservations directly with the Four Points Sheraton Hotel by March 9, the cut-off date. They are holding many rooms for us and will do so until that date. The rooms sleep up to six people (each room has a roll-away couch, and if you ask for two double beds or two queens, you end up with room for 6) for the low cost of **\$129 per night**, (no tax if you use church check with tax ID number provided. When you make a reservation, ask for two queen beds. Each room also has a sofa bed so rooms can sleep up to six). *Because the program includes events on Friday night and runs late into the evening of Saturday, it is hoped that with this low price, everyone will be able to stay at the hotel. It is also a beautiful thing for our teens to all worship together at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning.* The Four Points by Sheraton Suites is one of the best hotels in Tampa. *When you call the hotel, the group name is "St. John's Baptist Retreat March 2020"*

To RSVP for this event, please email the forms to Michael and Bessie Palios at [goya@stjohntpa.org](mailto:goya@stjohntpa.org) by March 9. You can bring your registration payment to the event, but your payment will be the number of forms we've received. If you have any questions, please contact Michael (813-523-0346) or Bessie (813-523-0347).

If you could please distribute this information to your GOYAns, it would be much appreciated. And as we have done in the past, we will offer a separate program on Saturday for adults to also get spiritual renewal. This event has been wonderful for the past 15 years, and with your cooperation, I know we can have another great event this year.

Wishing all of you a blessed Lent and looking forward to fellowship with you at the upcoming retreat, I remain,

With love in the Lord,

+Fr. Stavros N. Akrotirianakis, Protopresbyter

Come and join us for our  
**SIXTEENTH ANNUAL GOYA LENTEN ADVENTURE**

**“Teach Us to Pray”**

*Hosted by St. John Greek Orthodox Church  
Tampa, FL*

*Enjoy a weekend of spiritual growth, fellowship, worship and  
fun*

**March 27-29**  
**\$50.00 per GOYAn/\$10 per Advisor**  
**(payable to St. John GOYA)**

*This will be an opportunity to learn more about your faith, meet  
new friends and prepare for Holy Week and Pascha.*

*St. John Greek Orthodox Church is located at 2418 Swann Avenue, Tampa, FL 33609.  
For additional questions and information, contact Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis at 813-  
876-8830 or via email at [frstav@gmail.com](mailto:frstav@gmail.com). **Please RSVP to Michael and Bessie  
Palios at [goya@stjohntpa.org](mailto:goya@stjohntpa.org) by March 9. (Payment may be brought to the  
event).** If you have any questions, please contact Michael (813-523-0346) or Bessie  
(813-523-0347)*

*Hotel Accommodations have been secured at the  
Four Points by Sheraton Suites  
4400 W. Cypress Street  
Tampa, FL 33607  
813-357-6145*

*Call Four Points by Sheraton Suites Tampa for individual reservations,  
under “St. John the Baptist Retreat March 2020.” Rooms are being held  
for us*

**until March 9, 2020**

*Cost is \$129.00 per room (make sure you ask for 2 double beds when you make your  
reservation. Each room has a sofa bed, so rooms sleep six)  
Tax Free if you use a church check and bring Tax ID information*

*Weekend Schedule (Tentative)*  
*GOYA Lenten Adventure*  
***“Teach Us To Pray”***

*Friday, March 27*

<i>5:30-6:30</i>	<i>Registration (at St. John)</i> <i>**One person from each community should go to the Sheraton and get the keys for everyone in the group. Retreat participants should go directly to St. John for registration.</i>
<i>6:30</i>	<i>Salutations to the Virgin Mary—4<sup>th</sup> Stanza</i>
<i>7:45</i>	<i>Dinner</i>
<i>8:30</i>	<i>Icebreakers</i>
<i>10:00</i>	<i>Closing Devotional/Prayer</i>
<i>10:15</i>	<i>Depart for Hotel</i>

*Saturday, March 28*

<i>7:30</i>	<i>Wake Up</i>
<i>8:30</i>	<i>Depart for St. John</i>
<i>9:00</i>	<i>Orthros (at St. John)</i>
<i>9:30</i>	<i>Breakfast</i>
<i>10:30</i>	<i>Session I</i>
<i>11:30</i>	<i>Session II</i>
<i>12:30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
<i>1:15</i>	<i>Session III</i>
<i>2:15</i>	<i>Session IV</i>
<i>3:30</i>	<i>Vespers</i>
<i>4:00</i>	<i>Confessions offered in church</i> <i>Activities in the Hall</i>
<i>6:00</i>	<i>Dinner</i>
<i>7:00</i>	<i>Evening Activity (TBA)</i>
<i>9:30</i>	<i>Snack</i>
<i>10:00</i>	<i>Compline Service</i>
<i>10:30</i>	<i>Depart for Hotel</i>

*Sunday, March 29*

<i>8:15</i>	<i>Wake up</i>
<i>9:15</i>	<i>Check-out of hotel</i>
<i>9:45</i>	<i>Divine Liturgy (at St. John)</i>
<i>12:00</i>	<i>Farewell Luncheon</i>
<i>1:00</i>	<i>Depart for Home</i>



Love INC of Metro Tampa  
Love In the Name of Christ

## **SIXTEENTH ANNUAL GOYA LENTEN ADVENTURE: “Teach Us to Pray”**

### **Service Project 2020**

This year once again, we will be helping Love INC of Metro Tampa and their member organizations as a part of our Lenten Retreat. We will be doing the following things:

1. We will build Bike Accessory Bags consisting of: Adult Helmet, Combination bike lock, Bike Lights and a bag for **God's Pedal Power Ministry**. Since 2017, Bethesda Ministries, part of 34<sup>th</sup> Street COG, has operated its God's Pedal Power Ministry (GPPM) out of its owned property located at 3301 E 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Tampa, FL 3365. This 1,500 square foot, three-bedroom home is used for a variety of service ministries of Bethesda Ministries, including their food pantry and GPPM, to **collect, store, repair and distribute refurbished bicycles to qualified referrals in need.** These items will be purchased by St. John's.
2. We will build Hygiene Kits for **The Coffee Shop**. For over 25 years, Gracepoint Wellness operated The Coffee Shop, affectionately known by those struggling with homelessness as, “The Shop” located on 6220 North Nebraska Avenue, Tampa, FL 33604. It provides a single point of entry for 100 (per day) of our homeless neighbors to receive case management, escape Florida's elements, do laundry, shower, receive mail, telephone/Internet access, get a photo ID, have a mailing address, and simply enjoy a cup of coffee. Most importantly, The Shop was often the first step to begin building a trusting relationship to engage into services and hopefully off the streets. To God be the glory!



**We need each group to bring enough of  
the following travel size items for 20  
bags:**

Shampoo, conditioner, bar soap/shower gel, deodorant men's / women's, disposable razor, shave foam, hand sanitizer, Kleenex tissues, lip gloss, tooth brush, tooth paste, dental floss, wet wipes, 3 laundry pods.

Please bring these items in bulk form and we will put the bags together during one of the sessions during the retreat. If there are any questions about this, please call or email Charlie Hambos at 813-843-8471 or [chambos@stjohntpa.org](mailto:chambos@stjohntpa.org).

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta/Tampa Bay District  
GOYA Lenten Retreat  
MEDICAL RELEASE

**(PLEASE FILL OUT AND BRING TO THE RETREAT)**

I, the undersigned, am the parent, the parent having legal custody, or the legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ and have given my consent for him/her to participated in the GOYA Lenten Retreat hosted by the St. John Greek Orthodox Church of Tampa, Florida.

March 27-28-29, 2020

In the event that he/she is injured while attending this GOYA event and requires the attention of a doctor, I /we consent to any reasonable medical treatment as deemed necessary by a licensed physician. In the event treatment is called for, which a physician and/or hospital personnel refuse to administer without our consent, I/we hereby authorize \_\_\_\_\_ to give consent, for me/us if I/we cannot be reached by telephone at one of the number indicated below or because of an emergency there is not time or opportunity to make a telephone call. In the event it becomes necessary for any of these persons to give consent for us, I/we agree to hold such persons, the St. John Greek Orthodox Church of Tampa, the Metropolis of Atlanta and any of its representatives, staff or officers free and harmless of any claims, demands or suits for damages arising from giving of such consent so long as the treatment is administered by or under the supervision of a licensed physician. Further, the undersigns agree(s) that St. John Greek Orthodox church of Tampa shall have no liability for any claims for losses, damages, costs or expenses incurred or arising directly or indirectly from any acts or event which may occur during the above references period.

Signature of GOYAn \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone numbers where either parent can be reached in case of emergency:

Home# \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Work# \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell # \_\_\_\_\_ Father's Work# \_\_\_\_\_

Please list below the name of your Insurance Company and Policy Number AND attach a photocopy of both sides of your insurance card.

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_ Policy No. \_\_\_\_\_

If you do not have medical insurance coverage, you must make arrangements for possible medical expenses with your individual parish priest.

Medical Information:

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Prescription Drugs or Medication \_\_\_\_\_

Should any activities be restricted \_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no

If yes, please explain