

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## St. John Greek Orthodox Church Cancels its Annual 2020 Tampa Greek Festival

*Our First Responsibility is to the Greater Community*

Tampa, FL. September 28, 2020 – In the best interest of our community, the Tampa Greek Festival will not host its unique weekend of food, faith, and culture. For 39-years, “Eat, Dance, and Be Greek!” rang throughout South Tampa as friends and neighbors eagerly awaited our freshly-prepared dishes, invigorating music, and lively dancing.

However, in response to these unprecedented times, we choose to forego our iconic festival in an effort to ensure the safety of our visitors, sponsors, vendors, parishioners, and volunteers.

The Tampa Greek Festival is a ministry of the St. John Greek Orthodox Church, and is its major fundraiser. St. John’s is led by Father Stavros Akrotirianakis and Pastoral Assistant Charlie Hambos and is the only Greek Orthodox church within Hillsborough County.

This extraordinary effort, which traditionally attracts nearly 10,000 people over a three-day weekend, requires thousands of hours of volunteer effort to transform our property into a showpiece of live music, family-friendly fun, and community goodwill. These volunteers are the heart and soul of our church and we would never put their health at risk.

Reflecting Mathew 25 Outreach, we feel our greatest gift in hosting the Tampa Greek Festival is not in the funds we procure but in the good we give. Each year, St. John’s donates 10 percent of its net proceeds to local charities, having supported both LifePath Hospice and Love INC. To date, we are grateful to have shared more than \$100,000 with these important organizations.

This year, in spite of our choice to act as socially responsible stewards of our faith community, we will continue to support our local ministries: LifePath Hospice, Love INC and Feeding Tampa Bay. Each organization acts as a critical resource for our community and we are proud to share our stewardship with them.

If you have been financially blessed during this pandemic, please join us with your donation to support these valuable organizations in the Tampa Bay Community. Your donation of any size is welcome.

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### **Ways to Give**

Checks are always welcome by mail: 2418 W. Swann Ave. Tampa, Fl. 33609

Secure online donations may be made at [tampagreekfestival.com](http://tampagreekfestival.com) or [stjohntpa.org](http://stjohntpa.org)

Either way, please designate your donations as “Local charities/TGF Cancellation.”

### **About [St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church](#)**

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, as a community, promotes an Orthodox Christian vision of loving God, loving our neighbor, and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The mission of our parish 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. We express this mission through our core values of love, worship, community, learning and service.

### **About [LifePath Hospice](#)**

LifePath Hospice’s mission is to provide quality palliative care and to relieve the suffering of those affected by life-limiting illnesses and end-of-life issues.

### **About [Love INC](#)**

Love INC. is a ministry mobilizing local churches to transform lives and communities in the Name of Christ.

### **About [Feeding Tampa Bay](#)**

Feeding Tampa Bay, part of the national Feeding America network, focuses on providing food to the hundreds of thousands of food insecure families in the 10-county area of West Central Florida.