

From the Fathers (and others):

For this reason we baptize children, although they have no sins...in order to confer upon them sanctification, adoption, inheritance...that they may be members of Christ and become the abode of the Holy Spirit.

- *Saint John Chrysostom*

The sanctification of the soul is achieved in Baptism, the sanctification of the body through the Eucharist. Both are needed for the salvation of mankind...Full redemption involves no less care than rescue.

- *Saint Gregory of Nyssa*

Our life depends on the kinds of thoughts we nurture. If our thoughts are peaceful, calm, meek and kind, then that is what our life is like. If our attention is turned to the circumstances in which we live, we are drawn into a whirlpool of thoughts and can have neither peace nor tranquility.

- *Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica*

If you see your neighbor sinning, take care not to dwell exclusively on his faults. Try to think of the many good things he has done and continues to do. Many times when we do this, we come to the conclusion that our neighbor is a far better person than we are.

- *St. Basil the Great*

Our Lord humbled without humiliation His lofty station which yet could not be humbled, and condescends to His servants, with a condescension ineffable and incomprehensible. God being perfect becomes perfect man, and brings to perfection the newest of all new things (cf. Eccles 1:10), the only new thing under the sun, through which the boundless might of God is manifested. For what greater thing is there than that God should become man?

- *St. John of Damascus*

If God made all things by His will (cf. Rev 4:11), and it is always pious and right to say that God knows His own will, and that He made each creature by an act of will, then God knows existing things as He knows the products of His own will, since He also made existing things by an act of will. Furthermore, I think that these assertions are in accord with what is said in the Scripture to Moses: 'I know you above all' (Ex. 18:11). And about some it was said: 'The Lord knows those who are His' (II Tim. 2:19). And to others He said: 'I do not know you' (Mt. 7:23; 15:12). Voluntary movement, either in accord with the will and word of God or against the will and word of God, prepared each person to hear the divine voice.

- *St. Maximos the Confessor*

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ January 7th, 2024 ~

Sunday after Theophany

Synaxis of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner & Baptist John

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
1663 TUTWILER AVENUE
MEMPHIS, TN 38107
(901) 274-4119
www.stjohnmemphis.org

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America
Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS
Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

V. Rev. Fr. Philip Rogers, Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. Basil Cushman, Associate Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. John Troy Mashburn, Jr., Pastor Emeritus

V. Rev. Fr. Donald John Berge, Attached

GREAT VESPERS
Saturday, 6:00 p.m.

ORTHROS
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

DIVINE LITURGY
Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
“...the Disciples were called Christians first in Antioch!”
Acts 11:26

Sunday after Theophany

Epistle: Acts 19:1-8

Gospel: John 1:29-34

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by Reem Mansour.

Welcome to all those visiting St. John Orthodox Church. We are honored by your presence. It is our sincere desire that your participation today in the Divine Liturgy will draw you closer to Christ and His Church.

If you are from a non-Orthodox background, you may see new things such as icons, incense, the sign of the cross, the veneration of saints, and a great deal of standing. These can be perplexing to the uninitiated eye. Rest assured that everything we do has a solid biblical foundation and a long history among Christian people. Please feel free to participate where you feel comfortable and feel equally as free only to observe when you prefer.

The Orthodox Church understands the Eucharist, or Lord's Supper, to be – among other things – the paramount expression of Christian unity. While it is our deepest hope that Christendom will one day fulfill Christ's desire for true unity among all those who claim His name (John 17:21), the unfortunate reality of our day is that the various segments of Christendom are not unified with the historic Orthodox faith. *Since participation in the Eucharist expresses a unity with all the dogma and practice of the Orthodox Church, non-Orthodox guests do not receive Holy Communion.* The Holy Eucharist is reserved for those members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting, and recent confession. All visitors and unprepared Orthodox are invited to partake of the blessed bread as they come forward to venerate the cross at the end of the Liturgy. Thank you for your understanding.

ST. JOHN CALENDAR

January 7 - 14

Sunday - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am

Monday - First Hour, 6:45 am
- AWSJ Book Club, 7:00 pm

Tuesday - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Men's Lunch, 12:00 pm
- Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 pm
- Parish Council, 7:00 pm

Wednesday - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Women's Teaching, 10:00 am
- Vespers, 6:00 pm
- Bible Study, 7:00 pm

Thursday - Third Hour, 9:00 am

Friday - First Hour, 6:45 am
- Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Sixth Hour, 12:00 pm
- AWSJ Knitting Circle, 6:00 pm

Saturday - Ninth Hour & Vespers, 5:50 pm

Sunday - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am

Upcoming Memorial – Jan. 14:

Luke Heisig – 1 year

Upcoming Churching – Jan. 21:

Madison & Wade Dey

Upcoming Chrismation – Jan. 21:

Eric Iverson

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

Sunday, 1/7

Synaxis of John the Baptist: Fr. Don, Ioana Rustom

Monday, 1/8

Birthday: Giuliana Yzaguirre, Miriam Knight

Tuesday, 1/9

None

Wednesday, 1/10

Birthday: Lilly Schaftlein
St. Gregory of Nyssa: Ethan van Drimmelen

Thursday, 1/11

Birthday: Lori O'Brien, Tim Elliott, Aleksandra Klimkowski, Frank Pompa
Anniversary: John & Elizabeth Cameron

Friday, 1/12

None

Saturday, 1/13

None

Commemorations

January 7: The synaxis of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; Julian the deacon; Hieromartyr Romanos; New-martyr Athanasios of Attalia; Venerable Brannock of Braunton.

January 8: Venerable George the Chozebite; Venerable Agathonos of Egypt; Venerable Domnica of Constantinople and Venerable Makarios; Emilianos the Confessor, bishop of Kyzikos; Martyr Theophilos the deacon of Libya; Cyros and Atticos, patriarchs of Constantinople; New-martyr Kyran; Venerable Gregory of the Kiev Caves.

January 9: Martyr Polyuktos of Armenia; Venerable Eustratios the wonderworker; New-martyr Parthenas; Philip, metropolitan of Moscow.

January 10: Gregory, bishop of Nyssa; Marcian the priest of Constantinople; Dometian, bishop of Melitene; Venerable Paul of Obnora; Bishop Theophan the Recluse.

January 11: Theodosios the Great, the head of monasteries in Palestine; Venerable Theodosios of Philotheou monastery on Athos; Venerable Agapios of Apamea in Syria; Venerable Michael of Klops, fool-for-Christ.

January 12: Martyr Tatiana of Rome and those with her; Virgin-martyr Euthasia; Martyr Mertios of Mauretania; repose of Venerable Sabbas of Hilandar monastery on Athos, first archbishop of Serbia.

January 13: Martyrs Hermylos and Stratonikos of Belgrade; Martyrs Pachomios and Papyrinos of Greece; Venerable Maximos Kafsokalyvitis of Athos; Venerable Eleazar of Anzersk Island; Hilary, bishop of Poitiers.

January 14: The holy fathers slain at Sinai and Raithu; Virgin-martyr Agnes; Venerable Theodoulos and Neilos of Sinai; Nina, equal-to-the-Apostles and enlightener of Georgia.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Acts	19:1-8	John	1:29-34
Monday	Romans	6:3-11	John	3:22-33
Tuesday	2 Timothy	2:1-10	Mark	1:9-15
Wednesday	Ephesians	4:7-13	Luke	3:19-22
Thursday	Hebrews	13:7-16	Luke	4:1-15
Friday	Acts	18:22-28	John	10:39-42
Saturday	Ephesians	6:10-17	Matthew	4:1-11
Sunday	Ephesians	4:7-13	Matthew	4:12-17

Remember in Your Prayers

Our catechumens: Jeff Bennett; Ben Haag; Thomas & Christy Potts; Eric Iverson; Andrew Potts; Brian, Danielle, Luree, John, & River Pfeister; Billy & Stacey Murray; Leighann Pompa; John & Lisa Weaver; Hannah Gibson; Richard & Lucas Luper; Michael Pritchett; Taylor Tawbush; Kyle, Jane, Isla & Lachlan Esposito

Prayer Requests: Mother Raphaela; Cathy & Adam van Drimmelen & family (Cathy's mother, Wilma West, fell asleep in the Lord on Nov. 13); Ken Alvis (Dianna Hildebrand's brother); Mary Elliott & family; Mike & Joyce Grossman; Chris Hodges; Mickey Hodges; St. Nicholas Orthodox Church; St. Paul Orthodox Mission; Samuel Brownlow; Elizabeth Turner (Jack's mother); Aleksandra Klimkowski & family; Emma & Katelyn Coe; Janan Heisig & family; Shawn McClenny (Miriam Redmond's brother-in-law); Charles Pugh (Madeleine Boiles's brother); the Bowick family; those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

Expecting: Katherine Verbist, Marija Pavlovic, Ioana Rustom, Heather Hetrick

Diocesan Seminarian: Caleb McGee



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Church School Schedule – Church school resumes today!

Theophany House Blessings – It is time to schedule your House Blessing! Please sign up on the printed sheets in the parish hall for the times and days which are most convenient for your family to have your home blessed by one of our priests. Fr. Philip will follow up with you with a specific date and time.

Orthodoxy 101 will next meet on Tuesday, January 16th, at 7pm. The topic will be *The Saints*. All are welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom.

Parish Council Update – Thank you so much for your generosity this past year! The next meeting of the Parish Council will be Tuesday, January 9. At that meeting, we will look at the final financial statements for 2023 and prepare for our annual general assembly. If you have items that the council should discuss, please see any council member.

Choir Rehearsal – The next choir rehearsal will be this Tuesday, January 9th, at 7pm.

Byzantine Chant Class – Saturday, January 20

Our next Byzantine Chant class is Saturday, January 20th, at 4:30pm. All are welcome! Please reach out to Ted (ted@stjohnmemphis.org) if you have any questions! We hope you can join us!

Seeking Volunteers for Room in the Inn for January

St. John's is signed up to host Room in the Inn this month on Monday nights, to help families with children who continue to find themselves homeless in Memphis each week. Please use the sign-up link on the weekly parish emails to see if there is a task you can help with. Feel free to contact Thea at thea.wallace@yahoo.com or 404-408-3292 if you have any questions.

Medical Professionals Meeting – By the blessing and direction of Metropolitan SABA, a new fellowship is forming: The North American Antiochian Orthodox Medical Professionals. The first meeting of the local chapter will be on Sunday, January 21 following the Divine Liturgy in the library in order to discuss the goals and interests of the group. There will be a national Zoom meeting in March with Dr. Daniel Hinshaw as the keynote speaker. Box lunches will be served at our local meeting. To ensure there is enough, please RSVP on the sign-up link in the parish emails. For more information, you can contact Dr. Nawar Mansour.

Save the Date for our Pre-Lenten Retreat! Fr. Jeremy Davis, author of *Welcoming Gifts: Sacrifice in the Bible and Christian Life*, will be with us Feb. 9-11, offering a retreat on “Saved by Sacrifice: What is the Cross All About?” The Cross of Christ is the perfect sacrifice, fulfilling the missed potential of the offerings in the Old Law. Today many people focus on the violence and suffering endured by Jesus, but for ancient Christians these were merely the backdrop for His self-offering to the Father. The joyful and positive idea of sacrifice in the Bible and throughout the ancient world will give us a renewed appreciation for our salvation in Christ. All are welcome to attend the retreat and be encouraged as we prepare for Great Lent!

The Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club will meet at the church at 6pm on Sunday, February 18, to discuss *The Power and the Glory* by Graham Greene. Please bring food and drink to share.

Photos on Bulletin Board – Is your family pictured on the bulletin board leading into St. Raphael Hall? If not, please see Mr. Trent Terry! He will take your picture and add you to our photos. There are so many new people and it is great to have a tool to put a name to a face.

2024 Calendars have arrived and can be found in the bookstore and hall.

Daily Lives, Miracles, and Wisdom of the Saints & Fasting Calendar (spiral bound) is \$20.

Icon Wall Calendars are free, but please limit to one copy per family.

St. John Youth

Today:

Sunday, 1/7 - Christmas Party & Potluck at the Camerons' home, 5-8pm
Bring a potluck dish and a \$10ish wrapped gift for a gift exchange.

Looking Ahead:

Saturday, 1/13 - Ice Skating at Midsouth Ice House, 7:30-9:45pm
Sunday, 1/14 - No Youth Group
Sunday, 1/21 - Service Project (Lunch Provided)
Sunday, 1/28 - Discussion & Donuts (Lunch Provided)

Women of St. John Calendar

1/8 (Mon.) AWSJ Book Club, 7pm – The Women's Book Club will resume for 2024 on Monday, Jan. 8 at Kh. Pamela Mashburn's home at 7pm. We will be discussing *Pearl of Great Price* by Sergei Hackel. All are welcome to join, even if you have not read the book! Please RSVP to Kh. Pamela if you are planning to attend. We would love to see you! Bring a snack to share!

1/10 (Wed.) AWSJ Teaching, 10am – Women's Teaching will meet via Zoom this week to discuss *A Voice for Our Time* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

1/12 (Fri.) AWSJ Knitting Circle, 6pm – Knitting Circle will resume for 2024 on Friday, Jan. 12 at 6pm at Miriam Redmond's home. Bring your projects (any handwork, not just knitting!) and (if you want to contribute) a snack to share! All women are welcome regardless of whether you do any handwork or not. We look forward to seeing you, even if just to chat!

Third Hour Prayer & Fellowship (Fridays), 9am – Each Friday a group of moms and kids are gathering at the church to attend Third Hour prayers followed by a time of fellowship. Any and all are welcome to join us! Please reach out to Heather Hetrick with any questions.

LIBRARY LINES

Have you scheduled your house blessing yet? Do you know how to make it ready? What does the Incarnation have to do with this beautiful tradition? Visit St. John Library and look at *A Guide to Greek Traditions and Customs in America* (CAT GEN ROU), and *Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home* (SPR FAM CON).

It is a tradition in the Church on the day after a Great Feast to commemorate those saints

who directly participated in the event. So, Sunday we honor the synaxis of John the Baptist (1/7) and Forerunner of our Lord. Christ called him the greatest man born of a woman. He was the last Old Testament Prophet, and his preaching is recorded in the New Testament. Our hymns refer to him as a “bright morning star” which outshone the others and announced Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness. According to the OCA website, the Church celebrates his memory on the following days: September 23, his Conception; June 24, his Nativity; August 29, his Beheading; February 24, the First and Second Finding of his Head; May 25, the Third Finding of his Head; October 12, the Transfer of his Right Hand from Malta to Gatchina (1799).

Saint Cedd (1/7) is a well-known Celtic saint who was a missionary and bishop in seventh century England. As a child, he studied in Lindisfarne where he learned of Irish monasticism. Bishop Finan sent him to Essex to teach Christianity to the people. He built several churches and monasteries. He died during a plague and is buried in England. Learn more about these men by looking up *Celtic saints* in the library's Subject Catalog.

Wednesday is a day rich in commemorations for us. Venerable Paul of Obnora (1/10), born in 1314, was a disciple of St. Sergius of Radonezh. See *The Wonderful Life of Russia's St. Sergius of Radonezh* (KID STS SER). He lived many years as a hermit and in complete silence and strict fasting. Despite his love for solitude, he was compassionate and gave wise counsel.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa (1/10) was a brother of Saint Basil the Great (1/1). Together they fought against the Arian heresy that denied the ever virginity of the Theotokos. In the year 381 at the Second Ecumenical Council he spear-headed the completion of the Nicene Creed. He, as well as his brother and St. Gregory the Theologian had a huge impact on the Church in the fourth century. Saint Gregory of Nyssa was a fiery defender of Orthodox dogmas and a zealous teacher of his flock, a kind and compassionate father to his spiritual children, and their intercessor before the courts. He was distinguished by his magnanimity, patience and love of peace. Having reached old age, Saint Gregory of Nyssa died soon after the Council of Constantinople. Together with his great contemporaries, Saints Basil the Great and Gregory the Theologian, Saint Gregory of Nyssa had a significant influence on the Church life of his time. He has been called “the Father of Fathers.” His sister, Saint Macrina, wrote to him: “You are renowned both in the cities, and gatherings of people, and throughout entire districts. Churches ask you for help.” Read more about him in *The Formation of Christian Theology, v. 2 the Nicene Faith, pt. 2* (HIS BEH).

St. Theophan the Recluse (1/10) lived just 200 years ago. He was an educator and founded two schools for girls. St. Tikhon of Zadonsk was his beloved inspiration from childhood. At age 50, he chose to live a solitary life to concentrate on his own salvation and write spiritual yet practical, readable books. He treated the soul and body as a united whole and wrote in a down-to-earth manner. We know him as the author of *The Spiritual Life and How to Be Attuned to It* (PAT THE), *Kindling the Divine Spark* (PAT THE), and *Raising Them Right* (PAT THE). He also translated *The Philokalia* (PAT NIK). His life and wisdom are shown to us in *The Heart of Salvation: the Life and Teachings of Saint Theophan the Recluse* (HAG THE WIL).

We think of Tatiana as a Russian name, but St. Tatiana, commemorated Friday (1/12), was a Roman citizen in the third century. She was arrested during a period of persecution and given over to cruel tortures. Three different times during her imprisonment the power of her prayers destroyed idols in pagan temples. After converting some of her tormentors and suffering many cruelties, she was beheaded. Read more about her in *101 Orthodox Saints* (KID STS WRI), *Women Martyrs of the Lord* (KID STS KOC), and *Grandmother's Spiritual Stories* (KID STS HRO).