

From the Fathers (and others):

For him who does not fulfill all the commandments of the Lord, there is no benefit from a sacred place or from a sacred rank. King Saul lived in the midst of royal luxury, and he perished. King David lived in the same kind of luxury, and he received a wreath.

- *St. Nikolai of Zica*

When a man's intellect is constantly with God, his desire grows beyond all measure into an intense longing for God and his incensiveness is completely transformed into divine love. For by continual participation in the divine radiance his intellect becomes totally filled with light; and when it has reintegrated its passible aspect, it redirects this aspect towards God, filling it with an incomprehensible and intense longing for Him and with unceasing love, thus drawing it entirely away from worldly things to the divine.

- *St. Maximos the Confessor*

The Lord loves people, nevertheless He allows afflictions, so that people can come to know their weaknesses and to be humbled, and on account of humility to receive the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit everything ends up beautiful, joyous, excellent...to every humble soul, the Lord gives His peace which passes every intellect.

- *Saint Silouan the Athonite*

From the time that God the Word became flesh, He is like us in everything except sin, and partakes of our nature without mingling or confusion.

- *Saint John of Damascus*

Adorn yourself with truth, try to speak truth in all things; and do not support a lie, no matter who asks you. If you speak the truth and someone gets mad at you, don't be upset, but take comfort in the words of the Lord: Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of truth, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt. 5:10).

- *Saint Gennadios of Constantinople*

Truth is not a thought, not a word, not a relationship between things, not a law. Truth is a Person. It is a Being which exceeds all beings and gives life to all. If you seek truth with love and for the sake of love, she will reveal the light of His face to you in as much as you are able to bear it without being burned.

- *Saint Nicholas of Serbia*

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ February 11th, 2024 ~

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sixteenth Sunday of Luke

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

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by Anne Castrodale.

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

February 11 – 18

- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- YA Super Bowl Party, 5:00 pm
- Monday** - First Hour, 6:45 am
- Tuesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Men's Lunch, 12:00 pm
- Orthodoxy 101, 7:00 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** - Nancy Ingram Bridal Shower, 2:00 pm
- Byzantine Chant Class, 4:30 pm
- Ninth Hour & Vespers, 5:50 pm
- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- General Assembly Meeting, 12:00 pm
- Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club, 6:00 pm

Today's Catechumen Enrollments:

Michael Youngblood
Ronald Coleman
Brandon Daley

Upcoming Memorials – February 25:

Nelvia Agnew – 1 year
Ephraim Fred Ortwein – 3 years

Upcoming Baptism – March 2 at 4pm:

Gabriel Powell

Upcoming Marriage – March 9 at 4pm:

Nancy Ingram and Chris Hanson

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

Sunday, 2/11

Birthday: Sandy Childress

St. Theodora: Sandy Childress, Bella Harms

Monday, 2/12

Birthday: Brody Weatherall

Anniversary: Jess Ada & Robert Pinet

Tuesday, 2/13

Anniversary: Frank & Leighann Pompa

Wednesday, 2/14

None

Thursday, 2/15

Birthday: Xenia Wallace

Friday, 2/16

Birthday: Caroline O'Brien, Thomas Yadron, David Berge

Saturday, 2/17

None

Commemorations

February 11: Hieromartyr Blaise, bishop of Sebaste; Theodora the empress; New-martyr George of Serbia; Vsevolod, prince and wonder-worker of Pskov; Venerable Demetrios of Prilutsk.

February 12: Meletios, archbishop of Antioch; New-martyr Christos of Constantinople; Alexis, metropolitan of Moscow.

February 13: Venerable Martinian of Palestine; Apostles and Martyrs Aquila and Priscilla; Eulogios, patriarch of Alexandria; Venerable Simeon (Nemanja) the myrrh-streaming, prince of Serbia and founder of Hilandar monastery on Athos.

February 14: Auxentios the priest of Bithynia; Venerable Abraham, Maron of Syria and Damian; New-martyrs Nicholas of Corinth and George of Mitylene; repose of Venerable Cyril, equal-to-the-Apostles and teacher of the Slavs; Venerable Isaac the Recluse of the Kiev Caves.

February 15: Apostle Onesimos of the Seventy; Venerable Eusebios of Syria; Martyr Major of Gaza; Venerable Dalmatos of Siberia.

February 16: Martyr Pamphilos, priest of Caesarea in Palestine; Venerable Flavian the hermit; Venerable-martyr Romanos.

February 17: Great-martyr Theodore the Soldier (“Tyro”); Marcian the emperor and Pulcheria the empress; New-martyrs Theodore and Michael; Venerable Euxiphios; repose of Hermogenes, patriarch of Moscow; Venerable Finan, bishop of Lindisfarne.

February 18: Leo the Great, pope of Rome; Agapitos the Confessor, bishop of Synnada in Phrygia; Venerable Colman, bishop of Lindisfarne.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	2 Corinthians	6:1-10	Matthew	25:14-30
Monday	James	2:14-26	Mark	10:46-52
Tuesday	James	3:1-10	Mark	11:11-23
Wednesday	James	3:11-18; 4:1-6	Mark	11:22-26
Thursday	Philemon	1:1-25	Mark	11:27-33
Friday	1 Peter	1:1-25; 2:1-10	Mark	12:1-12
Saturday	2 Timothy	2:1-10	Luke	20:46-47; 21:1-4
Sunday	2 Corinthians	6:16-18; 7:1	Matthew	15:21-28

Remember in Your Prayers

Our catechumens: Jeff Bennett; Ben Haag; Thomas & Christy Potts; 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; 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: Marija Pavlovic, Ioana Rustom, Heather Hetrick, Courtney Hagemeyer

Diocesan Seminarian: Caleb McGee



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Welcome Fr. Jeremy Davis!

We have been blessed to have Fr. Jeremy Davis here with us this weekend. He offered an informative and inspiring retreat this weekend. Thank you, Fr. Jeremy!

General Assembly Meeting Next Sunday – On Sunday, February 18, we will have our annual general assembly meeting. In the meeting, we will have the final financial reports for the year as well as hear about any upcoming projects for 2024. **Please bring a side dish or dessert to share** and we will have lunch meat for sandwiches to enjoy during the meeting. Please plan to attend!

Parish Council Update – The next meeting of the Council will be Tuesday at 7 pm. At this meeting, the agenda and documents that will be distributed at the general assembly will be approved. The council will continue to discuss the security of the Church, the parish website and the general business from the last month. If particular items should be addressed, please see any council member.

Orthodoxy 101 will next meet this Tuesday, February 13th, at 7pm. The topic will be *The Church – Part 1*. All are welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom.

Choir Rehearsal – The next choir rehearsal will be this Tuesday, February 13th, at 7pm.

Byzantine Chant Class – This Saturday

Byzantine Chant Class will meet this Saturday, February 17th, at 4:30pm. All are welcome as we continue practicing Tone 5! Please reach out to Ted (ted@stjohnmemphis.org) if you have any questions! We hope you can join us!

Boot Scootin' Boogie AWSJ Fundraiser – Friday, March 1st!

Save the date for the AWSJ fundraiser! Please contact anyone on the Women's Council if you are available to help. **Volunteers are needed** for ticket table, bartender, clean up crew, food coordinator, & bake sale. To contribute, please see the sign-ups and details on the weekly emails.

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

Mercy Meals for the Verbists!

Many years to the Verbist family! Calen and Katherine Verbist welcomed new baby Abigail Summers Verbist on Thursday, January 25th. Please keep the Verbist family in your prayers. If you would like to provide a meal for the family, please use the sign-up link on the parish emails.

Seeking Volunteers for Room in the Inn for Winter

St. John's is signed up to host Room in the Inn this winter 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.

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.

St. John Youth

Today:
Sunday, 2/11 - Super Bowl Showdown, 12:30-1:00pm

Next Week:
Sunday, 2/18 - Parish Meeting (No Sunday School or Youth Group)

Looking Ahead:
Sunday, 2/25 - Service Project – Church Cleanup/Lenten Prep, 12:45-2:45pm
(Lunch Provided)

Young Adults

Today! Young Adults Super Bowl Party at 5pm – The Young Adults Super Bowl Party is this evening at the church at 5pm! Bring a snack to share! We hope to see you there!

Women of St. John Calendar

2/14 (Wed.) AWSJ Teaching, 10am – Women’s Teaching will meet via Zoom this week to discuss *A Voice for Our Time* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

2/16 (Fri.) AWSJ Knitting Circle, 6pm – Knitting Circle will meet this Friday, Feb. 16 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!

2/17 (Sat.) Bridal Shower for Nancy Ingram, 2pm – Please join us this Saturday at Kh. Pamela Mashburn’s home for a bridal shower honoring Nancy Ingram. Hosted by Kh. Pamela and Karen Wells. Contact Karen if you would like to contribute to the group gift. The registry can be found at <https://www.theknot.com/us/nancy-ingram-and-chris-hanson-mar-2024/registry>

3/1 (Fri.) Boot Scootin’ Boogie AWSJ Fundraiser - Please contact anyone on the Women’s Council if you are available to help. **Volunteers are needed** for ticket table, bartender, clean up crew, food coordinator, & bake sale.

LIBRARY LINES

St. Blaise (2/11) is a beloved saint of the Orthodox and the Western Church. When he hid from persecutors, wild animals came to the saint's cave, but the creatures waited for him to finish his prayers before they received his blessing. He endured many tortures and several of his followers were martyred before him. We ask his intercessions for our domestic animals and for protection against wild ones. Read a story about him and his animals in *Miraculous Friendships between Saints and the Wild Beasts* (KID STS KIS).

The Empress Theodora (2/11) is an honored saint by those who revere and love icons. She hid many of them during the iconoclast period. After her husband died she convened the sixth Ecumenical Council which restored them to their rightful place of veneration. We commemorate this occasion every year on the Sunday of Orthodoxy. Read more about her in *Christina’s True Heroes* (KID STS KHO), *The First Seven Ecumenical Councils* by Leo Davis (HIS DAV), *Bible and Church History* by Fr. Thomas Hopko (CAT GEN HOP) and *The Church Year* (CAT CAL SCH) in *The Celebration of Faith* series also by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

St. Kristo (2/13), an 18th century Albanian, was a gardener. In middle age he moved to Constantinople to expand his business. The Turks falsely accused him for backing out on a promise to convert to Islam. He was beaten, tortured and finally beheaded.

Wednesday we commemorate one member of a pair of missionaries. St. Cyril (2/14) and his brother St. Methodius (4/6) are known as Equal to the Apostles. These ninth century saints are models for modern missionaries because they taught, wrote, and preached to the Slavs in their own language. See their stories in *Byzantium and the Slavs* (HIS OBO); *A Gift for Ianko* (KID STS CYR); *Missionaries, Monks and Martyrs* (HAG - - - VER); *Apostles of Medieval Europe* (HAG - - - SPA); and *New Apostles of Christ* (HAG - - - HAT).

St. Onesimus (2/15) rose from the life of a servant to that of a bishop. In his youth he fled from his Christian master, Philemon, to Rome where he encountered the Apostle Paul. He was devoted to him, and St. Paul wrote a letter (the epistle Philemon) to his master in his defense. He was forgiven and sent back to Rome. Years later he was appointed bishop of Ephesus after St. Timothy’s repose. He was arrested, stoned and beheaded in 109 A.D. Read more about him in *Stories of Saints from the Prologue* (KID STS MAN) and *Orthodox Saints* (HAG - - - POU).

Our commemoration list includes several Theodores. Saturday we honor Theodore the Tyro (2/17), which means “the Recruit.” Often this was a term of derision, but this saint proved it otherwise. He was put in prison for refusing to obey the order of his commanding officer to sacrifice to idols. Christ appeared to him, encouraging him before his martyrdom. On the 50th anniversary of his death, he appeared to a bishop and warned him to guard his flock against eating food that had been secretly sacrificed to idols. He is also commemorated on the first Saturday of Lent, and a Canon was composed to him by St. John of Damascus. We ask his intercession for the return of stolen items.