

From the Fathers (and others):

At the beginning of the struggle the holy commandments of God must be fulfilled with a certain forcefulness of will (cf. Mt. 11:12); then the Lord, seeing our intention and labour, will grant us readiness of will and gladness in obeying His purposes. For 'it is the Lord who makes ready the will' (Prov. 8:35 LXX), so that we always do what is right joyfully. Then shall we truly feel that 'it is God who energizes in you both the willing and the doing of His purpose' (Phil. 2:13).

- *St. Diadochos of Photiki*

One day when we were walking beside the sea I was thirsty and I said to Abba Bessarion, 'Father, I am very thirsty.' He said a prayer and said to me, 'Drink some of the sea water.' The water proved sweet when I drank some. I even poured some into a leather bottle for fear of being thirsty later on. Seeing this, the old man asked me why I was taking some. I said to him, 'Forgive me, it is for fear of being thirsty later on.' Then the old man said, 'God is here. God is everywhere.'

- *Abba Doulas- Sayings of the Desert Fathers*

If you completely fulfill the command to love your neighbor, you will feel no bitterness or resentment against him whatever he does. If this is not the case, then the reason you fight against you brother is clearly that you seek after transitory things and prefer them to the commandment of love.

- *St. Maximos the Confessor*

Love for God begins to manifest itself, and to act in us, when we begin to love our neighbor as ourselves, and not to spare ourselves or anything belonging to us for him, as he is the image of God: 'For he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, Whom he has not seen'.

- *Saint John of Kronstadt*

The friends of Christ love all truly, but are not themselves loved by all; the friends of the world neither love all nor are loved by all. The friends of Christ persevere in love to the end; the friends of the world persevere only until they fall out with each other over some worldly thing.

- *Saint Maximus the Confessor*

'My sheep hear My voice' (Jn. 10:14). This is just another way of saying, 'They obey my words and keep My commandments.' Obeying the commandments the saints draw near to God; the more they draw near to God, the better they know Him.

- *St. Dorotheos of Gaza*

We were made for good works (cf. Phil. 1:11) to the glory and praise of our Maker, and to imitate God as far as might be.

- *St. Gregory the Theologian*

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ February 18th, 2024 ~

Sunday of the Canaanite Woman

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost & Seventeenth Sunday of Matthew

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 of the Canaanite Woman

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by Anna Pashchinskaya.

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 18 – 25

- 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
- Monday** - First Hour, 6:45 am
- Tuesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Men's Lunch, 12:00 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
- Saturday** - Ninth Hour & Vespers, 5:50 pm
- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am

Upcoming Memorials – February 25:

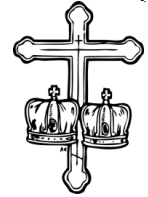
Nelvia Agnew – 1 year
Ephraim Fred Ortwein – 3 years

Upcoming Baptism:

Gabriel Powell
March 2nd at 4pm

Upcoming Marriage:

Nancy Ingram & Chris Hanson
March 9th at 4pm



Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

Sunday, 2/18

None

Monday, 2/19

None

Tuesday, 2/20

Birthday: Audrey van Drimmelen,
Leighann Pompa

Wednesday, 2/21

None

Thursday, 2/22

None

Friday, 2/23

Birthday: Caitlin Salloum

Saturday, 2/24

Birthday: Kh. Kathryn

Commemorations

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

February 19: Apostles Archippos, Philemon and Apphias of the Seventy; Venerable-martyr Philothea of Athens; New-martyr Nikita the New of Epiros.

February 20: Leo, bishop of Catania in Sicily; Venerable Vissarion the Great of Egypt; Agathon, pope of Rome.

February 21: Venerable Timothy of Symbola; Eustathios, archbishop of Antioch; Zachariah, patriarch of Jerusalem; George, bishop of Amastris.

February 22: The uncovering of the relics of the Martyrs at the gate of Eugenios in Constantinople; Martyr Anthusa.

February 23: Hieromartyr Polycarp, bishop of Smyrna; Martyr Polychronios; Venerable Gorgonia; Venerable Damian and Venerable-martyr Damian of Philotheou monastery on Athos.

February 24: The first and second discoveries of the honorable head of the Forerunner.

February 25: Tarasios, archbishop of Constantinople; Hieromartyrs Reginos, bishop of Skopelos, and Markellos, bishop of Apamea in Syria; Martyr Alexander of Markianopolis.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	2 Corinthians	6:16-18; 7:1	Matthew	15:21-28
Monday	1 Peter	2:21-25; 3:1-9	Mark	12:13-17
Tuesday	1 Peter	3:10-22	Mark	12:18-27
Wednesday	1 Peter	4:1-11	Mark	12:28-37
Thursday	1 Peter	4:12-19; 5:1-5	Mark	12:38-44
Friday	2 Peter	1:1-10	Mark	13:1-8
Saturday	2 Corinthians	4:6-15	Matthew	11:2-15
Sunday	2 Timothy	3:10-15	Luke	18:10-14

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; Michael Youngblood; Ronald Coleman; Brandon Daley

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



General Assembly Meeting Today – Today after Liturgy 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. We will have lunch meat for sandwiches to enjoy during the meeting. Please plan to attend!

No Sunday School Today – Due to the General Assembly, there will be no Sunday School today.

Fr. Philip Out of Town – Fr. Philip will be out of town February 22-25 for mid-winter meetings. Please keep him in your prayers for a safe trip and productive visit.

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

Orthodoxy 101 will next meet on Tuesday, February 27th, at 7pm. The topic will be *The Church – Part 2*. All are welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom.

Parish Council Update – The Parish Council met on Tuesday evening. The main discussion was on the General Assembly meeting, which is today. In addition, they talked about the church website, security, and any upcoming needs of the parish. In addition, our parish was chosen to participate in a pan-Orthodox study on youth ministry. We are one of two churches in our Archdiocese working with Holy Cross Seminary's study.

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 bartender, clean up crew, food coordinator, & bake sale. To contribute, please see the sign-ups and details on the weekly 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.

Orthodox Pilgrimages – Making a pilgrimage to Orthodox lands and Holy sites is one of the most effective ways one can strengthen and inspire one's faith. However, making that happen is a truly daunting task – travel, lodging, and deciding on an itinerary in a foreign land. It all sounds too imposing. However, a great way to negotiate the difficulties is to use a great tour guide. Speaking for Kh. Pamela and myself, we have been blessed beyond all expectations by touring Israel, Jordan, and Turkey with Orthodox Tours (www.orthodoxtours.com). Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky is a great tour guide, knowledgeable far beyond our expectations, and just fun to be with. His prices are very reasonable. There are fliers on the bulletin board for two of his seven tours this year. Jay and Janna Knight have also toured with Fr. Ilya in Ireland. If you have any questions or just curiosity, we would all be very excited to share our experiences with you. Our pilgrimages were simply exceptional! I expect Pamela and I will travel with him again. You will not regret going should you decide to take the plunge! – Fr. John

St. John Youth

Today:

Sunday, 2/18 -

Parish Meeting (No Sunday School or Youth Group)

Next Week:

Sunday, 2/25 -

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

Looking Ahead:

Sunday, 3/3 -

No Youth Group

Sunday, 3/10 -

Lunch or Dinner at Someone's Home (Host Needed).

Bring a side dish or dessert. – Details TBD

Saturday, 3/16 -

Amuse Adventure Museum (RSVP Needed Early), 10:45-1:00pm

Sunday, 3/17 -

Service Project TBD & Forgiveness Exchange, 12:45-2:45pm
(Lunch Provided)

Sunday, 3/24 -

Sunday of Orthodoxy at Annunciation

Sunday, 3/31 -

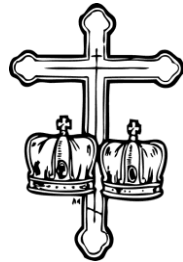
“Man of God” Discussion & Donuts (Lunch Provided), 12:30-3:00pm

Women of St. John Calendar

2/21 (Wed.) AWSJ Teaching, 10am – Women's Teaching will meet via Zoom this week to discuss *A Voice for Our Time* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

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 bartender, clean up crew, food coordinator, & bake sale.

3/4 (Mon.) AWSJ Book Club, 7pm – The Women's Book Club will meet on Monday, March 4th at Kh. Pamela Mashburn's home at 7pm. We will be discussing *Water for Elephants* by Sarah Gruen. 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!



Sacrament of Holy Matrimony for Nancy Ingram & Chris Hanson

*Saturday, March 9th
4:00 in the afternoon*

All are welcome at the Wedding Ceremony.
The Reception is limited to invitations.

FIVE NEW BOOKS IN ST. JOHN LIBRARY:

The Friends of Christ series (KID STS FOT) consists of children's stories of saints commemorated each month. The new additions are:

- April volume includes Sts. Mary of Egypt and George the Martyr
- May volume includes Constantine, Helen, and Job the Righteous
- June volume includes Peter, Paul, and Febronia
- September volume includes Euphrosynos and Cornelius the Centurion
- December volume includes Spyridon and Nicholas the Wonderworker

LIBRARY LINES

St. Leo the Great (2/18) is perhaps the most well-known bishop of Rome whom we commemorate. He brought a devout faith, underscored by an excellent education, to the Church when She was attacked by the heresy of the Monophysites who denied the dual natures of Christ.

Many of us are fond of the Celtic saints. And, there is a strong tie between Orthodoxy and the Celtic Church. Check the bookshelves for *Saints of the British Isles* (HAG - - - PET), *A Staff to the Pilgrim* (HAG - - - ROC), *Anglo-Saxon Saints* (HAG - - - MOS), and *The Book of Kells* (ART GEN MAC). Like your info on CD? Listen to *Saints of Old Britain, Especially Wales* (HAG - - - DEI).

Sts. Colman (2/18) and Finan (2/17) both of Lindisfarne, Ireland, were upholders of the Celtic tradition in its struggle against the Roman influence. St. Finan, Irish by birth, became a monk and upheld the Celtic traditions against the encroachment of Roman practices. Finan baptized local rulers and debated the correct way to calculate the date of Easter. He died in 661.

St. Colman, also of Ireland, was tonsured as a monk and was a devoted disciple of St. Columba (6/9) and a contemporary of Sts. Aidan (8/31) and Finan. Most of our information about him comes from the Venerable Bede (5/27). He was a strong influence in controversies of the time: proper calculation of the date of Pascha, power of local monasteries over worship practices, and the practice of tonsuring. (See the bulletin board for a history of the practice.)

St. Polycarp (2/23) is an example of a man who was and kept good company. St. Irenaeus of Lyons was his disciple and is quoted as saying to a friend that although he was very young when he first saw Polycarp, he “would still be able to point out the place where Blessed Polycarp sat and conversed, and able to depict his walk, his mannerisms in life, his outward appearance, ...and how he himself related, together with other eyewitnesses of the Lord ...through the mercy of God to me. I then listened attentively to Polycarp and wrote down his words, not on tablets, but in the depths of my heart.” St. Polycarp was martyred by Emperor Marcus Aurelius in the 2nd century. Read more about him in *The Encyclopedia of Major Saints* (HAG - - - ELE), *Fathers of the Church* (HAG - - - WUE) and in *Pillars of the Church* (HAG - - - GRA).

Saturday (2/24) we commemorate the first and second finding of the head of St. John the Forerunner. This event as well as the whole topic of relics leave many people shaking their heads. We all know that Herod's wife buried St. John's head in ignominy. What many of us don't know is that St. Joanna (6/27), one of the Myrrhbearers, secretly took it and buried it on the Mount of Olives. Many years later it was found by a monk who was building the foundation for a church. Fearing it would be dishonored after his death, he re-buried it in the same place. It was found again by two monks who gave it to a potter who reverently cared for it. It was revered for many generations until it came into the possession of an Arian priest who buried it in a cave. Years later St. John appeared to pious monks who were building a monastery and told them the location of his head. It was then taken to Constantinople. Read more about St. John in *The Life of Saint John the Baptist* (KID STS JON).