

From the Fathers (and others):

The true aim of our Christian life consists in the acquisition of the Holy Spirit of God...
But... only the good deeds done for Christ's sake bring us the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

- *St. Seraphim of Sarov*

The lips and the heart that give thanks to God in any trial or temptation receive His blessing and Divine grace.

- *Elder Justin Parvu of Romania*

When you are subjected to the malicious and furious violence of the passions, and to the harassments of the Devil, during the fulfillment of various works for God, accept these sufferings as sufferings for the name of Christ, and rejoice in your sufferings, thanking God; for the Devil is preparing you, without knowing it himself, the most shining crowns from the Lord.

- *St. John of Kronstadt*

When a man receives something Divine, in his heart he rejoices; but when he receives something diabolic, he is disturbed. The Christian heart, when it has received something Divine, does not demand anything else in order to convince it that this is precisely from the Lord; but by that very effect it is convinced that this is heavenly, for it senses within itself spiritual fruits: love, joy, peace, and the rest (cf. Gal. 5:22).

- *St. Seraphim of Sarov*

The patient endurance of the saints exhausts the evil power that attacks them, since it makes them glory in sufferings undergone for the sake of the truth. It teaches those too much concerned with a life in the flesh to deepen themselves through such sufferings instead of pursuing ease and comfort; and it makes the flesh's natural weakness in the endurance of suffering a foundation for overwhelming spiritual power. For the natural weakness of the saints is precisely such a foundation, since the Lord has made their weakness stronger than the proud devil.

- *St. Maximos the Confessor*

It was said of Abba John the Dwarf that he withdrew and lived in the desert at Scetis with an old man of Thebes. His Abba, taking a piece of dry wood, planted it and said to him, 'Water it every day with a bottle of water, until it bears fruit.' Now the water was so far away that he had to leave in the evening and return the following morning. At the end of three years the wood came to life and bore fruit. Then the old man took some of the fruit and carried it to the church saying to the brethren, 'Take and eat the fruit of obedience.'

- *Sayings of the Desert Fathers*

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ February 25th, 2024 ~

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

*Commemoration of Tarasios the Confessor, Archbishop of Constantinople
& Hieromartyr Markellos, Bishop of Apamea in Syria*

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 Publican & the Pharisee

Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15

Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

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 25 – March 3

- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- Monday** - First Hour, 6:45 am
- Tuesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Men's Lunch, 12:00 pm
- Orthodoxy 101, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Women's Teaching, 10:00 am
- Vespers, 6:00 pm
- Bible Study, 7:00 pm
- Choir Rehearsal, 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 Boot Scootin' Boogie Fundraiser, 6:00 pm
- Saturday** - Ninth Hour & Vespers, 5:50 pm
- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am

Today's Memorials:

Nelvia Agnew – 1 year
Ephraim Fred Ortwein – 3 years

Upcoming Baptism:

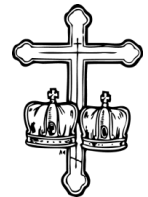
Gabriel Powell
March 2nd at 4pm

Upcoming Churching – March 10:

Katherine & Abigail Verbist

Upcoming Memorials – March 10:

Sidney Kraker – 35 years
Mary Clark – 4 years



Upcoming Marriage:

Nancy Ingram & Chris Hanson
March 9th at 4pm

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

Sunday, 2/25

Birthday: Sophie Mansour

Thursday, 2/29

None

Monday, 2/26

St. Photini: Dianna Hildebrand

Friday, 3/1

Birthday: Dema Khlaifat

David, Prophet & King: David Rustom

Tuesday, 2/27

None

Saturday, 3/2

Birthday: Ava Ortwein, Kenneth Harms,
Don Eastman, David Yarbo

Wednesday, 2/28

Birthday: Moriah Crum

Commemorations

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

February 26: Prophyrios, bishop of Gaza; Great-martyr Photeini the Samaritan Woman and those with her; Martyr Theoklitos and those with him; New-martyr John of Constantinople.

February 27: Venerable Prokopios the Confessor of Decapolis; Martyrs Galasios of Heliopolis and Nisios; New-martyr Elias.

February 28: Venerable Basil the Confessor, companion of Prokopios of Decapolis; Hieromartyr Proterios, patriarch of Alexandria; Apostles Nympha and Euvoulos; New-martyr Kyranna.

February 29: Venerable John Cassian the Roman.

March 1: Venerable-martyr Eudokia of Heliopolis; Venerable Domnina of Syria; Martyrs Markellos and Anthony of Pamphylia; Venerable Agapios of Vatopedi monastery on Athos; Venerable David of Wales, bishop of Menevia.

March 2: Theodotos, bishop of Cyrenia; Martyr Hesychios the Senator; Virgin-martyr Euthanlia of Sicily; Arsenios, bishop of Tver.

March 3: Martyrs Eutropios, Kleonikos, and Basilikos of Amasea; Hieromartyr Theodoretos of Antioch.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	2 Timothy	3:10-15	Luke	18:10-14
Monday	2 Peter	1:20-21; 2:1-9	Mark	13:9-13
Tuesday	2 Peter	2:9-22	Mark	13:14-23
Wednesday	2 Peter	3:1-18	Mark	13:24-31
Thursday	1 John	1:8-10; 2:1-6	Mark	13:31-37; 14:1-2
Friday	1 John	2:7-17	Mark	14:3-9
Saturday	1 Timothy	6:11-16	Luke	20:46-47; 21:1-4
Sunday	1 Corinthians	6:12-20	Luke	15:11-32

Remember in Your Prayers

Our catechumens: Jeff Bennett; Ben Haag; Thomas & Christy Potts; Andrew Potts; Brian, Danielle, Luree, John, & River Pfeister; Billy & Stacey Murray; Leigh Ann 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; Schemamonk Paul; 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 Hagemeier

Diocesan Seminarian: Caleb McGee



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



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

Choir Rehearsal – The choir will be rehearsing this Wednesday, February 28, at 7pm.

Boot Scootin' Boogie AWSJ Fundraiser – This Friday at 6pm!!

Join us this Friday for an evening of music, laughter, and food at the AWSJ Boot Scootin' Boogie! Enjoy bidding at the silent auction while being entertained by our very talented St. John parishioners. **Volunteers are still needed.** Please contact anyone on the Women's Council if you are available to help. To contribute, please see the sign-ups and details on the weekly emails.

Parish Council Update – Thank you for your participation in the Annual General Assembly Meeting! If you missed the meeting and would like to see the financial handouts or know what transpired, you are welcome to speak with Fr. Philip or any of the council members. There are so many wonderful things happening in our parish. Thank you for your support of our Church community!

Save the Date – St. George Bake Sale & Open House

St. George is hosting a Bake Sale & Open House on Saturday, March 9th from 11am-3pm. There will be church tours, hot food, crafts for kids, and more. All are invited!

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.

Great Lent is near – As we remember the Publican and the Pharisee today and enter into the non-fasting week that follows, we are reminded that the Great Fast is soon to follow. Lent begins on March 18. We will shortly place more material in the parish hall for your use regarding services and other information. As a reminder, remember the *traditional fasting discipline* is observed during the Great Fast which lasts from Pure Monday through Great and Holy Saturday (with *katalysis* for wine and oil on Saturdays and Sundays [except on Great and Holy Saturday when oil is not permitted], and for fish, wine and oil on the Annunciation [March 25th] and Palm Sunday). May we all prepare even now to use the season to draw closer to our God through our voluntary ascetical work of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving!

Psalter Groups

The Psalter is the book of Psalms divided into 20 sections called kathismata. Psalter groups consist of 20 people with each member reading 1 Kathisma per day, resulting in the Psalter being read in its entirety each day by the group. By the end of Lent, each individual will have read the entire Psalter twice. For more information or to sign up for our Psalter groups, please see the weekly emails.

St. John Youth

Today: Sunday, 2/25 -	Service Project – Church Cleanup/Lenten Prep, 12:45-2:45pm (Lunch Provided)
Next Week: Friday, 3/1 - Sunday, 3/3 -	Boot Scootin’ Boogie Parish Event, 6:00 pm No Youth Group
Looking Ahead: Sunday, 3/10 -	Lunch & fellowship at the Ibrahim’s. Bring a side dish or dessert. 1:30-3:30pm
Saturday, 3/16 - Sunday, 3/17 -	Amuse Adventure Museum (RSVP Needed Early), 10:45-1:00pm Service Project TBD & Forgiveness Exchange (Lunch Provided), 12:45-2:45pm
Sunday, 3/24 - Sunday, 3/31 -	Sunday of Orthodoxy at Annunciation “Man of God” Discussion & Donuts (Lunch Provided), 12:30-3:00pm

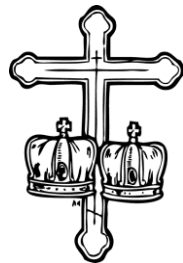
Women of St. John Calendar

2/28 (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 Fundraiser, 6pm – Join us this Friday for an evening of music, laughter, and food at the AWSJ Boot Scootin’ Boogie! 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!

3/15 (Fri.) AWSJ Knitting Circle, 6pm – Knitting Circle will meet on Friday, March 15th 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!



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.

LIBRARY LINES

Today begins our preparation (Triodion) for Great Lent. This three-week period starts with our remembrance of the Pharisee and the Publican. To learn more about this important time in our Church’s calendar see *The Lenten Triodion Supplement* by Met. Kallistos Ware and *Scripture Readings in Orthodox Worship* (CAT CAL BAR).

We honor two Samaritan women saints this week. St. Photini (2/26) and St. Eudokia (3/1). St. Photini is a patron of several at St. John as is known to all of us as the woman to whom Christ asked water at Jacob’s well. She is commemorated with her two sons, five sisters, St. Sebastian, and Domnina, the daughter of Nero. When St. Photini learned that her sons and Sebastian had been arrested by Nero, she and her sisters journeyed to Rome and lived under the supervision of Domnina who was then converted by them. The emperor subjected Photini, her family and all the converts to cruel torments and then imprisoned them for three years. They were then flayed, one was torn apart and some beheaded. St. Photini was thrown down a well and gave her life to God. Learn more about her in *Christ and His Saints* (HAG - - - REA), *Married Saints of the Church* (HAG - - - MOS), *Saints and Sisterhood* (HAG - - - TOP), *Co-Workers for the Gospel* (KID STS SPR).

St. John Cassian has the distinction of being commemorated February 29 (2/28 in non-leap years). His pious parents gave him an excellent classic and spiritual education, and later he was tonsured as a monastic. He spent many years learning from the desert fathers. In his later life, he became a disciple of St. John Chrysostom. He is best known as the author of three great works of the Faith. *Conferences with the Fathers* (PAT JOH), addresses in conversational form purity, understanding Scripture, the four levels of monasticism, repentance and humility. *The Institutes of Cenobitic Life* (PAT JOH) discusses monastic life in Palestine and Egypt and victory over the eight deadly sins. *On the Incarnation of the Lord, Against Nestorius* opposes heresy on the person of Christ.

St. Eudokia (3/1) lived in Samaria under the reign of the Roman emperor Trajan. She, like St. Mary of Egypt, lived a life of debauchery. One night she awoke to hear Elder Germanus reading about the Last Judgment. Her heart was struck by her sin and great wealth. She repented and was baptized. She then entered a monastery, and God blessed her with spiritual gifts. When she was accused of taking gold from the city and hiding it at the monastery, the troops sent to recover it were miraculously prevented from entering the buildings. On three occasions, relatives of those persecuting the saint died and were restored to life through her prayers. She lived in the monastery for over fifty years. Then again a new governor instituted persecutions against the Christians; she was beheaded on the first of March. Read more about her in *Saints and Sisterhood* (HAG- - -TOP).

Friday we commemorate one of Great Britain’s most loved saints, David (3/1), the patron of Wales and a disciple of St. Germanus. The 6th century saint founded a monastery that mirrored the austerity of the desert fathers. Read more about him in *A Staff to the Pilgrim* (HAG - - - ROC).