

From the Fathers (and others):

May you be children of God, pure and unblameable, in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation (cf. Phil. 1:15): and may you never be entangled in the snares of the wicked that go round about, or bound with the chains of your sins. May the Word in you never be smothered with the cares of this life and so make you unfruitful: but may you walk in the King's Highway, turning aside neither to the right hand nor to the left, but led by the Spirit through the narrow gate.

- *St. Gregory the Theologian*

When death has been brought upon a saint, we ought not to think that an evil has happened to him but a thing indifferent; which is an evil to a wicked man, while to the good it is rest and freedom from evils. 'For death is rest to a man whose way is hidden' (Job 3:23 LXX). And so a good man does not suffer any loss from it.

- *St. John Cassian*

When Christ has come to be within us He lulls to sleep the law that rages in the members of flesh. He rekindles our reverence towards God, while simultaneously causing the passions to atrophy. He does not reckon our faults against us. Instead, He tends us as a doctor would his patients. For He binds up that which has been wounded, He raises that which has fallen, as a good shepherd who has laid down His life for His sheep (cf. Jn. 10:11).

- *St. Cyril of Alexandria*

If you have diligence and zeal, you will be given greater grace from God. But he who has neither diligence nor zeal, by his negligence will extinguish and lose even that grace which he seems to have from God.

- *Blessed Theophylact*

A long time ago at a monastery the treasurer behaved severely with the monks. So great was his parsimony that they nicknamed him "the rope." When this man died, they tried to find gold among his belongings, but they didn't find anything. At his burial, the mule carers, who carried the wood from the mountain to the wharf, were crying and sobbing because he had helped them a lot. Taking into account the family each one of them had to feed, this man bought and gave them one, two or three mules each.

- *St. Paisios*

Prayer is spiritual breathing; when we pray we breathe in the Holy Spirit; "praying in the Holy Spirit" (Jd. 1:20). Thus, all church prayers are the breathing of the Holy Spirit; as it were spiritual air and also light, spiritual fire, spiritual food and spiritual raiment.

- *St. John of Kronstadt*

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ February 4th, 2024 ~

Zacchaeus Sunday

Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost & Fifteenth 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

Thirty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by Dn. Charles McKelroy.

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 4 – 11

- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- North American Antiochian Orthodox Medical Professionals Meeting (after Liturgy)
- Monday** - First Hour, 6:45 am
- AWSJ Book Club, 7:00 pm
- Tuesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Men's Lunch, 12:00 pm
- Wednesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Women's Teaching, 10:00 am (In Person)
- 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
- Pre-Lenten Retreat, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Saturday** - Pre-Lenten Retreat, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
- Ninth Hour & Vespers, 5:50 pm
- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- YA Super Bowl Party, Details TBD

Today's Churching:

Juliana & Halcyon Breedon
(Paul Finley's daughter & grandson
visiting from St. Ignatius in Franklin, TN)

Upcoming Catechumen Enrollments:

February 11:

Michael Youngblood
Ronald Coleman
Brandon Daley

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

Sunday, 2/4

Holy Mothers of the Three Hierarchs
St. Emmelia: Emmelia Finley, Charlotte Hagemeyer, Emmelia Sanderlin
St. Nonna: Jamie Escue, Heather Hetrick

Monday, 2/5

None

Tuesday, 2/6

None

Wednesday, 2/7

None

Thursday, 2/8

Birthday: Lisa Weaver
Theodore, the General: Theo McGee,
Ted Werthmuller

Friday, 2/9

None

Saturday, 2/10

Birthday: Joseph Shleweet, Sarah Ortwein, Scarlet Laraya



Commemorations

February 4: Venerable Isidore of Pelusium; Venerable Nicholas the Confessor of Studion; New-martyr Joseph of Aleppo; George, prince of Vladimir; Venerable Cyril, wonder-worker of Novoezersk.

February 5: Martyr Agatha of Palermo in Sicily; Polyeuktos, patriarch of Constantinople; New-martyr Anthony of Athens; Venerable Theodosios; repose of Theodosios, archbishop of Chernigov.

February 6: Boukolos, bishop of Smyrna; Photios the Great, patriarch of Constantinople; Martyr Julian (Ilyan) of Homs, the holy and unmercenary healer.

February 7: Parthenios, bishop of Lampsakos; Venerable Luke of Hellas; New-martyr George of Crete.

February 8: Great-martyr Theodore the General (“Stratelates”); Prophet Zachariah; Sabbas II, archbishop of Serbia.

February 9: Martyr Nikephoros of Antioch; Hieromartyrs Markellos, bishop of Sicily, Pankratios, bishop of Taormina, and Philagrios, bishop of Cyprus; translation of the relics of Innocent, first bishop of Irkutsk.

February 10: Hieromartyr Haralampos the wonder-worker, bishop of Magnesia; Venerable Zenon.
February 11: Hieromartyr Blaise, bishop of Sebaste; Theodora the empress; New-martyr George of Serbia; Vsevolod, prince and wonder-worker of Pskov; Venerable Demetrius of Prilutsk.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	1 Timothy	4:9-15	Luke	19:1-10
Monday	Hebrews	11:17-31	Mark	9:42-50; 10:1
Tuesday	Hebrews	7:26-28; 8:1-2	John	10:9-16
Wednesday	James	1:1-18	Mark	10:11-16
Thursday	Ephesians	2:4-10	Matthew	10:16-22
Friday	James	2:1-13	Mark	10:24-32
Saturday	2 Timothy	2:1-10	John	15:17-27; 16:1-2
Sunday	2 Corinthians	6:1-10	Matthew	25:14-30

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
Diocesan Seminarian: Caleb McGee

Parish Pre-Lenten Retreat – Next Weekend!

Fr. Jeremy Davis, author of *Welcoming Gifts: Sacrifice in the Bible and Christian Life*, will be with us next weekend, Feb. 9-11, offering a retreat on “Saved by Sacrifice: What is the Cross All About?” Reserve your spot today by registering on the sign-up link in the weekly parish emails. All are welcome to attend the retreat and be encouraged as we prepare for Great Lent!

Retreat Schedule

Friday, Feb. 9

6pm - Dinner
7pm - Sacrifice: A Modern Idol of Loss

Saturday, Feb. 10

9am - Light Refreshments
10am - Ancient Sacrifices as Welcoming Gifts
11:30 - Old Testament Sacrifices
12:30 - Lunch
1:15 - Sacrifice's Fulfillment in Christ

Medical Professionals Meeting – Today after Liturgy

The first meeting of the local chapter of the North American Antiochian Orthodox Medical Professionals will be today in the library following the Divine Liturgy, in order to discuss the goals and interests of the group.

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.

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

General Assembly Meeting – 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!

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.

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.

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, 2/4 - Lunch and Games at the Church, 12:30-2:30pm

Next Week:

Friday & Saturday, 2/9-2/10 Free Parish Retreat with Fr. Jeremy Davis (Please register on the link in the Youth Group email.)

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

Looking Ahead:

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

Sunday, 2/25 - Service Project (TBD)

Young Adults

Parish Pre-Lenten Retreat Meals – Young Adult Volunteers Needed!

The YA Leadership Team is organizing meals for the Pre-Lenten Retreat and needs some young adults to help with setting out/cleaning up food. If you are able to help, please sign up on the weekly emails.

2/11 (Sun.) Young Adults Super Bowl Party – Save the date for the evening of February 11th for a Young Adults Super Bowl Party! Details will be provided in a separate email invite to come.

Women of St. John Calendar

2/5 (Mon.) AWSJ Book Club, 7pm – The Women’s Book Club will meet on Monday, Feb. 5 at Kh. Pamela Mashburn’s home at 7pm. We will be discussing *Quilt of Souls* by Phyllis Lawson (or Phyllis Biffle Elmore). 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!

2/7 (Wed.) AWSJ Teaching, 10am – Women’s Teaching will meet in person this week to discuss *A Voice for Our Time* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann. If your schedule allows, bring a sack lunch or snack and join us for social time after the meeting.

2/16 (Fri.) AWSJ Knitting Circle, 6pm – Knitting Circle will meet on 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 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>

LIBRARY LINES

The Multiflorous and Fragrant Meadow of the Church's Books

Once, a certain individual of high station went to the Church of St. George in Paros in order to visit St. Arsenios the New (1/31) and to confess. After having confessed, he said to the Saint, "Father Arsenios, you have a beautiful garden with orange, lemon, apple, walnut, and other fruit-bearing trees, as well as flowers. Let us spend a little time enjoying the beauty and wonder of the trees and flowers."

Father Arsenios pointed to his small library and replied to him: "Let us look rather at my private garden, which is most delightful and exceedingly beautiful."

He showed him various large volumes of the writings of St. Basil, St. John Chrysostom, and other Holy Fathers, noting: "Behold, these resplendent trees, filled with succulent and delicious fruit." He also showed him various smaller ecclesiastical books: "Look at these delightful, well-formed, wonderfully pleasing flowers nourishing, cheering, and gladdening the immortal soul."

This article appears in *Orthodox Tradition*, vol. 30, no. 3, 2013 and is taken from Archimandrite Philothoes (Zervakos) in *The Life and Miracles of our Holy Father, St. Arsenios the New, the Ascetic of the Island of Paros*. Paros, 1997.

Thursday we honor the Prophet Zachariah (2/8). He was called the sickle-seer because had a vision in which he saw a sickle flying in the air and destroying evil doers. He prophesied very specific events in the life of Christ, including the Triumphal Entry, the piercing of his side and the darkening of the sun at the crucifixion. Read more about him in *Christ in His Saints* (HAG- - -REA).

Friday we commemorate the translation of the relics of St. Innocent of Irkutsk (2/9). Read more about him in *New Apostles of Christ* (HAG - - - HAT) and *Recently Canonized Saints* (HAG - - - DEV). Hardly a week goes by that the Church doesn't observe the uncovering or translation of a saint's relics. So, what's so important about it? *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* (HIS CRO) donates a page to this practice explaining that it is even practiced in Buddhism and is "based on the natural instinct of men to treat with reverence what is left of the dead they loved." A more readable explanation is given in *The Pearl* by Michael Whelton. (CAT GEN WHE) Chapter VI gives us his answers to questions frequently asked by Protestants, or former ones like most of us. His concise answer concerning relics begins on page 139. Kallistos Ware connects this practice with the theology of the body in *The Orthodox Church* (CAT/GEN/WAR). See chapter 11. See also *Holy Relics* by T.L. Frazier (CAT GEN FRA) and *The Truth of Our Faith* by Elder Cleopa (PAT CLE), pp. 95-103.

Little is known of St. Haralambos's life (2/10) except his martyrdom. He lived and preached in Asia Minor in the late second century. At age 113, he was arrested for professing Christ and refusing to sacrifice to idols. His tormentors tore his body with iron hooks and flayed his skin. Some of those who directed his torture were themselves miraculously disfigured, and others witnessing these cruelties confessed Christ and were martyred. Finally, before the saint was beheaded, he prayed to God that the resting place of his relics would never suffer famine or disease and that those living there would be saved and would live in peace and abundance. His icon is in our nave.