

From the Fathers (and others):

Be kinder than necessary because everyone is fighting their war or battle and suffering losses. Live simply, love generously, care deeply for the needs of your neighbor, speak softly... And leave the rest to the Lord. It is not faith, nor dogmatics, nor mysticism, nor ascetism, nor fasting, nor long prayers, but love that makes one a true Christian. Everything becomes pointless without this fundamental thing - love for our neighbor.

- *St. Luke, Bishop of Simferopol and Crimea*

Abba Gregory the Theologian said, 'These three things God requires of all the baptized: right faith in the heart, truth on the tongue, temperance in the body.'

She also said that neither asceticism, nor vigils nor any kind of suffering are able to save, only true humility can do that. There was an anchorite who was able to banish the demons; and he asked them, 'What makes you go away?' 'Is it fasting?' They replied, 'We do not eat or drink.' 'Is it vigils?' They replied, 'We do not sleep.' 'Is it separation from the world?' 'We live in the deserts.' 'What power sends you away then?' They said, 'Nothing can overcome us, but only humility.' 'Do you see how humility is victorious over the demons?'

- *Amma Theodora - Sayings of the Desert Fathers*

The old men said to Abba Agathon to Abba Elias, in Egypt, 'He is a good Abba.' The old man answered them, 'In comparison with his own generation, he is good.' They said to him, 'And what is he in comparison with the ancients?' He gave them this answer, 'I have said to you that in comparison with his generation he is good but as to that of the ancients, in Scetis I have seen a man who, like Joshua the son of Nun could make the sun stand still in the heavens.' At these words they were astounded and gave glory to God.

Abba John the Dwarf said, 'There was a spiritual old man who lived a secluded life. He was held in high estimation in the city and enjoyed a great reputation. He was told that a certain old man, at the point of death, was calling for him, to embrace him before he fell asleep. He thought to himself, if I go by day, men will run after me, giving me great honour, and I shall not be at peace in all that. So I will go in the evening in the darkness and I shall escape everyone's notice. But lo, two angels were sent by God with lamps to give him light. Then the whole city came out to see his glory. The more he wished to flee from glory, the more he was glorified. In this was accomplished that which is written: "He who humbles himself will be exalted." ' (Luke 14:11)

Faith is the foundation of the Church. For it was not of the person, but of the faith of St. Peter of which it was said, 'the gates of hell shall not prevail'; certainly, it is the confession of faith which has vanquished the powers of hell. Jesus Christ is the Rock. He did not deny the grace of His Name...to Peter because he borrowed from the Rock the constancy and solidity of his faith – your Rock is your faith, and faith is the foundation of the Church. If you are a Rock, you shall be in the Church, for the Church is built upon the Rock – the profession of faith is Christ Jesus.

- *Saint Ambrose of Milan (4th century)*

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ March 10th, 2024 ~

Sunday of the Last Judgment
Meatfare

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 Last Judgment

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 25: 31-46

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by Trish Ratliff.

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

March 10-17
(Fast from meat)

- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- Young Adult Doctrine on Draft, 12:30 pm
- Monday** - First Hour, 6:45 am
- Tuesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Men's Lunch, 12:00 pm
- Orthodoxy 101, 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
- 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 Knitting Circle, 6:00 pm
- Saturday** - Wade Dey Baptism, 4:00 pm
- Ninth Hour & Vespers, 5:50 pm
- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- Forgiveness Vespers, 6:00 pm

Today's Churching:
Katherine & Abigail Verbist

Today's Memorials:
Sidney Kraker – 35 years
Mary Clark – 4 years
Damon Boiles – 2 years

Upcoming Baptism:
Wade Dey
Saturday, March 16th at 4pm

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

Sunday, 3/10

Birthday: Jaycob Warfel

Thursday, 3/14

Birthday: Wyatt Shull, Noah Shull

Monday, 3/11

None

Friday, 3/15

Birthday: James Elliott, Stephanie Harants

Tuesday, 3/12

Birthday: John Pecoraro

Saturday, 3/16

None

Wednesday, 3/13

Birthday: Sarah Finley

Commemorations

March 10: Kodratos of Corinth and his five companions; Anastasia the patrician of Alexandria; New-martyr Michael of Thessalonika.

March 11: Sophronios, patriarch of Jerusalem; Martyrs Thallos and Trophimos; Venerable George of Sinai; Theodora the empress; repose of Euthymios, bishop of Novgorod.

March 12: Venerable Theophanes the Confessor of Sigriane; Gregory the Dialogist, pope of Rome; Venerable Simeon the New Theologian; Righteous Phineas.

March 13: The translation of the relics of Nikephoros, patriarch of Constantinople; Poplias and Marios the bishops.

March 14: Venerable Benedict of Nursia; Euschemenos, bishop of Lampsakos.

March 15: Martyr Agapios of Palestine and those with him; Apostle Aristoboulos of the Seventy, first bishop of Britain; New-martyrs Manuel of Crete and Parthenios.

March 16: Martyr Sabinos of Egypt; Venerable Christodoulos the wonderworker of Patmos.

March 17: Venerable Alexios the “Man of God;” Theosteriktos the Confessor; Patrick, bishop of Armagh and enlightener of Ireland; Venerable Makarios of Kalyazin.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	1 Corinthians	8:8-13; 9:1-2	Matthew	25:31-46
Monday	3 John	1:1-15	Luke	19:29-40; 22:7-39
Tuesday	Jude	1:1-10	Luke	22:39-42, 45-71; 23:1
Wednesday	Joel	3:12-21	Joel	2:12-26
Thursday	Jude	1:11-25	Luke	23:1-31, 33, 44-56
Friday	Zechariah	8:7-17	Zechariah	8:19-23
Saturday	Galatians	5:22-26; 6:1-2	Matthew	6:1-13
Sunday	Romans	13:11-14; 14:1-4	Matthew	6:14-21

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; Chris Hodges; Mickey Hodges; St. Nicholas Orthodox Church; St. Paul Orthodox Mission; Samuel Brownlow; Elizabeth Turner (Jack's mother); Aleksandra Klimkowski & family; Shawn McClenny (Miriam Redmond's brother-in-law); Stephen Hill (Nicholas Hill's brother) & family; those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

Expecting: Ioana Rustom, Heather Hetrick, Courtney Hagemeyer

Diocesan Seminarian: Caleb McGee



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Forgiveness Vespers

The opening service of Great Lent is Forgiveness Vespers next Sunday evening March 17, at 6pm. Begin today to prepare yourselves for that very important and powerful service which begins our annual school of repentance.

Young Adult Doctrine on Draft – Today at 12:30pm – Join us today for a Doctrine on Draft at the Church with Paul Finley, who will talk to us about service & his time in ministry. Food/drink provided.

Orthodoxy 101 will next meet this Tuesday, March 12th, at 7pm. The topic will be *Great Lent*. All are welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom.

Choir Rehearsal – The choir will be rehearsing this Wednesday, March 13, at 7pm.

Parish Council Update – The Parish Council's next meeting will be Tuesday evening, March 12 at 7pm. With Great Lent approaching, the discussion will be on tying up any administrative loose ends and ensuring that the community is ready for the season. We will continue to talk about the website and changing the lighting in the nursery. Thank you for your continued support!

A New Pavlovic – Marko and Marija Pavlovic welcomed new baby Bogdana on Monday, March 4. All are doing well. Bogdana means 'God given' in Serbian. May God grant her many years!

Divine Liturgy at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church – March 24th

We, along with St. George, will worship on **Sunday, March 24**, at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, located at 573 N. Highland. Orthros will begin at 9am and Divine Liturgy at 10am.

At the conclusion of the liturgy, children in all three parishes make the procession with the icons. Have your children bring their favorite icon with them for the procession.

Lunch at Annunciation: Bring a fast friendly **appetizer dish** to contribute to the lunch following liturgy at Annunciation. Items may be left in their parish hall as you arrive for services.

Saturday of Souls – Saturday, March 30th, we will celebrate the Liturgy for the departed at 9am. If you have family members that you would like remembered, please send them to Fr. Philip. Please distinguish between Orthodox and non-Orthodox. All of the departed members of St. John will be remembered; you do not need to include those on your list.

Great Lent is near – 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!

Lenten Meals – During Lent each year, St. John has shared a meal offered by one or more parishioners following each Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy and on Holy Thursday. Typically, one can count on feeding 70-80 people. Meals can be as simple or involved as you would like. If you, your family, or a group of your friends would like to provide one of these meals, please use the link in the weekly emails to sign up. Cost for the meals is reimbursed upon request. Drinks are provided. Available dates: **March 20 & 27; April 3 & 24; and May 2 (Holy Thursday)**.

Psalter Groups – Sign up by Tuesday March 12th

As done in years past, our Psalter groups will once again be reading the Psalter during Lent. For more information, or to sign up for our Psalter groups, please see the insert and the weekly emails.

Sermon on the Mount Lenten Retreat in Tupelo – March 30th

St. Paul in Tupelo is hosting a Sermon on the Mount Retreat presented by Paul Finley on Saturday, March 30th, from 9:30am-2pm. For more information, please see the insert and the weekly emails.

St. John Eagles Basketball – Come out to support our men's basketball team on Monday nights at the JCC and join us for fellowship afterwards! This week's game is at 6pm, and all following games will be at 8pm. There is a \$3 spectator fee. We hope to see you in the stands and hear your cheers!

The Sons of Thunder Men's Book Club will meet at the church at 6pm on Sunday, March 31, to discuss *Welcoming Gifts: Sacrifice in the Bible and Christian Life* by Fr. Jeremy Davis. All men are welcome.

Seeking Volunteers for Room in the Inn for March – 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 or contact Thea Wallace.

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, 3/10 -

Lunch & fellowship at the Ibrahim's. Bring a side dish or dessert.
1:30-3:30pm

Next Week:

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

Looking Ahead:

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

3/13 (Wed.) AWSJ Teaching, 10am – Women's Teaching will meet via Zoom this week to discuss *A Voice for Our Time* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

3/15 (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!

LIBRARY LINES

Many, even in the Christian tradition, feel uncomfortable thinking about Christ as the Great Judge, but our Church gives us this day, the Sunday of the Last Judgment, to focus our attention on this event. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann reminds us in his book *Great Lent* (CAT LTHW SCH) that Christ will judge us on our love for others. Today is also called Meatfare, because it is the last day we will eat meat until we break our fast for Pascha.

St. Gregory (3/12) the Dialogist and Pope of Rome was descended from a family of saints. He reluctantly accepted the office of bishop of Rome, considering himself unworthy. He used his excellent education in service of the Church. He authored the *Commentary on the Book of Job* and compiled the *Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts* in Latin. His *Pastoral Rule* describes the role of a true pastor. He was given the title *Diologus* for his work on the Italian Fathers.

Saint Benedict (3/14) was born in Italy in the fifth century. He studied in Rome as a teenager but was troubled by the immorality of the city and left to live in asceticism. His pious life drew many disciples, and he settled them into twelve communities. His monastic order brought some critics, so he moved his monks and founded a monastery which became a theological center for the Western Church. The Rule of St. Benedict was based on the lives and counsels of the desert fathers and St. John Cassian (2/29). It ordered obedience, the renunciation of personal possessions, and manual labor. Older monks preserved the writings from early Christianity and instructed the younger monks. The head (igumen) of the monasteries taught and explained the Faith to the others. He asked advice from the experienced monks but made the final decisions. St. Benedict died in 547. We owe much of our knowledge of his life from the second *Dialogue* of St. Gregory the Great. Children will enjoy reading about him and his sister in *Holy Twins* (KID STS BEN).

Looking for food for your soul? St. John Library offers many books and CDs for adults and children on Great Lent and Holy Week. They are on display on the east wall of the library next to the piano. Ask Judy Terry if you have questions.

