

From the Fathers (and others):

To yield and give way to our passions is the lowest slavery, even as to rule over them is the only freedom.

- *Justin Martyr*

It is not freedom when we say “everything is permitted.” This is slavery.

- *St. Paisios of Mt. Athos*

The battle has always been with myself, me as I am, and me as God wants me to be.

- *St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

Saint Macarius once received a bunch of newly picked grapes. He very much wanted to eat them, but he conquered this desire in himself and gave the grapes to another monk who was sick. That monk, wanting to preserve his abstinence, gave the grapes to another, and he gave them to a third and so forth. In the end the bunch of grapes returned to Saint Macarius. The ascetic was astonished at the abstinence of his disciples and gave thanks to God.

- *Sayings of the Desert Fathers*

A house is a little church...let your prayers be common. Let each go to Church; and let the husband ask his wife at home, and she again ask her husband, the account of the things which were said and read there...Teach her that there is nothing in life that is to be feared, save only offending against God...

- *Saint John Chrysostom*

The Lord has become everything for you, and you must become everything for the Lord.

- *Saint John of Kronstadt*

One of the beloved of Christ who had the gift of mercy used to say, "The one who is filled with mercy ought to offer it in the same manner in which he has received it, for such is the mercy of God."

- *Sayings of the Desert Fathers*

Abba Paphnutius, the disciple of Abba Macarius, said, ‘I asked my Father to say a word to me and he replied, “Do no evil to anyone, and do not judge anyone. Observe this and you will be saved.”’

Come now, my brethren - all who have received the name of faith, who have been deemed worthy to be called people of Christ - do not put aside our calling; let us not violate our faith through improper works. It is not enough for someone merely to be known as a believer, so let us show our faith through works.

- *Saint John of Damascus*

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ March 3rd, 2024 ~

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

*Commemoration of Martyrs Eutropios, Kleonikos, and Basilikos of Amasea;
Hieromartyr Theodoretos of Antioch*

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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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 Prodigal Son

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

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.

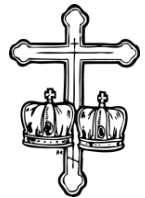
If you are from a non-Orthodox background, you may see new things such as icons, incense, the sign of the cross, the veneration of saints, and a great deal of standing. These can be perplexing to the uninitiated eye. Rest assured that everything we do has a solid biblical foundation and a long history 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

March 3-10

- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- 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
- 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
- Saturday** - St. George Bake Sale/Open House, 11:00 am
- Ingram-Hanson Wedding, 4:00 pm
- Ninth Hour & Vespers, 5:50 pm
- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- Young Adult Doctrine on Draft, 12:30 pm



Upcoming Marriage:
Nancy Ingram & Chris Hanson
March 9th at 4pm

Upcoming Churching – March 10:
Katherine & Abigail Verbist

Upcoming Memorials – March 10:
Sidney Kraker – 35 years
Mary Clark – 4 years
Damon Boiles – 2 years

Upcoming Baptism:
Wade Dey
March 16th at 4pm

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

Sunday, 3/3

Birthday: Michael Cameron, Pam Bowick,
David Rustom

Thursday, 3/7

Birthday: John Damon
St. Ephraim of Cherson: John Damon

Monday, 3/4

Birthday: Elliott Longa, Jacob White,
Samuel Yadron, Vicki Jackson

Friday, 3/8

Birthday: Kh. Susan Cushman, Isaac Taylor

Tuesday, 3/5

None

Saturday, 3/9

St. Aglaius: Buddy Bowick

Wednesday, 3/6

Birthday: Fr. John, Naya Shleweet

Commemorations

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

March 4: Venerable Gerasimos of the Jordan; Gregory, bishop of Constantios in Cyprus; Martyrs Paul and Juliana of Syria; Daniel, prince of Moscow, the wonder-worker.

March 5: Hieromartyr Konon of Isauria; Martyrs Archelaos and his 152 companions in Egypt; New-martyr John the Bulgarian.

March 6: The 42 martyrs of Amoria in Phrygia; discovery of the precious cross and nails by St. Helena; Venerable Fridolin, enlightener of the Upper Rhine.

March 7: The Hieromartyrs of Cherson: Basil, Ephraim, Eugene, Kapiton, Elpidios, Agathodoros and Aetherios; Venerable Laurence; Venerable Paul the Simple, disciple of Venerable Anthony the Great.

March 8: Theophylaktos, bishop of Nicomedia; Apostle Hermas of the Seventy.

March 9: The Forty Martyrs of Sebaste.

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

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	1 Corinthians	6:12-20	Luke	15:11-32
Monday	1 John	2:18-29; 3:1-8	Mark	11:1-11
Tuesday	1 John	3:9-22	Mark	14:10-42
Wednesday	1 John	3:21-24; 4:1-11	Mark	14:43-72; 15:1
Thursday	1 John	4:20-21; 5:1-21	Mark	15:1-15
Friday	Hebrews	12:1-10	Matthew	20:1-6
Saturday	1 Thessalonians	4:13-17	Luke	21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36
Sunday	1 Corinthians	8:8-13; 9:1-2	Matthew	25:31-46

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); 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



Orthodoxy 101 will next meet on 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 6, at 7pm.

Nancy Ingram & Chris Hanson Wedding this Saturday – The Sacrament of Marriage will be celebrated Saturday afternoon at 4pm. All are welcome at the Wedding Ceremony. The Reception is limited to invitations. May the Lord God bless them with many years!

St. George Bake Sale & Open House this Saturday – St. George is hosting a Bake Sale & Open House this Saturday, March 9th, from 11am-3pm. All are invited!

Young Adult Doctrine on Draft next Sunday at 12:30pm – Join us 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.

Parish Council Update – The Parish Council's next meeting will be Tuesday evening, March 12 at 7 pm. 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!

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. There is a \$3 spectator fee. We hope to see you in the stands and hear your cheers!

Great Lent is near – As we remember the Prodigal Son today, 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!

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, 10, & 24; and May 2 (Holy Thursday).**

Psalter Groups

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.

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.

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.

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.

St. John Youth

Today:

Sunday, 3/3 - No Youth Group

Next Week:

Sunday, 3/10 - Lunch & fellowship at the Ibrahim's. Bring a side dish or dessert. 1:30-3:30pm

Looking Ahead:

Saturday, 3/16 - Amuse Adventure Museum (RSVP Needed Early), 10:45-1:00pm

Sunday, 3/17 - Service Project TBD & Forgiveness Exchange (Lunch Provided), 12:45-2:45pm

Sunday, 3/24 - Sunday of Orthodoxy at Annunciation

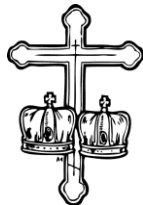
Sunday, 3/31 - "Man of God" Discussion & Donuts (Lunch Provided), 12:30-3:00pm

Women of St. John Calendar

3/4 (Mon.) AWSJ Book Club, 7pm – The Women's Book Club will meet tomorrow, 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!

3/6 (Wed.) AWSJ Teaching, 10am – Women's Teaching will meet in person this week to discuss *A Voice for Our Time* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann. In addition, if your schedule allows, bring a sack lunch or snack and join us for social time after the meeting.

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

What does catching pigs have to do with today's focus on the Prodigal Son??? Take a closer look at this familiar parable in *The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to St. Luke* (PAT THE) by Blessed Theophylact. For more insight into this parable and others, see *The Parables* (SCR COM ROY) by Archbishop Dimitri, *Forty Gospel Homilies* (REF PAT GRE) by St. Gregory the Great, *Return: Repentance and Confession: Return to God and to His Church* by Archm. Nektarios Antonopoulos (CAT HMYS CON ANT) and *The Parables of Christ* (KID BIB SPI).

Monday we honor St. Gerasimus (3/4), a 5th century monk who lived in Palestine. He established a monastery and lived a life of strict asceticism. Tradition tells the story of how he happened upon a lion with a thorn embedded in his paw. St. Gerasimus removed it, the lion followed him back to the monastery, and it lived there peacefully. When the saint died, the lion lay on his grave and died. St. Gerasimus is always shown with the lion in his icons. Look for this story in *The Lion and the Saint: a Novella* (KID STS GER) in St. John Library.

St. John the Bulgarian (3/5) was influenced in his childhood by his Moslem friends to renounce Christ. At age sixteen he came to his senses, fled to Mt. Athos and placed himself under the direction of an elder. Three years later, he journeyed to a mosque in Constantinople, publicly prayed, declared his devotion to Christ and renounced Mohammed. He was beheaded at age 19 in 1784. Read more about him in *New Martyrs of the Turkish Yoke* (HAG - - - PAP).

Tuesday we also commemorate St. Konon the Gardener (3/5). Actually, our Holy, Wise Church honors several other gardeners, among them are St. Kristo (2/12) and St. Phocas (9/22) besides St. Konon. How appropriate it is that we honor men who humbly work the earth to bring forth food, herbs and flowers for sustenance for our bodies and beauty for our souls. St. Konon was born in Nazareth and died a martyr's death around 250 A.D. St. Phocas aided the poor with his produce. He accidentally happened upon men sent to arrest him for being a Christian. He gave them hospitality, made arrangements for his possessions to be given to the needy, and dug his own grave. When his captors saw this, they tried to spare him, but he refused and was beheaded. St. Kristo the Albanian was also beheaded by Muslims for refusing to renounce Christ. His life is chronicled also in *New Martyrs of the Turkish Yoke* (HAG - - - PAP).

St. Paul the Simple (3/7) discovered his wife in sin with another man and dispassionately left her. He went into the desert and begged St. Anthony to accept him as a monk. St. Anthony refused him because of his age and the harshness of the life he was seeking. The simple man remained outside his hut for three days saying he would rather die than go elsewhere. Finally, he admitted the saint, testing him arduously. He lived a long life and performed many miracles. St. John of the Ladder said "he was the rule and type of blessed simplicity..."

Many martyrs are commemorated individually; however, there are several groups who are remembered not only on their feast days, but throughout the year as the Church prays. The Forty Martyrs of Sebaste are commemorated March 9. They were a band of soldiers who were distinguished for bravery. During the reign of Licinius in 313, they were imprisoned for refusing to sacrifice to idols. As punishment they were cast into a lake during severely cold weather. A warm bath-house was erected on the shore to tempt them. One could not withstand the cold and ran on shore. As a great light hovered over them and crowns appeared over their heads, Agglais, one of the guards, joined them in the water and asked God to add him to their number, making him worthy to suffer with them. They were then led out of the lake and their legs were broken. Their bodies were burned and the bones tossed into the lake. Three days later they appeared to the bishop and told him to gather their remains at night and bury them with honor. These men are just one example to us of Christians sharing in others' suffering with love. These men are mentioned in every marriage service, the Paraklesis to the Mother of God and other services of our Church.