

From the Fathers (and others):

Should thoughts of self-praise, of self-satisfaction, occur to you, say: 'I myself am nothing; all that is good in me is accomplished by the grace of God.' What hast thou that thou didst not receive?' (I Cor. 4:7). 'Without Me ye can do nothing' (John 15:5)."

St. John of Kronstadt

'Truly, truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in My Name, He will give it to you. Till now you have asked nothing in My Name; ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full' (Jn. 16:23). What a wonderful gift! It is a guarantee of unending, infinite blessings! It came from the lips of the unlimited God, clothed in limited humanity and called by the human name of Savior. The name by its exterior form is limited, but it represents an unlimited object, God, from Whom it borrows infinite, divine value or worth, the power and properties of God.

St. Ignatius Brianchaninov

'And if anyone,' our Lord says, 'shall compel you to go a mile, go with him two' (Mt. 5:41); so that you may not follow him as a slave, but may as a free man go before him, showing yourself in all things kindly disposed and useful to your neighbor, not regarding their evil intentions, but performing your kind services, likening your self to the Father.

St. Irenaeus of Lyons

Remember that you also bear a mortal body, and do good to all without exception.

Elder Justin Parvu of Romania

Far be it from us to doubt that all number is known to Him 'Whose understanding is infinite' (Ps. 147:5). The infinity of number, though there be no numbering of infinite numbers, is yet not incomprehensible by Him Whose understanding is infinite. And thus, if everything which is comprehended is defined or made finite by the comprehension of him who knows it, then all infinity is in some ineffable way made finite to God, for it is comprehensible by His knowledge.

St. Augustine

St. John Orthodox Church



~ January 1, 2017 ~
Circumcision of our Lord
Commemoration of St. Basil

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
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V. Rev. Fr. Philip Rogers
Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. John Troy Mashburn, Jr.
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Fr. Donald Berge
Attached

V. Rev. Fr. Basil Cushman
Associate Pastor

Rev. Fr. Alexander Mackoul
Assistant Pastor

GREAT VESPERS
Saturday, 6:00 p.m.

ORTHROS and CHURCH SCHOOL
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

January 1, 2017 Circumcision of our Lord

Epistle: Colossians 2:8-12

Gospel: Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Mindy Williams**.

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

Jan. 1 – 8 (No Fasting except Jan. 5)

- Sunday** -No Teen Group
Monday -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
Tuesday -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday **NO FASTING**
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m.
- Parish Meal following
- NO Wednesday Teaching
Thursday **FASTING**
-Royal Hours, 9:00 a.m.
-Divine Liturgy w/ Great Sanctification of the Waters, 6:00 p.m.
Friday **NO FASTING**
-Divine Liturgy, 9:00 a.m.
Saturday -Theophany Activities w/ Fr. Alex, 10:30 a.m.
-Blessing of the MS River, 12:00 p.m.
-Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
-Holy Baptism of Edmund Knight, following Vespers
Sunday **-Orthros and Church School, 9:00 a.m.**
-Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.

DIVINE LITURGY w/ Sanctification of Waters Thursday, January 5, 6:00 p.m.

PRIEST: Fr. John HOMILY: Fr. John

HOLY BREAD:

DIVINE LITURGY for Theophany Friday, January 6, 9:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Philip HOMILY: Fr. Philip

HOLY BREAD:

COFFEE HOUR:

DIVINE LITURGY Sunday, January 8, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Philip HOMILY: Fr. Philip

READER: David Twombly USHER: Thomas Yadron

HOLY BREAD: Sarah Hodges

ALTAR SERVERS: Pavel, Trent, Nicholas, Max, Alex

COFFEE HOUR: Joe & Jamie White, Dn. James & Sh. Corinne Elliott

COMMEMORATIONS

January 1: The Circumcision in the flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ. Basil the Great, archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia; New-martyr Peter of the Peloponnesos.

January 2: Sylvester, Pope of Rome; Cosmas, archbishop of Constantinople; Hieromartyr Theogenes of Parium; Martyrs Sergios and Theopistos; New-martyr Zorzis; Venerable Theodote and Neilos; Repose of Venerable Seraphim of Sarov; Righteous Juliana the Merciful, of Lazarevsk.

January 3: Martyr Gordios of Cappadocia; Prophet Malachi; Venerable Thomaidos; Venerable Genevieve of Paris.

January 4: The synaxis of the Seventy Holy Apostles; Venerable Theoktistos of Sicily; Venerable-martyrs Euthymios and his twelve companions of Vatopedi monastery on Athos; Venerable-martyr Onouphrios the deacon of Hilandar monastery on Athos; Eustathios, archbishop of Serbia.

January 5: Martyrs Theopemptos the bishop of Nicomedia and Theonas; Venerable Syncletica of Alexandria; Venerable-martyr Romanos of Athos.

January 6: The Theophany of our Lord Jesus Christ. Venerable Makarios Makris of Vatopedi monastery on Athos and Pantocratoros monastery in Constantinople.

January 7: The synaxis of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; Julian the deacon; Hieromartyr Romanos; New-martyr Athanasios of Attalia; Venerable Brannock of Braunton.

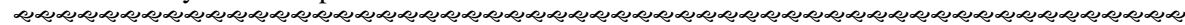
January 8: Venerable George the Chozebite; Venerable Agathonos of Egypt; Venerable Domnica of Constantinople and Venerable Makarios; Emilianos the Confessor, bishop of Kyzikos; Martyr Theophilos the deacon of Libya; Cyros and Atticos, patriarchs of Constantinople; New-martyr Kyran; Venerable Gregory of the Kiev Caves.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

January 1 - 8

Sunday	Colossians	2:8-12	Luke	2:20-21, 40-52
Monday	Hebrews	5:4-10	John	3:1-15
Tuesday	Hebrews	4:1-13	Mark	12:18-27
Wednesday	1Corinthians	4:9-16	John	1:18-28
Thursday	1Corinthians	9:19-27	Luke	3:1-18
Friday	Titus	2:11-14; 3:4-7	Matthew	3:13-17
Saturday	Acts	19:1-8	John	1:29-34
Sunday	Ephesians	4:7-13	Matthew	4:12-17



Pray for our catechumens: Memphis - Justin Bowles; Wendy, Brody, & Eli Weatherall; Lucas Whatley; Chelsea Yadron & Gabriel de la Torre.

Please remember in your prayers - Mary Clark, Ann Hicks (Dianna Hildebrand's mother), Charles Ingram, Ted Greathouse (Shelley Snowden's father), Allen Sudduth (Paul's father), Janet Berry, Nicholas Hill, Mary Sue Johnson (Jason Guntharpe's grandmother), Angela Leopold (pregnant), Chelsea Yadron (pregnant), Sarah Finley (pregnant), Caitlin Romero (pregnant), Ernestine Pruitt (Nicholas Hill's mother), Brenda Thomas, Doris & Jim (Brenda Thomas' family), Dot Lawson (Lawson Bowick's grandmother), Lisa Catlett (Fr. Don & Kh. Martha's daughter), Glenda Brooks, Anna Grace (Joyce Grossman's granddaughter), Elfreida Drobashevsky, Maria Bellaflores, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Kroger Cards – It is time to re-enroll your Kroger cards! Remember to choose St. John (87042) as the recipient of your Kroger Plus rewards donations; all donations received will be applied to the building fund. We all buy groceries which makes this is an excellent and *EASY* way to give! Detailed instructions on registering or renewing your card can be found in the bulletin insert or on the website under Parish – Online Assignments & Sign Ups.

Mississippi River Blessing – Mark your calendars for January 7! This year we are planning on a Blessing of the waters at the Mississippi River along with Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church and St. Seraphim. Fr. Alex will lead our older church school kids in activities Saturday morning here at the church beginning at 10:30; the blessing will be held at 12:00 p.m. with a meal to follow. More details to come!

The **Sons of Thunder** book club will meet at 6:30 on January 22nd at David Twombly's home. They will be discussing the book *Mother Maria Skobtsova: Essential Writings*. All men are welcome.

Coffee Hour – The dates for the first quarter of 2017 can now be found on the St. John website under Parish – Online Sign Ups and Assignments. This is an excellent way to serve our parish and fellow parishioners!

Wednesday Teachings - We will resume teachings on January 18th.

Catechumen/Inquirers Class – Catechumen/Inquirers class will resume on January 10th. Beginning in 2017, class will meet every other week rather than weekly.

Theophany House Blessings – Be sure to sign up in the parish hall for the times and days which are most convenient for your family to have your home blessed by one of the priests.

Save the date! Dinner & A Show 2017 is scheduled for Friday, February 10th. Please make sure to mark your calendars! We are in need of coordinators for the following: Dessert Auction, Meal Planning, and Decorating. If you are interesting in being a part of the coordinating committee, please contact Meribeth Harvey.

Upcoming at St. John

January 7 – Blessing of the MS River, 12:00 p.m.

January 7 - Baptism –Edmund Knight

January 8 - Memorial – Dorothy McWhorter, 40 Days

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Sunday, 1/1:** Eric Surber
St. Basil: Fr. Basil, Eric Surber, Bill Harter, Bill Stanek, Adam Sanderlin
- Monday, 1/2:** *St. Juliana of Lazaravo: Sarah Parker, Claire van Drimmelen, Giuliana Yzaguirre*
St. Seraphim of Sarov: Janna Knight, Karen Wells, Chris Utley
- Thursday, 1/5:** Kendall Ichniowski
- Saturday, 1/7:** Rachel McKelroy
Synaxis of St. John the Baptist: Fr. Don

Library Lines

We begin the new year by honoring a heroine for young women in our Church. Righteous Juliana of Lazarevo (1/2) lived a devout childhood. After her parents' death she remained steadfast in the Faith and in her love and care for the poor, even though her guardians mocked her. Her pious life drew the attention of the village owner, and they married. Her in-laws saw a treasure in her, and young Juliana was given charge of their household. She spent her life in prayer and caring for the poor and sick. After the death of two of her six children, she longed for the monastic life but remained in the world to care for her family and all who crossed her path. One of her sons wrote the about her life of selfless love, asceticism and visits from St. Nicholas. She was buried in 1604 next to her husband and daughter in the village church. She is the patron of several at St. John, and her icon is in the nave above the Myrrh-bearing women. Read more about her life in *Life Transfigured*, summer of 2011, p. 9.

Tuesday we remember the Prophet Malachi (1/3), known as the “seal of the prophets” because he is the last of the Old Testament prophets. He had the appearance of an angel, and one was his companion and reiterated his prophecies. It is thought by some that he lived during the lifetimes of Ezra and Nehemiah. He confronted problems of intermarriage between Jews and pagans and of infidelity with their Hebrew wives. This and the negligent offering of tithes, he saw as signs of weakening devotion to family and God. He prophesied the coming of the Forerunner and Christ, and also the Last Judgment. The Book of Malachi was written about 440 B.C.

Last week we commemorated the synaxis of the Theotokos (12/26). This week our synaxis (1/4) honors the Seventy, men who Christ appointed to travel two by two to the cities He would visit. Some of them, Sts. Mark and Luke the Evangelists, Timothy, Barnabas and Prochorus, are familiar to us; most are not. They all have their own feast days, but the Church commemorates them all together today.

Theophany (1/6) was anciently celebrated as the most important feast day besides Pascha. It even predates Christmas as a major feast. Read about its significance and history as a feast in the following St. John Library books: *Christ in the Old Testament* (KID BIB HOP), *Orthodox Feasts of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary* (CAT SAC WYB), *Theophany of our Lord* (KID CHUELA) and *Sermons on the Major Holy Days of the Orthodox Church* (CAT SAC CON). See the display cart for these articles on Theophany and some customs, including recipes, surrounding its celebration: “Blessing the Waters of America: the Theophany Traditions of American Orthodox Churches” *The Handmaiden*, fall 2002, p. 17; “Diving In”, *The Handmaiden* fall 2001, p. 52; “Dragons on the Waters” *The Handmaiden*, fall 2002, p. 57; “Theophany” *Life Transfigured*, Nativity 1996, p. 5; and “Celebrating the Baptism of Christ” *The Handmaiden*, fall 2002, p. 60.

Have you scheduled your house blessing yet? Do you know how to make it ready? What does the Incarnation have to do with this beautiful tradition? Visit St. John Library and look at *A Guide to Greek Traditions and Customs in America* (CAT GEN ROU), *Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home* (SPR FAM CON) and “The House Blessing” in *Road to Emmaus*, summer 2000, p. 26.

teen group

TODAY: NO TEEN GROUP until January 8

UPCOMING:

Teen Deanery Retreat

When: February 3-5 **Cost:** \$100

Where: Camp Hopewell, Oxford, MS

Registration Deadline: January 15th

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

The St. Brigid Food Pantry is very low on inventory! Please consider donating some of the items listed below. Pop top cans are helpful when available, as are items that are “ready to eat.” Please refrain from donating baby items at this time as we do not have demand for such items.

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|-----------------|-------------------|------------|
| Vienna sausages | Peanut butter | Soup |
| Snack crackers | Canned meat | Fruit cups |
| Saltines | Granola bars | Chili |
| Canned pasta | Canned vegetables | |

