

From the Fathers (and others):

Hate repose and a comfortable existence, so that you might preserve your thoughts in tranquility.

Elder Justin Parvu of Romania

A person who, knowing what faults he has committed, willingly and with due thankfulness endures the trials painfully inflicted on him as a consequence of these faults, is not exiled from grace or from his state of virtue; for he submits willingly and pays off his debts by accepting the trials. In this way, while remaining in a state of grace and virtue, he pays tribute not only with his enforced sufferings, which have arisen out of the impassioned side of his nature, but also with his mental assent to these sufferings, accepting them as his due on account of his former offenses. Through true worship, by which I mean a humble disposition, he offers to God the correction of his offenses.

St. Maximos the Confessor

God desires and seeks the salvation of all. And he is always saving all who wish to be saved from drowning in the sea of life and sin. But He does not always save in a boat or a convenient, well-equipped harbor. He promised to save the Holy Apostle Paul and his fellow-travelers, and He did save them. But the Apostle and his fellow-passengers were not saved in the ship, which was wrecked; they were saved with great difficulty, some by swimming and others on boards and various bits of the ship's wreckage.

St Ignatius Brianchaninov

"The goal of human freedom is not in freedom itself, nor is it in man, but in God. By giving man freedom, God has yielded to man a piece of His divine authority, but with the intention that man himself would voluntarily bring it as a sacrifice to God, a most perfect offering."

St. Theophan the Recluse

... a Christian is quite certain to fall into the same sins which he condemns in another with merciless and inhuman severity, for 'a stern king will fall into misfortunes,' and 'one who stops his ears so as not to hear the weak, shall himself cry, and there shall be none to hear him' (Prov. 13:17; 21:13).

St. John Cassian

St. John Orthodox Church



*~ January 15, 2017 ~
31st Sunday after Pentecost*

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
1663 TUTWILER AVENUE
MEMPHIS, TN 38107
(901) 274-4119

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www.orthodoxtupelo.com

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 8, 2017

Sunday after Theophany

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Anne Dugan**.

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. 15 - 22 (Wed. & Fri. Fast)

- Sunday** - Teen Group, 5:00 p.m., Bowling, Pre-teens invited! See bulletin for details
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Men's lunch, 12:00 p.m.
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Vespers, 5:30 p.m.
- Parish Meal following
- Wednesday Teaching, Old Testament and Feasts of the Church
- Thursday** - Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
- Friday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Paraklesis, 12:00 p.m.
- Saturday** -Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
- Sunday** -**Orthros and Church School, 9:00 a.m.**
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**

DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday, January 22, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. Philip	HOMILY:	Fr. Philip
READER:	Rod Ratliff	USHER:	Matt Spinolo
HOLY BREAD:	Lavinia Dumitrache		
ALTAR SERVERS:	Pavel, Trent, Nicholas, Max, Alex		
COFFEE HOUR:	Trent & Judy Terry		

Upcoming at St. John

Memorial – today – Sue Ingram, 1 year

Baptism – Ben Arthur, January 21st

COMMEMORATIONS

January 15: Venerable Paul of Thebes and John the hut-dweller; Venerable-martyr Pansophios of Alexandria; Venerable Gabriel of Lesnovo.

January 16: The veneration of the precious chains of the Apostle Peter; Peusippos and Neonilla, and the martyrs of Cappadocia; Hieromartyr Damaskinos of Hilandar monastery on Athos; Honoratos, archbishop of Arles and founder of Lerins Monastery; Romil of Ravanica.

January 17: Venerable Anthony the Great; Anthony the New, ascetic of Berrea in Macedonia; New-martyr George of Ioannina.

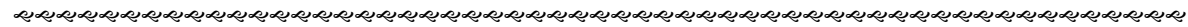
January 18: Athanasios and Cyril, patriarchs of Alexandria; Martyr Theodoulis; Maximos, Serbian despot.

January 19: Venerable Makarios the Great; Arsenios, bishop of Kerkyra; Venerable Mark Eugenikos, metropolitan of Ephesos, pillar of Orthodoxy.

January 20: Venerable Eutymios the Great; New-martyr Zachariah of Moreah.

January 21: Venerable Maximos the Confessor, Zosimos and Neophytos; Virgin-martyr Agnes of Rome; Venerable Maxim the Greek.

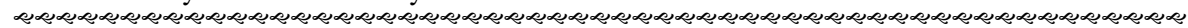
January 22: Apostle Timothy; Venerable-martyr Anastasios the Persian; Venerable Joseph the Sanctified of Crete.



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

January 15-22

Sunday	Colossians	3:4-11	Luke	17:12-19
Monday	Acts	12:1-11	John	21:14-25
Tuesday	Hebrews	13:17-21	Luke	6:17-23
Wednesday	Hebrews	13:7-16	Matthew	5:14-19
Thursday	Galatians	5:22-6:2	Mark	5:1-20
Friday	2 Corinthians	4:6-15	Luke	6:17-23
Saturday	Philippians	1:12-20	Luke	12:8-12
Sunday	1 Timothy	4:9-15	Luke	19:1-10



Pray for our catechumens: Memphis – Ben Arthur, 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



Teen Group – Pre-teens, ages 9-12, are invited to join the teens this Sunday from 5-7 for a night of bowling at Billy Hardwick Lanes. Teen group will cover the cost of bowling.

Parish Business Meeting – Our annual parish business meeting will be held Sunday, January 22 during coffee hour. Please make every effort to attend.

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 Hosts Needed – The dates for the first quarter of 2017 can now be found on the St. John website under Parish – Online Sign Ups and Assignments. There are still 22 slots available (out of a possible 33)!! This is an excellent way to serve our parish and fellow parishioners!

Wednesday Teachings - We will resume teachings on January 18th. Beginning in January, there will be no teaching on the Wednesdays that Parish Council meets.

Catechumen/Inquirers Class – Catechumen/Inquirers class will meet again January 24th. 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.

Master Plan Updates

Progress on final drawings/contractor/etc. – We had a little bit of a false start this week. Pending all of the final work by MLGW, demolition SHOULD begin this week. The Project Superintendent has been on site everyday this past week working on ensuring that we will hit the ground running as soon as the work begins. Please keep this project in your prayers!

Fund raising – Thank you for your help thus far!! There are pledge cards for the building fund available downstairs. Every little bit helps!

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Tuesday, 1/17:** Dashiell Ortwein
St. Anthony the Great: Charles Ingram, Nawar Mansour
- Wednesday, 1/18:** Zach White, Cindy Karnaghon
- Thursday, 1/19:** Mary Clark, Luke Heisig
St. Makarios: Mickey Hodges
- Friday, 1/20:** Ella White
Anniversary: Carlos & Jodi Yzaguirre
- Saturday, 1/21:** *Maximos the Confessor: John Sneed, Ervin Romero, Max Mendenhall, Max Wallace*

Women of St. John – AWSJ

- January 29** ~Business Meeting during Coffee Hour
- February 6** ~AWSJ Book Club will be discussing *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger
- February** ~Women's Teaching, 10:00 a.m., Elinor Crenshaw's home

teen group

TODAY: TEEN GROUP, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Bowling @ Billy Hardwick Lanes on Quince. Pre-teen, ages 9-12, invited!

UPCOMING:

Teen Deanery Retreat

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

Where: Camp Hopewell, Oxford, MS

Registration Deadline: January 13th

The Deanery Retreat is less than a month away. Please return the registration forms to Fr Alex **TODAY**.

Library Lines

St. John the Hut-Dweller (1/15), a fifth century saint, was the son of wealthy parents. Although highly educated, he desired the monastic life and secretly left his parents' home. He began a life of strict asceticism having only one possession, a gold Gospel book which was given to him by his father and mother. After six years, he was greatly tempted by the Devil to return to his former life of wealth and ease. He received a blessing to return home, but disguised himself as a beggar and lived in poverty in a hut near his family's home. Near death three years later, he revealed his identity to his parents by showing them his Gospel book. He asked them to bury him dressed in his rags underneath his hut.

This week we commemorate a group of "the Great Saints." Tuesday is the feast day of St. Anthony the Great (1/17), the father of monasticism. His pious parents brought him up to be serious about church services and the Holy Scriptures. From his youth, he engaged in strict asceticism and was attacked by demons, sometimes in the form of wild beasts. At age thirty-five, he began his monastic life as a hermit, which was unheard of at the time. He lived in the desert eighty five years and died peacefully in 356 A.D. at age 105. According to the OCA website, *The Life of Anthony* (PAT ANT ATH) by St. Athanasius of Alexandria is the first biography of a saint who was not martyred. St. John Chrysostom urged every Christian to read the book.

Athanasius the Great and St. Cyril were both bishops of Alexandria. They share a feast day (1/18) because their writings upheld the truth of Scripture and reject heresy. St. Athanasius was born in 298 to pagan parents. He declared himself Christian after seeing a group of students at school acting out the services of the Church. Before reaching the age of 20, he wrote the treatise *On the Incarnation*, affirming and explaining that Jesus Christ was both God and man thus beginning Christianity's fight against the heresy of Arianism. Athanasius participated in the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea in 325, which was the first of two councils that produced the symbol of faith commonly called the Nicene Creed. It was finalized in 381 at the Second Ecumenical Council in Constantinople. At Nicea, Athanasius surpassed everyone there in his zeal to uphold the teaching that Christ is consubstantial with the Father. Athanasius was also the first person to identify the same 27 books of the New Testament that are in use today. Various ones were in use at the time but eventually it was Athanasius's list that was ratified and universally recognized as the New Testament canon. He also wrote a biography of Anthony the Great that later served as an inspiration to monastics in the East and the West. Saint Athanasius reposed in 373.

St. Marcellinus the Great (1/19) loved the life of silence and, like St. Anthony the Great, fought the attacks of demons. He became a disciple of the elder St. Anthony who received him in love and respect for his struggles. The Church's practice of praying for the departed is supported by this story from his life. St. Marcellinus was walking along a road and saw a skull on the ground. He asked "Who are you?" The skull replied that he was a pagan and said that when we pray for souls in hell, they receive some benefit.

St. Maximus the Confessor (1/21) began his career in politics but resigned his position to serve the Church. Although the Fourth Ecumenical Council had condemned the monophysite heresy, he devoted himself to speaking against this falsehood which raged for many years. This story is recorded in *The Disputation with Pyrrhus of our Father Among the Saints Maximus the Confessor* (PAT/MAX) which defends the Church's teaching on the two natures of Christ. His defense of the Church angered the heretic emperor who imprisoned the saint and ordered his tongue and right hand severed. He was exiled to Sythia and died there in 662 A.D. His works include explanations of difficult passages of Scripture, commentaries on the Lord's Prayer and the Psalms, and treatises on St. Dionysius the Areopagite and St. Gregory the Theologian. See also St. John Library's *On the Cosmic Mystery of Jesus Christ* (PAT MAX) by St. Maximus and *Maximos the Confessor* by Andrew Louth (PAT MAX).