

## From the Fathers (and others):

If a person wants to get an idea about the pyramids of Egypt, he must either trust those who have been in immediate proximity to the pyramids, or he must get next to them himself. There is no third option. In the same way a person can get an impression of God: He must either trust those who have stood and stand in immediate proximity to God, or he must take pains to come into such proximity himself.

St. Nicholas of Serbia

Even if we stand at the very summit of virtue, it is by mercy that we shall be saved.

St. John Chrysostom

The Lord says: 'blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be satisfied' (Mt. 5:6). It is nothing bodily, nothing earthly, that this hunger, this thirst seeks for: but it desires to be satiated with the good food of righteousness, and wants to be admitted to all the deepest mysteries, and be filled with the Lord Himself. Happy the mind that craves this food and is eager for such drink: which it certainly would not seek if it had never tasted of its sweetness. But hearing the Prophet's spirit saying to him: 'taste and see that the Lord is sweet' (Ps. 34:8); it has received some portion of sweetness from on high, and blazed out into love of the purest pleasure, so that spurning all things temporal, it is seized with the utmost eagerness for eating and drinking righteousness, and grasps the truth of that first commandment which says: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your mind, and with all your strength' (Lk. 10:27): since to love God is nothing else than to love righteousness.

St. Leo the Great

... the Lord often said to His disciples, 'Watch and pray; for you do not know at what hour your Lord is coming' (Mt. 24:42) For the demons are immaterial and sleepless, concerned only to fight against us and to destroy our souls through word, act and thought. We lack a similar persistence, and concern ourselves now with our comfort and with ephemeral opinion, now with worldly matters, now with a thousand and one other things. We are not in the least interested in examining our life, so that our intellect may develop the habit of so doing and may give attention to itself unremittingly.

St. Peter of Damaskos

You cannot be too gentle, too kind. Shun even to appear harsh in your treatment of each other. Joy, radiant joy, streams from the face of him who gives and kindles joy in the heart of him who receives. All condemnation is from the devil. Never condemn each other. We condemn others only because we shun knowing ourselves. When we gaze at our own failings, we see such a swamp that nothing in another can equal it. That is why we turn away, and make much of the faults of others. Instead of condemning others, strive to reach inner peace. Keep silent, refrain from judgment. This will raise you above the deadly arrows of slander, insult and outrage and will shield your glowing hearts against all evil.

St. Seraphim of Sarov

# St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

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*~ January 28, 2018 ~  
Publican & Pharisee  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Triodion*





**COMMEMORATIONS**

**January 28:** Venerable Ephraim the Syrian; Venerable Palladios of Antioch; Martyr Charita; Venerable Theodosios of Totma; Isaac the Syrian, bishop of Ninevah.

**January 29:** The translation of the relics of Ignatios the God-bearer of Antioch; New-martyr Demetrios of Chios.

**January 30:** The three great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; Hieromartyr Hippolytos, pope of Rome; Virgin-martyr Chrissa of Rome; New-martyr Theodore of Mitylene; Julian, priest of Aegina.

**January 31:** Unmercenarys Cyros and John; Martyrs Athanasia of Egypt and her daughters Theodota, Theoktiste and Eudoxia; Martyr Papias of Corinth; New-martyr Elias; Nikita of the Kiev Caves, bishop of Novgorod.

**February 1:** Martyr Tryphon of Syria; Martyr Perpetua of Carthage and her four companions; Basil the Confessor, archbishop of Thessalonika; New-martyr Anastasios of Anaplos; Venerable David and Simeon; Venerable Bridget of Ireland.

**February 2:** The Meeting of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Martyr Agathodoros of Cappadocia; New-martyrs Jordan of Trebizond and Gabriel of Constantinople.

**February 3:** Holy and Righteous Simeon the God-receiver and Anna the Prophetess; New-martyrs Nicholas, Stamatios and John of Spetson; Anschar, enlightener of Denmark and Sweden; Nicholas, equal-to-the-Apostles, bishop and evangelizer of Japan; James, archbishop of Serbia.

**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.



**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**January 28 – February 4**

Sunday	2 Timothy	3:10-15	Luke	18:10-14
Monday	Hebrews	10:32-38	Mark	9:33-41
Tuesday	Hebrews	13:7-16	Matt	5:14-19
Wednesday	1 Corinthians	12:27-31; 13:1-8	Matt	10:1, 5-8
Thursday	Romans	8:28-39	Luke	10:19-21
Friday	Hebrews	7:7-17	Luke	2:22-40
Saturday	Hebrews	9:11-14	Luke	2:25-38
Sunday	1 Corinthians	6:12-20	Luke	15:11-32



**Pray for our catechumens: Memphis – Kendall Ichniowski.**

**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), Chelsea Yadron (pregnant), Heather Hetrick (pregnant), Julie Hight (pregnant), Ernestine Pruitt (Nicholas Hill’s mother), Brenda Thomas, Doris & Jim (Brenda Thomas’ family), Dot Lawson (Pam Bowick’s mother & Lawson’s grandmother), Lisa Catlett (Fr. Don & Kh. Martha’s daughter), Glenda Brooks, Anna Grace (Joyce Grossman’s granddaughter), Maria Bellaflores, Sharon (Larry Ichniowski’s mother), Chris Hodges, those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

**House Blessing/Open House** – Fr. Philip will bless the new property next door following Divine Liturgy today. All are welcome to attend and stay to walk through the new space while it is still unoccupied.

**Parish Council Update** - After interviewing 4 different companies, the parish council narrowed down the decision to 901 Properties. After meeting with them, the council feels that they will be a good fit for us and help us to ensure that our investment is well taken care of. With that, we hope to begin renting the property within the next few weeks. If you or someone you know would like an opportunity to rent the property, let the council know. May God bless our community as we undertake this new endeavor!

**Sons of Thunder Men’s Book Club** will be meeting Sunday February 11th at 6:30 in Dn. James's home. They will be discussing *The Song of Sirin* by Nicholas Kotar. All men are welcome.

**Pre-Lenten Retreat!** February 9-10, Paul Finely, Executive Director of St. Herman House in Cleveland, OH will be offering a lively retreat on the Beatitudes. All are welcome to attend and be encouraged as we prepare for Great Lent! See flyer for more details!

**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. They will call you to set a specific day and time for your blessing.

**Dinner & a Show** – See flyer for information regarding the AWSJ annual fundraiser including ways in which you can participate!

**Online Sign Ups for Coffee Hour and Wednesday Night Meals** are now available on the website under the Parish tab. There are many slots still available!

**Lost and Found** – There is now a box in the back of the old parish hall containing Lost & Found items. If you are missing something, check the box!

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**UPCOMING @ STJOHN**

**Feb. 1** - Great Vespers for the Presentation

**Feb. 2** - Divine Liturgy for the Presentation, 9:00 a.m., (no coffee hour)

-Dinner & a Show, doors open 6:00 p.m. (please pay today, if possible)

*TODAY is the final day to buy tickets*

**Feb. 9 & 10** - Pre-Lenten Retreat with Paul Finley

**Feb. 10** – Divine Liturgy for Saturday of Souls, 9:00 a.m.

**Feb. 11** – Meatfare Sunday Potluck, please bring dish(es) to share

**Feb. 18** – Forgiveness Vespers, 6:00 p.m.

**Feb. 19** – FIRST DAY OF GREAT LENT

## Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Sunday, 1/28:** Dr. Fadi Ibrahim  
*St. Ephraim: Lawson Bowick*
- Tuesday, 1/30:** Adam Sanderlin
- Thursday, 2/1:** Milana Kumar, Julie Hight
- Friday, 2/2:** Trish Ratliff
- Saturday, 2/3:** George Mazhuvancheryparambath, Caitlin Salloum  
*Prophetess Anna: Anna Pashchinskaya, Trish Ratliff*  
*Simeon the God-receiver: JonMark Hetrick*

## Master Plan updates

**St Raphael Hall** – Efforts are being made to continue to work on the sound in the hall. We've received three different estimates on how to best work with the sound and are working to make a decision on how to best fix the situation.

**A NEW PROJECT** – We officially closed on the property next door! Following the Liturgy, we will bless the property and anyone can walk through the house that would like to see our new property. Thank you for your prayers and comments over the last few months.

**Fund raising** – Our final debt amount for the new construction is \$775,000. Thank you for all of your help! Any additional contributions to the mortgage are appreciated!

## Library Lines

Today begins our preparation for Great Lent. This three-week period begins with our remembrance of the Pharisee and the Publican. To learn more about this important time in our Church's calendar see The Lenten Triodion Supplement (CAT LNT HLWK WAR) by Met. Kallistos Ware.

Several times a day throughout Lent we repeat the prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian (1/28). He was a contemporary of St. Basil the Great who wanted to ordain him to the priesthood. Ephraim refused considering himself unworthy. In his youth he had a reputation for fighting because of his quick temper. He turned his life around and went to live with the hermits, becoming a disciple of St. James of Nisibis. This saint saw promise in the young man and took him with him to the First Ecumenical Council in 325. St. Ephraim was given the gift of teaching. He became a strict ascetic and continually studied the Scriptures. Besides his famous Lenten prayer, he wrote a commentary on the Penateuch and prayers to the Holy Trinity, the Son of God and the Most Holy Theotokos. He also composed hymns for the Twelve Great Feasts of the Lord and funeral hymns. Look in St. John Library for his Hymns On Paradise and A Spiritual Psalter; both have the same spine code (PAT EPH).

John and Cyrus (1/31), two of the twenty Holy Unmercenaries, are commemorated this week. All of these men were physicians or pious men who were given the gift of healing. They never charged anyone and healed many of physical, mental and spiritual illnesses. Whenever we sing their hymns, we repeat the words, "Freely ye have received; freely give." These words inspire us to share God's mercy and goodness. St. John was a soldier who became a follower of St. Cyrus, a noted physician. They encouraged those who were to be martyred for Christ and were, in turn, martyred themselves. Their intercessions are asked for those who have trouble sleeping.

Saturday, we commemorate two saints; one who lived in the land of the Rising Sun and the other from the homeland of Hans Christian Anderson. St. Anschar (2/3) was called the apostle to the North because he spread the Gospel in the ninth century in Jutland, now Denmark, and Sweden. There, he introduced the use of bells which the native people considered magical instruments. He founded hospitals and persuaded the king to relax the slave-trade in the land. Little of his writings remain; however, his introduction to the life of St. Willehad, the first bishop of Bremen, is considered a masterpiece for that age. St. Anschar's desire for martyrdom was never granted.

St. Nicholas (2/3), born and ordained as a priest in Russia in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, was sent to Japan by his own request. He spent eight years studying the language and customs of the people because, he said, "the Japanese of the time looked upon foreigners as beasts, and on Christianity as a villainous sect..." His flock numbered 20 in 1877 and by 1911 there were 33,000 Christians in Japan. He founded schools and a seminary, compiled an Orthodox theological dictionary in Japanese and built the Cathedral of the Resurrection in Tokyo. Read more about his life in Saint Nikolai Kasatkin and the Orthodox Mission in Japan (HAG NIK VAN), New Apostles of Christ (HAG - - - HAT), "Orthodox Missions: Lessons from the Past" in Orthodox America, Nov.-Dec. 1993, p. 5 and in "Enlightener of Japan: Blessed Nicholas Kasatkin" in Orthodox America Jan.-Feb. 1992, p. 5.

## *Women of St. John Calendar*

- Jan. 21** **Business Meeting** - Lots to discuss & exciting things ahead...Come join us!
- Feb. 2** **Dinner & a Show** – see flyer for details
- Feb. 3** **AWSJ Shower honoring Heather Hetrick**, 10:00 a.m., at Kh. Pamela's home (*location change!*)
- Feb. 8** **Women's Teaching** - 10:00 a.m.,
- Feb. 12** **AWSJ Book Club** – *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate  
We will meet at Kh. Pamela's home (*date change!*)