

From the Fathers (and others):

We should not think it strange that Christians endure affliction and various forms of sorrow, patiently awaiting through many trials and temptations whatever their Master gives. For they have heard Him say: 'Truly I tell you, that you who are near Me shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice. Yet after a little while I will visit you through the Paraclete and drive away your despondency; I will renew you with thoughts of heavenly life and peace with sweet tears, of which you were deprived for a short time when you were being tested. I will give you the breast of My grace, as a mother feeds her baby when it cries. When your strength fails in battle I will fortify you with power from on high, and I will sweeten you in your bitterness. I will look upon you, and your hearts will rejoice at My secret visitation; your affliction will be turned to joy, and no one shall take that joy from you' (cf. Jn. 16:20-22).
St. John of Karpathos

"The most important work that a spiritual wrestler can do is to enter within the heart, there to fight Satan; to hate and repel the thoughts that he inspires and to wage war upon him." –
St. Macarius of Egypt

Christ, the Son of God, the Most Holy God, 'is not ashamed to call us sinners brethren' (Heb. 2:11); therefore do not at least be ashamed to call brothers and sisters poor, obscure, simple people, whether they be your relatives according to the flesh or not, do not be proud in your intercourse with them, do not despise them, for we are all actually brothers in Christ? we were all born of water and the Spirit in the baptismal font and became children of God; we are all called Christians, we are all nourished with the Body and Blood of the Son of God, the Savior of the world, the sacraments of the Church are celebrated over all of us, we all pray the Lord's prayer, equally calling God our Father.

St. John of Kronstadt

Do not live with a proud person, so that your soul would not lose the grace of the Holy Spirit and thus become the habitation of evil passions.

Elder Justin Parvu of Romania

As with the appearance of light, darkness retreats; so, at the fragrance of humility, all anger and bitterness vanishes.

St. John Climacus

St. John Orthodox Church



*~ January 29, 2017 ~
Canaanite Woman*



COMMEMORATIONS

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: Unmercenaries 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 29 – February 4

Sunday	2 Corinthians	6:16-7:1	Matthew	15:21-28
Monday	Hebrews	13:7-16	Matthew	5:14-19
Tuesday	1 Corinthians	12:27-13:8	Matthew	10:1, 5-8
Wednesday	Romans	8:28-39	Luke	10:19-21
Thursday	Hebrews	7:7-17	Luke	2:22-40
Friday	Hebrews	9:11-14	Luke	2:25-38
Saturday	2 Timothy	2:11-19	Matthew	24:34-37, 42-44
Sunday	2 Timothy	3:10-15	Luke	18:10-14



Pray for our catechumens: **Memphis** –Justin Bowles; Wendy Weatherall (Brody,& Eli); Lucas Whatley; Chelsea Yadron (Gabriel).

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.

Presentation of the Lord in the Temple – We will celebrate the Feast of the Presentation on Wednesday, February 1. Orthros will begin at 5:00 p.m. followed by Divine Liturgy at 6:00 p.m.

There will be a light **potluck following Divine Liturgy**. Please bring a dish(es) to share!

Wednesday Lenten Meals – Each Wednesday of Lent, following Presanctified Liturgy, we enjoy a meal prepared by one or more of our parishioners. If you would like to provide one of these Lenten meals, please sign up downstairs or contact Trish in the office with the date you prefer. The dates are: **March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22, April 5, and April 13 (Holy Thursday)**

For those new to St. John, the menu is solely at the discretion of those preparing the meal. Some choose to offer soup, salad and dessert; others enjoy cooking a meal with many dishes. Typically, you can expect to be serving 65 people. Many women find a friend to cook with while some women prefer to do it on their own...it’s up to you! Drinks are provided by the parish. Cost for preparing the meals are reimbursed upon request; please see Trish.

Catechumen/Inquirers Class will not meet this week. They will meet February 7 and 21.

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 slots available!! This is an excellent way to serve our parish and fellow parishioners!

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.

Dinner & A Show 2017 is Friday, February 10th. See insert for details!

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

- Monday, 1/30:** Adam Sanderlin
- Wednesday, 2/1:** Julie Hight, Milana Kumar
St. Brigid: Angela Leopold
- Thursday, 2/2:** Trish Ratliff
- Friday, 2/3:** Caitlin Salloum, George Mazhuvancheryparambath
Anna, the Prophetess: Anna Pashchinskaya, Trish Ratliff

Library Lines

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.

There are many stories of another Holy Unmercenary, St. Tryphon, (2/1) the goseherd. My favorite is one that tells of his casting a demon out of the Emperor Gordian’s daughter. He was rewarded with many gifts which he gave away. He returned to his village, tended his geese and lived a life of prayer. He was beheaded in 250, and his intercessions are asked for people and their animals. Our homeschoolers wrote and illustrated a book about him. It’s on the display cart.

Nearly everyone at St. John knows St. Brigid (2/1) is the patron of our food pantry. She was the daughter of an Irish chieftain and his slave. Her father put her in charge of his sheep and of his dairy and kitchen. God blessed her pantry, causing it to overflow so she could give bread, butter and milk to the poor. She became a nun and her monastery was the first in Ireland for women. Stories are told of her weaving crosses from rushes to comfort the sick. She died peacefully in 525 and was said to be buried in the same grave as Sts. Patrick and Columba of Iona. She is venerated in Ireland, Wales, Italy and France, as well as St. John.

Thursday is the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, and we remember St. Simeon’s words to the Theotokos, “... Yea, a sword shall pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” We commemorate also this day the *Softener of Evil Hearts* icon which shows the heart of the Theotokos pierced by seven arrows. You’ll find this icon on the bulletin board along with an excerpt of the *Akathist to the Mother of God, Softener of Evil Hearts*. See also *Icons of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary and Prayers for Her Intercession* See the display cart for children’s books about this feast: *Mary, the Mother of Jesus* (KID STS MAR) *Illustrated Life of the Theotokos for Children* (KID STS MAR), *Story of Mary: the Mother of God*, (KID STS MAR) and *Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple*, (KID CHU ELA).

Friday 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 19th 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.

teen group

TODAY: 4:30 – 7:00 p.m., Campfire and Journey through Liturgy

Next week: Teen Deanery Retreat

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 9 ~**Women’s Teaching**, 10:00 a.m., Elinor Crenshaw’s home

Master Plan Updates

Progress on final drawings/contractor/etc. – Work continues! The debris pile was cleared and the site continues to be prepared for building. Lord willing, on Tuesday, we will close with bank and have everything in order for work to begin. Please do not exit the building on the east side while construction is under way. Thank you for your continued prayers for this big project!!!

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