

From the Fathers (and others):

... the Apostle Peter declared that the Church was built by the Holy Spirit. For you read that he said: 'God, Who knows the hearts of men, bore witness, giving them the Holy Spirit, even as was given to us; and He made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith' (Acts 15:8-9). In which is to be considered, that as Christ is the Cornerstone, Who joined together both peoples into one, so, too, the Holy Spirit made no distinction between the hearts of each people, but united them.

St. Ambrose

Abba Isidore went one day to see Abba Theophilus, pope of Alexandria and when he returned to Scetis the brethren asked him, 'What is going on in the city?' But he said to them, 'Truly, brothers, I did not see the face of anyone there, except that of the archbishop.' Hearing this they were very anxious and said to him, 'Has there been a disaster there, then, Abba?' He said 'Not at all, but the thought of looking at anyone did not get the better of me' At these words they were filled with admiration, and strengthened in their intention of guarding the eyes from all distraction.

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

No matter how just your words may be, you ruin everything when you speak with anger.

St. John Chrysostom

Mary properly bore the name of Virgin, and possessed to the full all the attributes of purity. She was a virgin in both body and soul, and kept all the powers of her soul and her bodily senses far above any defilement. This she did authoritatively, steadfastly, decisively and altogether inviolably at all times, as a closed gate preserves the treasure within, and a sealed book keeps hidden from sight what is written inside. The Scriptures say of her, 'This is the sealed book' (cf. Rev. 5:1-6:1; Dan. 12:4) and 'this gate shall be shut, and no man shall enter by it' (Ezek. 44:2).

St. Gregory Palamas

Just as the farmer wearies himself by merely plowing, digging and sowing the seed on the ground, but it grows and produces fruit early and late (cf. Jms. 5:7) by God's gift, so it is in reality, as you will discover, in spiritual matters. It belongs to us to engage in every activity and with much toil and weariness to sow the seeds of virtue, but by God's gift and mercy alone the rain of His loving-kindness and grace falls and causes the unfruitful soil of our hearts to bear fruit. When the grain of the word falls on our souls it receives the moisture of God's goodness; it germinates, grows, and becomes a great tree (cf. Mt. 13:31-32), that is, it attains to mature manhood, to 'the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ' (Eph. 4:13).

St. Symeon the New Theologian

St. John Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America



~ *January 7, 2018* ~
Sunday after Theophany

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
1663 TUTWILER AVENUE
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His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all 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. John Troy Mashburn, Jr.

Pastor Emeritus

V. Rev. Fr. Basil Cushman

Associate Pastor

Rev. Fr. Alexander Mackoul

Assistant Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. Donald Berge

Attached

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

Sunday after Nativity

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by **Lavinia Dumitrache**.

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

January 7 - 14 (Wed & Fri. Fast)

- Sunday** -Annual Meeting
-Teen Group
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
- AWSJ Book Club., 7:00 p.m., Kh. Pamela's home
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m., Crosstown
-Parish Council, 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Dinner, 5:30 p.m.,
-Teaching, 6:15 p.m., Salvation – An Orthodox Perspective
-Small Compline, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-AWSJ Teaching, 10:00 a.m.
- Friday** - First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Sixth Hour, 12:00 p.m.
- Saturday** -Ninth Hour & 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 14, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST:	Fr. Alex	HOMILY:	Fr. Alex
READER:	Matt Spinolo	USHER:	John Sneed
HOLY BREAD:	Judy Terry		
ALTAR SERVERS:	Zach, Mark, Thomas, Alex, volunteer		

Clergy Out of Town Dates

January 12-16: Fr. Philip will be at Camp St. Raphael Winter Camp
January 25-27: Fr. Philip & Fr. Alex attending Delegate's Meeting in Atlanta

Upcoming Memorials

Sue Ingram – January 14

COMMEMORATIONS

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.

January 9: Martyr Polyeuktos of Armenia; Venerable Eustratios the wonderworker; New-martyr Parthenas; Philip, metropolitan of Moscow.

January 10: Gregory, bishop of Nyssa; Marcian the priest of Constantinople; Dometian, bishop of Melitene; Venerable Paul of Obnora; Bishop Theophan the Recluse.

January 11: Theodosios the Great, the head of monasteries in Palestine; Venerable Theodosios of Philotheou monastery on Athos; Venerable Agapios of Apamea in Syria; Venerable Michael of Klops, fool-for-Christ.

January 12: Martyr Tatiana of Rome and those with her; Virgin-martyr Euthasia; Martyr Mertios of Mauretania; repose of Venerable Sabbas of Hilandar monastery on Athos, first archbishop of Serbia.

January 13: Martyrs Hermylos and Stratonikos of Belgrade; Martyrs Pachomios and Papyrinos of Greece; Venerable Maximos Kafsokalyvitis of Athos; Venerable Eleazar of Anzersk Island; Hilary, bishop of Poitiers.

January 14: The holy fathers slain at Sinai and Raithu; Virgin-martyr Agnes; Venerable Theodoulos and Neilos of Sinai; Nina, equal-to-the-Apostles and enlightener of Georgia.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

January 7 - 14

Sunday	Acts	19:1-8	John	1:29-34
Monday	Romans	6:3-11	John	3:22-33
Tuesday	2 Timothy	2:1-10	Mark	1:9-15
Wednesday	Ephesians	4:7-13	Luke	3:19-22
Thursday	Hebrews	13:7-16	Matt	11:27-30
Friday	Acts	18:22-28	John	10:39-42
Saturday	Ephesians	6:10-12	Matt	4:1-11
Sunday	Ephesians	4:7-13	John	1:29-34

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), Janine Smith (pregnant), 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.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Annual Parish Meeting TODAY! We will have our annual parish meeting. Along with all of the annual updates, the parish will be voting on the purchase of the neighboring property.

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!

Parish Council Update

For the minutes of the recent parish council meeting as well as the financial statements, please see the notebook downstairs. In addition to approving the pursuing of the purchase of 1675 Tutwiler, the council discussed forming a 2018 Strategic Planning Committee. More information will be available in the New Year.

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.

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!

Men's Quarterly Dinner – The men will meet for dinner at Central BBQ on Summer Ave. on Thursday, January 18th at 6:30 p.m. All men are welcome!

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

Sunday, 1/7: Rachel McKelroy, Nazar Abushanab

Synaxis of John the Baptist: Fr. Don Berge

Monday, 1/8: Giuliana Yzaguirre, Miriam Knight

Tuesday, 1/9: Alexander Johnson

Wednesday, 1/10: *St. Gregory of Nyssa: Ethan van Drimmelen*

Thursday, 1/11: Aleksandra Klimkowski, Lori O'Brien, Tim Elliott

Anniversary: John & Elizabeth Cameron

Master Plan updates

St Raphael Hall – Efforts are being made to continue to work on the sound in the hall. An outside company is stepping in to do tests and make recommendations for how to help. Stay tuned in the new year for a comprehensive plan!

A NEW PROJECT – Many have asked for more details on the purchase of 1675 Tutwiler. The property appraised for \$327,000 and the owner is willing to sell it to the church for \$299,000. According to our conversations with the bank, property management companies and other knowledgeable resources, the projected rental income of the property should cover our annual expenses. May God continue to provide wisdom and discernment as we move forward!

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!



SAVE THE DATE!
DINNER & a SHOW
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd



For those who are new to the parish, Dinner & a Show is an annual fundraising meal, talent show, and dessert auction hosted by the Women of St. John. Proceeds from the evening will be sent to National Antiochian Women's 2018 service project, "Strengthening the Ministries of our church: Vocations."

More details to be announced this week! There are many ways to be involved from helping decorate, to making part of the meal, to baking a dessert. If you would like to help, please contact one of the coordinators below:

Anne Dugan – Event Coordinator

Justin Bowles – decorations

Bill Stanek – talent

Desserts Auction – Melissa White

Meals - Margaret McKelroy

Library Lines

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.

Wednesday is a day rich in commemorations for us. Venerable Paul of Obnora (1/10), born in 1314, was a disciple of St. Sergius of Radonezh. See *The Wonderful Life of Russia's St. Sergius of Radonezh* (KID STS SER). He lived many years as a hermit and in complete silence and strict fasting. Despite his love for solitude, he was compassionate and gave wise counsel.

St. Gregory of Nyssa (1/10), not to be confused with Gregory of Nazianzus (1/25), was a brother of St. Basil the Great. He was a staunch defender of the Church against Arianism and a chief figure of the Second Ecumenical Council. He is called the "Fathers of Fathers" because he was a deep thinker and used philosophy to determine the meaning of divine Revelation. Learn more about his thoughts in *The Formation of Christian Theology, v. 2: the Nicene Faith*, pt. 2 (HIS BEH) by Fr. John Behr.

St. Theophan the Recluse (1/10) lived just 200 years ago. He was an educator and founded two schools for girls. St. Tikon of Zadonsk was his beloved inspiration from childhood. At age 50, he chose to live as a solitary life to concentrate on his own salvation and write spiritual yet practical, readable books. He treated the soul and body as a united whole and wrote in a down-to-earth manner. We know him as the author of *The Spiritual Life and How to Be Attuned to It* (PAT THE), *Kindling the Divine Spark* (PAT THE), and *Raising Them Right* (PAT THE). He also translated *The Philokalia* (PAT NIK). His life and wisdom is shown us in *The Heart of Salvation: the Life and Teachings of Saint Theophan the Recluse* (HAG THE WIL).

We think of Tatiana as a Russian name, but St. Tatiana, commemorated Thursday (1/12), was a Roman citizen in the third century. She was arrested during a period of persecution and given over to cruel tortures. Three different times during her imprisonment the power of her prayers destroyed idols in pagan temples. After converting some of her tormentors and suffering many cruelties, she was beheaded.